

16 July 2010

FROM:

TO:

Peter Cleveland

EP/80/10/T 13 COPSE VIEW, EAST PRESTON DAMAGE TO MATURE YEW TREE

Please find attached pictures of the subject tree, a mature and TPO'd Yew with a dbh of 1m, and approximately 100-150 years of age.

I visited the site on 13th July to inspect the tree. The crown has good form. There was a broken branch at 3m on the west side. The inner foliage overall appeared to be a yellowing which made the tree look visibly pale and is symptomatic of stress.

Beneath the tree to the north is an established concrete driveway. To the south of the tree is a newly excavated and half built driveway. This has been constructed directly underneath the crown and against the main stem of the yew tree. The driveway construction consists of a textile fabric with crushed limestone, and dressed with scalpings.

The excavation has removed approximately 300mm depth of top soil where the majority of roots are to be found. Visible fibrous tree roots have been torn and protrude vertically above the hard ground. Larger root damage near to the main stem is obscured by the driveway construction. The ground has been compacted by the action of the mechanical bucket and digger during soil excavation.

Conclusion:

The tree shows signs of stress by yellowing of foliage. Damage has occurred to the roots in three ways; a) physical damage b) Compacting of soil, creating inhospitable conditions for healthy root growth c) Crushed lime stone which is caustic and poisonous to tree roots. Damage has therefore occurred to the tree without the consent or authorisation from the Local Planning Authority and is in contravention of the Tree Preservation Order.

Yours sincerely

Ian Brewster