



As far as we can establish, Basted House was built around 1906 , and the Avenue of Limes planted shortly thereafter.

Normally Lime trees like this have a life span of 60-80 years, but in this case the local geology means that below a few feet of meagre topsoil is fractured Kentish Ragstone. This meant these trees have had to fight to survive, getting roots down into cracks in the stone for moisture and nourishment. They are therefore far tougher than a normal Lime tree, which is why they are still thriving today, 120 years after they were planted.

At the lower end adjacent to the surgery, they have had an even tougher struggle, when in the 1950's ARC turned the area where the surgery now stands into a lorry park for their fleet of tippers. They laid a foot or more of Type one sub-base made from local stone across the carpark and between the trees, right up to the edge of the tarmac of the drive. But over the years these trees have extended adventitious roots up into that layer of stone to ensure not one drop of moisture escaped them.

We recently upgraded the sides of the drive here to give some overflow parking to the surgery, but we did little more than scrape up the accumulated leaf mould and mud on the old ARC base, and lay a new layer of sub-base so we maintained the porous nature of the ground so rainwater still penetrates to the roots.

The Avenue of Limes had a Group Tree Preservation Order imposed in 1970 at the same time as the Rec Woodland Walk.