



PARISH COUNCIL

## INSPECTION OF TREES ON THE REACH PC INVENTORY 2025

1. Steve Boreham and I conducted the annual inspection of trees, assessed to be the responsibility of the PC, in March and April 2025.
2. An updated inventory is attached.
3. The key points of our survey are:
  - a. We identified no immediate threats to public safety. Ash die back has had no visible impact on the trees of the inventory.
  - b. We re-tagged a number of trees where markers have been lost or have become illegible.
  - c. Virtually all of limes in the 'avenue' on Swaffham Road are prospering and, this year, were of sufficient girth to allow us permanently to fix markers and dispense with temporary wire fixtures.
  - d. Two low branches on the sweet chestnut on Fair Green were removed with approval from ECDC. One was badly damaged and both obstructed use of the circular bench.
  - e. Notwithstanding c., one lime on Swaffham Road (81) has died and has been removed. In 2024 we classed this tree as moribund and recommended its replacement. On reflection we think any new tree would struggle at this location, given the proximity of a mature hornbeam, and now recommend that no replacement is planted
  - f. Several trees in the inventory show signs of disease or old age. All have previously been reported - a horse chestnut (22) and cherries (6 and 11) on the Hythe and a box (61) and cherries (62 and

66) at the cemetery. In no case are the declines sufficient to warrant removal but we make recommendations to prolong their lives or/and to ensure the risk to public safety is negligible. Our observations reinforce previous assessments that the cherries in the inventory are coming to the end of their lives and will need replacing in the next few years.

g. The maintenance work of previous years, notably removal of epiphytic growth from the limes in the cemetery and ivy from trees on parts of the Hythe is having an ongoing benefit. The trees look and almost certainly are healthier.

4. We recommend the following actions:

a. Removal of dead branches from oak (7) and cherries (6 and 11), and felling of elder (5) and a large ivy covered cherry seedling which is interfering with sycamore (8) at the Hythe. Several large branches of the elder were brought down in the gales of autumn 2024 and briefly obstructed vehicle access to the sewage works. Whilst there is no evidence that other branches are in a similar state, the tree is dying and should be removed. The bonus is that removal would allow an adjacent alder sapling, which is currently unlisted, room to prosper. This work is relatively limited but will require a professional tree surgeon.

b. Clearance of scrub, especially cherry seedlings ivy and elder and dead wood from areas of the Hythe. As reported in 2024, the under-storey around trees 10 to 15 and 144 to 147 has become very overgrown. Some elder shrubs have collapsed against the trees, most notably a walnut (14), providing a pathway for ivy into the crown of the tree. The scrub is also crowding out daffodils, snowdrops and primroses at the bases of the trees. However the scrub provides valuable habitat for a range of birds and small mammals and most of it should be retained. The clearance work was recommended as a community action last year but wasn't undertaken. The task could be completed in a morning by a handful of committed villagers.

c. Cutting back those parts of the unlaid hedge at the 24 Acres which are interfering with the row of lime trees. I am happy to take this on.

Should the PC approve recommendation a., I am happy to meet tree surgeons on site to discuss the work in detail, prior to tender.

Nick Acklam  
Tree Warden  
8 April 2025