



**WildBirch**  
TREE CONSULTANCY

## Tree Management Report

Prepared for: Swindon Village Parish Council

Site Address: Old Mill Way, Swindon Village, Cheltenham

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## Section 1

### Introduction

- 1.1 This Tree Management Report (TMR) has been prepared to provide a structured, long-term framework for the management of trees within the Parish Council-owned open space at Old Mill Way, Swindon Village, Cheltenham (the site).
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to:
  - Establish a clear and proportionate approach to tree management
  - Balance public safety, tree health, biodiversity, and amenity value
  - Provide a defensible basis for decision-making
  - Set out short, medium, and long-term management objectives.
- 1.3 This document is intended to be a working management tool and should be reviewed and updated as tree stock, site use, and external pressures change over time.
- 1.4 This TMR should be read in conjunction with the accompanying Tree Condition Report dated 17 February 2026 Report Reference WB-2026-016-R1, which provides detailed tree-specific assessments and prioritised recommendations. The Management Plan set out within this document is directly informed by the findings and risk categorisation contained within that report.
- 1.5 In the event of any discrepancy, the most recent Tree Condition Report should take precedence in relation to individual tree recommendations.

## Section 2

### Site Description

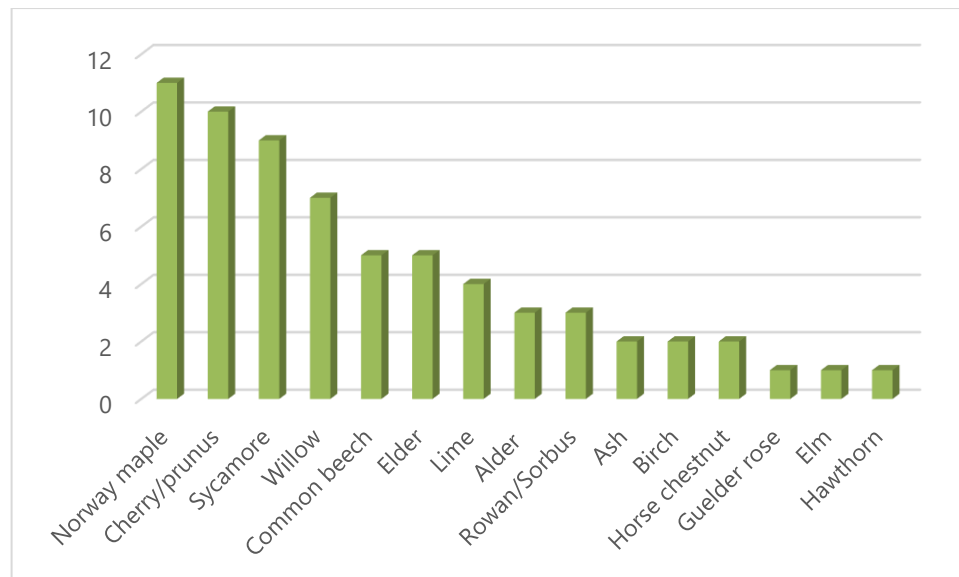
- 2.1 The site lies on the south western edge of Swindon Village, Cheltenham and lies within the administrative boundary of Cheltenham Borough Council.
- 2.2 The site comprises a wide linear strip of land, bounded by a watercourse to the south and rear garden boundaries of residential properties to the north.
- 2.3 Wyman's Brook (watercourse) runs along the south with Spirax Sarco beyond, with locally steep banks and areas of dense vegetation along the site side of the watercourse.
- 2.4 Manor Road runs along the western boundary and further trees and open space to the east, not under the ownership of the client. The site can be accessed via Manor Road from the west or a public footpath off Church Road, from the east and a public footpath runs the length of the open space. The level of public use appears to be low to moderate, primarily walkers and dog walkers.

## Section 3

### Tree Resource Overview

- 3.1 The overall age structure of the trees across the site are predominantly mature, with a small number of over mature trees and limited younger age classes.
- 3.2 The overall species structure is approximately shown below. Trees within groups have only been awarded one count and therefore does not represent an exact population count but provides an indicative overview of the species across the site, based on the survey data collected.

#### Species Diversity



- 3.3 The dominant species is the genus maple, with Norway maple and sycamore being the highest and third highest number of trees, followed closely by cherry and prunus species, with the second highest number of trees.

- 3.4 The species structure is predominantly native, with some non-native or naturalised species (such as Norway maple, sycamore and horse chestnut) also found within the tree stock.
- 3.5 At the Manor Road end, the trees are located in the open spaces, set back slightly from the footpath and up onto man-made 'mounds' on either side, with some trees located adjacent to Manor Road and some adjacent to the watercourse, Wyman's Brook.
- 3.6 As the footpath narrows, trees become more sporadic with a small number of planted trees along the northern side of the footpath. Further, mature trees are located on the southern side of the footpath, so adjacent to the footpath and some along the bank and adjacent to the watercourse.
- 3.7 Access to these trees on the south side of the path on the bank is limited due to the steepness of the bank and dense vegetation, such as bramble.
- 3.8 In addition to the surveyed trees, there are a number of small, self-sown trees growing along the bank of the watercourse. These comprise; horse chestnut, sycamore, Norway maple, ash and birch. These individuals are generally early-stage regeneration and will require periodic review to determine suitability for retention.
- 3.9 There are also a high number of planted whips are present in various locations. Due to prolonged dry conditions during spring/summer 2025, the majority have failed to establish.

## Legal Protection

### *Tree Preservation Orders and Conservation Area*

- 3.10 Two TPOs formally protect a number of trees along the site and the site lies within the Swindon Village Conservation Area. For further details, please refer to the Tree Condition Report dated 17 February 2026 Report Reference WB-2026-016-R1.
- 3.11 Any work to or felling of TPO items requires a formal application to the LPA. Under conservation area legislation, all trees with a stem diameter of 75 mm or greater, measured at 1.5 m above ground level, are afforded protection. Therefore, any trees not protected by either of the TPOs that meet this size criteria are also protected. Proposed works to, or felling of, such trees require the submission of a formal notification (Section 211 Notice) to the LPA.

## Section 4

### Management Aims and Principles

- 4.1 The overarching aims of tree management on this site are to:
- Maintain trees in a safe condition, proportionate to site usage
  - Retain trees for their landscape, ecological, and amenity value
  - Encourage structural and species diversity
  - Protect riparian habitats and watercourse function
  - Minimise conflict between trees, neighbouring properties, and site users
  - Promote gradual succession to avoid significant canopy loss in any single period
- 4.2 Apply a proactive, planned approach rather than reactive works. Tree management will be informed by:
- Visual Tree Assessment principles
  - Current arboricultural best practice
  - Relevant British Standards
  - Ecological and wildlife legislation

## Section 5

### Constraints and Influences

#### *Residential Interface*

- 5.1 Trees adjacent to residential boundaries may give rise to:
- Perceived risk concerns
  - Issues relating to shading, debris, or encroachment
- 5.2 Management should aim to balance reasonable neighbour concerns with the long-term retention of healthy trees and established arboricultural principles.

#### *Watercourse Corridor*

- 5.3 Trees along the stream provide important benefits, including:
- Bank stabilisation
  - Shading and temperature regulation
  - Habitat connectivity
- 5.4 Management within this area should be sensitive and avoid unnecessary disturbance, particularly to root systems and banks.

#### *Access and Public Use*

- 5.5 The site is open to the public and accessible via a public footpath which runs the length of the open space.

## Section 6

### Tree Risk Management Strategy

6.1 Tree risk will be managed through:

- Regular visual inspections by a competent person
- Prioritisation of trees in higher-use areas
- Recording and monitoring of defects
- Timely implementation of necessary works

6.2 The Parish Council recognises that trees are dynamic living organisms and that a zero-risk approach is neither achievable nor desirable.

## Section 7

### Biodiversity and Wildlife Considerations

7.1 Trees and associated habitats will be managed to support biodiversity by:

- Retaining standing deadwood where safe to do so
- Retaining fallen timber within ecological areas where appropriate
- Protecting trees within habitat features
- Timing works to avoid the bird nesting season where practicable
- Considering bats and other protected species prior to works

## Section 8

### Approach to Tree Works and Public Requests

8.1 The Parish Council recognises that trees are an integral and valued part of the local environment and that unnecessary tree works can be detrimental to tree health, biodiversity, and landscape character.

8.2 Tree works will not be undertaken solely to address:

- Seasonal leaf fall, fruit drop, or bird droppings
- Natural shading or perceived loss of light
- Presence of insects or wildlife associated with trees (e.g. aphid sap from lime or sycamore)
- General aesthetic preferences

8.3 Requests for tree works will be assessed on arboricultural grounds, with consideration given to:

- Tree health and structural condition
- Public safety
- Reasonable relationship between trees and adjacent land use
- Legal protections and wildlife considerations

8.4 This approach supports consistent, transparent decision-making and helps ensure that trees are retained wherever reasonable.

### Routine Tree Works

8.5 Typical works may include:

- Removal of deadwood over paths or boundaries

- Selective crown lifting or reduction where justified e.g. over footpaths, roads and away from structures such as buildings to prevent an actionable nuisance, in accordance with current arboricultural best practice
- Work to trees to reduce the risk of branch failure
- Removal of structurally unsound trees where retention is not reasonable

8.6 All works should be proportionate and justified.

### **General Routine Management**

8.7 The Parish Council will undertake routine management to maintain the health, accessibility, and ecological value of the site.

8.8 This may include:

- Selective cutting back of bramble, scrub, or encroaching vegetation where it obstructs paths or access to inspect trees in higher-use areas
- Retention of bramble and scrub in less sensitive areas where it provides habitat value
- Management of self-sown trees and natural regeneration
- Retention of naturally regenerated trees where they are of suitable species, good form, and appropriately located
- Removal or thinning of self-sown trees where overcrowding, poor form, or unsuitable species would create future management issues
- Management of epicormic growth where necessary for safety or access
- Monitoring and management of ivy where it may obscure structural defects in higher-use areas
- Monitoring of young trees to ensure establishment and remove failed planting
- Removal of invasive non-native species where identified
- Selective thinning of regeneration to encourage well-spaced, structurally sound future canopy trees

## **New Planting**

8.9 Future planting should aim to:

- Increase species diversity
- Replace trees lost through natural decline or necessary removal
- Reinforce riparian planting where appropriate

8.10 Species selection should reflect site conditions and future climate resilience.

## **Future Species Selection and Climate Resilience**

8.11 Future planting should be informed by anticipated changes in climate, emerging pests and diseases, and the long-term function of the site.

8.12 As a guiding principle, future planting should avoid dominance by any single species, genus, or family, and aim to maintain broad taxonomic diversity to reduce vulnerability to pests and diseases. Species selection should aim to:

- Increase overall species diversity to reduce vulnerability to single-species loss
- Avoid over-reliance on any one genus
- Select species tolerant of warmer, drier summers and episodic heavy rainfall
- Consider suitability to soil conditions and proximity to the watercourse
- Favour species with known resilience to current and emerging pests and diseases
- Prioritise species of high ecological value where appropriate

8.13 Where suitable, a mix of native and climate-resilient non-invasive species may be considered, provided they are appropriate to local character and landscape context.

8.14 Species selection should be reviewed periodically in light of updated climate and plant health guidance.

## Section 9

### Inspection and Review Regime

- 9.1 A structured inspection regime should be adopted, proportionate to site usage, tree condition, and risk profile. Inspection frequency may be reviewed where significant defects are identified, following major storm events, or where site usage materially changes.
- 9.2 All inspections should be undertaken by a competent person and recorded.

**Optional Inspection Frequency Table**

Area / Tree Context	Typical Use Level	Suggested Inspection Frequency
Trees adjacent to paths, roads, entrances, seating, or high footfall areas	High	Every 12–18 months
Trees adjacent to residential boundaries	Moderate	Every 18–24 months
Trees along the watercourse corridor away from regular access	Low	Every 24–36 months

- 9.3 Additional inspections should be undertaken following severe weather events, where concerns are reported or following reports of visible defects.
- 9.4 All inspections and works should be recorded.

## Section 10

### Management Plan

10.1 Tree management is an ongoing and cyclical process. Certain actions, such as inspection, monitoring, record keeping, and planting, will continue throughout the life of this plan. The timeframes below reflect shifting emphasis rather than entirely separate activities.

#### 10.2 Short-Term Plan (0–5 Years)

Focus: Establish structure, address known issues, and build baseline records.

- Complete baseline tree survey and mapping of the site
- Address high and moderate priority works identified within the Tree Condition Report
- Establish and document a formal inspection regime
- Record and photograph higher-risk trees to assist future comparison
- Monitor progression of previously identified decay or structural concerns
- Undertake replacement planting where recent losses have created gaps
- Implement formative pruning of young trees to promote sound structure
- Establish a consistent and proportionate approach to resident enquiries
- Review survival of recent planting and self-sown regeneration
- Identify opportunities for staged succession planting in areas dominated by mature trees
- Resurvey within the recommended timeframe

#### 10.3 Medium-Term Plan (5–10 Years)

Focus: Review trends, refine structure, and strengthen resilience.

- Review trends in tree condition and recurring defects

- Reassess previously recorded decay or structural concerns
- Undertake phased crown management where justified
- Assess establishment success of new planting and replace failures
- Diversify age structure to avoid concentration within a single age class
- Consider selective thinning where overcrowding affects stability or long-term form
- Review interaction between trees and the watercourse (including bank condition and lean)
- Review and update this Management Plan at year 5

#### 10.4 Long-Term Plan (10–20 Years)

Focus: Succession, canopy continuity and long-term resilience.

- Plan phased replacement of over-mature trees to avoid sudden canopy loss
- Maintain a balanced and diverse age structure
- Increase species diversity, where appropriate, to improve resilience
- Retain habitat features such as standing deadwood where safe and appropriate
- Review inspection frequency in line with tree maturity and site usage
- Implement a rolling replacement programme for key boundary or high-amenity trees

## Section 11

### Monitoring and Review

11.1 This Tree Management Report should be reviewed periodically and updated to reflect:

- Changes in tree condition
- Changes in site use
- New legislation or best practice guidance
- Latest pest and disease updates
- Updated climate and plant health guidance for tree planting

11.2 A formal review every 5 years is recommended.

11.3 The accompanying Tree Condition Report should be updated in line with recommended inspection cycles.

## Section 12

### Limitations

- 12.1 This report provides a strategic management framework based on a visual assessment of trees at the time of inspection. Trees are living organisms and their condition may change over time due to natural growth, weather events, or other environmental factors such as pest and disease.
- 12.2 The recommendations within this report do not remove the need for site-specific assessment prior to undertaking works, particularly where protected species, Tree Preservation Orders, Conservation Area status, or other statutory constraints may apply.
- 12.3 Recommended inspection intervals are guidance only and may need adjustment in response to significant weather events, changes in site usage, or emerging defects.

— *End of Tree*  
*Management Report* —

