

From: Tom Garriock <Tom@knepp.co.uk>
Sent: 03 February 2022 10:42
To: Sam Heynes <Sam.Heynes@Cuckfield.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: Proposed Ash tree felling at Cuckfield Recreation Ground

Hi Sam,

Thanks for coming back to me. I am hoping to engage with the PC to help mitigate any queries or concerns regarding our intentions for these trees. I will address your comments in turn:

- I have been working on the assumption that the wooden fence between the footpath and the Memorial Ground represented our boundary and have inspected and recommended works for trees on Knepp's side of the fence. I have used for reference two maps (attached), which show a strip of land inside the recreation ground as Knepp Estate property. I am looking into the ownership issue more closely, to ensure these trees are in fact our responsibility before any work will be undertaken.
- Please see attached arboricultural report and sketch map regarding these trees from 2018. A Notification of Intent for tree works in a Conservation Area does not ask for an independent report, so I did not upload this separately, but have extensively referenced the recommendations therein.
- Some of these trees are certainly significant in the landscape. However, as our report notes, they have in many cases attained their current stature through an abandonment of traditional management through coppicing. This increases the risk they pose. Removal for these trees will allow other young trees (field maple, lime, oak and hawthorn are all present) to develop in their stead.
- The 2018 report does not reference ash dieback, but I did identify symptoms in these trees on an informal visit to the site in September 2021 and during formal tree inspections I conducted on 1 December 2021. The symptoms may not be as advanced as in other cases, but the location of these trees within a high usage and high risk area, and existence of other causes for concern inform our decision to give notice at this stage.

I hope this helps to demonstrate the thinking behind our intentions and remain happy to meet with PC representatives on site if they felt further discussion in person would be helpful.

Kind regards,

Tom

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