

Leaffield Parish Council  
St Michaels Church,  
Leaffield,  
Witney,  
OX29 9PG

**Arboricultural  
Contractors**

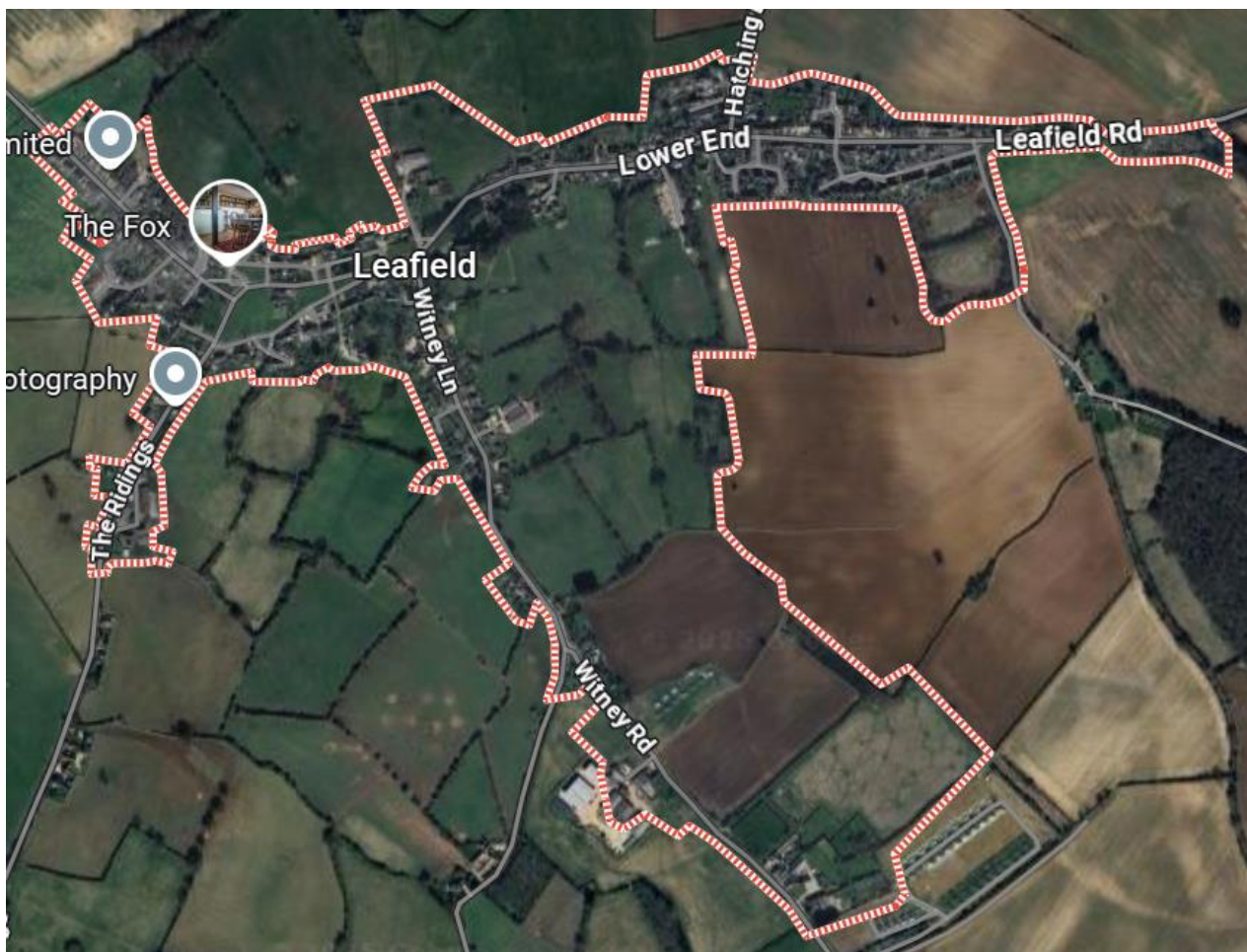
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**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2025**

**RE: Arboricultural report – Leaffield Parish Council – Various Sites**

Following our surveyors site visit on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October, please see his report findings below:



### **T4 Mature Lime – Church Yard - Re-inspect Base**



There is no evidence of any significant decay or dysfunction and the base appears to be clear of any decay, damage or disease.

Our recommendations are no works.

### **T7 Mature Lime - Church Yard - Climbing Inspection and inspect base**



Tree is a lapsed pollard with two co-dominant stems from the pollard head. It is clear that historically there were three. The spot where historically the third section has gone from is now compartmentalised well, relatively dry, no evidence of any significant decay or dysfunction and the base appears to be clear of any decay, damage or disease.

Our recommendations are no works.

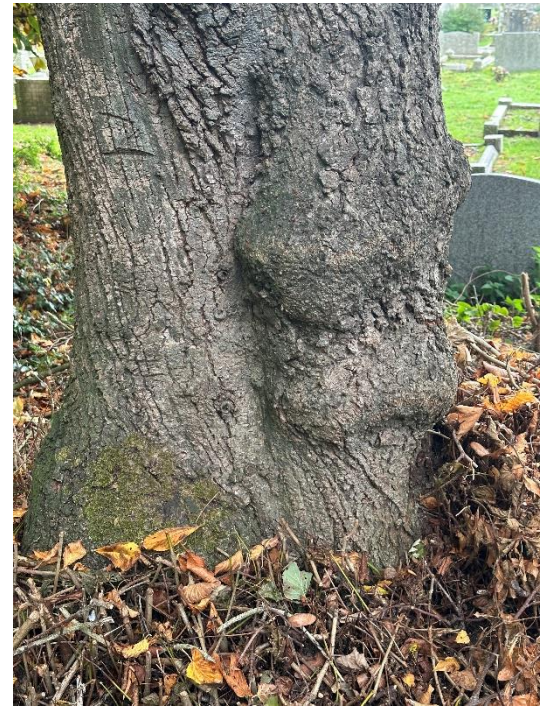
### **T8 Mature Horse Chestnut – Church Yard – Re-inspect Base**



Tree is a lapsed pollard. There is no decay, dysfunction or pathogens around the base. The cavity at approximately 2m above ground level facing the church is 400-450mm deep. Good internal compartmentalisation although the vertical distance internally of the cavity is unknown.

Our recommendations are no works.

### **T11 Mature Lime – Church Yard - Re-inspect Base**



Tree is a lapsed pollard. There is no evidence of any significant decay or dysfunction and the base appears to be clear of any decay, damage or disease.

Our recommendations are no works.

### **T12 Mature/Over-Mature Sycamore – Church Yard – Inspect Main Stem and Base**



Tree is an old pollard with evidence of a significant branch loss at approximately 2m above ground level on the western side. Extensive decay and dysfunction with rotting wood and pathogenic fungi present. Deadwood extends some 300mm past the observed line, *as shown by the photo with the handsaw pressed into the wood.*

Tree has a good form and is relatively sheltered. The site around the wound is compromised to the East with further Ganoderma brackets present on the outside of the tree suggesting the decay goes right through the tree at this point.

Our recommendations are based on the useful life expectancy of the tree. I would recommend the tree is pruned back to the historic pollard point as approximately 4m, leaving some of the low growth as the tree may potentially phoenix from this point, and retain as a habitat monolith which may or may not recover.

Some thought could be given to replanting in this area, as there are several trees and sites of historic tree removals.

## **T16 Mature Sycamore – Church Yard – Inspect Wound and Re-assess for Further Works**



Tree is fairly squat and evidence to suggest it may have been topped historically. There is evidence also of some branch tear outs and historic branch removals, whether they have failed as a consequence of weather, natural deselection of the tree, or pruning, it is unclear. The main scaffold, emanating over the wall and the neighbours has a large historic wound with decay present and there is a cavity in the main

stem extending some 300mm into the tree. Both wounds seem to have compartmentalised well enough to not warrant any remedial works.



Tree is relatively sheltered and the risk of harm from any nominal potential of failure is low.

Our recommendations are no works.

### **T29 Mature Horse Chestnut – Church Yard – Climbing Inspection**



Tree is a lapsed pollard with a wound site in the cup of the pollard head. Probably where the central leader has been historically crowded out by the other main stems and died up. The cavity does extend some 450mm or so down into the centre of the tree.

At this time I do not think this represents a significant structural issue, given the normal quantity of growth around the pollard head and the vibrancy of the crown.

Our recommendations are no works, but to monitor tree and potentially in 2-3 years time reduce tree to mitigate wind loading.

### **T30 Mature Lime - Church Yard – Climbing Inspection**



Tree is a lapsed pollard. All of the cavities from old pruning wounds appear to have compartmentalised well with good reactive growth and solid sound wood behind the back edge.

Our recommendations are no works.

### **T35 Overmature Horse Chestnut – Church Yard – Climbing Inspection**



The pollard head appears to be free from any significant pathogenic dysfunction. The main scaffolds all have some form of defect, whether its an old tear out with decay present or historic beam cracks (internal cracking along the line of the scaffold). The tree has a significant cavity in the pollard head, extending some 1.4m in, please see photo of stick, cavity extending from bottom of stick to hand. Tree has been reduced historically. There is also evidence of Pseudonymous Syringe on the main stem.

My recommendations would be to reduce the upper canopy by 2-2.5m to mitigate wind loading and the stresses on the weakened scaffolds, retaining as much of the low level foliar material as practicable, leaving a balanced and flowing crown outline.



### T49 Mature Sycamore – The Green – Re-inspect Base



Section to the East emanating from crown break with bark dysfunction and decay at the main branch union.

Our recommendations would be to reduce this section by 1.5-2m, pruning to points of suitable secondary live growth to promote a balanced and flowing crown outline to mitigate the stress on the branch union.

Defect should be monitored annual for further signs of degradation.

**T94 (Tag is T93) Over-Mature Ash – Playing Field - Full Basal Inspection**



There is extensive dieback. There is no obvious decay or dysfunction at the base although the tree is clearly declining.

Our recommendations are no works.

### **T101 Mature Cherry – Playing Field - Re-inspect Base**



Tree has had historic spoil from ground works, stacked and packed around the base up to approximately 500mm. this doesn't appear to have unduly impacted on the tree although is far from ideal. There is an anomaly in the trunk, vertically to the East which doesn't appear to be affecting the stability of the tree. There is no pathogens or decay or other dysfunction.

Our recommendations are no works.

I will leave this report for your perusal and if you have any queries or wish to discuss, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,



Paul Jenks  
Director