

Cradley Churchyard trees – work plan for 24 September 2018

Our Churchyard Plan, last modified 10 October 2017, will be found on the notice-board at www.cradley.org.uk and at www.cradleychurch.org.uk, including pictures and tree heights. This work plan refers to the Cradley Churchyard tree map (below) with urgent trees coloured in purple (which were addressed spring 2018) and others to be felled coloured red (for which we now have full permissions).

Urgent work included felling the dangerous Silver Birch 12a, crown lifting Sweet Chestnut 6, removing the overhanging trunk of Beech 7 and cutting Ash 9 to hedge height.

For the week of 24th September 2018, weather permitting, we now plan:-

Mon 24 Sep, The contractor will fell trees 4a, 4b, 5 with volunteers moving brash to contractor's chipper at NE corner of Churchyard. Everything will be removed from the Churchyard to Stoney Villa.

Tue 25 Sep, The contractor will fell tree 10, with volunteers moving brash to contractor's chipper. Everything will be removed from the Churchyard to Stoney Villa, except the 3m lengths that will be moved to the NE corner of the Churchyard. If sufficient progress is made then we will start on Wednesday's work. At close of play, access for the timber lengths from tree 10 to the NE corner must be left clear.

Wed 26 Sep, Phil will crane the 3m lengths of tree 10 onto Stoney Villa. The contractor will fell trees 3a, 3b, 11 –all large material suitable for firewood will be cut into manageable pieces and left stacked at the work area. Brash and debris will be stockpiled at work areas in a neat and tidy condition for volunteers to dispose of. Volunteers will assist the contractor by moving brash and debris;

- Trees 3a and 3b, towards the NE corner of the Churchyard (after tree 10 timber has been removed) for burning on the Stoney Villa field. The central path must be left clear by close of play.
- Tree 11, along the path towards the gate in the NW corner. Access to the Churchyard via gate and the central path must be left clear by close of play.

At present we are short of volunteers to promise any more clear-up, so we have plans for working parties on Saturday mornings from 10.30 to 1pm through October until the rubbish is cleared and/or burnt on land at Stoney Villa.

For Monday and Tuesday a tracked chipper will be used at the NE corner of the Churchyard. The contractor has surveyed an acceptable route from the gate on Rectory Lane by the Village Hall. A tracked stump grinder will be used on the remains of tree 10 a week or so after it has been felled. Other than this no vehicles will be used within the Churchyard.

The contractor will abide by the Church Buildings Council codes of practice, in particular with work to be compliant with BS3998:2010, have appropriate indemnity insurance and risk assessment. Any damage to gravestones will be minimised; damaged or unsafe items must be identified to the PCC representative.

By signing onto the daily roster and taking note of special instructions for that day volunteers will be covered by the Church's insurance policy. A member of the PCC will be present during the working day to address any concerns.

As part of this tree work useable 3 metre lengths of timber will be removed from the Churchyard. Should the timber prove to be useful then we expect to receive a donation, but in the mean time we are grateful that the timber is to be removed and that it may be used locally on the new-build just across the valley from the Churchyard.

By Valentine's Day 2019 we plan to address the western boundary of the Churchyard, including cutting Sycamore 8 to hedge height. This will complete the current planned work and open up the Eastern boundary of the Churchyard for new burials.

Tony Copp, for Cradley PCC Churchyard Committee.

