

Schedule to Application for tree works

The Ribchester Parochial Church Council (the PCC) is seeking permission to fell two trees within the churchyard to the north of St Wilfrid's church, Ribchester.

The two trees, a cherry and a beech are shown on the attached plan. The cherry is totally dead and some its branches overhang a line of gravestones. If any of the branches fell it could cause damage to the gravestones.

The beech is diseased with both honey fungus and black lace fungus and the PCC has been advised that the tree will die within two years. Several of its lower branches are already without leaves and have died.

Photographs of the two trees are attached. All the photographs have been taken within the last seven days.

Photo 1 shows the beech tree with its poor leaf growth. Photo 2 shows the peeling bark and photo 3 shows the black lace fungal growth at the base of the tree.

Photo 4 shows the cherry tree which shows no sign of life at all. The base of the tree is surrounded by vegetation including holly, nettles, wild raspberries and elder which will all be cleared during the felling work. Photo 5 shows the branch of the cherry which partly overhangs the adjacent row of gravestones.

Permission for the work is being sought from the Archdeacon of the Blackburn Diocese under the faculty process.

The management of the churchyard is subject to the terms of an agreement with Historic England. Permission for the felling of the trees is not required from Historic England but we cannot remove any roots in order to avoid disturbing archaeological remains under the ground so the trees will be cut off at ground level.

It is not intended to replace the trees. There are several other mature trees within the churchyard and the management agreement with Historic England warns against the planting of trees in order to avoid the disturbance mentioned above.

In accordance with PCC regulations three quotations to carry out the felling work are being obtained from fully insured and qualified tree surgeons and a specimen quote is attached.