

TREE CONDITION RE-INSPECTION: TREES WITHIN WHALLEY AND WISWELL JOINT BURIAL GROUND, CLITHEROE RD WHALLEY

DATE: 4.9.20 (data based on and updated from the original inspection of 10th December 2004 and subsequent inspections since then)

CLIENT: Whalley Barrow and Wiswell Joint Burial Committee

LOCATION: Whalley Barrow and Wiswell Joint Burial Ground. Trees are all within the Whalley Conservation area administered by Ribble Valley Borough Council

OBJECTIVE: To determine the extent of any hazard present and to schedule any works required and generally to enable the Client to discharge their duty of care to the local public and persons using the burial ground. This survey will update the original inspection and subsequent inspections and report on all trees over 250mm diameter and within the curtilage of the Property which is fenced on three sides and bounded on one side by a small stream running from the road to the farm to the west. The report will also respond to any issues raised by the Committee.

SITE CONDITION: The trees were surveyed in warm conditions in late August. The trees were in full canopy and were not climbed but visual tree Assessment methods and fine drill tests used to determine the extent of decay or indicators of potential hazard where appropriate. All trees referred to are located on the attached plan.

The following points were noted:

1. In 2018 we commented: *Ash die back is very evident in the area and many of the ash around the cemetery are affected. Over the next 5-10 years many trees will die and will need to be removed when they become unsightly. There is so far no known cure. Recommendations for felling were given in 2019 and acted on.*
2. Several further trees have now become significantly affected by Ash Die back. Some are on the field boundary to the right of the entrance walk (see blue star on plan) . Seen from a distance the symptoms are very obvious. The outer canopy is first affected followed a year later by other parts of the canopy so that within five years a tree will be a shadow of its former self. The tree will then die, then decay and then fall down. It is important that we do not replace with the same species and avoid the planting of lines of the same species in the event that a species becomes vulnerable to a pathogen and then the complete planting is destroyed together with many years of work and care. MIXED tree planting is a useful strategy. These trees are still showing symptoms of the disease and the first five trees in the line may deteriorate further.
3. Nine trees have been yellow spot marked for removal and are shown on the plan. If left in a dead state for too long the timber becomes brittle and climbing access difficult and the risk of clear felling into the graveyard area with a the risk of damage to gravestones is all too obvious.
4. The committee should anticipate that most of the ash trees will die over the next 5 years. Replacement should not be on a haphazard basis but a thought out plan using trees less prone to disease failure and avoiding a single species planting. At the present time a mixed planting of Pin oak, red maple and fastigate hornbeam planted at 7m centres may allow for a future landscape of autumn colour into mid-21st century. Tree disease *pendemics* are occurring on a regular basis so this selected list may need adjustment in the future.
5. The committee might also consider that ash firewood is greatly sought after in the Ribble Valley and contractors should consider this in their pricing.

CONCLUSIONS:

The trees should be inspected again in September 2021 or after high winds or branch failures.

No tree can be regarded as totally safe. However the inspection has brought to light a small number of trees which require monitoring and some pruning attention. The above items should be acted on but do not indicate a high Risk of harm at the present time.

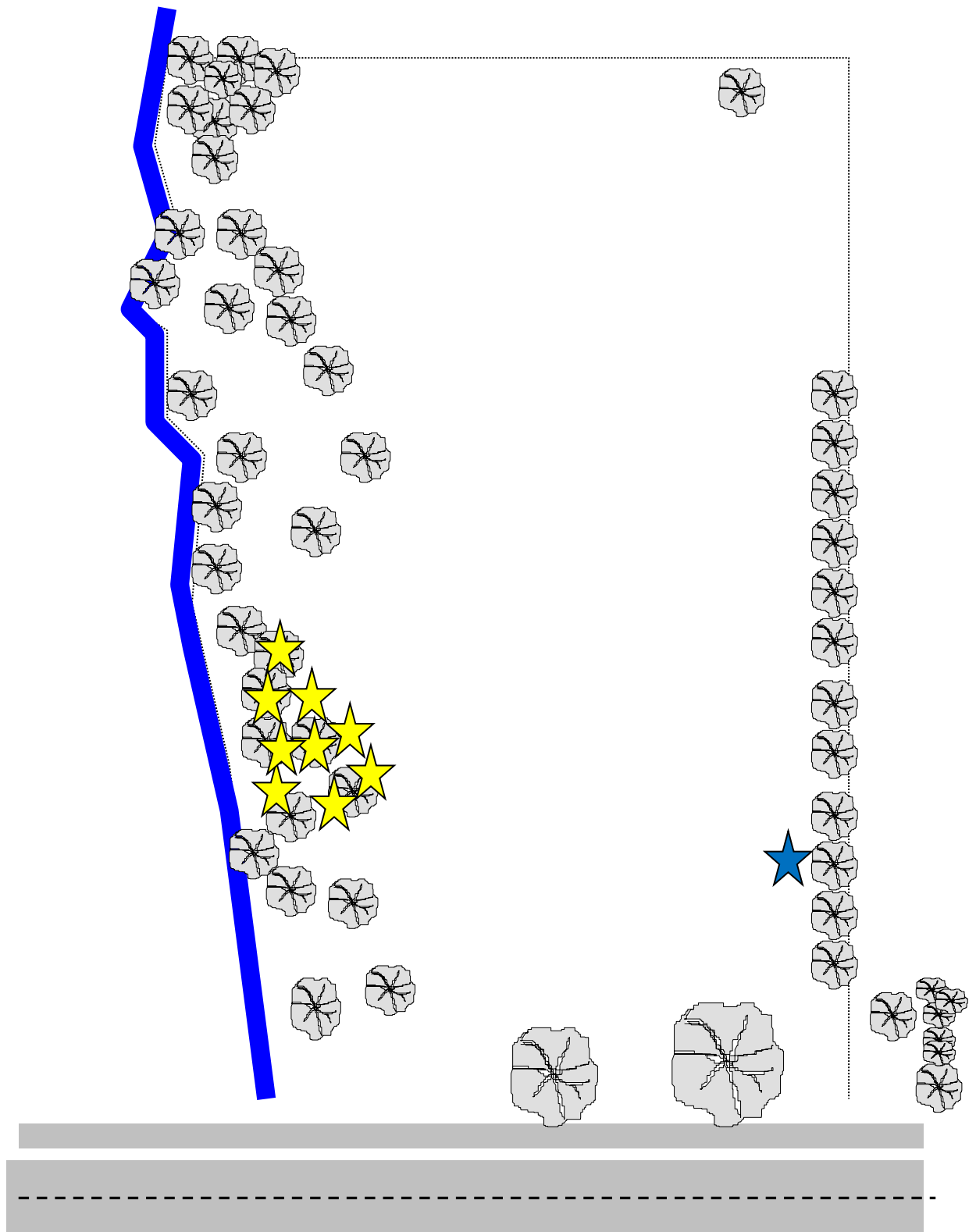
We have also sent a copy to the Tree Officer for Ribble Valley BC keeping him in the picture.

If you require more information please let us know.

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Consulting Arborist

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UNSCALED LOCATION PLAN FOR TREES AT WHALLEY BARROW AND WISWELL JOINT BURIAL GROUND



STREAM