

The Client

The Parish Church Council of St John the Baptist, Letton. Contact Mr and Mrs Maddox, Letton, via Sue Cooper, Caring for God's Acre project.

The Brief

1. To survey individual trees, or, where appropriate, groups of trees in the churchyard.
2. Where there are particularly large, rare, problematic or distinctive trees within a group they should have an individual record made.
3. To map the location of individuals and groups on an appropriate scale plan.
4. To provide a written report on the safety, amenity value and wildlife value of the individuals and groups together with supporting summary tables.
5. To make recommendations for tree surgery and other tree maintenance work required improving safety consistent with maintaining the amenity and wildlife value of individual trees and groups of trees.
6. To prioritise:
 - a.) Urgent to do now
 - b.) needs to be done but not urgently
 - c.) to do if funds permit
7. To provide guidance costings for any recommendations
8. To make PCC's aware of their legal responsibilities regarding tree surgery arising from the recommendations

Caring for God's Acre project

First started in Shropshire this project promotes the conservation, enhancement and enjoyment of the natural and built features in churchyards. The project, now a registered charity, has now been extended to parishes in the Hereford and Worcestershire Diocese; and is ecumenical, embracing all faiths.

The survey

Eleven trees have been included in this survey. The survey concentrates on the major tree species only, rather than shrubs, and includes all trees from the oldest to the most recent. Please refer to the sketch map for locations.

The 'vital statistics' of the trees are recorded along with broad assessments of their value for wildlife and amenity. Their condition is also assessed and recorded. Generally at Letton they are in very good health. This survey does not try to age trees precisely, by taking a measurement and calculating a rate of growth, as this can be misleading. Trees have different rates of growth and respond to many factors; such as water and nutrient availability, how close they are to other trees, what species or family they belong to, the effect of pests, diseases and past management of the them. Instead broad categories provide a guide to the age of the tree population in the