

## **Ash trees on the Tynning**

### **Background**

- The PC commissioned a survey of trees on their land from Bawdens earlier this year
- 4 trees on the Tynning were found by Bawdens to be dangerous and were therefore felled
- The survey proposes that a further 15 trees on the Tynning (all Ash) are in poor condition and should be felled within 3-4 months – a decision is needed from the PC. See Bawdens' map attached at end.

### **Benefits provided by the Ash trees**

- Carbon sequestration: over one year a mature tree will take up about 22 kilograms of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere ([European Environment Agency, 2012](#))
- Wildlife habitat: Ash trees provide very specific biodiversity benefits in the UK ([Woodland Trust, 2022](#))
- Aesthetic amenity: the 15 trees in question make up a large part of the mature woodland along the crest of the Tynning ridge – losing them would dramatically alter the village's skyline (see photos below)
- Future of Ash species in the UK: there is potential for some to recover from Ash dieback and regenerate in future years, helping prevent the total loss of Ash trees in the UK:

*The Forestry Commission recommendation (2020) is as follows: Where safety overrides other objectives, ash may need to be made safe sooner rather than later. In some cases it may be prudent to remove much of the ash to make the operation economically viable but wherever possible it should be retained and natural regeneration promoted to conserve ash as a woodland tree in the future.*

*And the Woodland Trust (2019) advise: We acknowledge that in some situations public safety issues will dictate the felling of potentially tolerant trees, but pre-emptive felling of ash trees should be avoided wherever possible*

### **Risk in leaving the Ash trees standing**

- Ash trees suffering dieback will shed dead wood which presents a potential danger over footpaths
- As Bawdens' survey clearly recommends that these trees should be felled, the PC would presumably be liable if a member of the public were to be injured by wood falling from one of these trees

### **PC options**

1. Fell all/some of the trees to ground level as proposed by Bawdens' original report (£4,250 plus VAT?)
2. Do not fell but cut to a safe height and manage with regular inspection and pruning as necessary: I have met with Adam from Bawdens to discuss this option which he advises would be appropriate for many of the trees in question. I am waiting for his revised quote for these alternative works
3. Do nothing to the trees but find a way to close the footpath and warn members of the public of risk

### **Proposal**

Given the many environmental benefits that these trees provide, and their importance as part of the Tynning's skyline, I propose that we consult the community on what action should be taken.

We should consider not simply opting for the most economical route – i.e. ongoing inspection and pruning may be more expensive than felling outright, but we should prioritise the environmental benefits of preserving as much as possible.

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G01



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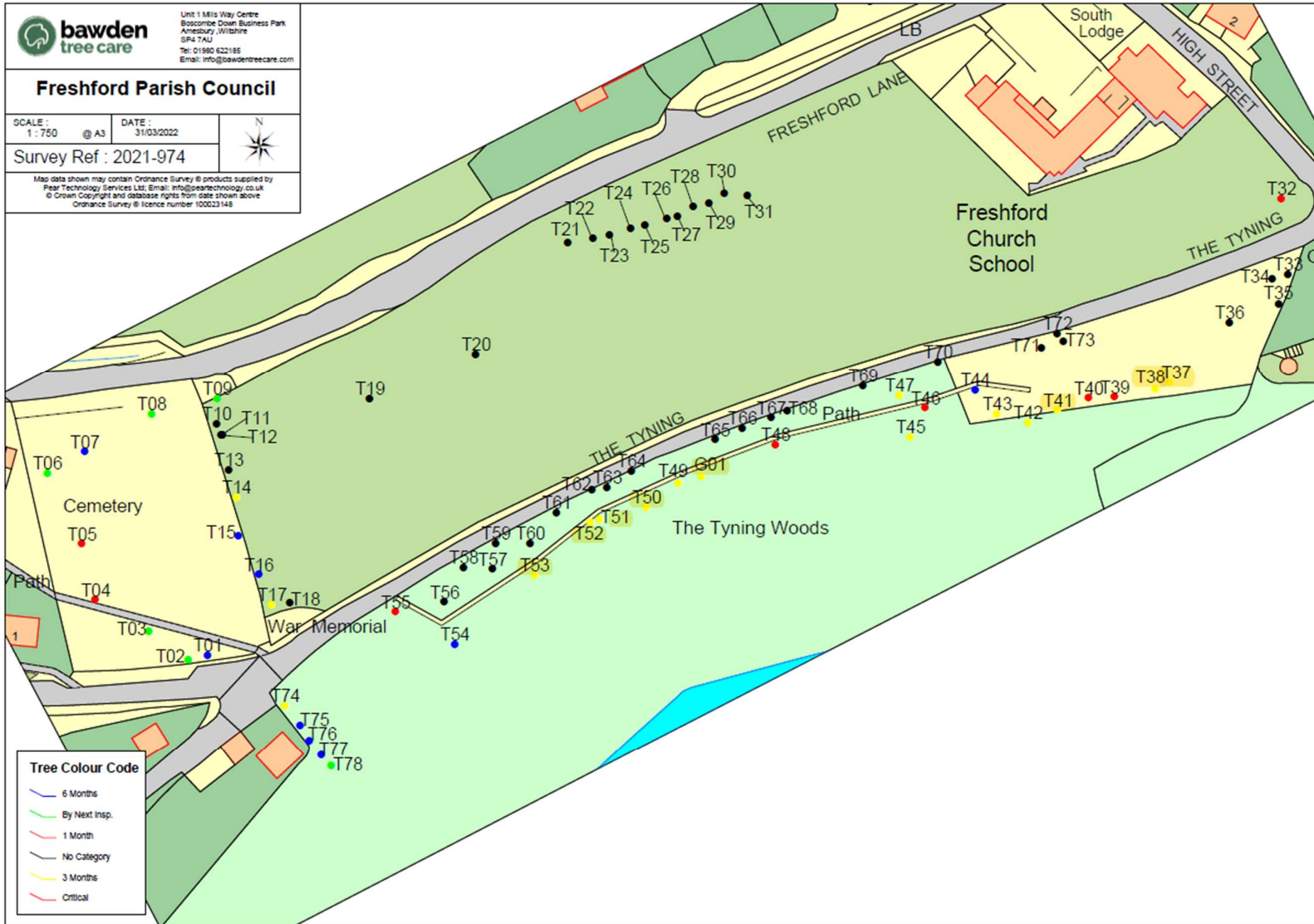


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Trees T39, T40, T46 and T48 have already been felled. **Now under consideration are:** T37, T38, T41, T50, T51, T52, T53 and 8x Ash trees at G01.