

Chithurst Churchyard.

Inspection of Trees.

There are three dominant trees within the Churchyard all mature but still appear to be in reasonable condition.

- **Fraxinus excelsior** – Ash. North-west of Church. Multi stemmed mature specimen showing signs of recent wind damage with the loss of some lower branches. Also signs of natural die-back in the crown but this is often normal in trees of this age. Ash is generally a light canopied tree but the leaf cover appears to be particularly light.

Recommendation – Possible removal of a few lower branches without damaging the form of the tree to check natural die-back. This work is not however essential but the minimum work required is removal of the damaged branch and cleaning wounds. It is suggested the tree is inspected next Spring to see if leaf cover is declining.

- **Salix babylonica** – Weeping Willow. On north-east corner of Churchyard. A very fine specimen, again with a few signs of natural die-back in the crown but nothing of any concern at this time

Recommendation. No action.

- **Taxus baccata** – Yew. Alongside access to the Church This is a fine Tree of huge character, with interesting vertical epicormic growth on older horizontal limbs.

Recommendation – No immediate work required but maybe at some stage the trimming of some lower branches will be required to allow access along path.

There are some Hazels (*Corylus avellana*) along the eastern boundary which appear to be suffering and showing signs of die-back. I am not sure what is causing this. I would recommend these are coppiced down to ground level and allowed to re-grow. I would suggest the same treatment is carried out to the hazel immediately to the east of the Ash. The dead Elm or Hazel in the south-east corner of the Church should also be removed. There is another Hazel on the southern boundary which could also be coppiced, since it is now overhanging the Graveyard and Church.

Other than the removal of dead or damaged tree/limbs, there is no urgent work required here.

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