

Introduction

Stalmine with Staynall Parish Council's woodland and tree management policy acknowledges the benefits that its trees bring to the village, and recognizes the woodland is an invaluable asset to the community, while taking into account the need to ensure the safety of residents, visitors and property.

Benefits of the woodland area and trees include:

1. Creates a pleasant green, rural environment for the benefit of residents and visitors.
2. Creates an extensive wildlife environment and habitat
3. Provides shelter from adverse weather conditions, such as strong winds and high rainfall
4. Contributes, to the reduction of carbon dioxide and reduction of global warming
5. The woodland is also useful in flood prevention and absorbing noise

General principles

The Parish Council has previously adopted the following principles in relation to trees on Parish Council land –

- **It will take a responsible approach to tree management and to any risks which they may pose to people and surrounding property**
- **It will be prudent in identifying any such risks in advance**
- **It will take steps to reduce these risks, recognising that the costs of early remedial action may be significantly less than future costs.**
- **Costing for the annual survey, and any possible work will be factored into the Parish Council's annual budget.**

The rest of this policy provides further details of the approaches the Parish Council will use to preserve, enhance and manage trees and hedgerows on their land.

General Policy

This policy defines the Council's approach to tree and hedgerow management on its land. It is intended to be a point of reference for the Public, Councillors and Officers to ensure a consistent and structured approach to the management of the Parish Council's trees and hedgerows. This policy sets out a proactive and systematic method of management that will both conserve and enhance our tree population and hedgerows and the amenity value of our land. For sites of special character or that have trees and hedgerows of particular significance, this general policy will be supplemented with the site's particular management needs.

Tree Protection

Due care will be taken by the Council to ensure that damage to trees by mowing and strimming is prevented. Longer grass margins around trees may be left. Protection will be provided for newly planted or young trees where appropriate, for example, timber posts surrounded by wire mesh.

Tree inspections

The council has a duty to care for its trees and will use an independent arboricultural consultant to inspect and survey them annually. The focus of this inspection is on identifying and hazards and then rectifying them according to a prioritized system.

The Council recognises the importance of mature and ancient trees and will balance safety with a duty to protect the environment, ensuring only essential/minimal works are undertaken in order to preserve a tree.

Tree Felling

The Council will avoid felling trees unless it is necessary. This will usually be for health and safety purposes or to prevent the spread of serious tree diseases and pests. However, the Council reserve the right to fell trees to prevent overcrowding, to improve habitats or restore landscapes in line with site management or where a tree is inappropriate to its location and has a significantly detrimental impact on the amenity of the site. The council are committed to acquire the appropriate licences if required for felling, and to have all works conducted by a qualified tree surgeon. All wood debris will be reused within the woodland area such as chipped bark laid on the woodland floor, or used to provide a wildlife habitat.

Maintenance

Tree work will be prioritised and carried out according to the following criteria:

EMERGENCY

Dangerous trees requiring immediate attention Timescale for work: Same day or next day

DESIRABLE WORK

Actions to improve tree health Timescale for work: Within 6 months

NON-ESSENTIAL WORK

Actions to thin or prune trees Timescale for work: Within 12 months

Tree pruning

This will be carried out for health and safety reasons, such as to remove lower branches growing over a road, or maintain a clear public right of way. Where it benefits the health of a tree, for example pollarding to extend the lifespan of a tree and prevent splitting.

The Council will not undertake tree pruning or maintenance –

- In response to natural occurrences that do not pose a health and safety risk, such as falling leaves, fruit, berries, seeds, bird droppings, pollen etc.
- Solely for reasons of increasing sun light/views to properties and gardens
- During the nesting season (March-August), unless work is for health and safety reasons
- If a tree contains roosting bats, unless work is for health and safety reasons
- Where trees have a negative impact on television reception

- On trees overhanging an adjacent property, unless work is for health and safety reasons. Landowners have a common law right to prune back tree branches to their boundary, providing that would not lead to tree death and providing the tree is not protected by a TPO or within a Conservation Area.
- To remove dead branches from trees located in relatively quiet locations due to their ecological value, unless work is for health and safety reasons

Document control

Document title

Stalmine with Staynall Parish Council Woodland & Tree Management Policy

Version number	Date approved	Author	Next Review
V0.1 draft	January 2025	Debbie Smith	January 2026
V0.2	January 2026	Debbie Smith	January 2027

Risk Management Key

High
Medium
Low

Risk Assessment Form

Activity: Woodland and Parish Trees		Assessment Date: January 2025		Review Date: January 2026	
Hazard and Risk	People at risk	Optional Controls	Our Controls	Our Future Controls	Risk Level
Trees - Collapse - Structural damage	Employees/public	Trees inspected annually by arboriculturist. Records of inspections are kept. Council responds to complaints from employees and public if concern raised about tree condition.	Trees inspected annually. Records of defects are kept. Council responds to complaints from employees and public if concern raised about tree condition.	A re-survey of trees is undertaken after works advised are completed.	1
Adverse Weather - Damage to trees - Vegetation disturbed and displaced	Employees/public	Council employees will inspect the woodland area after adverse weather has passed to see if there is any damage or clearing of the woodland and parish trees. Lengths man// plants man will under-take minor work to maintain safety. Larger work such as tree felling will be undertaken by an appointed tree surgeon.	Council employees will inspect the woodland area after adverse weather has passed to see if there is any damage or clearing of the woodland and parish trees. Lengths man/plants man will under-take minor work to maintain safety. Larger work such as tree felling will be undertaken by an appointed tree surgeon.	Clerk will monitor weather via the met office, and advise the Lengths man and Plants man when to check the woodland and trees of the parish. Under health and safety, the woodland will be closed to the public if work is required to remove trees. The clerk will notify the public with signs at the entrances of the woodland and lock the gate. Information will be communicated to the parish via the council's media sources.	2
Pond - Over flowing due to adverse weather onto foot paths	Employees/public	Pond assessment is inspected annually by arboriculturist. Records are kept by the clerk. Shallow pond public don't access for recreational use.	Keep footpaths maintained near pond, so they do not become muddy and unusable. Place wood felled around the footpath area to dam over flow water.	Continue to monitor the pond during wet months	1
Vegetation - Poisoning - Cuts	Employees/public	Non-hazardous plants in woodland Hazardous vegetation removed/ or cut back	Council employees inspect the woodland foot path regularly and remove any vegetation or cut back to prevent cuts. Work undertaken is recorded by employees work logs.	Clerk regularly in contact with employees to confirm/checks and required works have been undertaken by staff.	1

Risk Assessment (Continued)

Activity: Woodland and Parish Trees		Assessment Date: January 2025		Review Date: January 2026	
Hazard and Risk	People at risk	Optional Controls	Our Controls	Our Future Controls	Risk Level
Footpaths - Trips, slips falls.	Employees/public	Paths checked weekly for signs of damage. No vehicles permitted. Leaf clearance carried out regularly. Defects to footpath are repaired as soon as practical, damage with Damage to footpaths, caused by tree roots, monitored and actioned where damage is likely to pose trip hazard.	Paths checked weekly for signs of damage. No vehicles permitted. Leaf clearance carried out regularly. Defects to footpath are repaired as soon as practical, damage with Damage to footpaths, caused by tree roots, monitored and actioned where damage is likely to pose trip hazard.	Clerk regularly in contact with employees to confirm/checks and required works have been undertaken by staff.	1
Dog Fouling - Infection/ill health	Employees/public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bins provided at entrances to woodland area and emptied regularly - 'No Dogs' signs erected - Dog warden patrols area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bins provided at entrances to woodland area and emptied regularly - 'No Dogs' signs erected - Dog warden patrols area 	Council employees check woodland area and report any issues to clerk. The lengths man empties bins if full, working alongside the local borough council.	1
Gate - Entrapment	Employees/public	. Gate inspected regularly by council employees	- Rapid response to any defects	Lengths man continue to monitor the gate and maintain	1
Bins - Cuts	Employees/public	. Bins Inspected regularly . Dangerous bins removed including base to avoid trip hazard	. Bins Inspected regularly . Dangerous bins removed including base to avoid trip hazard	Clerk will notify borough council to have bins replaced, and notify the public via council media resources	1

Clerk's signature

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D. C.', written on a white rectangular background.

Date: 13.01.2026

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