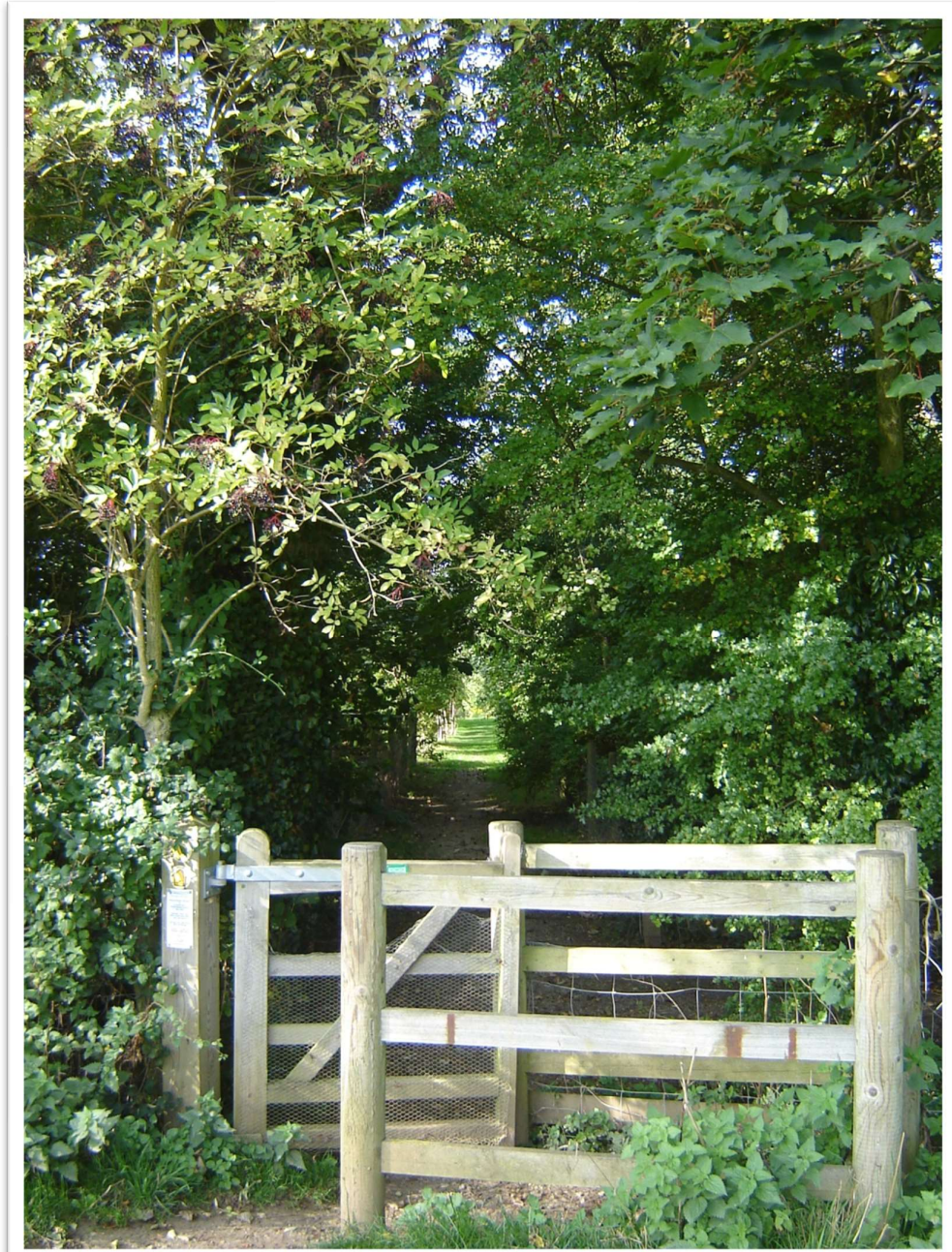


GOTHERINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

TREE POLICY

2025 - 2030



GOTHERINGTON PARISH COUNCIL TREE POLICY

Adopted 1st February 2025

Review date 1st February 2030

The definition of a tree is a land plant with woody stems and one distinct main trunk which develops to become dominant over its competitors.

Guidance on Parish Council Owned Trees

Gotherington Parish Council manages numerous individual trees in public spaces. Our aim is to manage these resources in a safe and sustainable manner for the enjoyment of the public and as a benefit to the local environment. This is achieved by regular surveying and monitoring from which pruning, felling and replacement planting is then scheduled.

Trees within the Parish make a major contribution to its amenity. They give depth to views and form landmarks. Trees and hedgerows have significant environmental value, providing an essential habitat for wildlife and helping to give us cleaner, filtered air, giving shade in the summer, whilst acting as windbreaks throughout the year.

The Parish Council's Responsibilities

The Parish Council respects the essential part trees and hedgerows play within its public spaces and favours the retention of both where possible. The purpose of this policy is to provide local residents with clear and concise information with regard to what they can reasonably expect from the Council in terms of: -

- Council trees overhanging a property
- Council trees restricting light or view
- Council trees which are dead, dying, dangerous, or include any significant dead or broken limbs

Work the Parish Council will do

The Parish Council will maintain its trees in a safe condition and will: -

- Remove dead, dying, or dangerous trees
- Remove major dead wood (over 75mm in diameter) which overhangs private / Parish Council property
- Remove dangerous or damaged limbs
- Prune branches where an actionable legal nuisance is being caused eg. Damage to structures, phone lines etc.
- Where a tree is growing within a hedgerow that forms part of a council owned boundary then due consideration will be given to the impact any maintenance work may have on that hedgerow.
- The Parish Council recognises that leaf fall is a cyclical event. Every effort will be made to limit the impact of this on pedestrians using pavements within the parish.
- Residents are required to liaise with the Parish Council over the planting of memorial trees on any Council owned open space. Each request will be considered on an individual basis depending upon the species of tree and the space available. A maintenance care application will need to be completed by the resident concerned and agreed by the Parish Council before any action is taken.

The Parish Council will maintain its boundary hedgerows in a purposeful condition and will: -

- Layer, prune or supplement a hedge line in order to maintain an adequate barrier
- Only plant a variety of native species (eg. Blackthorn, hawthorn, hazel, holly) in order to supplement a hedgerow.

Requests from Residents

If a resident would like the Parish Council to carry out any of the work listed above, a written request in the first instance will need to be submitted to the Clerk. A written response will then be given confirming that the request has been registered and the tree or hedge in question is being assessed. After an assessment has been arranged by the Parish Council, if agreed, a contractor will be instructed to undertake the work. If the Council decides that the work is not appropriate, the resident will be notified in writing.

Work the Council will not undertake

In Common Law, a property owner can cut back overhanging branches to the boundary of their property. The Parish Council will normally have no objection to property owners carrying out work on a Council owned tree or engaging a contractor at their own expense, providing that: -

- Access is not gained onto the neighbouring land and /or into a tree within that land. If access to council land or into a tree on that land is required, council permission must be sought first.
- The tree is not protected by a Tree Preservation Order for which a separate consent is required from North Gloucestershire District Council.
- Any work carried out on a tree is not detrimental to its health or stability.
- Any tree work undertaken is carried out in accordance with current best practice.
- The Parish Council is notified of the proposed work and commencement date no less than 30 days beforehand.

Tree Surgeon Contractors

Most reputable contractors will give advice and provide a free quotation. Tree work is covered by British Standard Recommendations for Tree Work 3998:2010 and the Parish Council advises applicants to specify this standard for the proposed work to the contractor.

The Parish Council cannot recommend individual tree surgeons, but would strongly advise the resident to check the contractor's qualifications and public liability insurance before agreeing to any work.



The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit.

Nelson Henderson, 1865-1943

Ancient trees are precious. There is little else on earth that plays host to such a rich community of life within a single living organism.

David Attenborough

RELEVANT BY-LAWS

Freeman Field

Made under Section 8(1)(d) of the Local Government Act 1894, by the Gotherington Parish Council with respect to the PLEASURE GROUND known as the Gotherington Playing Field, Malleson Road, Gotherington, in the County of Gloucester.

3c. A person shall not in the pleasure ground climb any wall or fence in or enclosing the pleasure ground, or any tree, or any barrier, railing, post, or other erection;

6a. A person shall not remove, cut, or displace any soil, turf, or plant;

6b. A person shall not pluck any bud, blossom, flower, or leaf of any tree, shrub, or plant.

11. A person shall not in the pleasure ground wilfully obstruct, disturb, interrupt, or annoy any other person in the proper use of the pleasure ground, or wilfully obstruct, disturb, interrupt any officer of the Council in the proper execution of any work in connection with the laying out or maintenance of the pleasure ground.

The Lawns

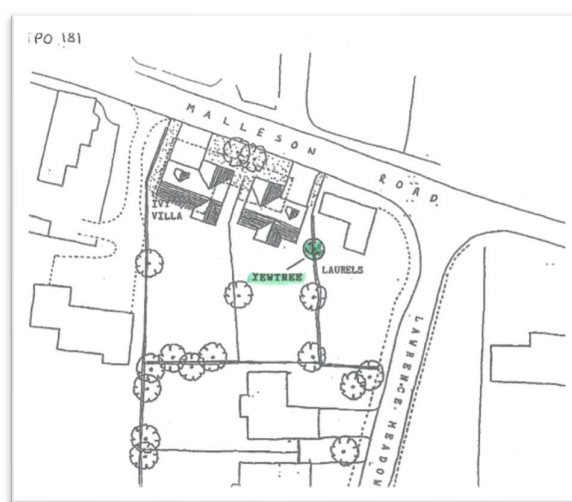
4. No tree or shrub planted by the Vendor on part of the land hereby conveyed intended to form the front garden thereof for the improvement of the Gotherington Lawns as a whole shall be dug out, cut down or otherwise maimed unless the same shall become diseased or unsightly in which event it shall be replaced as near as may be in the same position by another tree or shrub of the same species.

APPENDIX 2

TREE PRESERVATION ORDERS (the Borough Tree Officer must be consulted before any work is undertaken)

As at 3rd December 2022

Year of TPO	TPO ref.	Tree ref.	Species	Road	Notes
1992	181	-	Yew	Malleson	Regularly trimmed
2009	321	T1	Mulberry	Cleeve	
2013	364	G1, 2, 3, 4, 5	Ash, Maple, Cherry, Silver Birch	Various	Ash Dieback
2022	418	T1	Oak	Cleeve	



GOTHERINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEMORIAL TREES CARE AGREEMENT

Species of native tree

Dedicated to or in commemoration of

.....

Planted by (name, date, contact details)

.....

Location of tree (north, south, east, west boundary)

Maintenance to be provided by (name & contact details)

.....

Signature of applicant Date

Signature of PC clerk or Parish Councillor

Date

Commemorative Trees

In November 2022, two oak tree saplings were planted in the open space west of The Grange to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II.

Lawrence's Meadow Coppice

In 2018, nearly all the residents of Lawrence's Meadow contributed to the cost of buying five saplings (2 x crab apple; 2 x rowan; 1 x hawthorn) for the open space at Lawrence's Meadow. Mike Stevens and Tim Hearn are the current custodians.

Woodlands in private ownership, 2023

Queen Elizabeth Wood, Nottingham Hill (west of Granna Lane bridleway)

Coppice, Nottingham Hill, approx. 12 acres (part of Manor Farm)

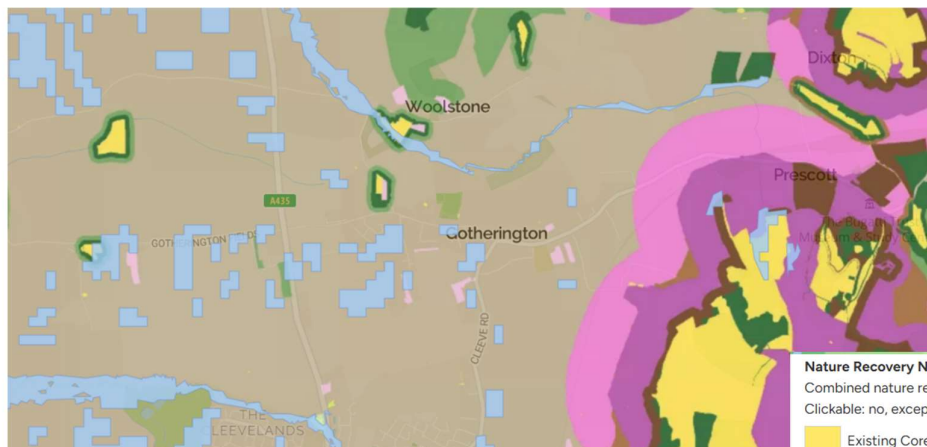
Sandsome's Piece, approx. 6.7 acres (part of Willow Cottage, Gretton Road)

Furzen Ground, Gotherington Fields, approx. 3 acres (adjacent to Springfield Kennels)

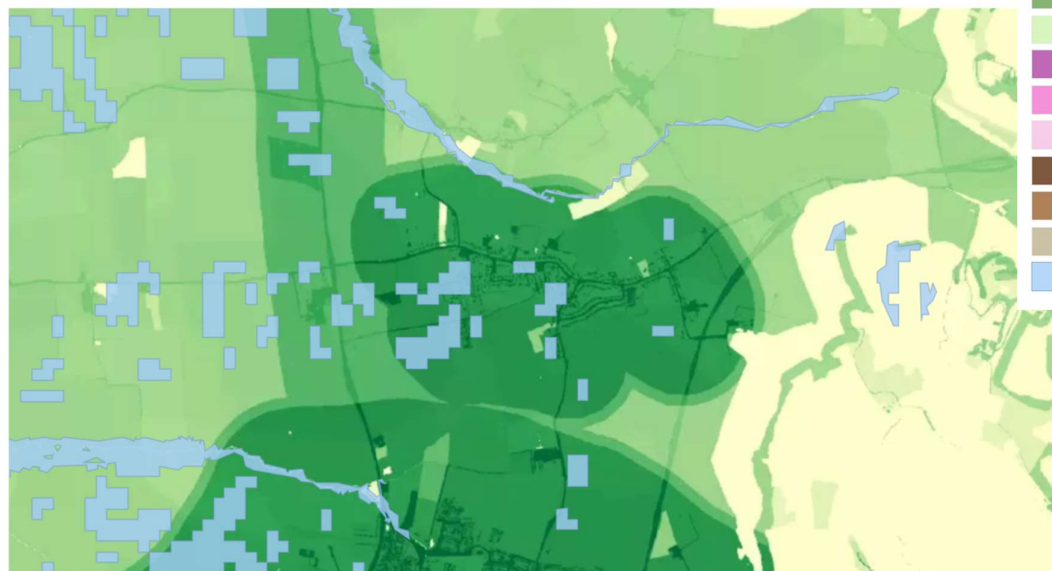
APPENDIX 5

Glos. Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Natural Capital



Opportunities



APPENDIX 6

The Freeman Field, Shutter Island, and those areas marked in red on the maps below: -

