

WORKS TO TREES CONTROL SHEET

Application No: 18/01964/TCA TPO No: _____
 Date Received: 20 November 2018 Acknowledgement letter 26 November 2018
 Parish List w/e 30 November 2018 Clearance Date (24days) 24 December 2018

Description of Works: Remove: 2 No. trees/shrubs, 1 No. Juniper, 1 No. Pine, 3 No. Sycamore, 3 No. Lime, 1 No. Willow, 1 No. Taxodium, 1 No. Sycamore, 1 No. Ash, 1 No. Yew, and 1 No. Cherry

Location: St Michaels Church The Street Kirby Le Soken

2 visits - Mr B Woodasson (1), Mat Cochrane (2)

Site Inspection: 6/11 - 12.2018.

Copy sent to 26 November 2018
 Parish Council _____

Target Date: 1 January 2019

Observations: The applicant has not submitted a detailed structural engineers report to prove beyond reasonable doubt that the trees within the churchyard are the primary cause of the damage to the church. Nevertheless it is absolutely clear that the church is within the sphere of influence of all of the trees identified for removal. The damage to the church is clear for all to see. In terms of the impact of the works on the amenity of the locality it is considered that there are a sufficient number of other trees in the churchyard to avoid significant harm to the amenities of the locality. In truth the churchyard has become extensively 'wooded' over approximately 50 years and the works will provide a degree of openness that will improve local diversity.

1. File completed No objection
 2. Is this a Delegated Decision?
 3. Neighbour/owner letter sent?

INITIALS	DATE
<u>SP</u>	<u>24-12-18</u>
	✓
YES/NO	✓

Decision Date: ICC 24/12/18

Clive Dawson
TDC
18th December 2018

Received On

19 DEC 2018

St Michaels Church Kirby le Soken

By Planning Services

Dear Mr Dawson;

I have been asked by Cochranes to give you any documents I have regarding the trees in above Churchyard. There are many documents regarding this matter dating back 24 years many of which may or may not be in the records of TDC. I will only forward you the latest ones from our Structural Engineer and our Architect. It has always been said that the trees may be causing the damage to this ancient building and I recollect just under a year ago when you visited us in the company of David Carmichael, the Diocesan tree officer you yourselves required a little persuasion to inspect the damage to the building which may or may not be caused by the trees. Over the last 40 or so years the church yard has changed from 10/15 trees to 140 in a small area. and as the trees have increased so the damage to the building has increased. I accept that this does not prove anything but many local people are becoming increasingly concerned as to what is happening to this beautiful building and are asking why something is not done about the problem. Conversely others are saying that the trees are beautiful and should not be removed. I am now of the opinion after all these years of prevaricating that if and when the trees are removed it and has no effect on this medieval building so be it. The trees will then grow again and a building of so much importance to the people of Kirby will have to be left to it's inevitable decline.

Some of the trees which we are asking to be removed do not actually affect the Church but we have been informed they are dangerous or a danger to the Church Hall and the public using it.

Yours

[Redacted signature]

John Beale
5 Malting Lane
Kirby le Soken [Redacted address]

Registered in England No. 2727193

THE MORTON PARTNERSHIP LTD.

CONSULTING CIVIL & STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS,
HISTORIC BUILDING SPECIALISTS
Old Timber Yard House, 55 The Timber Yard
Drysdale Street, London N1 6ND
Tel: 020 7324 7270 Fax: 020 7729 1196
email: london@themortonpartnership.co.uk
www.themortonpartnership.co.uk

Our ref: EJM\BBR\14308-18h

07 December 2018

Malcolm Woods
Chair of Chelmsford DAC
53 New Street
Chelmsford, CM1 1AT

Dear Malcolm,

by email prior to posting: Malcolm.Woods@english-heritage.org.uk

RE: ST MICHAELS CHURCH, KIRBY LE SOKEN, ESSEX

I thought it would be useful to record my thoughts on the issues at St Michaels Church, Kirby-le-Soken and the proposed removal of the trees.

As you know we have been involved for many years at the church and assisted with the underpinning to the south aisle in c.2008 We are currently engaged in further underpinning to the east end of the chancel.

We have had soil investigations done for both the south aisle and the east end, and interestingly this shows the desiccation in the clay has dropped from 2.2m to 3.5m at these positions and over the ten years between. Of course, there are many factors which can affect the depth of desiccation, and clearly the longer drier periods (this summer and last winter which was comparatively dry) will aggravate issues. As you may be aware this has affected many churches and I have inspected more than 20 in the last two months which have suffered to greater or lesser extent. At St Michaels, at the east end, the site investigation found tree rootlets etc within the boreholes, down to 4.8m deep. This suggests that root systems are reaching out long distances to find water sources and causing deep desiccation in the sub-soils.

So whilst we always advocate trying to retain trees it is clear that they are aggravating the movement at St Michaels and their removal should reduce the effects on the clay sub-soils and we hope on the church itself. Obviously, those trees closer to the church will cause greater potential for clay shrinkage.

With regards to phasing of removal of the trees, I will leave David Carmichael to comment on this. However, what is important is that the trees should be removed during the wetter season when there is less risk of subsequent heave as the ground will have higher moisture content, so in this case ideally in February – April 2019.

I hope this helps but please do not hesitate to call if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely
FOR THE MORTON PARTNERSHIP LIMITED,

EDWARD MORTON
Engineer Accredited in Conservation

Cc Sandra Turner (by email only: sturner@chelmsford.anglican.org)
David Carmichael (by email only: DavidCarmichael@TreeSurveys.co.uk)

7.0 THE CHURCHYARD

- 7.1 The church sits almost in the middle of the churchyard to the south of the main road. There is a tarmac covered drive leading to the north porch. The church hall sits in the north-east corner of the churchyard.
- The churchyard contains a very large number of trees.
- 7.2 The railings which adjoin the entrance are in fair condition. They have been decorated within the last 6 years.
- The north boundary continues with a hawthorn hedge no more than 2 metres high, it is in a reasonably neat condition. To the east of the entrance there is a low brick wall in front of the church hall, this is in fair condition.
- 7.3 The west boundary is not particularly well defined. Along the approximate boundary line there is a row of conifers mixed with deciduous shrubs, at the southern end the boundary is marked by a wooden paling fence. Ideally this boundary should be more clearly defined on the ground.
- 7.4 The south boundary is marked by a wooden fence at the west end and a ditch at the centre and east end. Tree growth along this line is a mixture of mature deciduous trees and hedgerow.
- 7.5 The east boundary is marked by an old hedgerow and hawthorn trees, plus some mature trees.
- 7.6 The churchyard is mainly laid to grass. The areas immediately around the church are close mown, in the north east, north west and south west corners at the areas unmown.
- 7.7 Within the central area of the churchyard there are numbers of semi-mature trees of various types including conifers, limes, chestnuts, yew, ash and sycamore. The trees are generally in good condition and range in height from 6 metres to 20 metres high.
- In the immediate area of the church there are no trees closer to than 6 metres to the structure other than a flowering cherry south west of the south aisle. This is less than 5 metres high. The closest mature tree to the church is a 10-metre-high yew to the north of the chancel and a 10-metre-high conifer 6 metres from the tower with a 20-metre-high willow, which is within 10 metres of the east gable of the chancel.
- There is a 5-metre-high holly within 1 metre of the tower.
- 7.8 The number of trees around the church may be contributing to the water table condition however the structural engineer's guidance in respect of the work necessary to stabilise the foundations should take precedence over this report.
- It is noted that a number of sycamores have self-seeded within 2 metres of the chancel. These should be removed.

Overall the PCC should establish a maintenance plan for the trees in close proximity to the building. I recommend that no tree is allowed to over-hang the building to avoid problems with roof gutter blockages etc. Suitable ventilation spaces should be allowed between the trees and the masonry walls and that trees capable of growing more than 20 metres in height should be pruned regularly if they are positioned within 20 metres of the church structure.

Priority B/C: Establish management plan for trees in the churchyard together with the structural engineer

- 7.9 It is recommended that all the underground drains are traced and their outfalls re-established. No drain should terminate close to the church.

RIGHT HAND SIDE	
TYPE OF TREE	QUANTITY
Turkey Oak	1
Hawthorn	2
Sycamore	9
Field Maple	5
Willow	1
Cherry	5
Beech	7
Hornbeam	2
Holly	3
Lime	3
Yew	8
Ash	4
Silver Birch	6
Horse Chestnut	6
Fir Trees	12

LEFT HAND SIDE	
TYPE OF TREE	QUANTITY
Sycamore	8
Field Maple	2
Horse Chestnut	2
Tree of Heaven	1
Ash	12
Fir Trees	5
Beech	3
Hornbeam	7
Silver Birch	2
Holly	2
Cherry	3
Yew	8
Poplar	10
Crab Apple	1

P42

Received On

30 NOV 2018

By Planning Services

Bernard Woollaston
101 Halstead Road
Kirby Cross
Frinton on Sea
CO13 0LS

29th November 2018

Clive Dawson
Tree and Landscape Officer
Planning Services
Council Offices
Weeley
Essex
CO16 9AJ

Dear Mr Dawson

Estate of Miss Joyce Coverley.

With reference to our telephone conversation please find a copy of the letter from the St Michael's Church, confirming the receipt of £2,000 for the maintenance of the seat and the tree in remembrance of her parents.

The tree in question is a taxodium (swamp cypress) and on the list of trees to be felled.

Can we meet to inspect the trees as there are other trees that I and other members of the public are concerned about. Thursday, 6th December at 10.30am would be convenient for me.

Yours sincerely

Bernard Woollaston

SIV 6 + 12 December 2018

ENCL.


Mes and spoke with Mr B Woollaston.

In essence the issue raised in his letter
is a matter for the church to deal with
internally.



St. Michael's Church Kirby-le-Soken

Mr & Mrs J Hutley
Birch Hoe Farm
Pork Lane
Great Holland
CO13 0ER

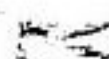
 Dear Mr & Mrs Hutley

ESTATE OF THE LATE MISS JOYCE COVERLEY

We acknowledge with thanks the receipt of your cheque in the sum of £2,000, representing the bequest made by Joyce Coverley. We confirm that this money will be used to maintain the seat and tree in remembrance of her parents and for general churchyard maintenance,


Joyce was a valued member of our congregation and we appreciate the fact that she remembered St Michael's in her will.

Yours sincerely

 E A Walters

Admin Assistant

Rev. Mark Holdaway, The Rectory, 10 Thorpe Road, Kirby Cross, Essex, CO13 0LT



CONDITIONS/REASONS

CONTINUATION SHEET?			
YES		NO	
S		O	

ANY NOTES TO APPEAR ON AGENDA ITEM

YES	
NO	

IS THERE ANY INFORMATIVES TO BE INCLUDED ON THE DECISION NOTICE

If YES which standard paragraphs are required?

YES	
NO	

ARE ANY THIRD PARTIES TO BE INFORMED OF THE DECISION

YES	
NO	