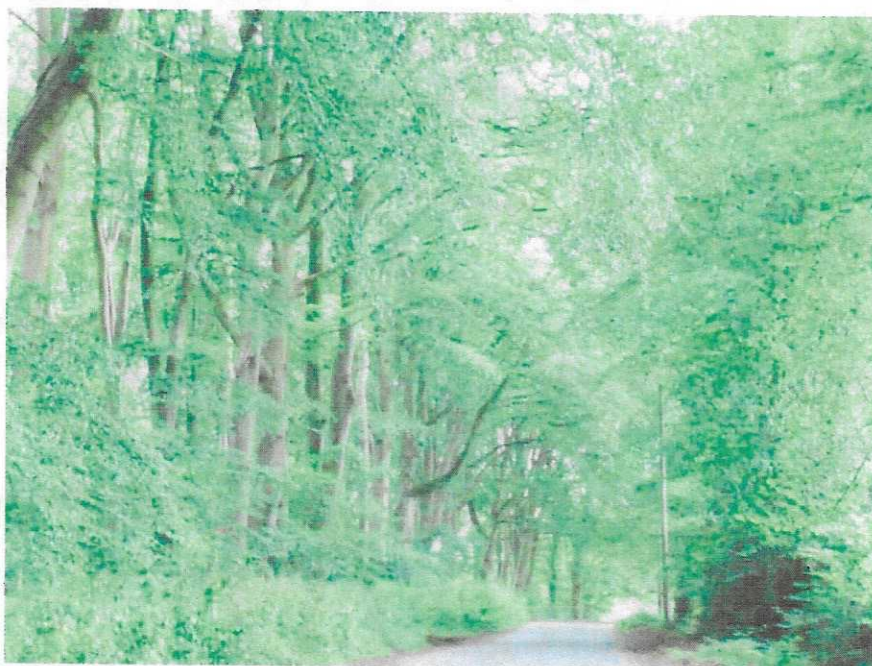


West Hill Parish Council



The Special Trees of West Hill Report of the Project Group

21 November 2019



Extract from Ordnance Survey Map, late 19th Century,
showing the northern half of West Hill

The Special Trees of West Hill

Introduction

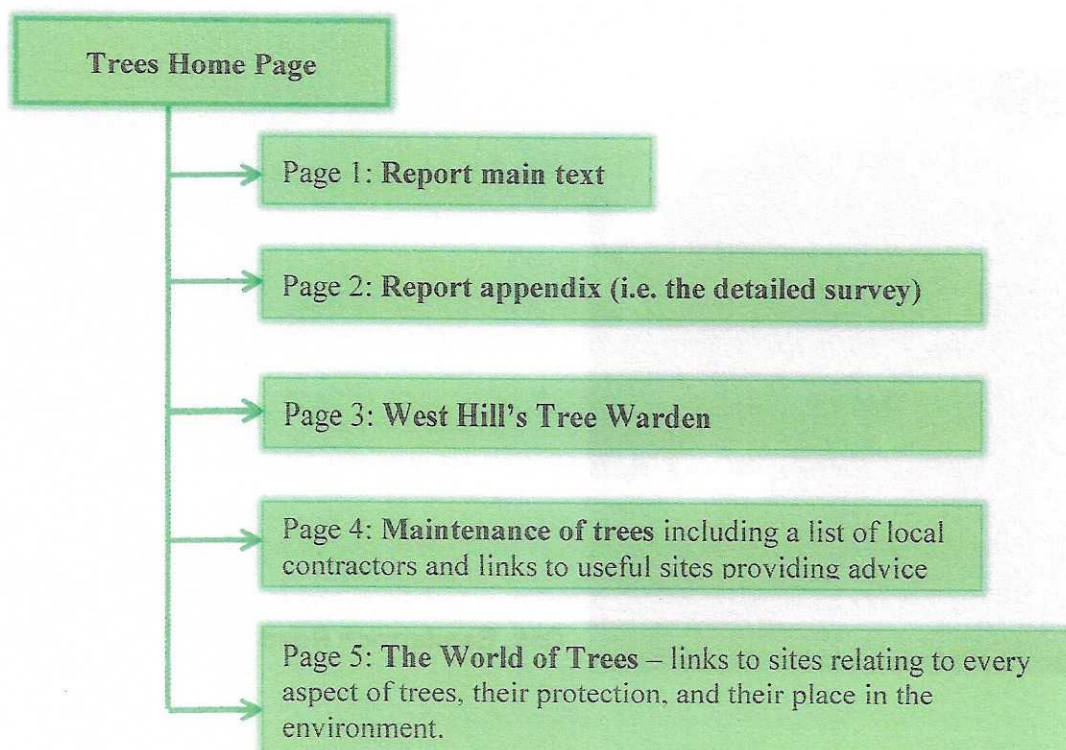
This report has been prepared by Cllr Alan Cook, Eileen Perkins and Dick Beardsall. It sets out the results of the Special Trees of West Hill Project (STOWH). It comprises:

- 1 Project Background
- 2 The Importance of Trees
- 3 Detailed Surveys
- 4 The Tree Trails Leaflet

Appendix: Key to survey map locations
 Key to symbols used in maps
 Key to data sheets
 Survey maps and data sheets

It is proposed that only a limited number of hard copies of this report will be produced: these are intended to be used for official purposes. A copy will be held by the Parish Clerk so that residents may consult it if they are unable to access the on-line version. However, it is hoped that the major use of the report will be through the on-line version which will be supported by relevant supplementary information.

The web pages will be incorporated in the WHPC web-site, structured as follows:



1 Project Background

The Project was set up by West Hill Residents' Association in September of 2013 with the objectives to:

- Increase awareness of our tree heritage generally and of specific trees in particular
- Bring to the attention of the community the importance of this heritage and of the detrimental environmental impact when trees are lost
- Facilitate working with EDDC and others to achieve an appropriate outcome when any tree is threatened
- Provide practical support for the protection and maintenance of these trees or, where necessary replaced, by providing information on, or links to, available resources and websites.

A preliminary survey was carried out to test the approach and a report made to a meeting of the Association. The Project was warmly supported, and the Project Team began detailed surveys in 2014.

The work has been carried out by a Project Team consisting of Cllr Alan Cook (former village Tree Warden), Eileen Perkins (current Tree Warden), and Dick Beardsall. Cynthia Ive also gave assistance in the early stages.

In a project of this size it is inevitable there will be errors. It is hoped that by publishing the results in this document and on the website, residents will be encouraged to examine the trees with which they are familiar and, if they are aware of mistakes, to inform the Project Team via the website so that they can be rectified and the quality of the records improved.



Oak, Bendarroch Road

2 The Importance of Trees

Each tree starts with one small seed. Each tree is a world within itself, teeming with life. A fallen branch is a feast for beetles, fungal-rich woodland soil is a wildflower bed. A hedgerow is a living network, where a host of creatures share their home. Woods are full of opportunities for people, but their natural wealth is the wildlife.

When we enjoy the company of a treasured tree or the beauty of a favourite wood we often owe thanks to those with the foresight and confidence to invest in the future. We must show that same generosity of spirit, that same sense of hope for the future, and plant more now. Line lanes with living greenery, let trees allow shifting colour into every life. More hedges for wildlife, nurture people's pride in their local trees and empower them to care for their future. Right tree, right place, bright future. Protect irreplaceable trees and woods

A tree may be a village's oldest inhabitant, a founding figure in a region's identity, a natural monument in the nation's story. Hedgerows harbour our history. A country that cares for its future cares for its past: we need laws and commitment to protect these irreplaceable natural treasures.

The trees that touch us most are those that live among us, along our street, in the local park, beside our school or place of work. Like us, they grow and change, need space to breathe and support to thrive. Trees give places their distinctive character. Local community networks have a vital role to play in caring for woods and trees. Trees provide long-lasting good, so well-informed planning reaps long-term rewards. Take guidance on planting, felling and replanting from skilled professionals. Good landscapes of the future depend on care for trees today. Many of today's diseases are arriving in this country via imported plants. Always check the provenance of what you buy and ensure that the source is reputable.

Sprays of greenery ensure cleaner air and clearer minds, and fitter bodies, more inclined to take a walk or meet a friend. Enlightened management of trees will help ensure their future health: planting strong seeds and saplings, selecting species suited to the site, regular thinning, combatting invasive plants, and controlling infections and pests at the earliest sign.

West Hill is a woodland village, houses are screened by hedges, banks and trees providing a high degree of privacy and creating the rural character that we all appreciate. Thinning or removal of trees and hedges takes away the character making the village like any other urban community. Trees have long lives, Oaks may live for hundreds of years, Pines and Birches for 50 to 100 years. Many of our Oaks, Beeches although mature are less than 100 years old and have much of their lives ahead of them. At some stage trees will become damaged by age or storm or disease and will need to be replaced. In order to maintain West Hill's character it is important to only use indigenous species such as Oak, Beech, Scot's Pine, Birch. Regard must also be made to allow sufficient space for the tree to grow to maturity.

Trees provide unique habitat for Insects, birds, mammals and bats all enhancing our environment. They absorb CO₂ from the atmosphere. In 40 years a tree will take 1 tonne of CO₂ which is a fantastic benefit for the future of our community and helps with reducing global warming.

Trees also provide essential shade for people and animals in the summer

3 Detailed Surveys

The survey began with a trial area (which included Beech Park, Moorlands and School Lane). With experience, the survey method has evolved. It became clear from a very early stage that a group of trees could be of great significance to the amenity of an area and to the environment even if the individual trees were not in themselves special. For this reason, the survey identified trees in the following categories:

Special Trees – individual trees which, due to their type, quality, and/or size make an outstanding contribution to the environment and the tree heritage in particular.

A Groups – groups of trees which, due to the type, size and/or quality of the trees make an outstanding contribution to the environment and the tree heritage in particular.

and

B Groups – groups of trees which make an important contribution to the environment and whose loss would materially affect it.

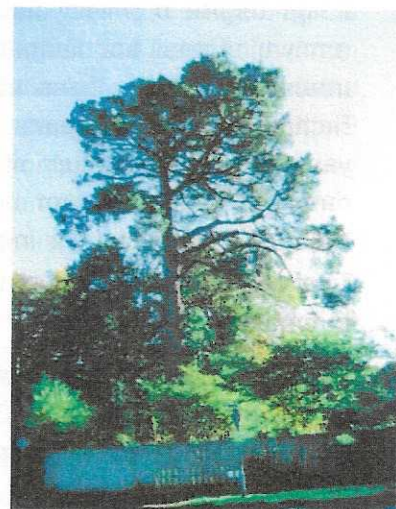
The detailed results of the survey are attached in the Appendix.

Although the whole village has been surveyed, not all the surveys have been drawn up. They will be added to this report and to the web-site as they become available.

4 The Tree Trails Leaflet

It is intended that, in 2020, we will produce a leaflet showing three suggested Trails through the village with explanatory notes and photographs to help residents and visitors learn about and enjoy some of our most interesting trees. The leaflet will also be available on-line.

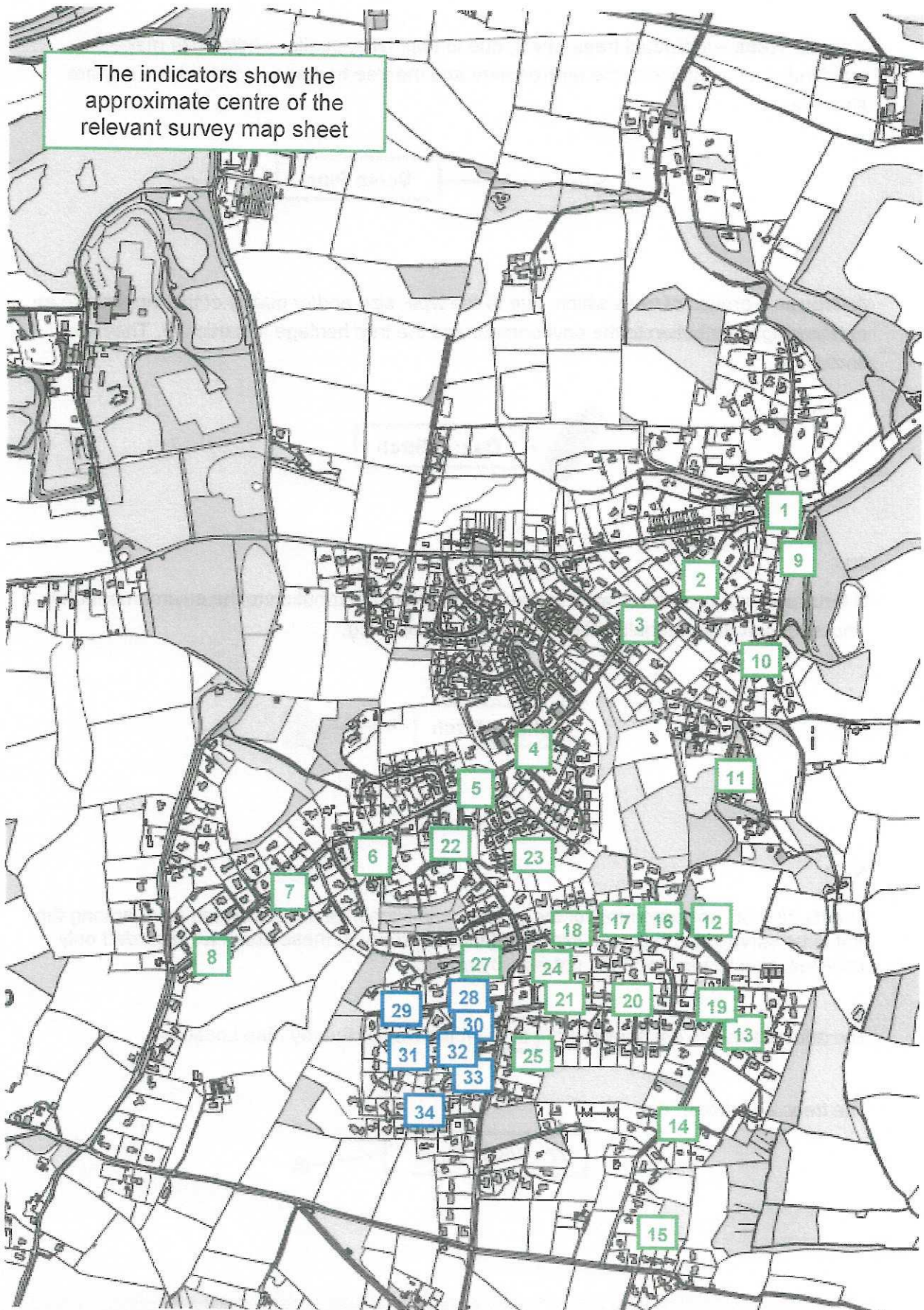
Scots Pine, West Hill Rd/Higher Broad Oak Rd



Appendix:

- 1. Key to survey map locations**
- 2. Key to symbols used in maps**
- 3. Key to data sheets**
- 4. Survey maps and data sheets**

2. Key to Survey Map Locations

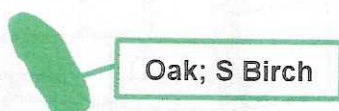


1. Key to symbols used in the maps

Special Trees – individual trees which, due to their type, quality, and/or size make an outstanding contribution to the environment and the tree heritage in particular. They are shown e.g.

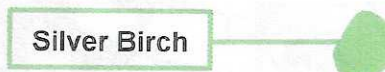


A Groups – groups of trees which, due to the type, size and/or quality of the trees make an outstanding contribution to the environment and the tree heritage in particular. They are shown e.g.



and

B Groups – groups of trees which make an important contribution to the environment and whose loss would materially affect it. They are shown e.g.

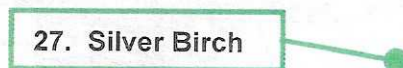


Note

Sheets 28 – 35, covering most of the west side of Higher Broad Oak Road were among the first to be surveyed and used a slightly different system. In these areas we recorded only individual special trees and did not classify groups.

The affected sheets are shown e.g. 32 on the Key to Survey Map Locations.

The trees are shown, e.g.



2. Key to Data Sheets

Accompanying each survey map is a detailed description of individual trees and groups of trees. Individual trees are rated A, B, C or R which also takes into account the health of the tree and is categorised in accordance to table 1 of BS 5837 2005. Each tree has undergone a brief visual inspection from ground level.

Number: the number of the tree on the relevant survey map sheet

Type: Trees are identified generally by common name (latin names are provided where confidence of variety is assured or needed for differentiation)

Height: given in metres calculated by Opal tree method and is an approximation

Diameter: the diameter of the trunk of trees is measured at 1.5m above ground

Age: estimated Y = 0 to 20years, M/A = 20 to 40 years, M = 40 to 60 years V = > 60 years

Condition:

A = a tree of high quality and value that makes a substantial contribution and is good example of its species

B = trees of moderate quality and value that make a significant contribution to their environment

C = trees of low quality providing some benefit to its environment

R = a dead or dying tree with likely life span less than 10 years and includes trees that should be removed for good arboricultural reasons

Shape: a - spreading, b - oval, c - fan, d - column, e - cone -

3. Survey Maps and Data Sheets

Sheet No.	Area covered	Data Sheet
1	West Hill Road sheet 1 – Garage end	
2	West Hill Road sheet 2 – Harewood to Silver Birches	
3	West Hill Road sheet 3 – War Memorial area	
4	West Hill Road sheet 4 – Beech Park/Ashley Brake area	
5	West Hill Road sheet 5 – Warren Park/Eastfield area	-
6	West Hill Road sheet 6 – Needlewood Close area	
7	West Hill Road sheet 7 – Eymore Drive area	
8	West Hill Road sheet 8 – western end	
9	Lower Broad Oak Rd North	
10	Lower Broad Oak Rd Spindle Tree Cottage to Elsdon Lane	
11	Lower Broad Oak Rd Elsdon Lane to Badgers Bend	
12	Lower Broad Oak Rd Badgers Bend to The Pygthle	
13	Lower Broad Oak Rd Hawkins Lane Area	
14	Lower Broad Oak Rd Birchbank/Pinehayes	
15	Lower Broad Oak Rd South	
16	Ford Lane East	
17	Ford Lane Central	
18	Ford Lane West	
19	Hawkins Lane East	
20	Hawkins Lane Central	
21	Hawkins Lane West	
22	Heather Grange	
23	Warren Close	
24	Higher Broad Oak Rd East side - North	
25	Higher Broad Oak Rd East side - Central	
26	Higher Broad Oak Rd East side - South	
27	Birch Grove	
28	White Farm Lane East	
29	White Farm Lane West	
30	High Bank East	
31	High Bank West	
32	"Toorak Lane"	
33	Hylands Close	
34	Brackendown North side	