



STANTON FITZWARREN TREE MANAGEMENT POLICY

Adopted 11th March 2026

This policy identifies the Parish Council's approach to the management of trees on the land which it either owns or rents. It is intended to act as a point of reference for the public, Councillors and Council employees to ensure a clear, consistent, and structured approach to the management of trees.

As landowner of the village green and tenant of Stanton Fitzwarren Play Park, the Parish Council has a duty of care to ensure that all trees on this land are kept in an acceptable condition and do not put person and/or property at unreasonable risk.

The Parish Council has identified all trees for which it is responsible and will ensure that regular inspections are undertaken every 3 years or as guided by a qualified tree surgeon.

Only dead, dying, or diseased trees, or those causing a danger, will be removed or made safe – whichever is deemed necessary.

A prioritised programme of tree work will be maintained based on the inspections and with an emphasis on planned rather than reactive tree maintenance.

The Parish Council will allocate sufficient resource to ensure that it is able to manage the trees that it owns.

Consideration will always be given to the impact of any tree pruning or felling on local wildlife. Tree work will be scheduled to take place in periods where the impact on local wildlife is minimised. The Parish Council will work with a qualified tree surgeon to ensure all tree works are conducted to the most up to date relevant British Standards for Tree Work. Tree pruning will only be undertaken where there is sound justification for the work. Where pruning is undertaken, it will be in accordance with good arboriculture practice to ensure minimum harm to the tree and every effort will be made to ensure the general shape and character of each tree is retained.

The Parish Council will not fell or prune trees on Council owned land solely to alleviate problems caused by natural and/or seasonal phenomena.

The Parish Council will not fell or prune trees solely for the reason that they are causing interference with television or satellite reception, unless complainants have taken other measures to improve reception without success and it can be proven that pruning will improve reception. In considering any action, the Council will take account of the amenity value of the trees concerned.

The Parish Council will consider any complaints or requests regarding trees on the land it owns or rents, taking into account its tree management policy and/or advice from a qualified arboriculture expert. In the event of a complaint where any other village tree(s) could cause potential harm or damage, the Parish Council will contact the owner, or tenant or estate agent directly.

Stanton Fitzwarren being a conservation area, all village trees with a trunk diameter over 75mm (about 3 inches) measured 1.5 metres above ground level are protected. Any proposed tree work will generally require a 'no objection' from Swindon Borough Council, using the application form available on the Planning Portal website (www.planningportal.co.uk).