

CODDENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

TREE MANAGEMENT POLICY

1. INTRODUCTION

This document sets out how Coddenham Parish Council, in line with the guidance published by The National Tree Safety Group, will take a balanced and proportionate approach to tree safety management, reflecting that:

- The overall risk to humans from trees is extremely low (one death per 10 million people per year).
- Trees provide many benefits in terms of landscape, biodiversity, amenity, climate, economic and human wellbeing etc.
- The benefits above generally increase with age and size as does the associated risk.
- Trees are living organisms that naturally loose branches or fail.
- A landowner on which a tree stands has responsibility for the health and safety of those on or near the land, and has potential liabilities arising from a falling tree or branch.

2. HOLDING

Coddenham Parish Council owns three areas of land around The Village of Coddenham in Mid Suffolk on which trees are growing. These areas consist of the triangular Three Cocked Hat formed in the junction of three roadways and the wooded hillsides of Mill Hill and Broom Hill.

3. OWNERSHIP / CONTROL OF MANAGEMENT

The Parish Council has overall control of management. Day-to-day organising is carried out by The Parish Clerk.

An external Arboricultural consultant will be engaged to give advice on tree related issues.

4. ACCESS

Three Cocked Hat is adjacent to the B1078 public highway, Broomhill and Mill Hill are only accessible by foot from public rights of way.

5. TREE SAFETY MANAGEMENT

Management	<p>Until recently, the Parish Council had no formal tree safety management plan in place. However, various tree surgeons over the years have been asked to undertake and remedy any defects as and when members of the Parish Council or residents noticed problems or concerns.</p> <p>Zoned Risk</p> <p>The Village was therefore classified into different zones according to risk:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Three Cocked Hat- (higher risk due to traffic density and speed and year- round exposure). 2. Minor Roads and play areas-(medium risk due to infrequent use and lower traffic speed). 3. Broom Hill and Mill Hill- low risk due to infrequency of access.
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	<p>Inspection Regime Formal inspections by an Arboricultural consultant will be undertaken every two years. In between formal inspections it is expected that residents will report any concerns they observe to the Clerk.</p> <p>Additional Precautions Following incidences of exceptionally high winds (as defined by weather warnings issued from The Met Office) the Parish Council will nominate a competent layperson to inspect the trees at The Three Cocked Hat for obvious damage.</p> <p>Prioritising Remedial Work When remedial work is necessary it will be carried out according to the perceived urgency/hazard/chance of failure and appropriate action will be arranged for immediate, within 6 months or within 12 months timescales (Priority 1, 2 or 3).</p>
Benefits of Trees	The Parish Council recognises that trees bring numerous benefits and any policy should seek to balance these benefits with the risks they pose. Broom Hill in particular has many old veteran trees making it a special place for people and wildlife. The Parish Council will accept trees here with defects which elsewhere in the parish would be removed.
Competence	Remedial work of a more specialist nature will be undertaken by tree surgery contactors.
Records	The results of all formal inspections are kept in a file by the Parish Clerk along with a note of the remedial work carried out. A note of all other incidences of trees being reported/tree failures and action taken will also be made.
Reasonableness	The Parish Council believes that, in the unlikely event of an accident involving one of its trees, this Policy is sufficient to demonstrate “the conduct to be that expected from a reasonable and prudent landowner”.