

## Reserves & Balances Policy

Crick Woodlands management committee consider that it is prudent to maintain sufficient reserves and balances in both its day-to-day bank account and reserve account to meet potential costs associated with the ongoing management of its woodland.

In particular, we are aware of the potential costs that would apply to felling of mature trees on site should they prove unsafe to visitors.

### Ash dieback

We are already aware that there is widespread evidence of Ash dieback in Millennium Wood and with no known means of stopping its spread it is likely to affect Jubilee Wood in due course. Although we have planted no new Ash trees in Jubilee Wood, due to the widespread incidence of Ash dieback, we have inherited a number of mature Ash trees in the hedge lines that define the edges of Jubilee Wood.

In the event of Ash dieback spreading to these mature Ash trees we are faced with the prospect that we may need to fell diseased trees before they become a liability to visitor and volunteer safety.

Having looked into the costs of employing a tree surgeon to fell such trees we are working to the following potential cost, based on a quotation dated December 2020:

*A day rate for two men and equipment to fell a medium size tree is £600 + VAT*

*The rate for a larger tree where three men are required is £750 + VAT.*

Based on the number of Ash trees that are on present in the hedge lines of Jubilee Wood we calculate the following potential cost:

Size of Ash tree	Number of trees	Total cost with VAT
Medium	36	36 @ £720 = £25,920
Large	15	15 @ £900 = £13,500
<b>Overall total</b>		<b>£39,420</b>

### Other threats

While we have illustrated the case for Ash dieback, as this is a real and current threat, we should also consider other potential threats that may affect other types of tree. The following are known currently:

Tree species affected	Issue	Treatment
Oak	<b>Oak Processionary Moth</b> Infection is spreading in the UK but we are not aware of any local incidents at present.	Specialist help will be required.
Varied species	Phytophthora root rot We have removed several Yew and Holly trees suffering from root rot and this is an issue with the soil/drainage in several areas of Jubilee Wood.	Treatments are available but the problem is inherent with poor drainage at certain points on site. Removal of affected trees and replacing with species less susceptible may be the easiest option.

## **Climate Change**

It is likely with climate change that we will continue to face challenges in our woodlands and some tree species may be more prone to extreme weather conditions and new threats from disease and insect infestation.

It is prudent to maintain our reserves as high as possible so that we are better able to deal with these challenges and threats in a timely fashion, rather than having to wait until funding becomes available and to deal with the uncertainty of gaining approval for funding.