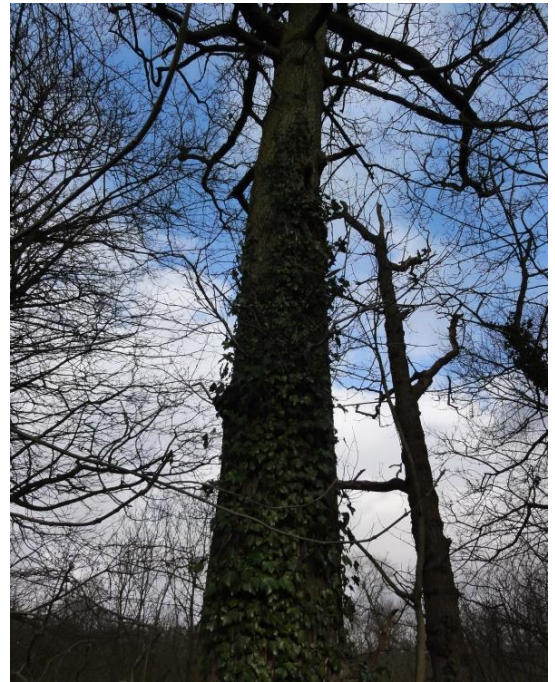


Bulletin No 17 Tree felling

In Bulletin No 8 we told you about the plans to fell a large oak in the Nature Trail woodland, near the sewage treatment works, because it was threatening to fall down. We have been progressing this, and want to let you know what has been happening, when the tree is going to be cut down, and what will happen to the wood.

We contacted three tree surgeons about the work, and they all visited, with a view to quoting. Two of these proposed removing the top branches, before felling the trunk, in order to minimise damage when it is brought down. The third was just going to fell the whole tree intact, and in the end did not actually quote us. Of the other two, one proposed felling it, and leaving it to be cut for firewood (£920), the other said, after felling, he could winch sections of the trunk up to the roadside, for collection. His plan involved cutting some branches from a nearby sycamore, and felling a leaning elm, both of which would create a clear fall for the trunk of the oak. We also asked him to cut down and move the dead oak, just downslope. (Total £500). All of this has been cleared with the Tree Preservation Officer.



The tree is tall and straight, and we felt it should be used for timber, if possible, rather than just be chopped up for firewood. One of the surgeons suggested some people who might like the timber, and we have been in discussion with one of these, who showed an interest in the project. He has visited, looked at the tree, and considered the possibilities for collecting the wood from the restricted area near the bridge. He has said he will take the tree, but until it is down, no firm arrangements can be made. We plan to negotiate either payment, or to receive some wood which we can use for repairs to the steps etc. For those interested, there will be plenty of firewood from the top branches.

So based on the above, we have contracted the surgeon who quoted the lowest price, and who said he would take the wood to the roadside. He will liaise with the sawmill to make sure the trunk is cut to the correct lengths. The work is scheduled for 25th May.

When the wood has been collected, we will update you about where it has gone, what it will be used for, and what we organised in return. If the arrangements work well, we hope to do something similar if any more trees have to be felled, possibly using the same people.

Best wishes

Richard Pollard – Chairman	Crambeck House
Andy Craig-Smith	No 53
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18.5.16