

HELSEBY GOLF CLUB GREEN

GREENS POLICY DOCUMENT

TITLE	TREE MANAGEMENT
REFERENCE	9.1 version 3
DATE	December 2017
OWNERS	COG
PURPOSE	<p>Trees have a significant and dynamic impact on the golf course through their limited life cycle, which is species dependent. They require long-term management and planning with a considered, balanced approach to ensure a safe and ecologically sound environment compatible with the role of the tree line on the golf course.</p> <p>Safety remains a prime objective in all respects of Tree Management.</p>
BACKGROUND	<p>An Arborist's report was produced in 1993 (Appendix C) followed by an STRI report (Appendix B) produced some 13 years later. The recommendations made in these reports have not been incorporated into any definitive work plans over the intervening period, although some aspects relating to tree removal and subsequent replacement have been noted.</p>
CURRENT SITUATION	<p>To date, Tree Policy has not been formally incorporated into the forward plan put forward by the Greens Committee and Head Green Keeper, although short-term ad hoc tree management, removal and planting activities been actioned as circumstances dictate.</p> <p>The Policy is under review to address this omission.</p>
GOING FORWARD	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A Tree Management activity plan will be incorporated into both the summer and winter work programme developed and implemented by the Greens Committee in conjunction with the Head Greenkeeper. The proposed outcome of this will be advertised to the members before commencing any work• Management or removal of dangerous trees will be undertaken with urgency as circumstances dictate.• All activities will be undertaken under the direction of the Head Greenkeeper to ensure safety of both operatives and players.• Decisions relating to the management and/or removal of trees resides with the Head Greenkeeper / Chair of Greens and will normally be undertaken outside of nesting periods.• Trees will not be felled for reasons of course playability unless they are dangerous or are causing significant damage to the course (e.g. root ingress blocking drains or adverse impacting greens or tee)• Tree stock will be reviewed annually to identify felling, thinning, coppicing or planting requirements to ensure ongoing health and longevity.• "Standing Dead" provides valuable nesting habitat and avian food source and as such, will be left in a safe condition where deemed appropriate.• Felled tree stumps will be removed by "stump-grinder" at a time deemed appropriate by the Head Greenkeeper. Cleared areas will be replanted with specimen trees appropriate to the location and ground conditions.• New or replacement plantings will be made using indigenous or other hardwood specimen trees sourced locally. In all cases, plantings will be made with a view to ensuring the future continuity of our hardwood trees.• Trees within mown areas will be strimmed through the growing season for improved course appearance. Where practicable, these trees will have their lower branches managed to aid mowing and to avoid slow play because of lost balls or impeded swings.• Gorse is a James Braid "trademark" and requires annual management of old wood and replacement as appropriate.• Fast growing species will be avoided unless required for specific purpose (e.g. screening, safety etc)• Special consideration will be given to managing the gradual replacement of short-lived stock (e.g. willow & poplar).• Wildlife habitat will be encouraged through provision of bird or bat boxes and habitat piles in woodland locations.• Course boundary hedges will be maintained by a Third Party Contractor in accordance with Club's ecology principles and agricultural regulation under Club provisions.• Copse to the left of the 3rd fairway is designated a conservation area; is marked "out-of-bounds"; and is a non-managed area under the Tree Policy.• Consideration will be given to "scalloping" the tree line where appropriate (e.g. LHS 5th fairway) for ecological purposes (woodland "edge" effect) together with the removal/control of brambles to be replaced with blackthorn etc.