

Dear John,

Sorry for the delay. I agree with your comments and those from Paul. King George's Field is now within Witney Conservation Area and it would be inappropriate to undertake disfiguring tree surgery or remove trees entirely unless there were good safety reasons for doing so. The precedent issue is very common and, as you say, once you carry out work or allow it to happen in one location it would be difficult to defend decisions not to take action where the circumstances were identical.

The link below is to the relevant section of the Witney & Cogges Conservation Appraisal. Area Seven (p55) is relevant to St George's Field. These particular trees have been highlighted on the plan on the following page, p56. There is also some relevant text at 11.6 on p57. The fact that there have specifically been identified as contributing to the character of the open space gives weight to the argument that they should be nurtured with care.

<https://www.westoxon.gov.uk/media/snadiyuv/witney-and-cogges-conservation-area-character-appraisal.pdf>

Best wishes,

Nick

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