

# Colwall Orchard Group: Safe Way of Working: SWOW13 - Tree Safety Works at Lugg's Mill July 2020

Prepared by: Andy Ball 08 June 2020

Review: Post works

Reviewed by:

Next review: N/A

## **Introduction**

This SWOW document has been produced to provide guidance on the approach for tree safety works at Lugg's Mill by Tom Harnden and his operatives in July 2020.

It should be read and used in association with the other key Health and Safety documents relating to this project.

- a) Tom Harnden Risk Assessment document
- b) Colwall Orchard Group - SRA02 - Site Risk Assessment Lugg's Mill Orchard

## **Background**

Colwall Orchard Group owns the freehold of 2.5 acres of land at Lugg's Mill. The site was acquired in 2017 and has subsequently been planted up with two separate orchards divided by a stream. A new area of wildflower meadow was created in 2019 to the half of the site containing an apple orchard.

It is COG policy that an annual tree safety inspection be carried out at Lugg's Mill.

A tree safety inspection undertaken by Tom Harnden in May 2020 informed that several veteran trees require work that needs Immediate Action.

## **Legal Environment**

The site is owned freehold by COG and current understanding is that all target trees for the proposed works are owned by COG.

**The site lies fully within the Malvern Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.**

**The site is in an Environmental Stewardship Agreement with Natural England but it is understood that the proposed works do not impact upon that agreement.**

**A check of Herefordshire Council's Tree Preservation Order map of Colwall in June 2020 has confirmed that none of the trees are protected by Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs). The Contractor should confirm that this is the case before commencing any works.**

**Works on veteran trees, especially Oak and Ash, may impact upon bats and birds and the proposed works need to be undertaken with reference to the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) (as amended) and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2017) (as amended).**

## **Scope of Works**

**The works proposed to be carried out include -**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Tree tag no.</b>	<b>Proposed works</b>
Oak tree	01592	French pollard Chip all waste Cord wood left at base of tree
Ash tree	01582	Pollard to existing pollard points Chip all waste Cord wood left at base of tree
Ash tree	01567	Remove 2 hang ups in canopy Dead wood canopy
Holly tree	Beneath ash tree (01595)	Remove Chip all waste
Ash tree	01595	Sever ivy
Alder tree	01563	Sever ivy
Ash tree	01572	Pollard to five feet Chip all waste Cord wood left at base of tree

Ash tree	01583	Pollard to a height of 15 feet or to a place where no rot is present Chip all waste Cord wood left in pile to fence
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It is understood that all work will be undertaken from the Lugg's Mill site. We do not have permission to work from any other properties.

The works will be undertaken on 1st July, 2nd July, 6th and 7th July between the hours of 8.30am and 5pm.

### **Pre-Works Site Visits**

It is a COG requirement that Tom Harnden visit the site in advance of works taking place to meet with a COG Lead Volunteer to confirm the method of the Safe Way of Working and the finalised Safe Way of Working document will reflect any issues that need to be addressed.

A site visit by the Ecologist - Nick Underhill- Day was undertaken on 4th June 2020. From a brief visual inspection undertaken from the ground the likelihood of bats or nesting birds being present was rated as being Low-Medium and the advice with regards to undertaking the work was to '*Proceed with caution*'.

### **Advance Warning of Works**

Out of courtesy COG will write to the owner of the adjoining agricultural field in advance of the works, to notify him of the proposed works.

COG will erect notices at the entrances to the Lugg's Mill site warning the public of upcoming tree safety works one week in advance of the proposed works taking place.

COG will write to the graziers of the site in advance of works commencing. The grazier will be asked to move the small number of grazing sheep to a safe location away from the area of proposed works.

### **Site Access**

There is vehicular entrance access to the Lugg's Mill site from Old Church Road via a metal field gate.

The entrance gate is kept padlocked with a combination lock and the gate must be kept closed and locked at all times when work is not taking place. A member of COG will unlock and lock the padlock at the start and end of each working day.

When work is taking place the entrance gate must be kept closed.

A second field gate divides the Lugg's Mill site in two. This gate must be kept closed when not in use.

## **Work Supervision**

A member of COG will be on site each working day to unlock/lock the entrance gate, answer any queries and assist with fielding comments/queries from the general public.

The named Lead Volunteer for this work from COG will be Andy Ball - telephone 01684 540724 or mobile 07904 470380.

## **Use of Vehicles On Site**

The site is crossed by a public footpath reference CW24a so all use of vehicles on site must be undertaken with care.

In excessively wet weather when ground conditions are poor it may be necessary to re-schedule the work to avoid damage to the soil.

It is understood that Tom Harnden's use of vehicles will be restricted to 2 no. cars, a trailer and a chipper. The vehicles should be removed from the Lugg's Mill site at the end of each working day.

Much of the area of proposed works is taking place from an area of the site recently planted with both a young fruit tree orchard and a wildflower meadow. Vehicular access will be restricted to as small an area as possible to protect this planting. COG will tape off the most sensitive areas and contractors and their vehicles should not enter those areas.

Contractors vehicles may only enter the Lugg's Mill site to undertake the proposed works. There is no permission to take vehicles across any other properties.

There may be sheep grazing on one half of the site so care should be taken to avoid livestock leaving the site. The grazier will be asked to temporarily move sheep to an area of the site outside that of the proposed works during the duration of the works.

## **Method of working**

It is understood that all works will be undertaken By Tom Harnden and his operatives. The work will not be subcontracted to others without the prior approval of COG. All contractors working on this project must be familiar with this document and any other associated Health and Safety documentation.

Works will be carried out from the ground, from ladders or by climbing trees using ropes. Works will not be conducted from a Mobile Elevating Work Platform (MEWP) without the prior approval of COG.

During all works the Tom Harnden and his operatives must be mindful of the risk to people on the ground. Public footpath CW24a crosses the Lugg's Mill site. After leaving the site the footpath branches in two to become CW24a and CW24. Whilst on the definitive map public footpath CW24a appears to directly cross the neighbouring agricultural crop field in practice the route of the footpath used by pedestrians runs round the perimeter of the field directly by target trees 01582 and 01583 so appropriate signage and cordoning off of this area may be required.

**Timber and brash will be carefully dropped to the ground or lowered by ropes.**

**Timber will be corded and left by fencing at the foot of trees.**

**Brash will be chipped for removal by the Contractor from site. COG may request that the chipped material be delivered to the adjoining property of Brookmead or to Colwall Village Garden in Old Church Road for storage before use by Colwall Orchard Group.**

**It is understood that Tom Harnden will follow all H & S Control Procedures as per the risk assessment document supplied by him.**

**In order to meet legal requirements with regard to bats and birds an Ecologist from Swift Ecology will visit the site on the first morning of works taking place. The purpose of this is to adopt a precautionary approach with a quick inspection of the visible features for the presence of bats and nesting birds before the works commence. The Ecologist should be able to do this both from the ground (lower features) and from a ladder but may require Tom Harnden or his operatives to assist with this process.**

**The Ecologist, acting as a 'Competent Person' will produce a covering letter that describes that the Lugg's Mill site has been inspected and that the proposed works can be undertaken lawfully with respect to the presence or potential presence of bats and nesting birds.**

**In the event that during the course of the proposed works bats or nesting birds are discovered, works to that area should cease and further guidance should be sought from Swift Ecology.**

## **Queries Regarding Safe Ways of Working**

**Any queries should be raised with either:-**

**Andy Ball (Lead Volunteer for COG) - telephone 01684 540724 or mobile 07904 470380,**

**or**

**Tom Harnden (Contractor) - mobile 07450 718252.**

**The contact for the Ecologist from Swift Ecology is Nick Underhill-Day - mobile 07719 329170.**