Tree and Hedgerow Management Policy

1. Introduction

1.1 This policy sets out the Parish Council's approach to the management of trees and hedgerows on land owned by Scarning Parish Council. It does not cover other landowners. Other organisations, companies and private individuals may need to be contacted if a tree(s) or hedgerow is located on their land.

1.2 This policy has been drawn up to provide guidance for the public, councillors and Council employees to ensure a clear and consistent approach is followed regarding the management of trees and hedgerows owned by Scarning Parish Council.

1.3 The Parish Council has a duty of care to ensure that all trees and hedgerows on its land are kept in a safe and acceptable condition, and do not put the public at risk.

2. Locations

The Parish Council owns trees and hedgerows in the following locations:-

- Shipdham Lane Playing Field (separately maintained by Scarning Playing Field Committee, see Terms of Reference document)
- Two oak trees on the Shipdham Lane edge (next to the tennis courts) of Shipdham Lane Playing Field (the Parish Council maintains these trees. The trees are subject to TPO's)
- Former Broadway Allotment site
- Former Highway Surveyors Land, Chapel Lane* (see below)
- Dereham Road side of the Draytonhall Lane housing estate (Six silver birches and two newly planted trees only – no current site map)

Copies of maps for these sites can be found in Appendix A

3. Tree Inspection

All trees on Council owned land will be inspected annually by a qualified contractor and any recommendations made will be considered by the Parish Council.

* The Council's tenant under the terms of the agreed lease is to 'maintain all the trees on the site and to carry out any maintenance work as necessary. Following a Tree Survey carried out by the Parish Council, the trees are expected to be maintained in no worse a state of condition and repair as they are at the date of this lease.'

4 Tree Maintenance

4.1 The Parish Council supports a policy of tree preservation and will undertake work depending on a tree's location, the species of tree and the recommendations of its contractor.

4.2 The Council will avoid felling trees unless it is necessary. This will usually be for reasons of health and safety, or to prevent the spread of serious tree diseases or pests.

4.3 The Clerk will carry out periodic visual inspections of those trees owned by the Parish Council in order to identify any issues at the earliest point, so that preventive action can be taken where possible. Areas close to roads, buildings and with high public usage will be prioritised.

4.4 As a guide, tree works will be undertaken in the following circumstances.

- Where an inspection has identified the tree as potentially hazardous or an immediate danger
- If the works are vital to the tree's long term survival.
- When previous maintenance plans have identified the need for pollarding, crown reduction and so on.

4.5 The impact on local wildlife of all tree works, specifically felling and pruning, will always be thoroughly considered, with the impact minimised where possible.

4.6 Where appropriate, dead and fallen wood will be left on site unless there are sound conservation and safety reasons for its removal.

4.7 All tree work will be carried out by a qualified contractor appointed by the Parish Council.

4.8 Tree pruning or felling will take place at the Parish Council's discretion, unless matters of public safety dictate otherwise.

5. Protected Trees

5.1 A Tree Preservation Order prevents cutting down, uprooting, topping, lopping, wilful damage or destruction of trees (including cutting roots) without permission.

6. New Planting and Replacement of Trees

If it is necessary for the Parish Council to fell a tree, it is the Council's policy to replace that tree with a UK native species of a suitable size and type.

7. Requests for Tree Work

7.1 Whilst the Parish Council will consider the impact of trees in each case on individual merit, it will not fell or prune trees on Parish Council owned land if it is for any of the following reasons:-

- Solely to alleviate problems caused by natural or seasonal factors, such as falling leaves, fruit, seeds/berries, bird droppings, and so on
- Solely to increase sunlight/views to properties and gardens
- Solely because a tree (s) is causing interference with television or satellite reception. Removal or pruning to enable clear television reception will only be considered in exceptional circumstances
- If a tree contains roosting bats, unless for reasons of health and safety

7.2 Adjacent landowners have a common law right to prune back tree branches to their boundary providing this would not lead to the death of a tree and providing the tree is not protected by a Tree Preservation Order, or is situated within a Conservation Order.

7.3 Landowners are reminded that if access to Parish Council owned land is required to carry out pruning, you will require written permission from the Parish Council before carrying out such works.

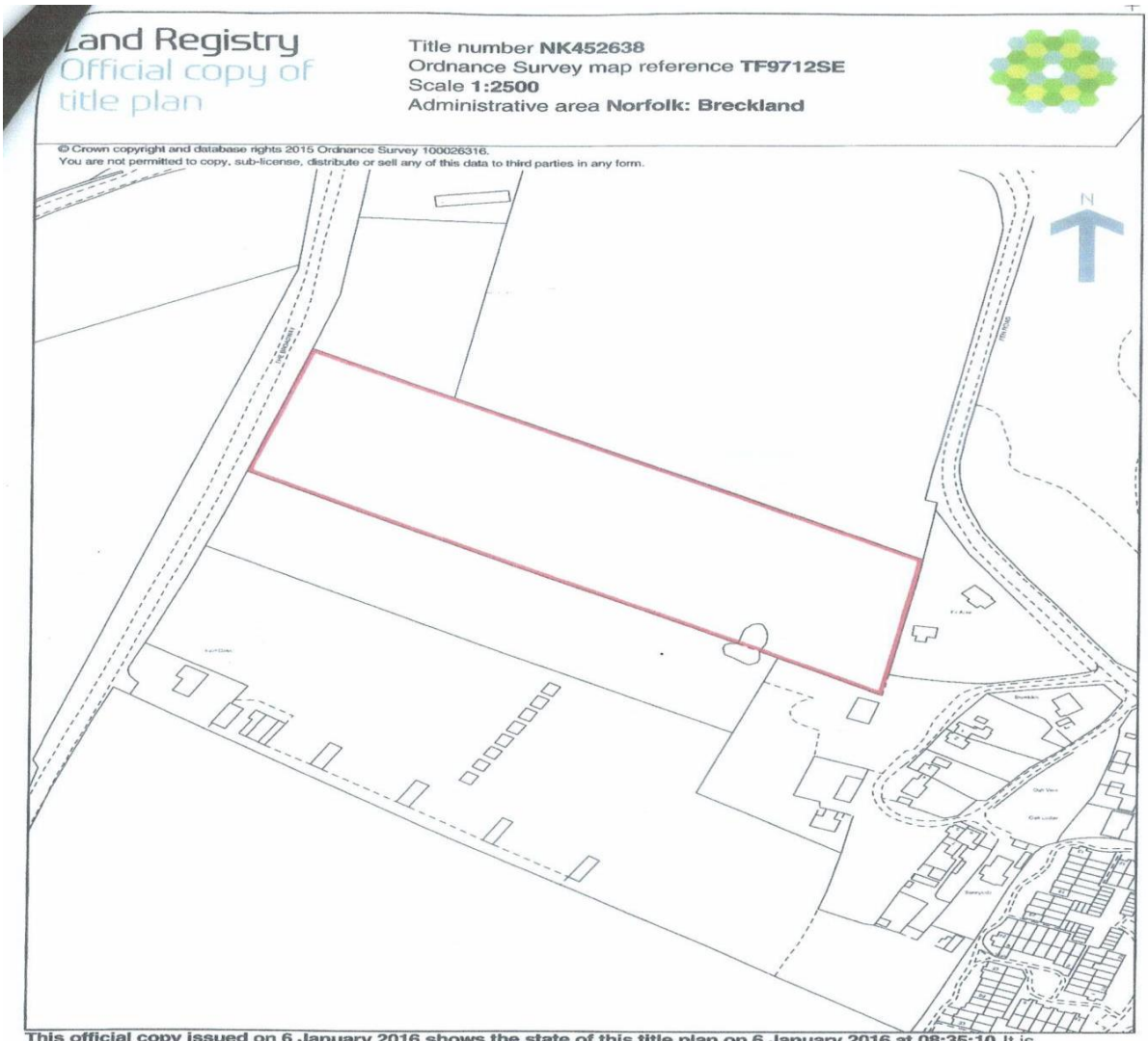
7.4 The Parish Council will consider formal applications for tree works on its land. Such applications must be made in writing and either emailed to the Parish Clerk or sent to the Council's registered address.

Contact details: Email: clerk@scarning-pc.gov.uk
Address: Oakleigh House, Shipdham Lane, Scarning, NR19 2LB.

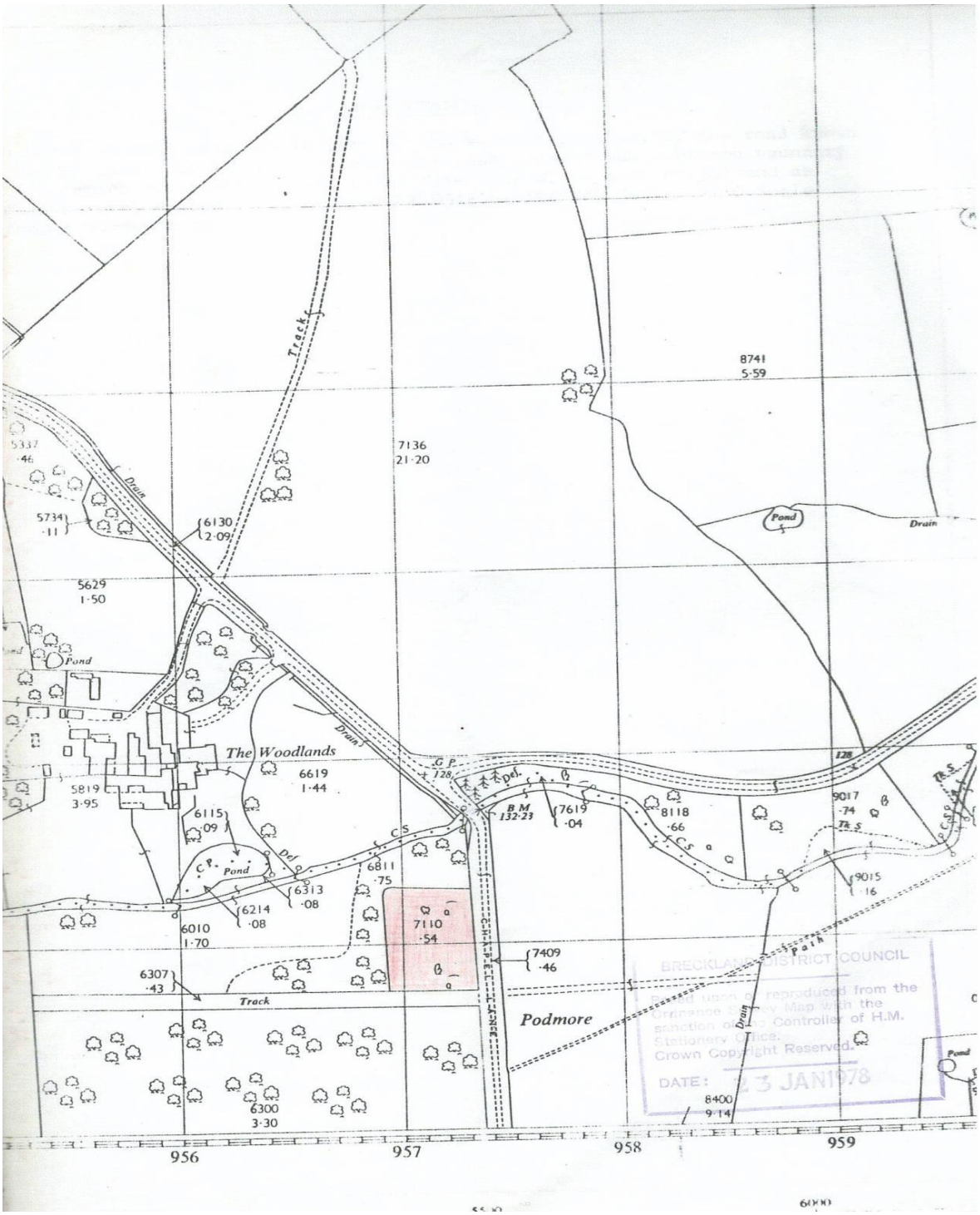
Reviewed without amendment: January 2026.
Next review: January 2028.

Appendix A. Site Maps

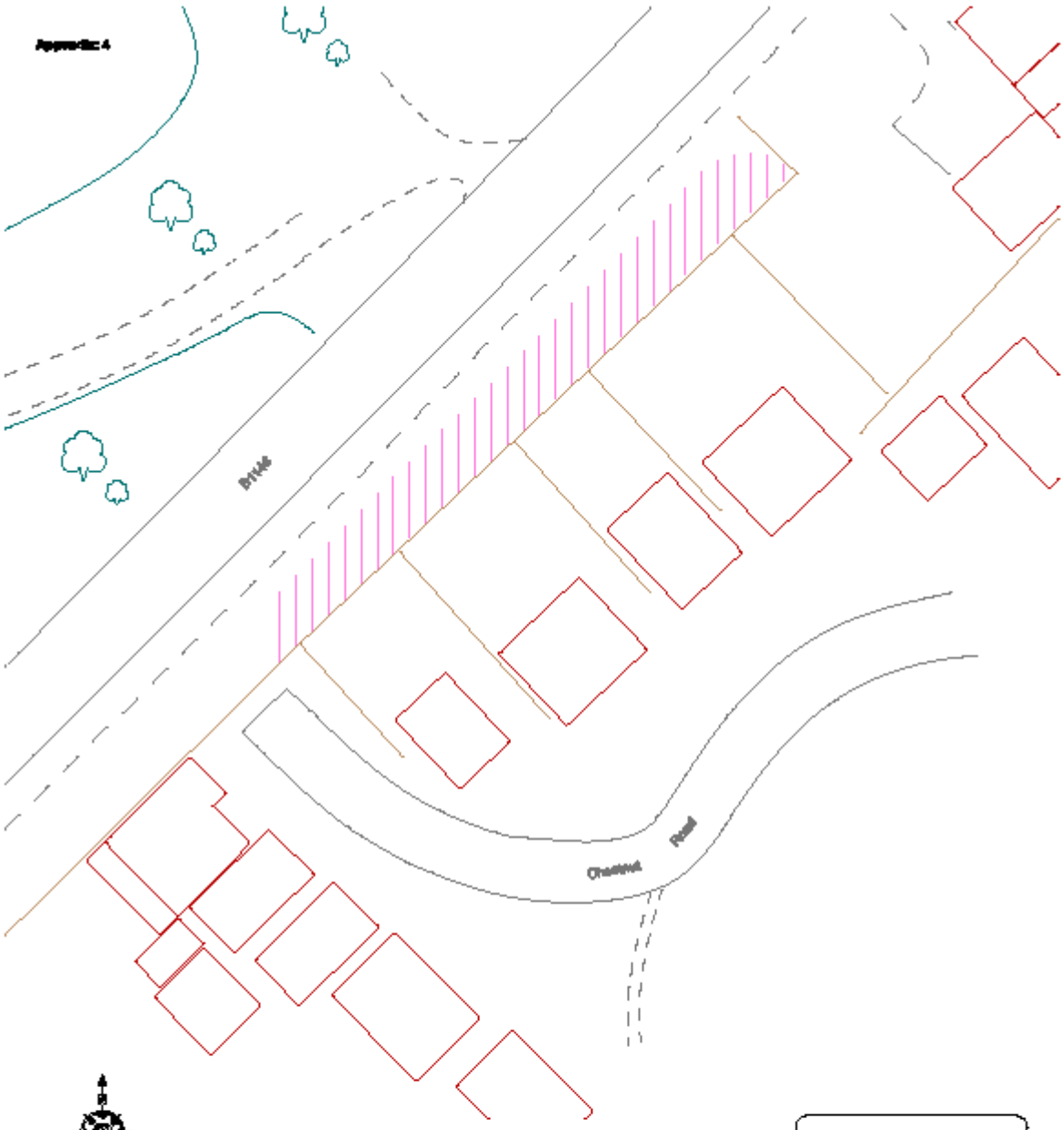
Former Broadway Allotment site plan (off The Broadway, Scarning)



Former Highway Surveyors Land at Chapel Lane (shaded red)



Scarning Playing Field – Shipdham Lane

This official copy issued on 30 November 2015 shows the state of this title plan on 30 November 2015 at 15:09:29. It is admissible in evidence to the same extent as the original (s.67 Land Registration Act 2002).
This title plan shows the general position, not the exact line, of the boundaries. It may be subject to distortions in scale.
Measurements scaled from this plan may not match measurements between the same points on the ground.
This title is dealt with by Land Registry, Kingston upon Hull Office.

Dereham Road/Chestnut Road trees in line with fence