

Barningham Conservation Group Tree Survey 2025

Aim

The aim of the survey was to identify the older trees in and around the village to inform consideration of their community value and whether or not protection may be required for some of them.

Additionally note was taken of the location of some areas of woodland, established and ancient hedging, ponds and rare wildflowers.

Method

After some initial walk-rounds in early 2025, maps were made on which the location of trees and other areas of interest were marked. As it would be impossible to identify all trees, only those with a circumference over approximately 2m were logged.

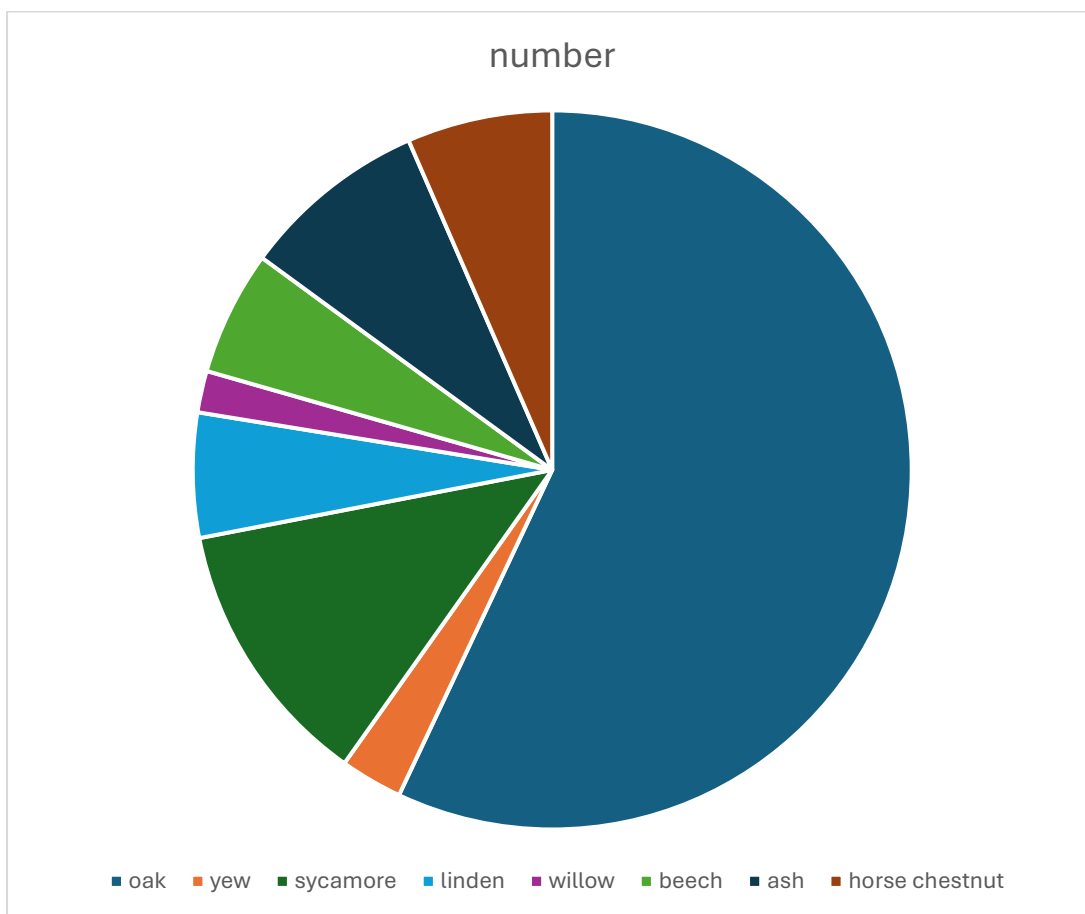
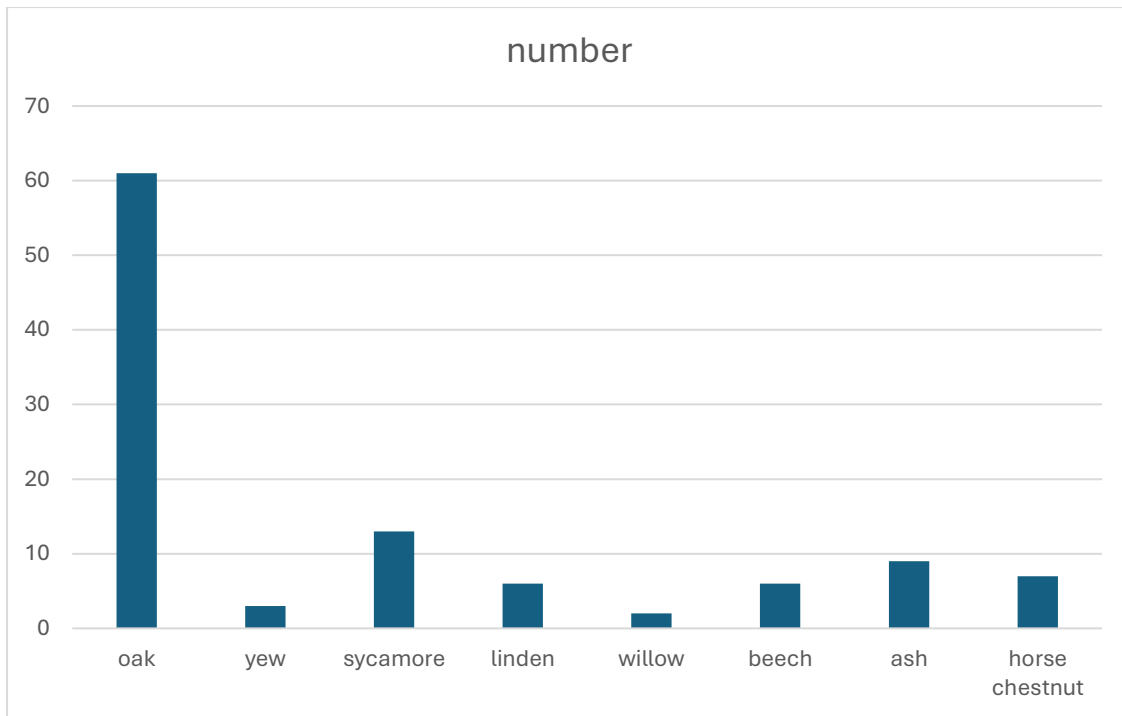
In October 2025 volunteers identified the location of trees using what3words.com and then identified the type of tree (using plantnet.org if necessary), and either measured / estimated the circumference at human chest height (approx. 1.5m from the ground). The age of the tree was then estimated from the measurement using factors dependent on the type of tree found using felling.uk's tree age calculator.

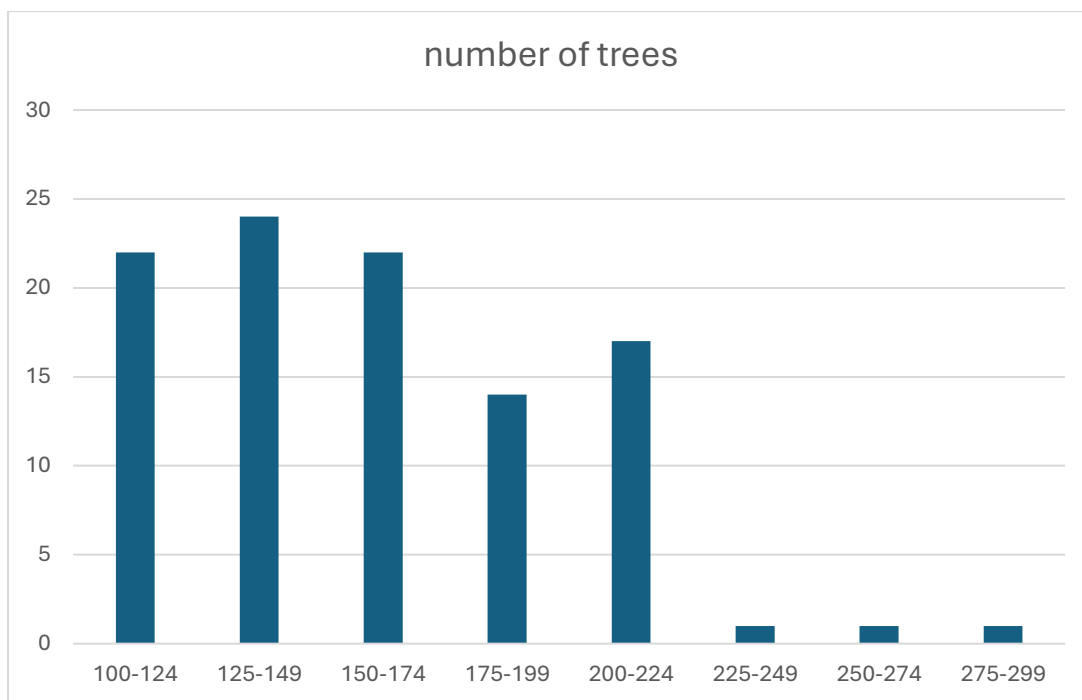
Most of the trees logged are on public property, but some were on private land and available details were logged without trespassing.

Results

The results were entered into a spreadsheet and collated (see attached file)

The most numerous type of older tree in and around our village are oaks; there are also a number of yew, sycamore, linden, willow, beech, ash and horse chestnut. There are a minority of other species of old tree, most notable some field maple. A considerable number of the oaks appear to be around 200 years of age, including some in fields around the village that may be considered for development, e.g. adjacent to the Hopton Road. There are also some old oaks and very old pollarded sycamores in the field behind Church Gardens. Additionally there are a number of old trees in the Churchyards and at Aggie's, and on the verge of some of the roads. The tree likely to be the oldest in the village is the Yew tree close to the church door.





Conclusion

The Parish Council will continue to protect and preserve those trees on Parish Council property, and those on other public property should also be safe.

The old trees that might be at risk are those in private gardens, and those in fields that may be considered for development. Arguably, the latter group are most at risk, and we are particularly concerned to ensure protection of the Oak trees on the field margin of the site on the Hopton Road that is being considered for development.

Next steps

The Barningham Conservation Volunteer Group will meet to discuss next steps which might include the following

- 1) Practical Conservation work including removal of ivy in a 3-5 year cycle from those trees on Parish Council land
- 2) Identification of those trees felt particularly in need of protection:
- 3) Exploration of options regarding protection

Refs:

Maps and spreadsheet are attached

31/1/2026