

WASH COMMON IRON AGE BARROWS

NEWS ITEM



Newbury Town Council is working in partnership with English Heritage and its grounds maintenance contractors to ensure appropriate maintenance and protection of the scheduled monument of five Iron Age Barrows at Wash Common.

Newbury Town Council has recently felled the four remaining trees on one of the Iron Age Barrows in Wash Common. Notices were placed on the trees three weeks before they were felled and resulting queries dealt with.

If the trees had been left to mature their extensive root systems could have caused damage to any archaeological artefacts that may be present within the Barrow. Newbury Town Council takes its responsibility for protecting a scheduled ancient monument very seriously and will do what it can to conserve the site for future generations.

The multi stemmed beech tree was a poor specimen and would have eventually failed at the joint unions. When a tree fails, the resulting damage to the tree would effectively destroy it. After felling the beech it became apparent that a significant amount of rot in its base would have contributed to its eventual failure.

One of the small oak trees was situated too close to an overhead telephone line and would have required removing or at least drastically reducing to a point that makes the tree worthless.

Newbury Town Council consulted with English Heritage on the planned works. They fully supported the proposal and believed the works would be beneficial to the long term protection of the Barrows.

Newbury Town Council plan to plant four new oak trees in between the existing trees on the football pitch side of the Barrows as direct replacement for the felled trees.

Newbury Town Council would like to thank English Heritage for their continued support and help through the provision of additional funding to cover the felling of the trees and increased maintenance costs.

We would also like to thank J.P. Handy (Forestry) for the removal of the four trees. The work was carried out in a safe and professional manner.

Last but not least Newbury Town Council would like to thank English Landscapes for all their work in the past and future on going maintenance of the Barrows.

2 September 2009