

Ainstable Parish Council

Serving the villages of Ainstable, Croglin, Newbiggin, and Ruckcroft,
the communities of Dale and Longdales, and the surrounding farms and houses

Chairman: Nigel Vear,
Tel (01768) 896360 - chairman@ainstable.org.uk

Report on Trees Planted by Ainstable Parish Council

Prepared by Kimberley Lawson, Clerk to Ainstable Parish Council
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According to the minutes of the parish council from 1991, a programme of tree planting took place in the parish. Some 200 trees of native species were planted, in the following locations:

- Bell House down to Common House
- Bascodyke Road to Ruckcroft
- Street House to Cairnhead Farm and beyond (including “the Old Quarry, Newbiggin)
- Ainstable Church Institute and verge

Cllrs H & G Proud remember trees also being planted on the green lane between Faugh Head and Longdales; this has not been found in the minutes.

A search of records held by the Clerk and at the county archives have not found any records with more precise locations or identification of individual trees. However, they seem to all be on the verge, including the quarry at Newbiggin, which is by the side of the road and almost certainly land belonging to Highways. Although an exact plan is not available, John Banks at CCC Highways has stated that the Parish Council is responsible for all mature trees, while Highways will be responsible for brushwood/self-seed.

It should be noted that the Parish Council is also responsible for the trees at Ainstable Millennium Green, in its role as Trustee for the Ainstable Millennium Green Trust.

Insurance

The parish council’s insurer’s risk management specialist has advised the following Best Practice:

1. Every tree to be risk assessed by a suitably qualified arboricultural specialist.
2. This specialist can then make recommendations for timescales for future inspection cycles based on the condition of each tree.
3. Any trees that are in high-risk areas, e.g. from vehicle strikes, may need to be inspected more frequently.
4. Any remedial work should be carried out by a separate contractor – the person making recommendations for remedial work should not be financially benefitting from this work. Neil Ruddick is going to get himself qualified to carry out any works.
5. Any trees that do need work should be marked for easy identification in the future, e.g. by a band round the trunk.
6. The Clerk to create and maintain a register of all the trees, the inspections & any works done.

The above steps will satisfy the insurance company but of course they cannot guarantee what may or may not happen in the case of any court proceedings.