

# **Condition report on the avenue of trees growing at Church Lane, Gawsworth**

## **Introduction**

An incident occurred recently when a mature tree shed a limb onto the highway. The highway authority, Cheshire County Council, have a duty of care to users of the highway and consequently the local Area Office asked for a condition survey to be undertaken.

## **Scope of the report**

Only 63 mature trees were surveyed, none of the younger plantings, consisting mainly of beech, were surveyed.

## **Identification and location of the trees**

The carriageway has been sprayed with yellow paint, numbering commences at tree number 1 located within the grounds of Oak Cottage on the north side of the road and continuing in increments of 5 to the eastern end of Church Lane, crossing over opposite the Rectory and returning on the south side of the road.

Numbering on the north side from west to east is 1 – 27 and numbering on the south side from east to west is from 28 – 63.

## **Tree observations**

All observations were undertaken from the ground with only significant faults being noted for action, for example dead wood or epicormic growth likely to cause an obstruction, or structural faults which might indicate the potential for structural failure.

## **Preamble**

The trees forming the avenue are mature lime trees with one mature sycamore. The trees at the western end tend to be shorter in stature and there appeared to be at least two different clones planted in an intimate mix. This is not an unusual situation with lime tree planting.

## **Site Visit and Observations**

The site visit was carried out on Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2008 and was undertaken in approximately 3.5 hours.

Weather was clear to begin with but was interrupted by a torrential downpour lasting 15 minutes or so after the completing the first 16 trees.

The mature trees appear to be of similar age and are similar in overall condition. Exceptions have been noted in the report but in general terms there were no gross structural problems noted.