

Honey Fungus December 2025

Fungus attacks recreation ground trees

Some of you may be aware that the trees along the roadside boundary of the Benenden Recreation Ground are dead and dying.

Benenden Village Trust (BVT), the charity which owns the recreation ground, discovered recently that only four of the trees appear to be in good health: a Crab Apple, a Cherry and two Oaks.

The dead and dying trees, mainly Hawthorn, are affected by Honey Fungus (*Armillaria*) which destroys the roots of trees and perennial plants. The affected trees must be removed, along with the stumps and roots and the area must then be left fallow for six to twelve months to ensure that the fungus has nothing to feed on and dies.

Work will be carried out once the ground is drier and less likely to be damaged by the machinery required to remove the trees and roots.

Whilst the view across the recreation ground will change considerably for some time, BVT will plant new trees when its arboreal advisors consider it safe to do so. In the interim, BVT will consider whether it needs to reinforce the line of posts along the tree line, since substantial gaps will be created when the dead trees are removed.

The tree line will be restored but it will take time because of the need to ensure that the Honey Fungus has been eradicated.