

CAR APRKING AREA – St Michael's, Routh Lane, Tilehurst RG30 4JY

- Group 1 Yew – **lift canopies** to maintain clearance over car parking area.
- T1 Sycamore - Appears to be in decline. Deadwood present throughout crown. Decay at base wall, side no external indication as to decline. **Remove tree** to reduce risk of failure.
- T2 Sycamore - appears to be in decline. Deadwood present throughout crown. Twin stemmed, bifurcates at approximately 50cm. Union appears solid; no external indication as to decline. **Remove tree.**
- T3 Cypress - has evidence of historic heave. Appears to have stabilized. Some rot present at base. Reactive growth present in accordance to reaction of heave and rot in set. **Monitor.**
- T4 Horse Chestnut - decay pockets at approximately 2m and 6m. Historic cable brace at approximately 8m. Integrity of cable brace unknown considered to be potentially weak due to Horse Chestnuts inability to compartmentalize invasive steel bolts. It is my opinion that this tree is now compromised, there are historic cavities with unknown levels of decay, a poor main union supported by less than ideal invasive cable bracing, cambium die back on the base of the tree, and torsional split evident on one of the major limbs. A heavy reduction and installing of a non-invasive brace would limit the liability of failure for up to 5 years following repeat inspection. Whilst I do not take removal of signature trees lightly and prefer where ever possible to retain my opinion is in this urban setting **removal** and replant is the wisest course of action.
- T5 Ash - has deadwood present in crown. Not thought to be problematic at present due to location.
- T6 Lime - bifurcates at approximately 3.5m. Potentially weak union. Further inspection recommended (climbing). Larger primary lateral over road, poor union fusion. **Reduce** by approximately 2m to alleviate strain on potentially weak union.