

## Appendix 1

Subject:- Recent Tree Felling in The Chutes.

To Mrs. M-V Parr c/o Chute Standen Farm and Mr. Friso Westheim c/o Conholt Estate.

Via The Chute Parish Council.

At a time when Worldwide we are collectively being encouraged to plant more trees we have important questions for our local landowners that we are hoping they will be kind enough to answer by way of an open letter to the Chute Chronicle for all to see. During the past few months many Chute residents have been, both disturbed and truly upset, by the incredibly high number of trees that have been felled within The Chutes. Many people living in these beautiful Wiltshire villages will have learned from the Chute website that the word 'Chute' is in fact Old English for 'forest' and that William I actually declared 'Chute Forest' a Royal Hunting Forest. In addition Chute Forest and Chute Standen are both mentioned in The Domesday Book. Many of us living in Chute are surrounded by trees and completely understand the need for forestry management. In particular we are aware of the disease 'Ash Dieback' that is currently widespread throughout most of the British Isles. We know that Ash trees, showing signs of this disease, need to be felled as quickly as possible to prevent any kind of injury to either people or animals and of course damage to property both residential and agricultural. It appears that many of our local roadside verges have already been dealt with either by the council or local farmers. Sadly however we have seen an incredibly high number of trees of varying species felled in other areas that have caused us great concern. These are along Fisher's Hanger and in Round Wood near Chute Cadley and a wide swath along the roadside leading to Chute Forest from Lower Chute. Surely these trees cannot all be diseased Ash? In fact, looking at the vast amount of logs that have been taken away and then re-stacked over many months in Chute Standen, these are logs from a variety of different species of tree. Rumour is that new tree saplings will be planted to replace those felled and Conholt appears to have done some re-planting in Bottom Copse. This does not however appear to be happening along Footpath 28 adjacent to Fisher's Hanger and it is too early to know what will actually happen in Round Wood or near Chute Forest. Our simple questions are:- are you going to re-plant, if so is there a specific plan and when will it happen? The public have been criticised for a failure to understand the fragility of the conservation area so these and future questions can only help an ongoing and positive relationship. It would also be good to know how long it will take for saplings, should they be planted, to grow sufficiently large enough before they can provide Chute, together with the wider 'Planet Earth', with the same amount of oxygen that those ancient trees, taken down, did? It is appreciated and assumed that Felling licences were in place for such large clearings of ancient trees so we would really appreciate your combined help in understanding how this kind of forestry management will in fact allow natural regeneration to happen and for both flora and fauna to thrive and not have, as it currently appears to, a detrimental effect on the local landscape and environment for many decades to come. Thanking you in anticipation, A number of concerned Chute residents.