

# TREES ON THE MEADOWS

REPORT BY NEIL ROGER OF A WALKABOUT ON THE MEADOWS

Two Forestry Service officers Ian Morrison and Paul Naughton met members of FOMBL committee on the Meadows to discuss various concerns held by members of the public as well as FOMBL

## FELLING OF TREES

It is not always clear why some trees are felled and it can be very distressing for members of the public to see a beautiful healthy looking tree cut down.

Ian and Paul took us to see some of these trees and explained that a painstaking analysis is always made before removing any tree. For example a sign of root infection can be fungus growing at the base of a tree. After further testing and consideration of the likely damage to property and people if the tree falls, a decision is made to remove the tree. Most of the original elms have been felled due to Dutch Elm disease. Some more disease resistant elms have survived and new elms have been planted this year.



## TREE DAMAGE

Many trees are damaged by humans. Mowing machines have caused huge damage to bark at the base of younger trees. Any construction work close to trees such as path formation or utility work can have a serious effect in tree roots systems. FOMBL agreed to carry out mulching (provided by the forestry service) at particularly vulnerable tree bases to prevent mowing machines getting too close the trunk.

## DROUGHT

Newly planted trees can die in dry periods and require regular watering. There is a shortage of manpower and watering equipment. FOMBL agreed to look into possible funding for new watering vehicles.

## RARE TREES

There are many rare and interesting trees in the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links (although many have been sadly lost to disease). FOMBL proposes to consider the erection of information boards to illustrate these trees perhaps along with leaflets, location plan and names on trees.



This sycamore at the south end of Middle Meadow Walk has suffered from too much water. Waterlogged ground around here has meant that it will have to come down. The neighbouring tree (to the south) is also suffering in the same way, and may have to be felled as well. Not far from these trees suffering from too much water, the small trees on the left of the picture are suffering from too little water, but may survive.



This fine willow on North Meadow Walk, just west of the junction with Middle Meadow Walk, has a tendency to shed large branches, which can be quite hazardous. The plan is that it should be pollarded, which is preferable to removing it completely.