



### What happened?

- An operator identified that 23 mature trees were close to a pipeline.
- The trees are along a school boundary within the school fence-line.
- Removal of the trees is a sensitive issue particularly with the recent 'Sycamore Gap' incident

### Findings and key learning points

- The operator engaged with the local community council regarding their plans to remove the trees.
- As a result of the engagement a balanced viewpoint was given in the local Parish Magazine (lower photo), setting out the reasons for removal of the trees and the action being taken by the operator to plant replacement trees.
- It is unclear why action had not been previously taken prior to the trees becoming large

### Recommendation

- Operators should endeavour to remove trees from easements before they grow to a large size.
- Where removal of mature trees is likely to create public interest, operators should engage with local community councils prior to undertaking the work.