

Ms Linda Graves
5 Elizabeth Crescent
Whitehaven
CA28 6JQ

Please Contact: Demi Crawford
Officer Tel No: 01946 598413
My Ref: 4/25/2375/TPO
Date: 19 December 2025

Dear Madam

**CROWN REDUCTION OF 5 SYCAMORE TREES PROTECTED BY A TREE
PRESERVATION ORDER
TALL TREES, VICTORIA ROAD, WHITEHAVEN**

I refer to your application of 05/11/2025 under the above Tree Preservation Order for consent to carry out the following work:-

**CROWN REDUCTION OF 5 SYCAMORE TREES PROTECTED BY A TREE
PRESERVATION ORDER**

APPLICATION TREE NO.	SPECIES	PROPOSED WORKS
Nos.1-5	5x Sycamore tree	Crown reduction of 5 Sycamore trees protected by a Tree Preservation Order
APPLICANT'S REASON		
'Sycamore trees. Trees 1 to 5 are Sycamore trees. I want Crown Reduction on trees 1-5 which are on Mr O'Prays property. Trees 1-5 on the diagram (section 7) belong to Mr Simon O'Pray. They are too tall and I request Crown Reduction to reduce the height on trees 1-5. The trees should be the height of no more than the roof of my house.'		

Decision of the Local Planning Authority

I would confirm that the following works are considered to be unacceptable to the Local Planning Authority and consequently the application has been **REFUSED** for the following reasons:-

- The Sycamore trees are in the mature age class and exhibit normal vitality, with no obvious significant defects. They form a cohesive group on neighbouring land and make a strong collective contribution to the character and visual amenity of the area. Given their current condition and growing environment, it is reasonable to expect that these trees have a remaining life expectancy in excess of 40 years. The trees are protected by Tree Preservation Order No. 1 (1978) and therefore benefit from statutory protection.
- The TEMPO assessment undertaken by the Local Planning Authority confirms that they clearly merit this protection due to their size, good health, longevity, and the level

of public amenity they provide to both the local and wider landscape. The proposed works, as described in the application, are insufficiently defined and open to interpretation. As such, they do not comply with current arboricultural best practice or with the requirements of British Standard BS 3998:2010 (Tree Work – Recommendations), which emphasises the need for precise, proportionate, and justified pruning specifications.

- Excessive or poorly specified pruning would be likely to result in an unacceptable level of harm to the trees. The removal of a significant proportion of the crown would reduce the trees' ability to photosynthesise and produce carbohydrates, thereby adversely affecting their health and long-term viability. Furthermore, such intervention would increase the risk of decay, as decay fungi are able to colonise dysfunctional or stressed wood. Given the trees' protected status, good condition, high amenity value, and the ambiguous work specification, the proposed works are not considered to be justified and would risk causing unnecessary and irreversible harm to the trees

A copy of the Arboriculturist's report is enclosed for your information and contains recommendations.

Your Right of Appeal

If you disagree with our decision you can appeal to The Planning Inspectorate, Environment and Transport Team, 3/A Eagle Wing, Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Temple Quay, Bristol, BS1 6PN within 28 days from the date you received this decision.

Compensation

If you suffer any loss or damage as a result of a condition attached to this consent, you might be entitled to recover compensation from the Council. If you wish to make a claim you must do so within 12 months from the date of this decision (or, if you appeal to the Secretary of State, within 12 months from the date of this decision). Claims should be made in writing to the Planning Manager, Cumberland Council, The Market Hall, Market Place, Whitehaven, Cumbria, CA28 7JG.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the case officer Demi Crawford on 01946 598413

Yours faithfully



Nick Hayhurst
Head of Planning and Place
Thriving Places