

CAPITA

ARBORICULTURAL REPORT

Summary Report for Copeland Borough Council

Prepared by Alistair Hearn

Reference: 4/22/2176/TPO

Location: MAINSCROFT, MAIN STREET, CLEATOR

Officer: Chloe Unsworth

Date: 27 April 2022

CONSULTANTS REPORT

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL

APPLICATION TREE NO.	SPECIES	PROPOSED WORKS	REASON
1, 2 & 3	??	30% crown reduction to three trees protected by a Tree Preservation Order.	<p>When we purchased the house we were informed that the TPO goes across our property and our neighbour(s) but that there were 3 trees within our property boundary affected. The wooded area is very overgrown and has been used as a dumping ground by the previous owner (full of beer cans, glass, household waste etc and we now wish to clean it up and manage the area to promote wildflowers, bees, insects, hedgehogs etc. In order to do this we wish to 'dead wood' the trees protected by the TPO and undertake a 30 % crown reduction to allow more light to ground level. Our tree surgeon suggests this will be fine to do and will promote the healthy growth of the trees. We will also be killing the ivy that affects all 3 trees from ground level to ~80 % of their total height - this will ensure the trees aren't eventually killed by the ivy.</p> <p>Unfortunately we do not know the 'names' of the trees in question as cannot find the original TPO but they are clearly the three most mature within our boundary. i will attach a map of our property with the approximate locations of the trees and the overall TPO area.</p>

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DISCUSSION

The three ash trees are in the mature age class and we expect they will suffer from Ash Dieback Disease (<https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/fthr/pest-and-disease-resources/ash-dieback-hymenoscyphus-fraxineus/>) in the coming years, if not already – accurate diagnosis is easier during the summer months when the trees should be in leaf. An accurate diagnosis in late summer can determine whether these trees are suffering from Ash Dieback Disease and inform the work options. We expect the trees will last for less than 10 years.

The trees overhang the garden area and the ivy growing up the trunk could obscure defects. One symptom of Ash Dieback Disease is the wood becomes brittle, which can lead to branch or trunk failures.

Removing dead branches from trees is an exemption under the TPO regulations. The TPO does not protect the ivy growing up the tree trunks, although it would not kill the trees if left to grow.

From the Copeland website, a Tree Preservation Order – TPO 37 (1988) – protects these trees. The website does not say if the trees are protected as part of a Group, Area or Woodland Order.

Our TEMPO assessment (page 3) shows a TPO is indefensible due to the life expectancy of these trees.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Inform the applicant they do not need permission to remove dead branches or to sever the ivy.

We recommend informing the applicant they can carry out the work in the application.

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TEMPO Assessment					
Part 1: Amenity Assessment					
a) Condition & Suitability:	5-Good = <i>Highly Suitable</i> 3-Fair/Satisfactory = <i>Suitable</i> 1-Poor = Unlikely to be <i>suitable</i> 0-Dead/dying/dangerous = <i>Unsuitable</i>	3	b) Retention span (in years) & suitability for TPO:	5-100+ = <i>Highly Suitable</i> 4-40-100 = <i>Very suitable</i> 2-20-40 = <i>Suitable</i> 1-10-20 = <i>Just suitable</i> 0-<10 = <i>Unsuitable</i>	0
c) Relative public visibility & suitability for TPO:	5-Very large with some visibility, or prominent large trees = <i>Highly Suitable</i> 4-Large trees, or medium trees clearly visible to the public = <i>Suitable</i> 3-Medium trees, or large trees with limited view only = <i>Suitable</i> 2-Young, small, or medium/large trees visible only with difficulty = <i>Barely suitable</i> 1-Trees not visible to the public, regardless of size = <i>Unsuitable</i>	3	d) Other factors – trees must have accrued 7 or more points (with no zero score) to qualify:	5-Principal components of formal arboricultural features, or veteran trees 4-Tree groups, or principal members of groups important for their cohesion 3-Trees with identifiable historic, commemorative or habitat importance 2-Trees of particularly good form, especially if rare or unusual 1-Trees with none of the above additional redeeming features (inc. those of indifferent form) -1-Trees with poor form or which are generally unsuitable for their location	0
Part 2: Expediency Assessment <i>trees must have accrued 10 or more points to qualify:</i>			Part 3: Decision guide		
	5-Immediate threat to tree inc. s.211 Notice 3-Foreseeable threat to tree 2- Perceived threat to tree 1-Precautionary only	0		Any 0 = <i>Do not apply TPO</i> 1-6 = <i>TPO indefensible</i> 7-11 = <i>Does not merit TPO</i> 12-15 = <i>TPO defensible</i> 16+ = <i>Definitely merits TPO</i>	6