

ARBORICULTURAL REPORT

Summary Report for Copeland Borough Council

Prepared by Alistair Hearn

Reference: 4/23/2102/TPO

Location: THE PRIORY, ST BEES.

Officer: Chloe Unsworth

Date: 19 May 2023

CONSULTANTS REPORT

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL

APPLICATION TREE NO.	SPECIES	PROPOSED WORKS
T1-T10	1x Cherry, 1x Cherry Plum, 1x Beech, 1x Willow, 4x Poplar, 1x Whitebeam, & 1x Birch	Various works to ten trees situated within a Conservation Area.
REASON		
<p>T1, Cherry. Honey fungus present in abundance on roots visible on lawn indicating advanced infection, Propose 1m crown reduction to reduce leverage and maintain the tree at a smaller size to extend its life.</p> <p>T2, Cherry Plum. Infected with Cushion Bracket which causes soft rot then white rot. Tree is close to and leaning towards the church. Propose to fell tree before it can fail potentially causing damage to the medieval building.</p> <p>T3, Beech. Heavily leaning due to the effects of wind. Propose pruning to maintain 2.5m clearance for visitors and grass cutting, also reshape to reduce lean.</p> <p>T4, Willow. Previously coppiced due to failure now growing with heavy lean from decaying stool. Propose re coppice or heavy reduction.</p> <p>T5, T6 & T7, Poplar previously topped with some broken branches. Propose clean prune and 1.5m crown reduction to lower chance of regrowth breaking in high winds.</p> <p>T8, Whitebeam. Propose to fell due to excessive decay and dead wood.</p> <p>T9, Birch. Propose 2m crown reduction to reduce risk of stem failure due to large wound probably caused by removal of co dominant stem at approximately 1.5m which is now decaying into main stem.</p> <p>T10, Poplar. Previously crudely pollarded adjacent to road. Propose 2 to 3 metre crown reduction to reduce chance of further branch failure over main road.</p>		

DISCUSSION

The trees are in the mature age class and most show signs of normal health. Some of these trees are sub-dominant within the surrounding tree canopy.

From the Cumberland Council website, the trees are within the St Bees Conservation Area.

Given the age and size of the trees, we expect the extent of the pruning will not significantly impact the health of the retained trees. We consider this work will not have a detrimental impact on the wider landscape. Therefore, we consider the proposed work acceptable.

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RECOMMENDATIONS

We recommend informing the applicant they can carry out the work in the Conservation Area notification. Or wait for the six-week determination period to lapse.