

# ARBORICULTURAL REPORT

Summary Report for Cumberland Council

Prepared by Alistair Hearn

**Reference:** 4/24/2381/TPO

**Location:** LAND ADJACENT TO B5294, RHEDA PARK, FRIZINGTON

**Officer:** Nick Hayhurst

**Date:** 17 December 2024

## CONSULTANTS REPORT

### DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL

SPECIES	PROPOSED WORKS
Ash trees	Removal of Ash trees (with less than 50% crown coverage) protected by a Tree Preservation Order.
APPLICANT'S REASON	
'The local Highways Authority have identified that the Ash trees in area are in a poor condition adjacent to the roadside. They have therefore requested that all Ash trees with less than 50% crown coverage are to be removed, and request that this is undertaken within the next 3 Months.'	

### DISCUSSION

The roadside Ash trees are mainly in the early-mature to mature age classes. Their vitality ranges from normal vitality through to mid- and severe decline.

The trees in this application have statutory protection as woodland W2 in Tree Preservation Order (TPO) 23 (1952).

Our TEMPO assessment below indicates the roadside woodland area definitely merits a TPO due to the visual amenity it provides to the local and wider area.

The work specification detailed in the application is ambiguous and open to interpretation, and does not follow current best practice guidance and the British Standard – BS 3998 (2010) *Tree Work – Recommendations*.

Excessive tree removal could significantly erode the woodland group and reduce its visual amenity value.

The Government's current guidance for TPO applications ([tposguide.pdf](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/100000/tposguide.pdf) ([publishing.service.gov.uk](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk))) states: *'It is vitally important that the application sets out clearly what work is proposed.'* The following section states *'If the LPA receive a vague application they are advised to refer back to the applicant and seek clarification. If they grant consent to an application which is open to several interpretations the LPA may find it difficult to take enforcement action in cases where the work falls within one of those interpretations, even though the LPA believe the work exceeds that for which they intended to grant consent. Any clarification of an application should be confirmed in writing, either by modifying the original application or withdrawing it and submitting a new one.'*

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## RECOMMENDATIONS

We recommend asking the applicant to clarify their work specification. By marking (spray paint spot) those trees that require removal will quantify the number of trees to be removed and allow others to easily find the trees.

We also recommend the applicant provides a specification for some replacement planting of appropriate tree species. This should ensure that the woodland feature remains for future generations.

TEMPO Assessment					
Part 1: Amenity Assessment					
<b>a) Condition &amp; Suitability:</b>	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>	<b>3</b>	<b>b) Retention span (in years) &amp; suitability for TPO:</b>	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>	<b>2</b>
<b>c) Relative public visibility &amp; suitability for TPO:</b>	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>	<b>4</b>	<b>d) Other factors – trees must have accrued 7 or more points (with no zero score) to qualify:</b>	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	<b>4</b>
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	<b>3</b>		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>		<b>16</b>