

ARBORICULTURAL REPORT

Summary Report for Cumberland Council

Prepared by Alistair Hearn

Reference: 4/25/2143/TPO

Location: SEACROFT HOUSE, SEACROFT DRIVE, ST BEES.

Officer: Nick Hayhurst

Date: 22 May 2025

CONSULTANTS REPORT

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL

SPECIES	PROPOSED WORKS
12x Sycamores & 2x Fir trees.	Various works to trees situated within a Conservation Area.
REASON	
<i>'We have 8 Sycamores which have grown significantly whilst living here and are over-height given the storms of recent years. In addition, large sections are dead at the top and at risk of danger to passers. Request to reduce height by up to 2m and remove dead sections.'</i> <i>-Remove 2 Fir trees which are overgrown and becoming lopsided due to wind.</i> <i>-Remove over hanging branches on 4 Sycamore trees located on 15 Seacroft Drive (owner aware). Also remove dead sections. This will help to balance the trees for future storms.'</i>	

DISCUSSION

The trees are in the mature age category and show signs of moderate to normal vitality.

From the Cumberland Council website, the site falls within the St Bees Conservation Area. The website indicates a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) does not protect these trees.

We consider the work detailed in the application reasonable to prevent the trees becoming a nuisance.

Our TEMPO assessment (page 2) shows a TPO is defensible, but given the work the applicant is proposing, we consider it is unwarranted at this time.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Inform the applicant they can carry out the work in the notification or wait for the six-week determination period to lapse.

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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>	2
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>	4	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	4
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	1		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>	14	