

# ***ARBORICULTURAL REPORT***

Summary Report for Cumberland Council

Prepared by Alistair Hearn

**Reference:** 4/25/2222/TPO

**Location:** 13 SEACROFT DRIVE, ST BEES.

**Officer:** Christie M Burns

**Date:** 21 July 2025

## **CONSULTANTS REPORT**

### **DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL**

| <b>SPECIES</b>  | <b>PROPOSED WORKS</b>  |
|---|--|
| 1x Sycamore   | Reduction in height and removal of dead growth of a sycamore tree situated within a Conservation Area. |
| <b>REASON</b>   |  |
| <i>'I live on Seacroft Drive in St Bees where we are fortunate to have a number of mature trees. Some of them have however begun to suffer from dead branches in the upper sections and a number of these branches have broken off in recent years, presenting a hazard to persons and property as they fall. This had been referenced by my neighbour, Andrew Brook, at number 11 Seacroft Drive in a separate application. At number 13 we have just the one Sycamore tree requiring professional treatment to remove dead growth and to reduce its height (12 metres approx.) to a safer level.'</i> |  |

### **DISCUSSION**

The tree is in the mature age category and show signs of moderate 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 tree becoming a nuisance. Removal of dead branches is an exemption under the Conservation Area regulations.

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><br>3-Fair/Satisfactory = <i>Suitable</i><br>1-Poor = Unlikely to be <i>suitable</i><br>0-Dead/dying/dangerous = <i>Unsuitable</i>   | 3 | b) Retention span (in years) & suitability for TPO:   | 5-100+ = <i>Highly Suitable</i><br>4-40-100 = <i>Very suitable</i><br>2-20-40 = <i>Suitable</i><br>1-10-20 = <i>Just suitable</i><br>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><br>4-Large trees, or medium trees clearly visible to the public = <i>Suitable</i><br>3-Medium trees, or large trees with limited view only = <i>Suitable</i><br>2-Young, small, or medium/large trees visible only with difficulty = <i>Barely suitable</i><br>1-Trees not visible to the public, regardless of size = <i>Unsuitable</i> | 3 | d) Other factors<br>– trees must have accrued 7 or more points (with no zero score) to qualify:   | 5-Principal components of formal arboricultural features, or veteran trees<br>4-Tree groups, or principal members of groups important for their cohesion<br>3-Trees with identifiable historic, commemorative or habitat importance<br>2-Trees of particularly good form, especially if rare or unusual<br>1-Trees with none of the above additional redeeming features (inc. those of indifferent form)<br>-1-Trees with poor form or which are generally unsuitable for their location | 4  |
| Part 2: Expediency Assessment trees must have accrued 10 or more points to qualify:   |   |   | Part 3: Decision guide  |  |    |
| 5-Immediate threat to tree inc. s.211 Notice<br>3-Foreseeable threat to tree<br>2- Perceived threat to tree<br>1-Precautionary only |   | 1 | Any 0 = <i>Do not apply TPO</i><br>1-6 = <i>TPO indefensible</i><br>7-11 = <i>Does not merit TPO</i><br>12-15 = <i>TPO defensible</i><br>16+ = <i>Definitely merits TPO</i> |  | 13 |