PLANNING COMMITTEE

DATE February 26th 2025

REPORT OF Executive Director Environmental

Economy and Resourses

SUBJECT Confirmation of Tree Preservation

Order (TPO)

STATUS

CONTRIBUTION TO THE COUNCIL PLAN / STRATEGIC AIMS: Confirmation of this Order supports two of the Council's five outcomes set out in the 2024 – 2025 Council Plan. A commitment to a high-quality environment and the health and wellbeing of the population of North East Lincolnshire. Confirmation of this Order supports the Council's adopted Tree Policy; its aim to maintain and increase canopy cover over the Borough as well as the Council's Carbon Neutral Road Map; carbon sequestration and storage in large mature trees.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: This report relates to a provisional Tree Preservation Order (TPO) that has not yet been confirmed by the Committee. This report details representations received and recommendations that the Order is confirmed without modification.

RECOMMENDATIONS: Confirmation of the following TPO without modification:

North East Lincolnshire Council No. NEL 262, (land at 14 Church Lane, Humberston) Tree Preservation Order 2024

REASONS FOR DECISION: To preserve a tree that offers sufficiently high visual amenity and is a strong focal point within the Humberston Conservation Area. The tree contributes to the character and ambiance of this part of the Conservation Area.

RISK ASSESSMENT: Indiscriminate and uncontrolled felling or pruning of trees can have a significant impact on the character and amenity of an area. Tree Preservation Orders place a duty on owners to seek permission from the Council prior to carrying out such work. The duty remains irrespective of change of property ownership. Whilst they increase the Council's administrative burden, new orders ensure that the Local Planning Authority can exercise further continuing statutory control to protect and enhance the environment for the benefit of the public and wildlife.

1. BACKGROUND AND ISSUES

- 1.1 The above Order was imposed as a result of the S.211 Notice DM/0769/24/TCA being submitted to pollard the Horse Chestnut tree. The Order was issued on a provisional basis on the 14th November 2024. This report sets out the representations raised in response to the above Order. One letter of objection has been received.
- **1.2** On the 7th January 2025 permission was granted under DM/0979/24/TPO to allow the Chestnut tree to be pollarded. The pollard specification proposed by the applicant was amended when permission was granted. The works specification was amended in order that the tree maintained a meaningful level of visual amenity. The amendment was only possible because the tree was covered by a TPO.
- **1.3** In deciding whether to confirm the Order, the Committee must consider any letters of objections or representations received.
- **1.4** On the 7th December 2024 an email was received from Miss Michelle Martin being the land owner in this case.
- **1.5** The points made in the objection email are listed below in bold in paragraphs 1.5 to 1.6 with the comments of the Trees and Woodlands Officer shown in italics.
- 1.6 There is also no need for the TPO as we have never carried out any work without prior consent and have always communicated with yourself on the work we require and why and followed your advice on the best way we can achieve this. So to then have a TPO placed feels very restrictive.

The tree officer does not dispute that the landowner has engaged with the tree officer in relation to pre-211 Notice conversations and that no unauthorised works have been carried out.

The tree officer has explained in full the 211 Notice procedure and, as a likely consequence of a 211 Notice to pollard, the TPO process in full, including the process for objecting to the TPO as well as appealing against a possible future Refusal Notice being issued. The tree officer has also detailed the differences between a 211 Notice and a TPO application.

The tree officer has explained to the landowner that should they look to place a TPO on the tree it would be due to the following considerations; a] enforcement action in relation to the quality of the works carried out cannot be undertaken under a 211 Notice b] a 211 Notice can not be refused, amended or have conditions attached, whereas all these are available to the Council under a TPO application.

Whilst the statutory time scale for considering a 211 Notice is 6 weeks and a TPO application is 8 weeks, the detail required for both is for all

intents and purposes the same. Whilst a TPO does allow the Council a greater degree of control over the nature and quality of works carried out, it does not make the application process excessively restrictive in comparison to a 211 Notice.

1.7 You also state that the tree offers an existing sufficiently high visual amenity and is a strong focal point within the area and that the TPO is to protect the character of the surrounding conservation area and the amenity value the tree offers. I have to raise my points that if NEL Planning wanted to protect the character of Humberston Conservation area that they would not allow the derelict building of Rudkin builder (18 Church Lane, Humberston) to be sat there with no progress and looking an absolute disgrace including fly tipping, attracting a home for pigeons and rats, as not secure and rubbish constantly left there - this is far from protecting the visual amenity and character of the Humberston conservation area.

The tree officer recognises the landowner's frustrations in relation to the adjacent dwelling and its perceived detrimental impact on the Conservation Area. However, this is not considered to be a material consideration in this instance. The tree officer considers the prominent location of the Chestnut tree within the Conservation Area to be such that the Order should be confirmed.

- **1.8** The landowner has submitted a TPO application for the Chestnut tree to be converted into a pollard and be managed as a pollard, under DM/0979/24/TPO. Permission was granted on 7th January 2025.
- **1.9** The tree officer recommends this Order is confirmed without modification.

2. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

N/A

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no significant financial implications arising from the recommendation.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The test for the Council when considering confirming a Tree Preservation Order is whether making the order is expedient in the interests of amenity to make provision for the preservation of trees or woodlands in their area.

In the event the Order is made it can only be challenged by an application to the High Court.

5. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct HR implications arising from the contents of this report.

6. WARD IMPLICATIONS: Humberston

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 1) Location plan and schedule of Tree Preservation Order
- 2) Visual Amenity Assessment
- 3) Email objection from owner of 14 Church Lane, Humberston
- 4) Email response from Tree Officer to formal objection email

8. CONTACT OFFICER(S)

Paul Chaplin (Tree Officer) 324273

14th November 2024

NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

TREE PRESERVATION ORDER RELATING TO A TREE AT Land at 14, Church Lane, Humberston

Sharon Wroot
Executive Director Environment
Economy and Resources (s151)

Form of Tree Preservation Order

Town and Country Planning Act 1990 The North East Lincolnshire Borough Council No.NEL262 (Land at 14, Church Lane, **Humberston) Tree Preservation Order 2024**

The North East Lincolnshire Borough Council, in exercise of the powers conferred on them by section 198 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 make the following Order-

Citation

1. This Order may be cited as North East Lincolnshire Borough Council No.NEL262 (Land at 14, Church Lane, Humberston) Tree Preservation Order 2024.

Interpretation

- 2.— (1) In this Order "the authority" means the North East Lincolnshire Borough Council.
- (2) In this Order any reference to a numbered section is a reference to the section so numbered in the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and any reference to a numbered regulation is a reference to the regulation so numbered in the Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation) (England) Regulations 2012.

Effect

- 3.— (1) Subject to article 4, this Order takes effect provisionally on the date on which it is made.
- (2) Without prejudice to subsection (7) of section 198 (power to make tree preservation orders) or subsection (1) of section 200 (tree preservation orders: Forestry Commissioners) and, subject to the exceptions in regulation 14, no person shall-
 - (a) cut down, top, lop, uproot, wilfully damage, or wilfully destroy; or
 - (b) cause or permit the cutting down, topping, lopping, uprooting, wilful damage or wilful destruction of,

any tree specified in the Schedule to this Order except with the written consent of the authority in accordance with regulations 16 and 17, or of the Secretary of State in accordance with regulation 23, and, where such consent is given subject to conditions, in accordance with those conditions.

Application to trees to be planted pursuant to a condition

4. In relation to any tree identified in the first column of the Schedule by the letter "C", being a tree to be planted pursuant to a condition imposed under paragraph (a) of section 197 (planning permission to include appropriate provision for preservation and planting of trees), this Order takes effect as from the time when the tree is planted.

Dated this 14th day of November

Signed on behalf of the North East Lincolnshire Council

Assistant Director Regeneration / Damien Jaines-White

Authorised by the Council to sign in that behalf

| CONFIRMATION OF ORDER |
|--|
| This Order was confirmed by North East Lincolnshire Borough Council without modification on theday of |
| OR |
| [This Order was confirmed by the [North East Lincolnshire Borough Council], subject to the modifications indicated by [state how indicated], on the [] day of [insert month and year]] |
| Signed on behalf of the North East Lincolnshire Council |
| Nominated Officer |
| Authorised by the Council to sign in that behalf |
| [DECISION NOT TO CONFIRM ORDER |
| [A decision not to confirm this Order was taken by [North East Lincolnshire Borough Council] on the [] day of [insert month and year]] |
| Signed on behalf of the North East Lincolnshire Council |
| Nominated Officer |
| Authorised by the Council to sign in that behalf |
| [VARIATION OF ORDER |
| [This Order was varied by the [insert name of Council] on the [] day of [insert month and year] by a variation order under reference number [insert reference number to the variation order] a copy of which is attached] |
| Signed on behalf of the North East Lincolnshire Council |
| Nominated Officer |
| Authorised by the Council to sign in that behalf |
| [REVOCATION OF ORDER |
| [This Order was revoked by the [insert name of Council] on the [] day of [insert month and year]] |
| Signed on behalf of the North East Lincolnshire Council |
| Nominated Officer |

Authorised by the Council to sign in that behalf

SCHEDULE

SPECIFICATION OF TREES

Trees Specified Individually (encircled in black on the map)

Reference on MapDescriptionSituationT1Horse ChestnutSea Location Plan

Groups of Trees (within a broken black line on the map)

Reference on Map Description Situation

NONE

Woodlands
(within a continuous black line on the map)

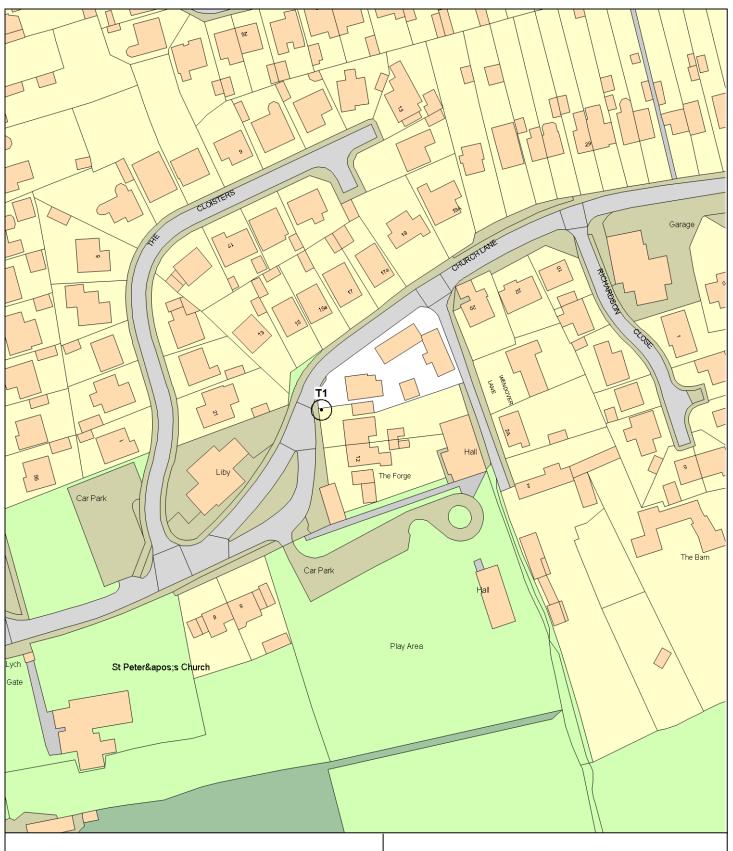
Reference on Map Description Situation

NONE

Trees specified by reference to an area (within a dotted black line on the map)

Reference on Map Description Situation

NONE



Tree Preservation Order No NEL262

Land at 14, Church Lane, Humberston

EQUANS Working in partnership The scale shown is approximate and should not be used for accurate measurement

Scale 1:1250 Date 11/11/2024



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Helliwell Visual Amenity Assessment

T1 - Chestnut tree - Section 211 Notice DM/0769/24/TCA

1. Size:

Canopy Height = 6m / Average Crown Diameter = 10m Calculated Area = 60m₂ Score = 6

2. Duration of Visual Amenity:

Biological Life Expectancy = 200 years Reduced Life Expectancy = >150 years. Current Age = 80yrs Score = 3

3. Importance of Position:

Close to Highway and Public Footpath = Some Importance Score = 3: due to being a prominent tree in this part of the Humberston C/A and its location on front boundary

4. Presence of Other Trees:

Less than 10% of Visual Area (being Church Lane) = few Score = 3

5. Relation to Setting:

Very Suitable: in regards relationship to dwelling. Score = 2

6. Form: Average

score 1

| Scoring Matrix | |
|------------------------|-------------|
| Helliwell System Score | Engie Score |
| | |
| 0-50 | 1 |
| 50-100 | 2 |
| 100-150 | 3 |
| 150-200 | 4 |
| 200-250 | 5 |
| 250-300 | 6 |
| 300-350 | 7 |
| 350-400 | 8 |
| 400-450 | 9 |
| 450-500 | 10 |
| | |

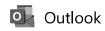
Total Score = 6 x 3 x 3 x 3 x 2 x 1 = 324

Total Value Monetary Terms = £16,313.40p

Scoring Threshold

Engie's current scoring threshold is set at "3". Trees that score below this threshold are lacking the values necessary to determine high amenity value. Trees that score 3 or above are considered to have high amenity value.

This scoring matrix is a guideline for assessing the amenity value of trees.



FW: Planning Acknowledgement-DM/0979/24/TPO

From Planning - IGE (Equans) <planning@nelincs.gov.uk>

Date Mon 12/9/2024 11:57 AM

To Paul Chaplin (EQUANS) <Paul.Chaplin@nelincs.gov.uk>

Hi Paul,

Is this latest email to be added as a comment to DM/0979/24/TPO?

Thanks Susanne

Susanne Ellis
Business Support Assistant
Planning
Places & Communities – NEL
Susanne, Ellis1@nelincs, gov, uk

Tel: +44 (0)1472 324345



equans.co.uk

Municipal Offices, Town Hall Square, Grimsby, North East Lincolnshire, DN31 1HU

From: Michelle Martin

Sent: 07 December 2024 20:18

To: Paul Chaplin (EQUANS) <Paul.Chaplin@nelincs.gov.uk> **Cc:** Planning - IGE (Equans) <planning@nelincs.gov.uk> **Subject:** Re: Planning Acknowledgement-DM/0979/24/TPO

Hi Paul

Ref: NEL262 14 Church Lane, Humberston

I would like to object the TPO placed on the chestnut tree at the above address.

You state that the reasons for this is that it gives you more control of the work undertaken to the tree, however I feel that the council do have control as we are unable to carry out any work without the consent of the council due to being in a conservation area. There is also no need for the TPO as we have never carried out any work without prior consent and have always communicated with yourself on the work we require and why and followed your advice on the best way we can achieve this. So to then have a TPO placed feels very restrictive, unnecessary and unfair.

You also state that the tree offers an existing sufficiently high visual amenity and is a strong focal point within the area and that the TPO is to protect the character of the surrounding conservation area and the amenity value the tree offers. I have to raise my points that if NEL Planning wanted to protect the character of of Humberston Conservation area that they would not allow the derelict building of Rudkin builder (18 Church Lane, Humberston) to be sat there with no progress and looking an absolute disgrace including fly tipping, attracting a home for pidgeons and rats, as not secure and rubbish constantly left there - this is far from protecting the visual amenity and character of the Humberston conservation area.

So please explain how when we have applied through the correct channels, engaged in discussion with you why you feel a TPO for more control to protect the area is needed - when you do not want to protect the area in other ways.

I look forward to your response to my objection of the TPO and would welcome an invite to the planning committee to put my points forward in person.

Thanks Michelle

Sent from my iPhone

On 1 Dec 2024, at 19:08, Michelle Martin

> wrote:

Thanks Paul.

I have sent some more pics, sorry about the spam but it wouldn't allow me to attach to one email.

Sent from my iPhone

On 27 Nov 2024, at 09:24, Paul Chaplin (EQUANS) < Paul. Chaplin@nelincs.gov.uk > wrote:

Hi Michelle,

Unfortunately at 4pm this is going to be very little day light, which I need for a couple of photos I require. Given we have spoken in some detail on this issue there is no requirement for you to be there.

If you have any further photos you wish to submit as an evidence base, please do so, the application process allows you to do this.

Regards

Paul A Chaplin

Trees and Woodland Officer

Development Manageemnt Services

Places & Communities – NEL

paul.chaplin@nelincs.gov.uk

Tel. +44 (0) 1472 324273

Mob. +44 (0) 7919290610



equans.co.uk

New Oxford House, George Street Grimsby, North East Lincolnshire, DN31 1HB From: Michelle Martin

Sent: 25 November 2024 12:55

To: Paul Chaplin (EQUANS) < <u>Paul.Chaplin@nelincs.gov.uk</u>> **Subject:** Re: Planning Acknowledgement-DM/0979/24/TPO

Thank you. Yes sorry I mean to object to the order. What is the deadline date? As it didn't state in your letter to me.

Unfortunately I work 8-4 on Wednesday. Can you come after 4.00 at all please?

Thank you Sent from my iPhone

On 25 Nov 2024, at 10:30, Paul Chaplin (EQUANS) < Paul. Chaplin@nelincs.gov.uk > wrote:

Hi Michelle,

it will be me that makes any further visit. Looking at my diary it will very likely be Wednesday 04/12/2024, I have a pre-application site meeting at Humberston Avenue at 10am, so I could make a visit either before or just after 10am.

With regards the formal Order, you would not be looking to appeal the Order, you would appeal a refusal notice to your application to Pollard the tree. Details of how and where to lodge an appeal are given on the Decision Notice.

Your option at this stage is to 'Object' to the Order being made, this would then require the Order to be confirmed by the Planning committee. To lodge an objection to the TPO being made you simply need to send me a letter or email which I will place on file. Should you wish to submit an objection to the Order, set out in detail your reasons for objecting to the Order. Simply bullet point your reasons, with a brief explanation to each.

Regards

Paul A Chaplin

Trees and Woodland Officer

Development Manageemnt Services
Places & Communities – NEL
paul.chaplin@nelincs.gov.uk
Tel. +44 (0) 1472 324273

<image001.jpg>

Mob. +44 (0) 7919290610

equans.co.uk

New Oxford House, George Street Grimsby, North East Lincolnshire, DN31 1HB

From: Michelle Martin ·

Sent: 24 November 2024 21:01

To: Paul Chaplin (EQUANS) < <u>Paul.Chaplin@nelincs.gov.uk</u>> **Subject:** Fwd: Planning Acknowledgement-DM/0979/24/TPO

Hi Paul

Thanks for this. When will a member of the Arboriculturalist team be coming to visit? Is this someone different to you? Also, are we likely to have a decision before the 13th January please?

With regards to the TPO appeal what is the deadline for the appeal? It didn't state in your letter to us. Can I appeal in writing by email or does it need to be in writing and posted?

Thanks
Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: planning@nelincs.gov.uk

Date: 21 November 2024 at 10:13:42 GMT

To: michellemartin

Subject: Planning Acknowledgement-DM/0979/24/TPO

Planning acknowledgement '96 Please see attached

Reduce your environmental footprint, please do not print this email unless you really need to.

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Formal objection to NEL262 14 Church Lane, Humberston

From Paul Chaplin (EQUANS) <Paul.Chaplin@nelincs.gov.uk>

Date Wed 12/11/2024 4:27 PM

To michellemartir.2

Cc Martin Dixon (EQUANS) <Martin.Dixon@nelincs.gov.uk>; Andrew Hudson (EQUANS) <Andrew.Hudson@nelincs.gov.uk>

Good afternoon Miss Martin.

I can confirm that I have received your formal objection to the TPO NEL262 being placed on the Chestnut tree to the front of your property. It is my intension to take the Order to Planning Committee in late January or February, for it to be confirmed. You will be informed of the date of the Planning committee, I note your wish to speak to the committee and will let you know in due course how to lodge your request to speak at the Planning Committee.

With regard to an explanation for why a TPO has been placed of the tree, I will again repeat the reasons I have previously given as to why a TPO has been placed on the tree rather than allowing the works under a 211 Notice (trees within a Conservation Area). The use of a 211 Notice is simply that, a notice. The Council are not able to; refuse a 211 Notice or place conditions on it, nor can the works specification be amended. Neither are the Council able to take action in relation to the quality of the works carried out.

Placing a TPO on the Chestnut tree therefore enables the Council greater control. Thereby, being able to refuse the application, place conditions on any works granted permission, in this instance works being carried out in accordance with BS3998. The protection of a TPO allows the Council to take enforcement action in relation to the standard of works carried out if not carried out in accordance with BS3998. The TPO enables the Council to slightly amend the work specification and or the wording of the works granted permission.

I hope this clarifies the reason why a TPO has been placed on the Chestnut tree.

Regards

Paul A Chaplin

Trees and Woodland Officer

Development Manageemnt Services

Places & Communities – NEL

paul.chaplin@nelincs.gov.uk

Tel. +44 (0) 1472 324273 Mob. +44 (0) 7919290610



equans.co.uk

New Oxford House, George Street Grimsby, North East Lincolnshire, DN31 1HB

From: Planning - IGE (Equans) <planning@nelincs.gov.uk>

Sent: 09 December 2024 11:57

To: Paul Chaplin (EQUANS) <Paul.Chaplin@nelincs.gov.uk> **Subject:** FW: Planning Acknowledgement-DM/0979/24/TPO

Hi Paul,

Is this latest email to be added as a comment to DM/0979/24/TPO?

Thanks Susanne

Susanne Ellis
Business Support Assistant
Planning
Places & Communities – NEL
Susanne.Ellis1@nelincs.gov.uk

Tel: +44 (0)1472 324345



equans.co.uk

Municipal Offices, Town Hall Square, Grimsby, North East Lincolnshire, DN31 1HU

From: Michelle Martin

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Development Manageemnt Services

Places & Communities – NEL

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Mob. +44 (0) 7919290610



equans.co.uk

New Oxford House, George Street Grimsby, North East Lincolnshire, DN31 1HB

From: Michelle Martin <

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<image001.jpg>

equans.co.uk

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Date: 21 November 2024 at 10:13:42 GMT

To: michellemartin

Subject: Planning Acknowledgement-DM/0979/24/TPO

Planning acknowledgement '96 Please see attached

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