

ARBORICULTURAL REPORT

Summary Report for Copeland Borough Council

Prepared by Alistair Hearn

Reference: 4/26/2204/TPO

Location: RHIWBINA, THE GROVES, WHITEHAVEN

Officer: Demi Crawford

Date: 31 July 2026

CONSULTANTS REPORT

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL

APPLICATION TREE NO.	SPECIES	PROPOSED WORKS
T1 & T2	1x Sycamore & 1x Ash	2.5 metre crown reduction of a Sycamore tree (T1) and removal of an Ash tree (T2) protected by a Tree Preservation Order
REASON		
T1, Sycamore. Carry out 2.5 metre selective crown reduction to provide suitable clearance to the neighbouring dwelling and maintain the tree at a suitable size for its location. Pruning to be carried out in accordance with BS3998:2010. T2, Ash. Tree in early stage of ash dieback, propose dismantling the tree while it is still safe to do so and avoid excess damage to the lawn that would result from felling and replacing with silver birch for similar level of shade.		

DISCUSSION

The trees are in the mature age class and show signs of normal health.

From the Cumberland Council website, Tree Preservation Order (TPO) No.56:1994 protects trees within Rhiwbina property boundary. The website does not state whether the trees are protected as part of a Group or an Area.

Our TEMPO assessment (page 3) shows the Sycamore tree (T1) definitely merits a TPO. Whereas the Ash tree (T2) does not merit a TPO.

Given the health, age, and size of the Sycamore tree (T1), we expect the proposed work will not significantly affect the tree's health and longevity. If the work is carried out in accordance with the British Standard (BS 3998:2010), we consider this work will not have a detrimental impact on the amenity of the tree and is therefore acceptable.

Given the health of the Ash tree (T2), we consider it acceptable to fell this tree to prevent failure causing harm or damage. Planting a new tree in the near vicinity can mitigate its loss and replace its contribution to the landscape.

RECOMMENDATIONS

We recommend informing the applicant they can carry out the work in the application subject to the following conditions:

ARBORICULTURAL REPORT

Summary Report for Copeland Borough Council

Prepared by Alistair Hearn

1. Carry out all pruning work in accordance with BS3998:2010 Tree work – Recommendations section 7.7 ‘Crown reduction and reshaping’.

Reason: In accordance with Section 198 of the 1990 Town and Country Planning Act and in the interest of good arboricultural practice.

2. During the first planting season following the felling of the Ash tree (T2), plant 1x Sessile Oak (*Quercus petraea*) in a similar location to the felled tree. The replacement tree must have a minimum size specification of 6-8 cm girth classified as 'standard', in accordance with BS 3936:1992 – *Nursery Stock – Part 1: Specification for trees and shrubs*.

The planting and aftercare maintenance of this tree must be carried out in accordance with BS 8545:2014 - *Trees: from nursery to independence in the landscape – Recommendations*.

Alternatively, another size, species, location, or period should be agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority. If the replacement tree is diseased, dies, or is damaged within 10 years of the date of planting, it must be replaced in the next available planting season by another of a similar size and species.

Reason: To ensure the continuity of amenity in accordance with Policy N14 – Woodlands, Trees and Hedgerows of the Copeland Local Plan 2021-2039

ARBORICULTURAL REPORT

Summary Report for Copeland Borough Council

Prepared by Alistair Hearn

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>	T1	T2	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>	T1	T2
		5	3			4	1
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	3	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	1	1
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 3-Foreseeable threat to tree 2- Perceived threat to tree 1-Precautionary only		2	2	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>		16	10