

Delegated Report: TPO 100/2024 – 1 x Beech on land between Lima Barn and Lima Farm, Blaze Hill, Rainow, Macclesfield SK10 5BZ

Grid Reference: SJ 95018 77750

Purpose

Report on the expediency of placing a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) on a single Beech tree on land between Lima Barn and Lima Farm, Blaze hill, Rainow, Macclesfield SK10 5BZ. The site is a farmstead east of Bollington on a hillside that slopes southwards from Blaze Hill. It is not within a Conservation area.

Background

On Monday 2nd December 2024 the Authority received an enquiry as to whether a beech tree at Lima Farm/Barn was covered by any existing Tree Preservation Order. Such enquiries are received as a consequence of our mapping of the National Park's Tree Preservation Orders not yet being available for public search.

I viewed the tree on aerial imagery and via Google Streetview imagery. Above its lower stem, the tree is clearly visible from the road. There is a nearby group of trees, but the tree is not part of that group. The tree is in the area of a farmstead on an open hillside, and can be seen from a long distance away at various angles from the south and west.

A public footpath passes to the west and north of the tree, and the tree is very prominent from this path.

Having received this enquiry, I (Jon Coe) carried out a search of our planning records - as enquiries such as this can at times precede the felling of trees which would otherwise be significant constraints in planning applications.

From this search I established that a pre-application enquiry had been submitted in December 2018. This was for works to convert a listed barn (opposite the beech tree in question) into either holiday lets or permanent residences. The proposed plan submitted with that enquiry indicates two trees – the beech and a horse chestnut to the east. Between those two trees it indicates a proposed twin parking bay which would require substantial excavation into the banking. Measuring the distance between these two trees on Google aerial imagery, I found it to be approximately 22 metres.

The same enquiry included a planning statement in which there are photographs showing the stem of the beech tree in question. From those photographs the stem diameter appeared to be in excess of one metre. Assuming from aerial imagery that the

horse chestnut was also mature and of reasonable size, I formed the conclusion that these trees' root area constraints would be prohibitive to the proposed car parking arrangement. From this I conclude that there could be a foreseeable for removing one of these two trees. The beech tree is in closer proximity to the building, and likely to present other considerations in any future planning application. We have been asked whether a Tree Preservation Order applies to the beech tree - I therefore conclude that there is a foreseeable threat to it in the absence of one.

The Tree Conservation Officers conducted a TEMPO assessment (Forbes-Laird, 2009) in order to ascertain whether the tree merited a Tree Preservation Order.

Analysis

In addition to its size and visibility, the factors combining to make it suitable for TPO were its form and condition and its expected retention span. There is foreseeable threat to the tree, making it expedient to serve a Tree Preservation Order. In combination the numeric values arising from this assessment lead to a clear decision to make a Tree Preservation Order in order to protect its contribution to the character of the landscape and other significant amenity and benefits to the public.

Recommendation:

I recommend that TPO 100/2024 is made to in order to protect the contribution of Beech tree T1 to the character of the landscape and to protect its other significant amenity and benefits to the public.

Jon Coe

Tree Conservation Officer

There having been no objections, and the circumstances remaining the same, I authorise the confirmation of the Order.

Signed: *Anna Badcock*

Anna Badcock

Cultural Heritage Manager

Date: 22/1/25

References

Forbes-Laird, J. (2009). TEMPO: Tree Evaluation Method for Preservation Orders.
Forbes-Laird Arboricultural Consultancy.

Town and Country Planning Act 1990

Tree Preservation Orders: A guide to the Law and Good Practice 2006