

Appendix 3

Site: Land opposite, 1-5, Ashton Barns, Ashton Hall Estate, Lancaster
Proposed New TPO: Affecting a total of x4 mature sycamore trees

Assessment:

Lancaster City Council received local concerns that a number of mature trees opposite Ashton Barns were under threat from removal, following the recent removal of two similarly mature sycamore, established immediately adjacent to the remaining four trees.

The remaining four mature sycamore trees have been assessed for their suitability to be protected with a tree preservation order. All of the trees are growing on grassland opposite residential properties identified as nos. 1-5 Ashton Barns, established within the wider Ashton Hall Estate.

All of the trees offer important foraging and habitat opportunities for a potential range of wildlife, including protected species, such as nesting birds and bats. Both groups of wildlife are protected under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010. Care must be taken to ensure that protected species are not disturbed or harmed and in so doing avoid a criminal offence from occurring; if protected species are present, work must not start and further appropriate advice must be sought.

Trees must be assessed for the presence of protected species. Where there is evidence that bats, birds or other protected species are present, the statutory nature conservation organisation must to be consulted prior to commencement of any tree work operations.

Trees

For the purpose of this report the trees in question have been identified as T1-T4, sycamore.

Generally the trees are in good overall condition with long periods of useful remaining life potential. All of them are clearly visible landscape features which make an important contribution to the character and appearance of the site and wider estate.

The loss of any of these trees has the potential to adversely impact upon the character and appearance of the immediately site and wider estate.

T1 – T4 have been assessed using a Tree Evaluation Method for Preservation Orders (TEMPO). A score of 15 was achieved, meriting their protection with a tree preservation order.

Lancaster City Council intends to protect all four trees T1-T4 with a tree preservation order, as a precaution, to prevent their removal or inappropriate management without the owners' first obtaining written authorisation from the local authority.

T1 – T4 will be protected with Tree Preservation Order no. 615 (2017), in the interest of amenity and wildlife benefit.

It is a criminal offence to lop, top, fell, prune, uproot or otherwise damage the above or below ground structures of a tree subject of a TPO without first obtaining written authorisation from the local authority. Anyone found guilty of an offence in a Magistrates Court is liable to a maximum fine of £20,000.

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