

Email of 27 July 2020 from Steve Preston to RCC Planning

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to **OBJECT** to the Tree Preservation Order (A1 Land South Of Mill Lane Barrowden Rutland).

My principal reasons for objection are that :

a TPO is a generally inappropriate tool for woodland situations, and

in this particular case the protection of a short term commercial crop - cricket bat willow - is both unnecessary and undesirable

I am a resident of Barrowden having lived there since 2001. In all of my working life I have been closely involved with the management of National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. In the mid-1980s I dealt with Trees and Woodlands for the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, where I handled both TPO administration and woodland management issues.

It seems to me that in this case Government guidance is not being followed (my emphasis in **bold**) :

***The woodland category should not hinder beneficial woodland management.** Whether or not they make an Order, authorities can consider encouraging landowners to bring their woodlands into proper management under the grant schemes run by the [Forestry Commission](#). If a woodland subject to an Order is not brought into such a scheme, authorities can still encourage applications to manage the trees in ways that would benefit the woodland without making a serious impact on local amenity, for example by making a single application for [regularly repeated operations](#).*

Paragraph: 028 Reference ID: 36-028-20140306

What about applications relating to woodland?

*An authority dealing with an application relating to woodland **must grant consent so far as accords with good forestry practice unless it is satisfied that the granting of consent would fail to secure the maintenance of the special character of the woodland or the woodland character of the area.** The [UK Forestry Standard](#) and its supporting guidelines define the government's standards and requirements.*

Paragraph: 092 Reference ID: 36-092-20140306

from <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/tree-preservation-orders-and-trees-in-conservation-areas>

The woodland in question is covered by an agreed Woodland Management Plan and in addition any felling (and replacement) is regulated by a Felling Licence which is administered by the Forestry Commission.

The woodland also falls within a Conservation Area allowing the local authority to consider proposed tree works.

The management details of the application (2020/0559/CAT | Fell 32 No. cricket bat willow)

“fell and extract these commercially grown crop trees as they have reached maturity and are starting to wind blow. Trees are to be replaced via a combination of natural regeneration of willow species (65%) and enrichment planting of woody shrubs (35%) at a rate of 400 stems per ha, in accord with restocking details set out in the Woodland Management Plan.”

seem to me to be ample to conserve the amenity of the site and demonstrate “*good forestry practice*”.

In summary :

Given the amenity value of the area I would suggest that its improvement is best achieved via the woodland management plan, and not via the TPO route which is a wholly disproportionate mechanism in this case involving a commercial crop, adding unnecessary bureaucracy to an already well-regulated system.

Yours faithfully,

Stephen Preston

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