

King, Andrew

From: Sarah Mason <SarahMason@ios-wildlifetrust.org.uk>
Sent: 06 February 2017 15:42
To: Planning
Subject: Planning Application Representation; P/17/003

Dear Lisa

Further to the application for tree works at Holy Vale, the Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust has the following comments:

The report doesn't fully recognise the local, cultural importance and national significance of the elm trees. Historically elms would have been pollarded and future management should re-instate as much pollarding as possible, rather than just 1/3rd.

Crown lifting should only take place if access is an issue, for the aesthetics of the tree form, or for nature conservation purposes – it serves only to increase light transmission to areas closer to the trunk – relevant really here only for lichens. Crown-lifting should be avoided on older, mature trees. Where it has to take place it should be restricted to the secondary branches on the primary branch, or a shortening of the primary branch i.e. should not be removed from the trunk. The report should identify which branches should be pruned back to the main trunk.

If 'sail' has been identified as a problem then crown *thinning* is a more appropriate technique and is regularly carried out on trees that produce large amounts of epicormic growth i.e. elm, lime etc

Pruning for elms is best carried out during October, November and December – unless the limbs pose a hazard, or it is to correct recent damage.

Pruning in spring through summer weakens the elms and poses a risk to bacterial, fungal or insectivorous vectors and late summer cuts increases the risk of vigorous epicormic re-growth.

Only the trees which provide habitat for lichen should be crown lifted and the ivy removed.

Work on trees with bat roosts in should be avoided unless a hazard in that tree has been identified.


Tree branches that have been identified as causing a 'mechanical stress' should be reduced in length (minimal work).

The trees at Holy Vale should be looked at in the national context of a unique resource (no Dutch Elm disease), evaluated and brought under pollarding management where appropriate and work should only be carried out in October, November and December.

If you would like any further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me

Kind regards
Sarah

Sarah Mason
Chief Executive
Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust
Office: 01720 422153 Mobile: 07899 908357



Last year our Ranger Team carried out habitat restoration work on just over 71 hectares of land, originally smothered with invasive Bracken (that's more than 85 football pitches).

They also kept over 63 miles of paths clear across the Islands (that's from Scilly to Lands End and back again, and a bit more!)

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