

# Council of the Isles of Scilly Delegated Planning Report Tree Works Notification

**Application Number:** P/22/013/TWA

**Received on:** 24 January 2022

**UPRN:** 000192002834

**Application Expiry date:** 8 March 2022

**Neighbour expiry date:** NONE CONSULTED

**Consultation expiry date:** N/A

**Site notice posted:** 31 January 2022

**Site notice expiry:** 21 February 2022

**Applicant:** Mr Rob Carrier  
**Site Address:** Higher Moors Nature Trail  
Porth Hellick  
St Mary's  
Isles Of Scilly

**Proposal:** To de-limb a large monterey pine tree back to the trunk which will be left at a height of 2-2.5m. The tree is causing damage to the boardwalk and path due to having a lack of root plate and will eventually fall.

**Application Type:** Tree Works Applications

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**Recommendation:** No Objections

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## Site Description and Proposed Development

The Higher Moors is a SSSI on the South East side of St Mary's running from Holy Vale inland through to Porth Hellick Beach. The Higher Moors Nature Trail runs the length of the SSSI and the large Monterey pine subject to this application is on the main trail path towards the south end just west of the pool and bird hide.

The tree is large and heavily weighted on one side. The applicant states that the condition and lack of the root plate means that the weight of the tree will eventually cause it to fall. The proposal is to de-limb the tree back to the trunk and reduce it in height to 2-2.5m. The trunk would then be left standing and cavities made to create a habitat for roosting bats, birds and invertebrates.

## Consultations and Publicity

The application has had a site notice on display for 21 days (31/01/2022 – 21/02/2022). The application appeared on the weekly list on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022.

Due to the nature of the proposal no external consultations are required.

## Representations from Residents:

Neighbouring properties written to directly: NONE

[0] letters of objection have been received

[0] letters of support have been received

## Constraints:

- AONB
- Conservation Area
- Heritage Coast
- SSSI – Higher Moors & Porth Hellick
- Archaeological Constraint Area – Higher Moors
- SM – Platform Cairn 195m North East of Salakee Farm
- SM – Two Entrance Graves 220m ENE of Salakee Farm

## Tree Assessment

| Tree Works Proposed | YES OR NO |
|---------------------|-----------|
| Tree Felling        | PARTIAL   |
| Tree Pruning        | NO        |

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Works required to reduce hazards            | YES |
| Works required for general tree maintenance | NO  |
| Multiple Trees                              | NO  |
| Single Tree                                 | YES |
| Native Trees                                | NO  |
| High Amenity Value                          | YES |

**Analysis:** The tree is protected by the Conservation Area designation which covers the entire Isles of Scilly. Prior to any person undertaking tree pruning or felling works they are required to serve Notice 211 on the Council, allowing 6 weeks notification of any tree works to be carried out. This allows sufficient time for the Local Planning Authority to assess the appropriateness of the works proposed and determine whether a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) is required, that would essentially permit the use of restrictive conditions on any works proposed. It also ensures that adequate (and qualified) justification is submitted to support the works, particularly in cases of tree removal, where the works are deemed to have harmful impact upon the amenity value they hold and any importance to the character of the conservation area.

The Higher Moors & Porth Hellick SSSI is an area of wetland and generally open with small areas of woodland and very few larger trees. The tree in question is considered to hold some amenity value in the wider conservation area as it is prominent when viewed from within the landscape walking through the trail. From a site visit and the photos provided it can be seen that the root plate is on the surface of the nature trail and is trampled on by users. The tree is leaning at a significant angle.

The species it is not a native tree species although it is suited to growing in such locations. The wider area is actively managed by the Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust in the best interests of the natural environment. There is a strip of woodland along the western edge of the pool next to the site which is being actively managed with the planting of native alder and willow.

Given that the trunk is proposed to be retained and modified to support the ecology and diversity of the area, it is considered that the wider character of the conservation area would not be harmed as a result of the works. The reduction in height is justified on the basis of potential danger to the public and the trees condition means that it would not be considered a good candidate for a TPO. It is therefore considered that the LPA raise no objection to the works to the tree as proposed. Whilst it holds good amenity value it is not considered to be in a condition that would justify the designation of a Tree Preservation Order. Additionally the wider area is being managed appropriately with native trees.

| Tree Preservation Order  | YES OR NO |
|--------------------------|-----------|
| Recommendation for a TPO | NO        |

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**Job Title:** Chief Planning Officer

**Signed:**

*Authorised Officer with Delegated Authority to determine Planning Applications*

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