

# Council of the Isles of Scilly

## Delegated Planning Report

### Tree Works Notification

**Application Number:** P/25/048/TWA

**Received on:** 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2025

**UPRN:** 000192000508

**Application Expiry date:** 13<sup>th</sup> June 2025

**Consultation expiry date:** 30<sup>th</sup> May 2025

**Site notice posted:** 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025

**Site notice expiry:** 30<sup>th</sup> May 2025

**Applicant:** Maureen Bayetto

**Site Address:** Trevean  
Higher Town  
St Martin's  
Isles of Scilly  
TR25 0QL

**Proposal:** Application to remove three Elm trees due to rotting, infestation and distress.

**Application Type:** Tree Works Applications

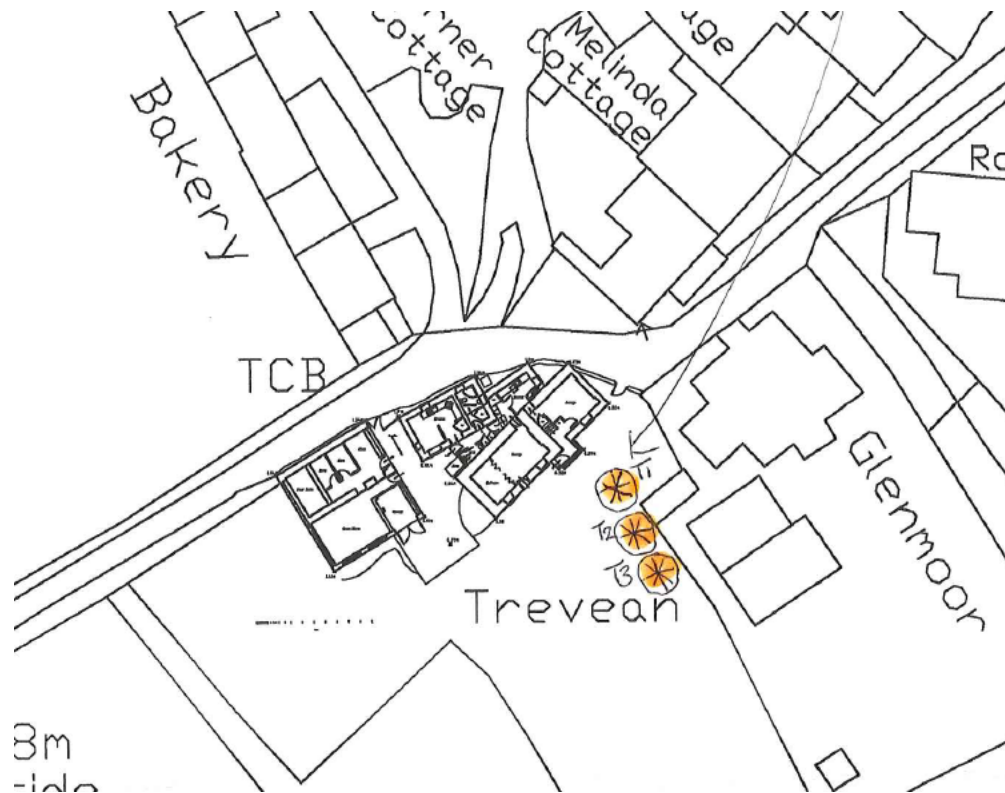
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**Recommendation:** PERMIT

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### Site Description and Proposed Development

Trevean is located in Higher Town, in the southern end of St Martin's. The northern side of the property borders a public highway. The trees in question are located on the eastern boundary of the property's garden, adjacent to Glenmoor.



The proposal is to remove the three Elm trees, shown on the map above, due to rotting, infestation and distress. The trees were previously the subject of application P/19/088/TWA, which approved a crown reduction of each tree by 30%.

### Consultations and Publicity

The application had a site notice on display for 21 days, Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025 to Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2025. The application appeared on the weekly list on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2025. Due to the nature of the proposal no external consultations are required.

### Representations from Residents:

No representations from residents were received.

### Constraints:

- Conservation Area
- Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- Heritage Coast

## Tree Assessment

Tree Works Proposed	YES OR NO
Tree Felling	Y
Tree Pruning	N
Works required to reduce hazards	Y
Works required for general tree maintenance	N
Multiple Trees	Y
Single Tree	N
Native Trees	Y
High Amenity Value	N

**Analysis:** The trees are 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.

Elm is a native, deciduous tree with oval, toothed leaves that have a rough, hairy surface, and its bark is grey-brown, rough, and fissured. It was once a dominant feature of the British landscape, growing to impressive heights of up to 30 meters and living for more than 100 years. On the UK mainland, their numbers have been significantly reduced due to Dutch elm disease, which has devastated elm populations since the 1960s. Today, mature English elms are rare, often surviving as hedgerow shrubs rather than large trees. The Isles of Scilly has not had any cases of Dutch elm disease yet and, in turn, this means that elms still have the potential to grow to full height on the islands.

Elms also play an important role in wildlife conservation, providing food for birds, small mammals, and caterpillars of various moth species, and research on specific lichens demonstrates that although they are in decline elsewhere in Britain, the mature elms on Scilly provide a habitat for the rare lichen species *Bacidia incompta* (elm lichen). Accordingly, the Local Plan states that development resulting in the loss or deterioration of veteran trees should not be permitted unless there are wholly exceptional reasons, together with suitable compensation. While the three elms in question are not judged to be veteran trees, the wider cultural, historical, landscape and nature conservation value of elms has been considered.


These considerations are balanced against safety, stewardship and amenity value. The amenity value of the trees is considered to be reasonable, in that they are visible within the public realm, but not high. This conclusion was also drawn on application P/19/088/TWA, which approved a crown reduction of each tree by 30%.

On safety and stewardship, the application states that the trees need to be felled because they are growing into the canopy of the mature, non-native, Macrocarpa and showing considerable distress. It goes on to state that the trunks are rotting at the old, damaged limb points. The application was accompanied by photo evidence showing a section of limb that is infested and notes this is not isolated.

It is considered, on balance, that permission to remove the three elms should be granted and that a Tree Preservation Order is not imposed. In coming to this conclusion, alternatives to felling were considered.

Tree Preservation Order	YES OR NO
Recommendation for a TPO	N

Case Officer		
<b>Print Name:</b>	Tom Anderton	02/06/2025
<b>Job Title:</b>	Trainee Planning Officer	

<b>Print Name:</b>	Lisa Walton	09/06/2025
<b>Job Title:</b>	Chief Planning Officer	
<b>Signed:</b>		
Authorised Officer with Delegated Authority to determine Planning Applications		