

# Council of the Isles of Scilly

## Delegated Planning Report

### Tree Works Notification

**Application Number:** P/25/073/TWA

**Received on:** 19 August 2025

**UPRN:** 000192002814

**Application Expiry date:** 1 October 2025

**Site notice posted:** 21 August 2025

**Site notice expiry:** 12 September 2025

**Applicant:** Holy Vale Partnership

**Site Address:** Holy Vale Barns

Holy Vale

St Mary's

Isles Of Scilly

**Proposal:** Application to remove two elm trees on the land to the north of Holy Vale Barns.

**Application Type:** Tree Works Applications

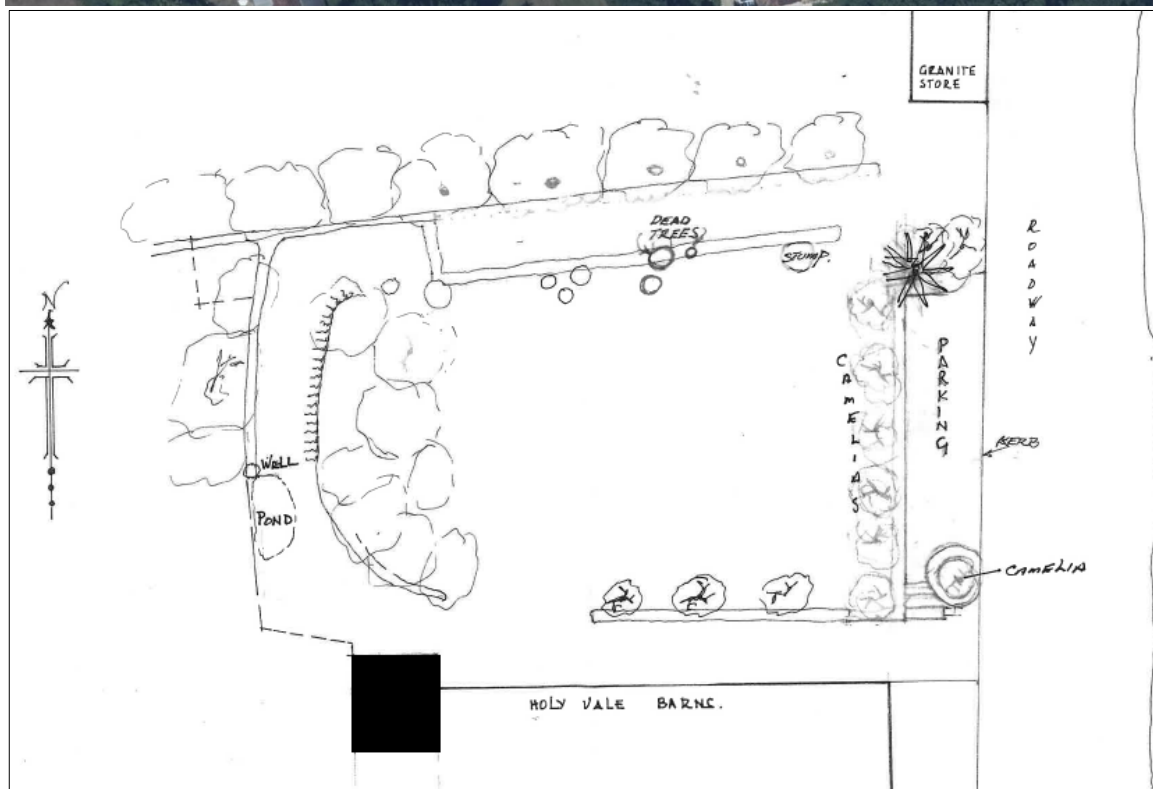
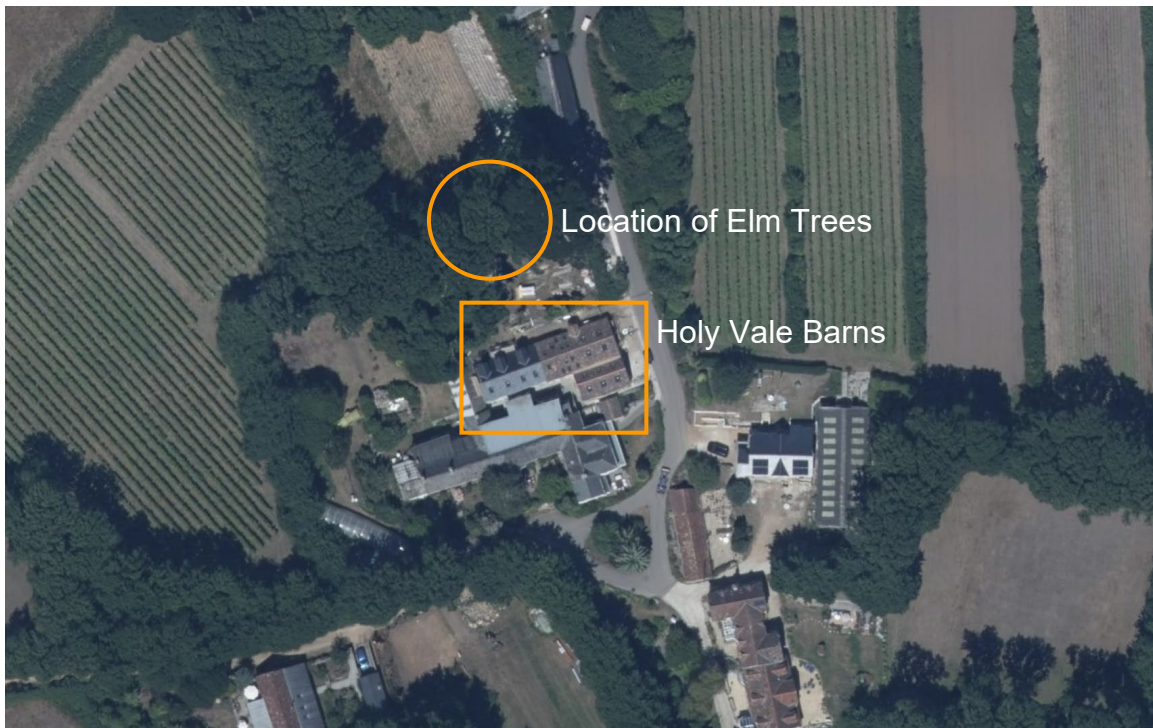
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**Recommendation:** PER

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### Site Description and Proposed Development

Holy Vale Barns are located in the settlement of Holy Vale on the island of St Mary's and the two 'dead' Elm trees that are proposed to be removed are located on the land to the north of the Barns, as shown on the plans below.





It is noted that the land on which the trees are located slopes down southwards and the agent has expressed his concern about the risk of damage to the Barns should they be uprooted or toppled by the wind. To demonstrate the poor condition of the trees the agent has provided [photographic evidence](#).



#### [Consultations and Publicity](#)

The application has had a site notice on display for 21 days (21/08/2025 – 12/09/2025). The application appeared on the weekly list on 26 August 2025. Due to the nature of the proposal no external consultations are required.

### Representations from Residents:

[0] letters of objection have been received.

[1] letters of support have been received.

A [single representation from a resident of Holy Vale Barns](#) was received on Thursday 21 August 2025, it stated: *I support this application, I watched these trees during storms over the winter and they clearly present a risk to existing properties.*

### Constraints:

- Conservation Area
- Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- Heritage Coast
- Archaeological Constraint Area (Holy Vale) within 50m

### Tree Assessment

Tree Works Proposed	YES OR NO
Tree Felling	Yes
Tree Pruning	No
Works required to reduce hazards	Yes
Works required for general tree maintenance	No
Multiple Trees	Yes (2)
Single Tree	No
Native Trees	Yes
High Amenity Value	No

**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 two elms in question are not judged to be veteran trees, the wider cultural, historical, landscape and nature conservation value of elms should be considered.

These considerations are balanced against the reasons the agent has put forward to remove the trees, namely their poor condition and potential to topple, and the neighbour representation, which noted the risk they pose to Holy Vale Barns. A site visit took place on Thursday 21 August 2025, and the trees were easily identifiable by the deadwood sections and volume of ivy on the trunks. As part of the site visit, an amenity evaluation (considering factors such as size, life expectancy, form, visibility, suitability and influence) was undertaken. Due to the condition of the trees this was concluded to be low.

It is considered, on balance, that permission to remove the two elms should be granted and that a Tree Preservation Order is not imposed. In coming to this conclusion, alternatives to felling were considered and the applicant is encouraged to consider planting a replacement tree.

Tree Preservation Order	YES OR NO
Recommendation for a TPO	No

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**Print Name:** Lisa Walton 30/09/2025

**Job Title:** Chief Planning Officer

**Signed:**



*Authorised Officer with Delegated Authority to determine Planning Applications*

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