

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

**Application Number:** P/25/084/TWA

**Received on:** 17 September 2025

**UPRN:** 000192001888

**Application Expiry date:** 29 October 2025

**Site notice posted:** 19 September 2025

**Site notice expiry:** 10 October 2025

**Applicant:** Rev. Elizabeth Burke (Church of England)

**Site Address:** Old Town Church  
Old Town Road  
Old Town  
St Mary's  
Isles Of Scilly

**Proposal:** To fell and remove 1 x Conifer (Leylandii)

**Application Type:** Tree Works Applications

---

**Recommendation:** PER

---

## Site Description and Proposed Development

Old Town Church is located at the western end of Old Town Bay on the island of St Mary's, and the proposal is to fell and remove a Conifer tree situated in the northern section of the graveyard, as shown on the map below.



The Conifer in question, thought to be *Cupressus Leylandii*, is said to be overgrowing the graves in its vicinity and to have significant deadwood. The proposed course of action is to remove the tree and, if practicable, make a feature out of the trunk afterwards.

### Consultations and Publicity

The application has had a site notice on display for 21 days (19/09/2025 – 10/10/2020). The application appeared on the weekly list on 22 September 2025. Due to the nature of the proposal no external consultations are required.

### Representations from Residents:

[0] letters of objection or support have been received.

### Constraints:

- Isles of Scilly National Landscape
- Conservation Area
- Heritage Coast

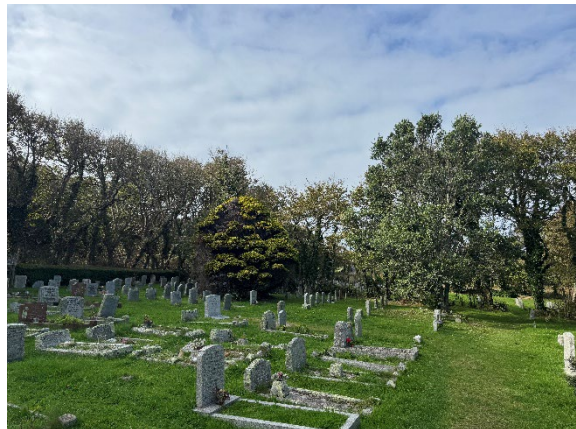
- Archaeological Constraint Area – Old Town Church within 30m.
- Listed Buildings – 4x Headstones Grade II within 100m.
- Listed Building – Old Town Church Grade II\* within 100m.

### 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	No
Single Tree	Yes
Native Trees	No
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.

A site visit to Old Town Church took place on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2025 and the Conifer, which is a fast-growing non-native species, was identified using the sketch plan provided. The overgrown nature of the tree and the sections of deadwood noted by the agent in the application form were immediately apparent, as shown by the photographs below.



After this initial assessment a full evaluation of the tree took place, and it was concluded to have reasonable amenity value. As part of the evaluation, it was observed that the tree is relatively prominent from within the eastern and northern sections of the graveyard and from the coastal path in front of the Church, but that views of it from beyond those aspects are limited as a result of the Elms surrounding the site.

It is considered, on balance, that permission to remove the Conifer 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

---

**Print Name:** Lisa Walton

29/10/2025

**Job Title:** Chief Planning Officer

**Signed:**



*Authorised Officer with Delegated Authority to determine Planning Applications*

---