

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

Application Number: P/25/104/TWA

Received on: 4 December 2025

UPRN: 000192001061

Application Expiry date: 15 January 2026

Site notice posted: 8 December 2025

Site notice expiry: 31 December 2025

Applicant: Mark Groves

Site Address:
Nowhere
Old Town Road
Old Town
St Mary's
Isles Of Scilly
TR21 0NH

Proposal: Application to pollard one elm tree located in the north west corner of Nowhere's front garden.

Application Type: Tree Works Applications

Recommendation: PERMIT

Site Description and Proposed Development

Nowhere is located in Old Town on the island of St Mary's. To the south of the property is Old Town Bay, while to the north is Old Town Road. To the west, stretching from its southern to its northern boundary, is the property's garden. The Elm tree in question is located in the northwest corner of the garden, adjacent to the boundary, as shown on the map below. The proposal is to pollard the tree.



Consultations and Publicity

The application has had a site notice on display for 21 days (08/12/2025 – 31/12/2025). The application appeared on the weekly list on 8th December 2025. Due to the nature of the proposal no external consultations were undertaken.

Representations from Residents:

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

Constraints:

- Conservation Area
- Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty / National Landscape
- Heritage Coast

Tree Assessment

| Tree Works Proposed | YES OR NO |
|---|-----------|
| Tree Felling | N |
| Tree Pruning | Y |
| Works required to reduce hazards | N |
| Works required for general tree maintenance | Y |
| Multiple Trees | N |
| Single Tree | Y |
| 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).

A site visit to the footpath adjacent to the property took place on Monday 8th December 2025. The tree was identified using the sketch plan provided by the applicant and an amenity evaluation (considering factors such as size, life expectancy, form, visibility, suitability and influence) was undertaken. This concluded that the tree holds good amenity value. As the tree in question is being retained, and the works should preserve it, the proposal is deemed acceptable, and it is not considered necessary to impose a Tree Preservation Order.

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

Print Name: Lisa Walton **15/01/2026**

Job Title: Chief Planning Officer

Signed:



Authorised Officer with Delegated Authority to determine Planning Applications
