

Council of the Isles of Scilly

Delegated Planning Report

Tree Works Notification

Application Number: P/25/108/TWA

Received on: 12 December 2025

UPRN: 000192002814

Application Expiry date: 23 January 2026

Site notice posted: 12 December 2025

Site notice expiry: 5 January 2026

Applicant: Peter Green

Site Address: Holy Vale Barns
Holy Vale
St Mary's
Isles Of Scilly

Proposal: Application to fell one elm tree and pollard three elms trees
on the land to the north of Holy Vale Barns.

Application Type: Tree Works Applications

Recommendation: PERMIT

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 four Elm trees in question are located on the land to the north of the Barns, as shown on the map below and sketch plan overleaf.

The proposal is to fell and remove the Elm tree closest to the Barns, which is stated to be in poor condition and posing a risk to the building, and to pollard three further Elms, which are located along the field boundary to prevent possible property damage through windblow.

All the trees are stated to be within falling distance of the Barns and it is noted that the land on which the trees are located slopes down southwards towards the Barns.

Permission was recently granted under [P/25/073/TWA](#) for the removal of two Elm trees also located on the land to the north of Holy Vale Barns.

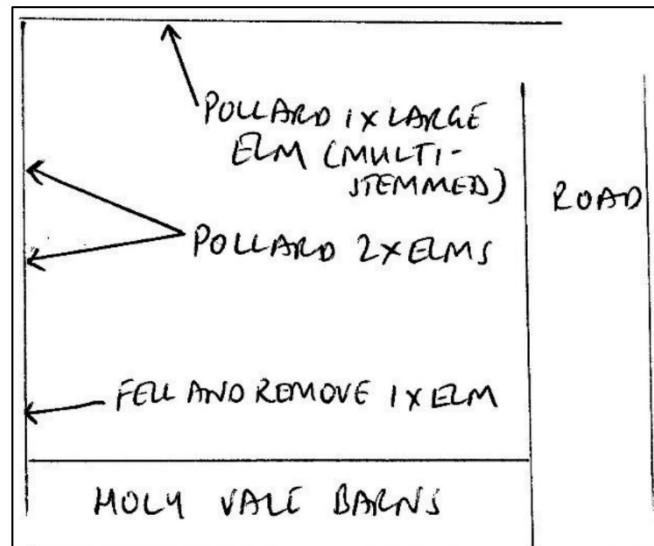




Fell and remove 1 x
poor condition Elm

Pollard 2 x Elms

Pollard large multi-
stemmed Elm



Consultations and Publicity

The application has had a site notice on display for 21 days (12/12/2025 – 05/01/2026). The application appeared on the weekly list on 15th December 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:

- 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	Y
Tree Pruning	Y
Works required to reduce hazards	Y
Works required for general tree maintenance	Y
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 incompita* (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 elm in question is not judged to be a veteran tree, the wider cultural, historical, landscape and nature conservation value of elms should be considered.

A site visit to Holy Vale took place on Friday 12th December 2025 and the four trees were easily identifiable via the sketch plan and annotated photographs. An amenity evaluation (considering factors such as size, life expectancy, form, visibility, suitability and influence) was undertaken, and the trees were considered to have good amenity value. The collective value of the Elms that form the western and northern field boundary was also noted and it is considered the any permission must be mindful of this. As the pollarding work should help to preserve the three boundary trees, and protect the building from damage, this aspect is considered acceptable, and a Tree Preservation Order is not required.

The removal of the Elm closest to the Barns requires further consideration. On the site visit, the poor condition of the tree compared to those within its proximity was notable, as was the tree's proximity to the Barns should it fall southwards down the slope. While it is always regrettable to lose a native tree, on balance, it is considered that permission to remove it should be granted given its condition and the risk it poses to the Barns, and that a Tree Preservation Order is not imposed.

The applicant is strongly encouraged to consider planting a replacement Elm tree.

Tree Preservation Order	YES OR NO
Recommendation for a TPO	No

Print Name: Lisa Walton 23/01/2026

Job Title: Chief Planning Officer

Signed:



Authorised Officer with Delegated Authority to determine Planning Applications
