

Proposed work to TPO trees: Tree Warden's comments

Ref. No: DC/20/4516/TPO

[Lime T2 - to remove two lowest branches, one over sailing club, one on opposite side to balance tree, smaller branches over sailing club, reduce by half, crown lift to first major fork, all to reduce overshading. Oak in W2 - remove two lowest branches and major deadwood, to reduce risk to path and hut users below. - Waldringfield Sailing Club Cliff Road Waldringfield Suffolk IP12 4QL](#)

Both of these trees are covered by TPO 163 Waldringfield River Deben Foreshore 2003 which includes the following statement:

Statement on the grounds for making the order by SCDC(extracts from TPO 163)

'The trees and woodland are remnants of the ancient estuary landscape of the River Deben. Several of the oak trees are of considerable historical importance as they are estimated to be in excess of 300 years of age. Their great age ensures they have significant conservation and ecological value. Lower canopy woodland and groups of trees further enhance the location as a habitat for wildlife. Species present include oak, elm, hawthorn, blackthorn, lime, cherry, birch, willow and elder.'

'The trees and woodlands are visible from the wider landscape including the opposite bank of the River Deben and public footpaths. They help accommodate the buildings and other uses into the landscape by providing significant screening. The trees and woodlands also enhance the character of the landscape for users of the beach, footpaths, huts, sailing club and estuary.'

'It is considered that the trees due to their visual, landscape, historical and ecological importance within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty merit the protection afforded by a Tree Preservation Order.'

'The serving of the Order has been prompted by a number of planning applications relating to the site and concerns expressed by Waldringfield Parish Council about a gradual but consistent loss of trees.'

I have considered this application in the light of the above.

Lime tree T2

This prominent tree I indentified as *Tilia x europaea*, or Common Lime. It has an elegant domed shape seen from a distance, as from the footpath leading from the Church down to the river. It appears to be the tallest most prominent tree.

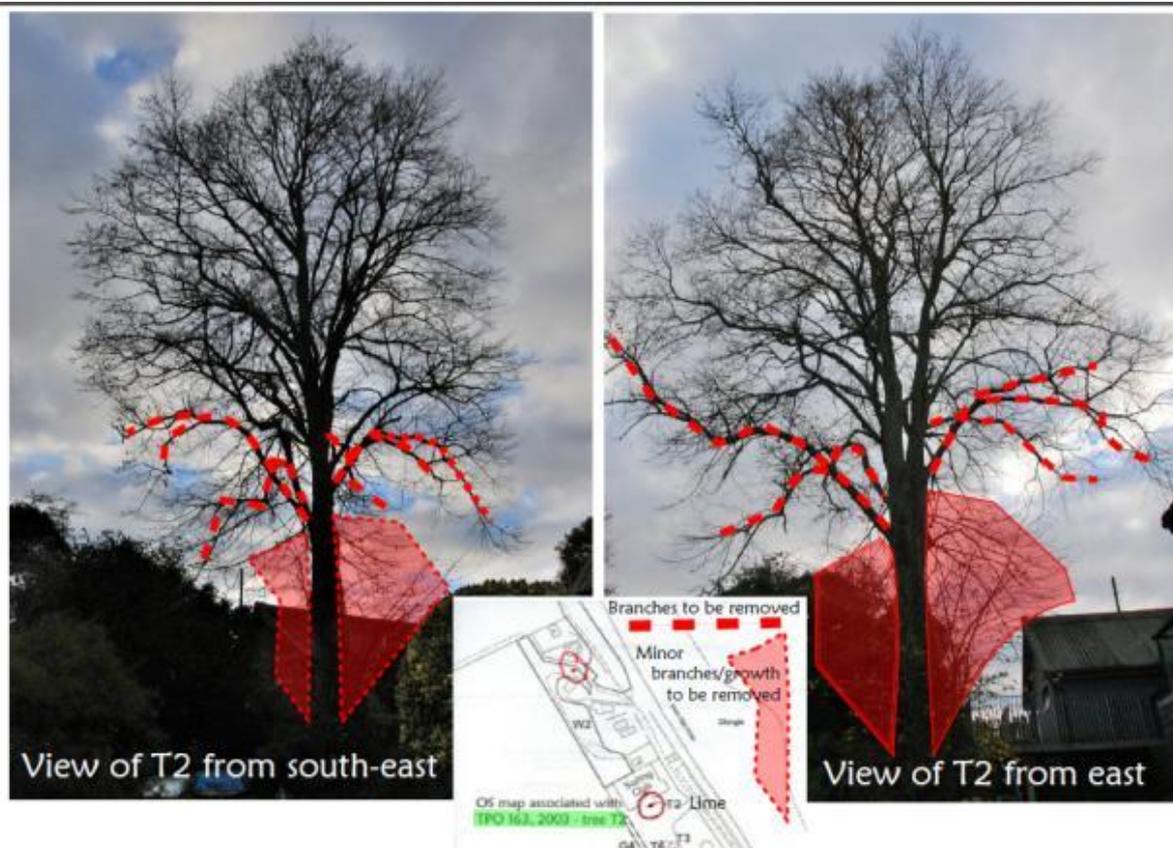
View 1 from footpath



As View 1 above, enlarged: view from the much used footpath towards the river

The Lime or Linden tree T2 is similar in shape to other domed trees seen here on the right of it. Lime trees often have sprouts from the trunk as this one does.

The proposal is to remove several lower branches and the reason given is 'to reduce overshadowing'. This presumably refers to shading of part of the grounds of the sailing club, ie a paved area leading from the front to the side and rear of the building.



Drawings from the applicant's submission for reference

I would make the following observation: The present domed shape of the tree will be spoilt by this operation. The long bare expanse of trunk which would be exposed as illustrated by the applicant above is a different form from other bushy trees along the shore which are all protected by the TPO. The proposal to make the tree more of a 'lollipop' shape is not sympathetic to the overall look of the landscape setting either from close up or from distant views as mentioned in the TPO Statement.

Shortening of the remaining branches is also proposed which would also be detrimental to the appearance of the tree and can lead to 'shaving brush' type growth from the branch ends..



My photo View 2 of the lime tree as it is now

Lime tree with lower branches removed –

edited photo showing the proposal as it would look if this work were carried out, as seen from the public footpath in front of the sailing club and along the top of the beach. Further shortening of branches is also proposed.

The result of this operation would be seen from the river, and from the far bank, as it is the most prominent tree, and also from the footpath from the Church (View 1 above) which is at present a splendid view of the river. It would spoil the total effect of the tree groups between the arable land and the shore.

I would strongly oppose the proposal as I believe it is detrimental to the tree and to the landscape.

In any case in hot summers some shading of outdoor spaces is often desirable.

If buildings are positioned close to large trees then some shading is an inevitable result.

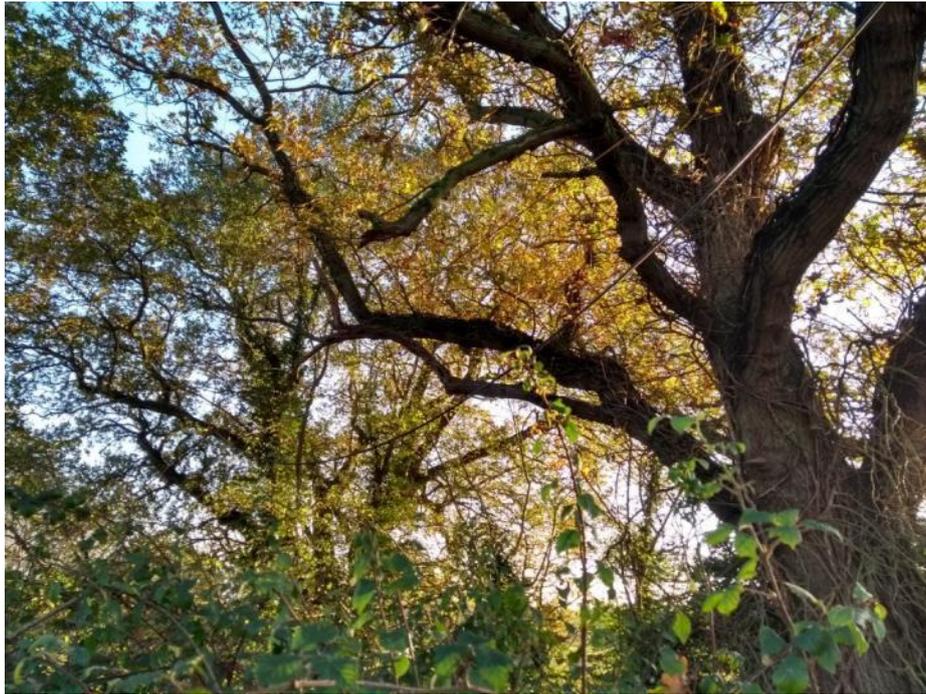
Oak tree part of woodland group W2



My photo (View 3) from the top of the steps with the foliage of the lower branches helping to screen the Sailing Club from view. Limbs A and C are dead . Limb B is healthy apart from a small amount of dead wood near the end of the branch.

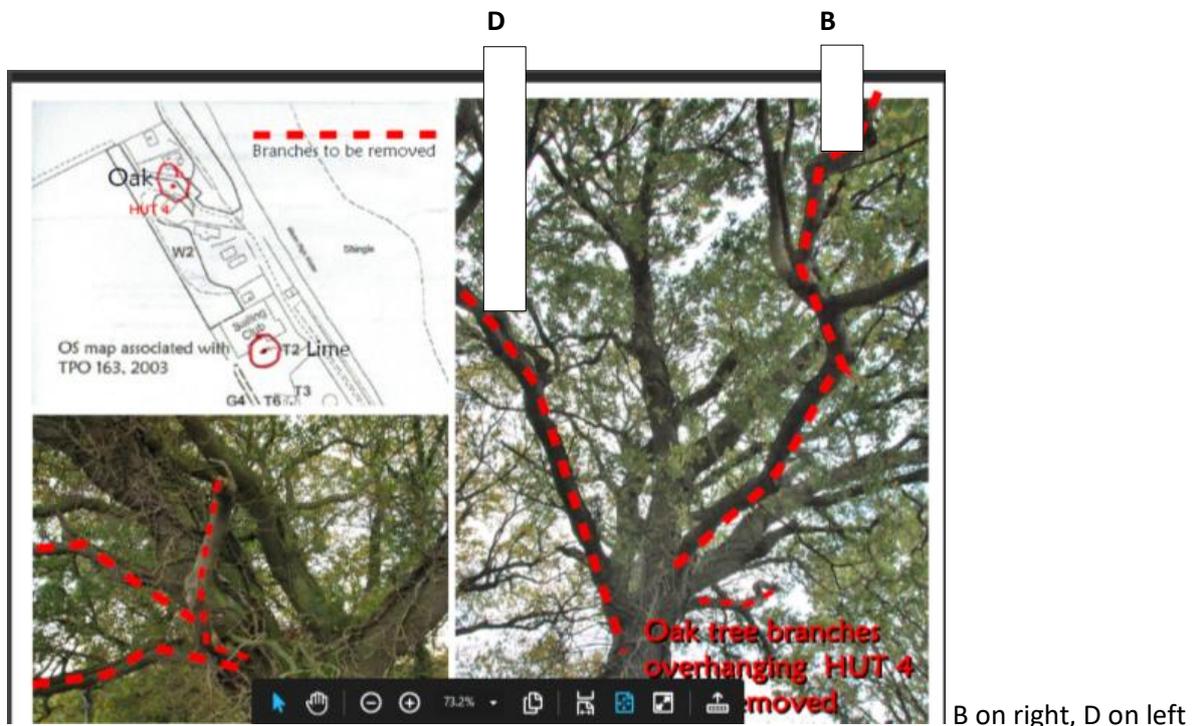
This old veteran pollard may be one of the 300 year old oaks mentioned in the SCDC description above. It grows at the top of the wooden steps which lead down to the beach, up and down which many families have climbed over the years.

The tree has some dead wood which might be removed . The branches which are healthy with foliage on them frame the view coming down the steps. The hut below with red roof is some distance from the farthest extremity of the branches and the other shed fitted into the bank more recently is also beyond the canopy. I would propose that only dead wood is removed . However it should be noted that older oak trees usually have some dead wood on them which is beneficial to wildlife such as woodpeckers and insects. In this case the larger dead branches have been shortened by being chopped off at right angles in the past which poor practice may have led to their subsequent death by allowing in pathogens .



View 4 of the oak tree from small gate half way up the steps.

The other limb proposed for removal, limb D is largely healthy but carries some dead wood on one of its side branches.



B on right, D on left

The applicants's submission. It is not altogether clear which branches are referred to. However having viewed the tree several times I think limb D is one which has a side branch off it with some minor dead wood at the end of it . I would submit that removal of dead wood is sufficient work on this venerable old tree.

The small amount of dead wood does not warrant removing largely healthy branches which frame the view with foliage, as one descends the steps.

This will be one of the older trees referred to in the TPO, here long before the steps or any of the huts.

Christine Fisher Kay, Tree warden, Waldringfield Parish Council 16th November 2020