DECISION

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No.

meeting date: THURSDAY, 26 NOVEMBER 2020

title: TREE PRESERVATION ORDER 7/19/3/217 LAND LYING TO THE SOUTH

SIDE OF RIBCHESTER ROAD

submitted by: NICOLA HOPKINS – DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING

principal author: ALEX SHUTT – COUNTRYSIDE OFFICER

PURPOSE

1.1 For Committee to consider objections to the Tree Preservation Order (TPO) relating to land lying to the south side of Ribchester Road, Clayton Le Dale and to decide whether the order should be confirmed.

- 1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities:
 - Community Objectives To protect and enhance the existing environmental quality of our area.
 - Corporate Priorities To comply with the adopted Core Strategy Environment Policy DME1: Protecting Trees and Woodlands,
 - Other Considerations None.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 On 29 September 2020 the Council's Countryside Officer received concerns about the potential removal of some trees within the Clayton le Dale area. A Tree Preservation Order (TPO) evaluation was requested to ascertain if the group of trees were worthy of protection (see Appendix A).
- 2.2 From initial assessments within the area there were only two trees that justified a TPO. The rest of the trees and vegetation although of habitat and bio-diversity value were of low amenity value due to historic pruning on the Sycamores and form of the rest of the vegetation.
- 2.3 It is understood that United Utilities (UUs) need to carry out some infrastructure improvement works to the Wilpshire waste water treatment works and they propose a 4m wide permanent access road which will necessitate some tree and vegetation removal (see Appendix B Location Plan).
- 2.4 A Tree Evaluation Method for a Tree Preservation Order [TEMPO] has been undertaken (see Appendix C) and based on the results and the threat of unnecessary felling of the two trees, a TPO was issued. (see Appendix D).
- 2.5 On 30 September 2020 a Tree Preservation Order was served and objections to the Preservation Order have been made by both the land owner and companies permitted access/right of way of the track (see Appendix E and F Objection letters). Email's and calls of support have been received from residents.

3 ISSUES

- 3.1 The trees are situated in a prominent position within the village and are considered to have visual amenity value to the locality and to the wider tree-scape. The area to the south of the protected trees have mature sycamore trees that have been historically pollarded to enable access of large farm vehicles. There are various low growing holly, hawthorn, oak, blackthorn and brambles which although hold low amenity value do have important habitat and bio-diversity value and act as a wildlife corridor.
- 3.2 Concerns were initially raised that the trees and vegetation would be cleared prior to the submission of an application. There was also concern that there is an alternative route along Ryden Road which would alleviate the need for the removal of the trees and vegetation. It is considered that the felling of this area will have a negative impact both for amenity and bio-diversity of the area
- 3.3 The Council has been advised that a planning application will be submitted for the works to Lancashire County Council with Ribble Valley Borough Council as a consultee. Any application should include a Tree Survey and Report BS:5837 2012 and Phase 1 Habitat Survey, would be required due to the presence of trees and potential European Protected Species utilising the site.
- 3.4 A Tree Preservation Order protects trees from lopping, topping and felling but does not preclude tree work being carried out.
- 3.5 It is understood that the application to LCC will include the removal of the trees to improve the waste water provision for the local area and for the safety of the highway users and pedestrians throughout the operational life of the site. It is also understood that United Utilities consider that the suggested alternative route via Ryden Road is non viable. It is expected that approval of the development would be conditioned by LCC to secure replacement planting and a landscaping scheme to mitigate and enhance the amenity value of the area. However, the development needs to be fully assessed by LCC when the application is submitted.

4 RISK ASSESSMENT

- 4.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications:
 - Resources Dealing with tree related issues form part of the Countryside Officers' duties.
 - Technical, Environmental and Legal Decisions made about trees have to balance protection of the environment against quantifiable risks posed by trees.
 - Political None.
 - Reputation The Council's environmental protection measures are being maintained.
 - Equality & Diversity None.

5 CONCLUSION

5.1 The trees have amenity value and the TPO was served to guarantee their protection. This TPO does not preclude a planning application being submitted or determined. The

concerns of the residents are noted which has led to the TPO being issued and if these trees are proposed to be felled as part of a development which has been granted planning permission the loss can be mitigated as part of the planning approval.

6. **RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE**

6.1 Confirm the Land Lying on the South side of Ribchester Road, Clayton-le-Dale, Tree Preservation Order 2020.

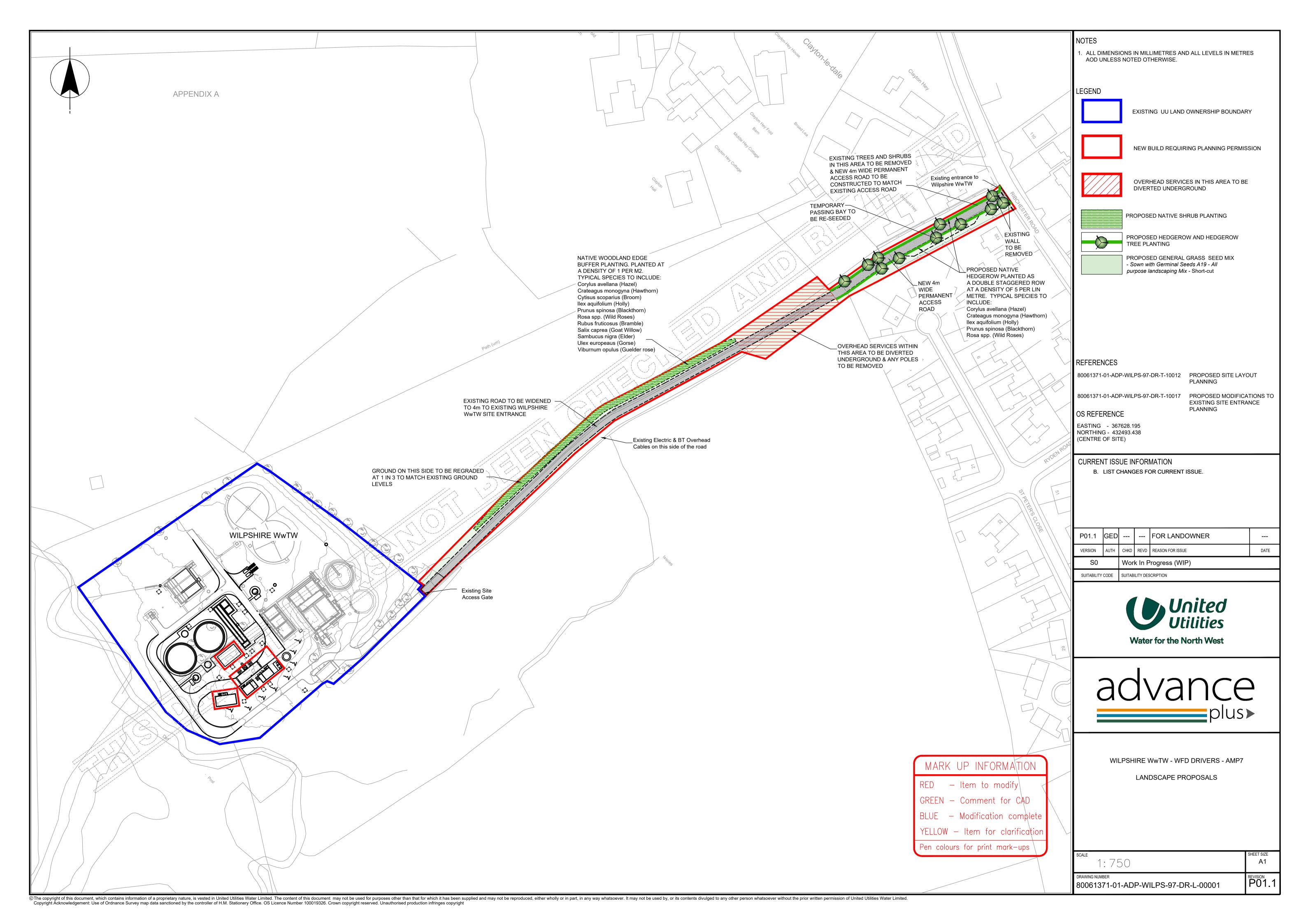
ALEX SHUTT
COUNTRYSIDE OFFICER

NICOLA HOPKINS DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING SERVICES

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Tree Preservation Orders and trees in conservation areas

For further information please ask for Alex Shutt, extension 4505.



Hello again Dave H, RVBC countryside officer p/t,

Since the below emails to 1st September as you'll recall, I emailed to you on 15th Sep with info that I had learned via phone call from United Utilities' Michael Tillery later on 27th Aug (in lieu of another project manager – Phil (Philip) Hedley, closely involved in the particular project who was currently on holiday) – and I included a photo (now re-attached) I had taken of some of the numerous trees from Ribchester Road (ie on the land adjacent to no.135 and east of the track by no.137 which leads to the UU 'Wilpshire' WwTW).

I am reliably informed that trees that have been on this strip of land for a period of 30-80 years; and removing the trees (incl'g mature ones) along with numerous hawthorn bushes would remove the habitat for a large community of diverse birds that nest in these trees and bushes.

The photo also shows part pf the frontage stone wall - which also would be at risk of early demolition if UU and/or their contactor Advance Plus pursue such route for proposed traffic & trailers for their intended construction scheme at the treatment works (subject to LCC planning consent application to be submitted, for this or for whatever other route option – eg Ryden Road which has no trees issues) .

I also included on 15th Sep to you the name & contact details of a UU 'customer co-ordinator' for the project - *Catherine (Cathy) Charnock* – 'Senior Third Party Co-ordinator – North' I had taken a phone call from her on Mon pm 7th September – and she followed that up with email later that afternoon - and then a further email from her Friday 11th Sep (with which was attached copy of a letter to residents which had been hand-delivered that afternoon presumably by UU personnel – giving notice that members of the UU team (actual 2 persons from contactor) would be in the local area in afternoon of Wed 16th to call at properties "to provide information on our plans and answer any queries..."

She asked that I do not give out her contact details into the public domain - but as Dave you are an officer of RVBC I attached to you both those emails from her.

After your voicemail Dave around midday Wed 16th Sep, I phoned you back shortly after. I understand that you had contacted UU's Cathy Charnock.

And I gathered that you believe that if planning consent was achieved by UU, possibly later in 2020 or early 2021, then in the case of related potential route, any Tree Preservation Orders obtained in the meantime via RVBC would be subject to over-ride. However, my understanding is that applying for and achieving TPOs should protect the trees from any wanton or deliberate unauthorised early removal.

Your voicemail to me yesterday morning, while I was tied up on other commitments (incl'g a virtual LCC mtg via Skype), indicated that you will be visiting the trees etc this week (presumably today Tuesday or tomorrow morning Wednesday as your half-week working is the 1st half of week (with Mr Alex Shutt working in same role for 2nd half of week); and that you will be liaising with RVBC Head of planning services John Macholc.

I did phone you back in pm but the person answering on 01200 414505 told me that you were not available until this morning. In the meantime yesterday a'noon I discusse further, while social distancing, with Mr & Mrs Conroy of bungalow – during which I gathered from Mrs M Conroy that she had contacted your colleague Alex Shutt - and he is also attending the location this week (on Friday 25th).

Alan S (CCllr – Ribble Valley SW)

TREE EVALUATION METHOD FOR PRESERVATION ORDERS (TEMPO) SURVEY DATA SHEET & DECISION

Date	e: 25/09/2020	Su	rveyor:	Alex Shutt				
TPC	e Details) Ref (if applicable): ner (if known):		Tree/G	roup No: Location:	Claytor	Species: i le Dale	Alder 8	& Ash
Par a)	Part 1: Amenity Assessment							
5) 3) 1) 0) 0) *Rela	Good Fair Poor Dead Dying/dangerous*	X Highly suita Suitable Unlikely to Unsuitable Unsuitable Unsuitable	be suitat			& Notes =		
b) 5) 4) 2) 1) 0) *Inclo	Retention Span (in 100+ 40-100 20-40 10-20 <10* udes trees which are an expital of other trees of bette	x years) & Suitabili Highly suita X Suitable Unlikely to Unsuitable Unsuitable xisting or near future nuis	i ty for TF able be suitat	PO Dole Dole	Score	& Notes = their context, or wi	hich are si	gnificantly negating the
c) Relative Public Visibility & Suitability for TPO 5) Very large trees with some visibility, or prominent large trees 4) Large trees, or medium trees clearly visible to the public 3) Medium trees, or large trees with limited view only 2) Young, small, or medium/large trees visible only with difficulty 1) Trees not visible to the public, regardless of size Highly suitable Score & Notes = X Suitable Barely suitable Probably unsuitable								
d) Other Factors 5) Principal components of arboricultural features, or veteran trees 4) Tree groups, or members of groups important for their cohesion 3) Trees with identifiable historic, commemorative or habitat importance 2) Trees of particularly good form, especially if rare or unusual 1) Trees with none of the above additional redeeming features Score & Notes = 2								
Part 2: Expediency Assessment								
5) Immediate threat to tree 3) Foreseeable threat to tree 2) Perceived threat to tree 1) Precautionary only								
Part 3: Decision								
Any 1-6 7-1	TPO indefe	ensible	ADD So	CORES FOR TO	OTAL	Decision TPO SER	VED	

12-15

16+

TPO defensible

Definitely merits TPO X

APPENDIX D

Form of Tree Preservation Order

Town and Country Planning Act 1990

The Land Lying on the South side of Ribchester Road, Clayton-le-Dale, Tree Preservation Order 2020

The Ribble Valley Borough Council, in exercise of the powers conferred on them by section 198 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 make the following Order—

Citation

1. This Order may be cited as Land Lying on the South side of Ribchester Road, Clayton-le-Dale, Tree Preservation Order 2020

Interpretation

- 2.— (1) In this Order "the authority" means the Ribble Valley Borough Council.
- (2) In this Order any reference to a numbered section is a reference to the section so numbered in the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and any reference to a numbered regulation is a reference to the regulation so numbered in the Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation) (England) Regulations 2012.

Effect

- **3.** (1) Subject to article 4, this Order takes effect provisionally on the date on which it is made.
- (2) Without prejudice to subsection (7) of section 198 (power to make tree preservation orders) or subsection (1) of section 200 (tree preservation orders: Forestry Commissioners) and, subject to the exceptions in regulation 14, no person shall—
 - (a) cut down, top, lop, uproot, wilfully damage, or wilfully destroy; or
 - (b) cause or permit the cutting down, topping, lopping, uprooting, wilful damage or wilful destruction of,

any tree specified in the Schedule to this Order except with the written consent of the authority in accordance with regulations 16 and 17, or of the Secretary of State in accordance with regulation 23, and, where such consent is given subject to conditions, in accordance with those conditions.

Application to trees to be planted pursuant to a condition

Signed on behalf of the Ribble Valley Borough Council

4. In relation to any tree identified in the first column of the Schedule by the letter "C", being a tree to be planted pursuant to a condition imposed under paragraph (a) of section 197 (planning permission to include appropriate provision for preservation and planting of trees), this Order takes effect as from the time when the tree is planted.

Dated this 1 day of October 2020

	0	,	3		
Ν	Irs Nicola Hopkins Director of Eco	nomic D	evelopment and	Planning Ser	vices
Α	uthorised by the Council to sign in	that be	half	_	

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[This Order was confirmed by	insert name of	Council] without	modification or	ո the [?] day	of
[insert month and year]					

OR
[This Order was confirmed by the [insert name of Council], subject to the modifications indicated by [state how indicated], on the [?] day of [insert month and year]
[Signed on behalf of the [insert name of Council]
Authorised by the Council to sign in that behalf]
[DECISION NOT TO CONFIRM ORDER
[A decision not to confirm this Order was taken by [insert name of Council] on the [?] day of [insert month and year]]
[Signed on behalf of the [insert name of Council]
Authorised by the Council to sign in that behalf]
[VARIATION OF ORDER
[This Order was varied by the [insert name of Council] on the [?] day of [insert month and year] by a variation order under reference number [insert reference number to the variation order] a copy of which is attached]
[Signed on behalf of the [insert name of Council]
Authorised by the Council to sign in that behalf]
[REVOCATION OF ORDER
[This Order was revoked by the [insert name of Council] on the [?] day of [insert month and
year]]
[Signed on behalf of the [insert name of Council]
Authorised by the Council to sign in that behalf]

SCHEDULE

Specification of trees

Trees specified individually

(encircled in black on the map)

Reference on map	Description	Situation
T1	Alder	[Opposite farm & United
		Utilities access track to the
T2	Ash	South of Ribchester Road]

Trees specified by reference to an area

(within a dotted black line on the map)

N/A

Groups of trees

(within a broken black line on the map)

N/A

Woodlands

(within a continuous black line on the map)

N/A



Objection to Temporary Tree Preservation Order 7/19/3/217

October 2020



Basis of Objection

Advance, working on behalf of United Utilities, are currently developing a major scheme of work for the upgrade of infrastructure at Wilpshire Wastewater Treatment Works (WwTW); to ensure the ongoing provision of wastewater treatment for the local population and to adhere with enhanced environmental standards for water quality. The existing WwTW is accessed solely by a stoned, single track road, which connects to Ribchester Road (B6245). The access track is currently very narrow and, at the access point, has an inadequate kerb radius and visibility to provide safe access and egress to Ribchester Road. As part of the upgrade of the treatment works it is intended to widen the access point to allow the safe passage of vehicles during construction and for the ongoing operation of the site.

The temporary Tree Preservation Order has been placed by Ribble Valley Borough Council (RVBC) on trees that will need to be removed to facilitate the widening of the access point to Ribchester Road. Without the upgrade of the access point, the viability of construction and the safety of highway users and pedestrians is severely compromised.

A planning application for the development is due for submission in early November 2020.

Existing Site

The existing site is a self-contained wastewater processing facility located approximately 800m south-west of the village of Wilpshire and is accessed via a narrow, single lane track off Ribchester Road to the north.

The extent of the site and access road are shown in the photo below:





Requirements for Development

The project forms part of United Utilities' Asset Management Plan (AMP7), which is a major programme of work to refurbish and upgrade assets across the North West region as agreed with the Environment Agency (EA) and the Office of Water Trading (OFWAT), to be implemented between 2020 and 2025.

The proposed development is part of a sub programme of upgrade works that is necessary to enable compliance with an enhanced treated wastewater discharge consent for phosphorous, as required by the Environment Agency, as well as to increase the treatment capacity of the WwTW to cater for the Local Authorities development plans predicted population growth in the catchment area by 2035.



The upgrade works comprise the installation of new treatment process plant and associated control buildings within the existing WwTW site, as well as refurbishment of some existing plant and equipment. The upgrade project will essentially modernise the treatment process within the WwTW, increasing the overall treatment capacity and ensure that the tighter effluent discharge consent for phosphorous can be achieved.

Details of the proposed scheme of works are show on plan ref. 80061371-01-ADP-WILPS-97-DR-T-10012-P02_CP — Proposed Site Layout.

Required Access

The existing access point to the WwTW from Ribchester Road is narrow and constrained and offers poor manoeuvrability and visibility for vehicles accessing the site. The existing access is shown in the photo below.



In developing the proposed scheme of works at Wilpshire WwTW, Advance have sought preapplication advice from Lancashire County Council (LCC) to ensure highway safety can be maintained throughout the proposed construction period and during the ongoing operation of the site. The response from LCC Highways (submitted in support of this objection) confirms that the existing access point is not suitable and an 'alternative configuration is required'.



On the basis of the advice received from LCC Highways, a reconfigured access point has been designed, as shown on plans ref. 80061371-01-ADP-WILPS-97-DR-T-10019-P01_CP Autotrack Site Entrance & 80061371-01-ADP-WILPS-97-DR-T-10020-P01_CP Visibility Splay.

The widening of the access point as proposed, necessary to achieve the levels of highway safety required by LCC Highways, would require the removal of both trees that are subject to the current temporary TPO.

Assessment of Alternatives

In developing the proposed scheme of works consideration was given to the use of Ryden Road, which currently provides access to a residential estate to the east. The route of the existing access track (red line) and that of the alternative route (blue line), utilising Ryden Road, are shown below:



The route along Ryden Road was discounted for the following reasons:

- The diversion of construction and operational traffic through a residential area would result in greater levels of disruption for local residents and raise questions of highway safety for pedestrians and road users.
- A new access road would need to be created from Ryden Road to the existing WwTW access road. This would result represent significant development of a virgin site



designated within the Ribble valley Local Plan as a Countryside Area within the Green Belt.

- The construction of the access road would result in significant levels of disruption to residents in Ryden Road and St Peters Close.
- United Utilities do not have any legal rights to use land to the south of Ryden Road for the provision of an access route as the land is under third party ownership.

On the basis of the above, the proposed widening of the existing access is considered the only viable option to allow works to proceed.

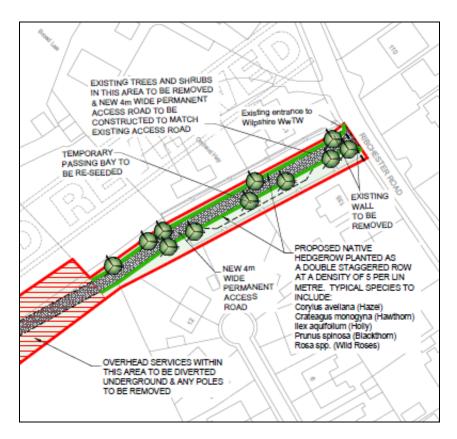
Proposed Landscaping

In making the temporary TPO, RVBC have raised concerns that the amenity value of the trees would be at risk from development pressures. Whilst it is acknowledged that the loss of the two trees would have some impact on the local amenity of residents and land users, a landscape scheme has been produced to ensure that the loss of trees is fully compensated and there would be an overall increase in tree planting upon completion of the works.

The draft landscape proposals are shown on plan ref. 80061371-01-ADP-WILPS-97-DR-L-00001-P01.1 Landscape Proposals. During the planning process for the wider scheme of work, the landscape proposals will be subject to review by RVBC and amendments can be made to their satisfaction to ensure that local amenity is maintained together with any ecological value.

The image below shows the draft proposals for replacement planting adjacent to the access road.





Overall, whilst there would be some loss of local amenity, this would be temporary in nature and an overall increase in amenity value would be achieved through the implementation of the landscape scheme.

Summary

Advance wish to object to the temporary TPOs placed on trees adjacent to Ribchester Road on the following grounds:

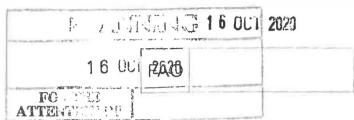
- The removal of the trees is required to facilitate the upgrade of Wilpshire WwTW to
 ensure the ongoing provision of wastewater treatment for the local population and to
 achieve water quality standards directed by the Environment Agency.
- The proposed access widening is required to ensure the safety of highway users and pedestrians both during the construction phase and throughout the operational life of the site.



- There is no viable alternative access route into the site.
- The amenity value afforded by the existing trees that would be lost to facilitate the
 widening of the site access would be restored and enhanced through the
 implementation of a landscape scheme that can be tailored to the satisfaction of RVBC
 and controlled through the planning process.

APPENDIX F







Dear Sir thank you for your letterdated 1/10/20

I wish to document my objection to the tree preservation order no /nos/7/193/217 placed on the trees on my land lying on the south side of Ribchesterrd Clayton-le-dale

- Firstly, a discussion had already taken place with Lancashire county council confirming that there was no TPO on the said trees. I am unsure why this has suddenly arisen.
- The track on which the trees are services My land, which the sewerage works that United Utilles Own. All of who need full and unobstructed access to their land. As time has passed farm machinery has become larger enabling crops to be removed more efficiently and economically requiring fewer trips on and off the access. It is now extremely difficult for us to safely negotiate the access.
- There is a public foot path on the track and for safety reasons the track would be better widened to accommodate walkers and dogs.
- A wider track would take the vehicles away from the domestic houses that run adjacent to the track and therefore reduce the impact on them.
- I have had notice that United Utilities wish to upgrade the sewerage works to accommodate the raise In housing and this being the only access is not going to be easily and safely achievable.
- Since I have taken ownership of the farm, I have embarked on a tree planting scheme in partnership with the woodland trust planting 1500 trees. I wish to continue working to enhance the natural environment on my land I understand the value of trees and hedgerow. I am willing to replace the said trees in a more suitable and permanent place on the farm
- It is points are very valid.

 It is points are very valid.
- I think it would become almost an impossible task to farm the land serviced by the track if it was not allowed to be upgraded.

Thank you for considering my objections,



Please address correspondence to the above address me

H Alex

Thank you for your email dated 11/11/20 timed at 14:41.

This communication is with regards to the TPO number 7/19/3/2020.

You have stated in past communications that you had received three objection to the TPO placed on two trees.

I wish to point out that there are only two objections, one from Advance plus, one from Mr. M Pearson

Attached to Mr. Pearson's objection is a letter dated the 30/06/2020 this letter is from Mr. E Dowson of Dowson dairies. The letter is dated 30/06/2020 which is three and a half months before the TPO was placed on the two trees. The date of registration of the TPO was the 01/10/2020. I respectfully request that you remove this letter from the list of objections.

I feel it so important that we get the preservation orders on the Alder and Ash moved from a temporary one to a permanent one. Attached are images that show all the greenery that depend on the continued existence of the Alder and the Ash. If we lost the protection of the TPO, all trees, I think there are twelve in total, amongst them are two oak trees, holly trees, Sycamore, Hawthorn, Elderberry trees, along with some berberis shrubs.

All will be destroyed. The forth image is of Mr Pearson's field it shows you all the long standing trees, shrubs and hedging that will be destroyed if we lose the TPO.

Positive points for the Alder Tree

It has a significant amenity value to the local community.

In spring it starts to awaken from the winter and shows new growth and each day more and more leaves unfold and carpet the tree in new green foliage

As we move on into summer the leaves take on a sail like appearance.

By now it is obvious how much the Alder offers support to the birds and a large number of insect that depend on its presence.

Birds that the Alder offer food to include the Siskin, Redpoll and the Goldfinch.

These birds along with others feed on the seeds produced by the Alder.

Some insects listed which depend on the Alder are.

Caterpillars of several months, including Alder Kitten, Pebble Hook Tip, and the Blue- border Carpet moth.

Catkins provide an early source of nectar and pollen for bees.

Now we move into the autumn period it is at this time we see the Alder show it's winter colours and give yet more pleasure to the people that pass by.

Just one or two more photographs of the croft that is the family name for the strip of land where the Alder and Ash are situated.

I wish for these photograph to be part of my comments about the TPO on these trees.

The objectors do have a solution that can be used, which would remove the threat to the trees in the croft

I would like you to accept my comments as support for placing the TPO 7/19/3217 on the Alder and Ash.







