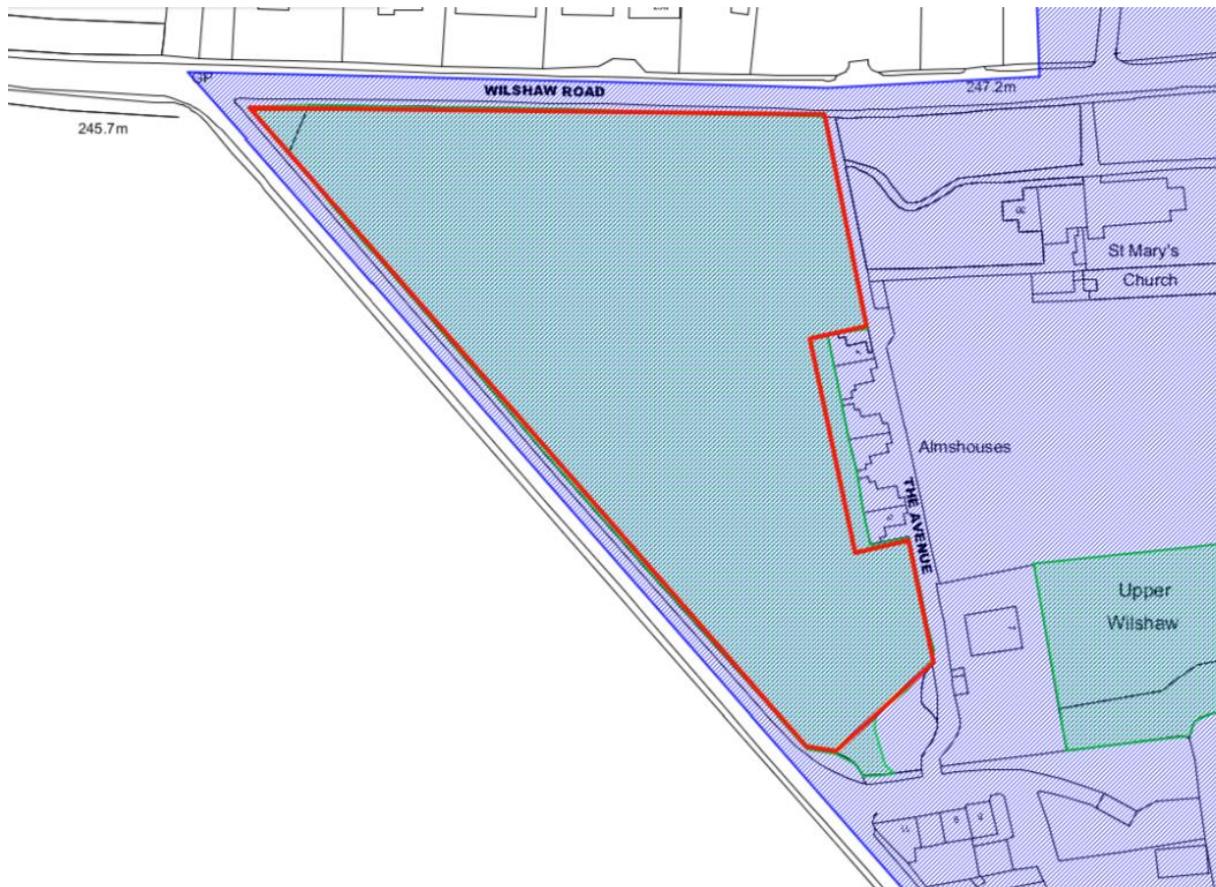


## LOCATION PLAN



- Approximate woodland boundary
- Conservation Area
- TPO

**Map not to scale – for identification purposes only**

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**Electoral Wards Affected:** Home Valley North

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### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Approval of a tree work application.

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION:**

1.1 Tree work application, Ref: 2018/92466 has been submitted which requests consent to carry out works within a woodland that is protected by a Tree Preservation Order and a local conservation area. Mr Walton, the applicant and land owner, is employed as an Arborist by Kirklees Council's Forestry section. Therefore, under the scheme of delegation, the matter can not be decided by officers. The decision must be considered by the relevant planning sub-committee.

## **2.0 SITE AND SURROUNDINGS:**

2.1 The site is an area of woodland, approximately one hectare in size, located between Wilshaw Road, Wilshaw Mill Road and properties on The Avenue, Wilshaw, Meltham. The woodland is located within the local conservation area and is subject to Woodland 11 of Tree Preservation Order (TPO) ME1/57.

2.2 The woodland TPO designation lists deciduous trees as species which it protects, therefore it covers deciduous trees of all ages but does not cover evergreens. The conservation area then offers protection to any other trees that have a stem diameter over 75mm when measured at 1.5m from the ground, regardless of species.

2.3 The woodland is a mixture of mature trees with patches of very dense Holly understory in places, with other areas where the understory is sparse. The woodland abuts, and overhangs, Wilshaw Road and Wilshaw Mill Road along its north and west boundaries. It then overhangs residential gardens and a foot path along its eastern boundary.

## **3.0 PROPOSAL:**

3.1 The application divides the woodland in to specific areas and requests consent to carry out multiple operations, some of which relate to trees which, because of their size and species (evergreen and below the 75mm size threshold), are not protected.

3.2 Works to trees protected only by the conservation area are as follows:

- Area A: remove 30% of Holly trees which are over 7cm in diameter.
- Area B: remove 50% of Holly trees which are over 7cm in diameter.
- Area C: remove 20% of Holly trees which are over 7cm in diameter.
- Area D: remove 10% of Holly trees which are over 7cm in diameter.

The objective is to leave specimen Holly trees and space for natural regeneration of deciduous trees and Yew trees.

3.3 Works to trees protected by the TPO are as follows:

- As required, remove lower branches to give 5.2m clearance over the highway for vehicles and 2.2m clearance over the highway for pedestrians.
- As a result of a legal condition attached to the sale of the woodland, a new boundary fence must be erected. To facilitate this, trees along the proposed fence line require lower branches removing to give 2.4m ground clearance. Along with this, some selected small deciduous saplings, under 7cm diameter, will need to be felled. Although it is the intention to work around trees where possible.

3.4 All work is to improve the woodland by thinning out dense patches of Holly trees to improve diversity and wildlife value. In addition the work is to maintain roadside trees for statutory clearances and facilitate the required boundary fence.

3.5 A copy of the application along with the plan, schedule of works and photos which supported the application, are included in the supporting papers.

#### **4.0 RELEVANT PLANNING HISTORY (including enforcement history):**

4.1 N/A

#### **5.0 HISTORY OF NEGOTIATIONS (including revisions to the scheme):**

5.1 N/A

#### **6.0 PLANNING POLICY:**

6.1 N/A

#### **7.0 PUBLIC/LOCAL RESPONSE:**

7.1 No comments have been received.

#### **8.0 CONSULTATION RESPONSES:**

8.1 N/A

#### **9.0 MAIN ISSUES**

9.1 Consideration is to be given to the possible impacts on landscape value and the level of public amenity provided by the woodland, something the TPO seeks to protect. In addition consideration needs to be given to the possible impact on the character of the conservation area.

## **10.0 APPRAISAL**

- 10.1 On appraisal of the application, Officers believe that the works are in line with good woodland management and routine maintenance of trees in relation to highways. It will improve safety for the road users and will aid more species diversification, along with better woodland structure over the long term.
- 10.2 There will be no significant visual impact as a result of the requested works. It will not have an adverse impact on the woodland as a landscape feature or on the public amenity that it provides. Neither will it have an adverse impact on the character of the conservation area.
- 10.3 Given that part of the aim of the works is to promote naturally regenerating trees that already exist within the wood, no replacement planting condition is proposed in this instances. Officers noted, during the site visit, that multiple new trees had already been recently planted in the areas where the understory is sparse.
- 10.4 In light of the small size of material proposed for felling, no felling license from the Forestry Commissions is required. Therefore, the matter can be dealt with by Kirklees under the tree work application process.

## **11.0 CONCLUSION**

- 11.1 The requested work is in line with Planning Practise Guidance, good forestry practises and the Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation)(England) Regulations, 2012

## **12.0 Officer Recommendations**

- 12.1 Officers recommend that the application be granted consent.

## **13.0 CONDITIONS**

- (1) That all tree work shall be carried out in accordance with British Standard 3998: 2010 *Tree Work- Recommendations*
- (2) That branchwood shall not be burned on site
- (3) That ALL tree operations outlined in this notice be carried out within ONE year of the date of this notice. If for any reason such works are not completed within this period a new application must be made to the Council

## **Background Papers:**

Supporting plan and photos.





