



Report to:

South Cambridgeshire District
Council Planning Committee

19th January 2022

Lead Officer:

Joint Director of Planning and Economic Development

Provisional TPO Woodland besides Bourn Brooke, situated South West of Westfield Farm, Comberton

Parish: Comberton and Little Eversden

Proposal: Serve a provisional Tree Preservation Order.

Recommendation: To agree to the serving of a provisional Tree Preservation Order

Date of Member site visit: n/a

Application brought to Committee because: It is required under the Council Scheme of Delegation.

Presenting officer: Jay Patel (Trees Assistant)

Executive Summary

1. The proposal is to serve a TPO on this woodland in the interest of amenity and due to its contribution to conservation and canopy cover. This request to TPO these trees came from a third party.
2. The trees can be seen at a distance from Comberton Bridge and along the road leading to the bridge. They can be seen much better from the public right of way nearby and an old railway track that runs past the woodland which although not a public right of way is used by local people in the area.

3. The woodland is on land owned by multiple owners and is located on the banks of Bourn Brooke within the boundary of Comberton and Little Eversden and consists of black poplar and other tree species.
4. Black poplars are one of Britain's rarest trees. This species is recognised in the Cambridgeshire Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP). This is not a statutory designation; however, it must be considered within the planning system. Having an extra layer of statutory tree protection would ensure the trees are retained and appropriately managed, irrespective of who owns or manages them. This TPO would also be supportive of the South Cambridgeshire Policy of Doubling Nature.
5. The Bourn Brooke is undesignated; but is home to an abundance of water vole and otter. These are statutory protected species, and preserving their habitat is helpful to their continued presence
6. The site is within the range of the Eversden and Wimpole Woods Special Area of Conservation (SAC). This is an internationally important site designated for its maternity roosts of the rare barbastelle bat. Wooded river corridors are a prime hunting and commuting habitat for such species; and therefore, the protection of such a habitat could contribute to the conservation of a statutory protected species and Natura 2000 site on an international scale.
7. In accordance with the Council's Constitution, the request to serve a non-emergency provisional TPO comes before Planning Committee.

Relevant Law

8. Town and Country Planning Act 1990 Part VIII
Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation) (England) Regulations 2012
Planning Act 2008 Section 192
Localism Act 2011 Part 6

Consultation

9. The formal consultation stage occurs when the provisional Order is served.

Site and Surroundings

10. The woodland is located on the banks of Bourn Brooke within the Parish boundaries of Comberton and Little Eversden. The Brooke provides the natural boundary between these two Parishes.

Proposal

11. The proposal is to serve a provisional TPO on those with an interest in the land and invite those parties an opportunity to submit objections, comments, or representations. The responses will be considered and aid the decision to amend, confirm or not confirm the Order.
12. Should the decision be taken to confirm the Order, it will return to the Planning Committee to request that the Order be confirmed.
13. Once confirmed, no further action needs to be taken by the District Council. The Order takes effect from when the date the provisional TPO was issued.

Recommendation

14. The Tree Officer recommends that the Committee Approves the issuing of a non-emergency provisional TPO.

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