

Provisional Tree Preservation Order evaluation and report form

Introduction

Non-urgent TPO requests firstly must go through a validation stage to ensure all necessary information has been provided and that the tree(s) are eligible for consideration. Once this has been completed, the Council Officer will evaluate the tree(s) requested for a TPO by visiting the site and undertake a series of assessments set out within the *TREE EVALUATION METHOD FOR PRESERVATION ORDERS (TEMPO)* form, once this has been completed a summary report will be created to record the outcome.

If the evaluation supports the consideration of a TPO, it will be arranged to take the request to the Council's Planning Committee for approval to create a Provisional TPO

Notify interested parties: outcomes of evaluation process:

The Tree Officer will endeavour to update relevant persons, Parish Council, Cllrs as and when required.

Consideration of Urgency:

If the Tree Officer believes that the tree(s) are of significance and there is an imminent or perceived threat to the tree(s), the Tree Officer may move towards serving an (emergency) Provisional TPO by following the agreed process linked to the Scheme of Delegation.

Provisional TPO guidance

Once a Provisional TPO is served the tree(s) are under statutory protection for 6 months to allow for the Local Planning Authority to undertake further assessment and consideration if the tree(s) are suitable for a permanent TPO, also to consider representations from the landowner and interested parties.

Information collected during this time may be in the form of:

- Tree(s) condition
- Tree Species
- Location
- Historical
- Environmental
- Further site visits
- Engaging with the landowner
- Engaging with the Parish Council
- Seeking professional opinions from the LPAs Ecology, Landscape, and Conservation Officers

Following the Scheme of Delegation, within the 6-month period a TPO report will be created based on collated information and taken to the LPAs Planning Committee for support of the recommended outcome presented by the LPAs Tree Officer or/and Tree Officer Assistant. During this period, Senior Management of the LPAs planning department will be updated for approval before taking to Planning Committee.

The decided outcome will be managed, recorded, filed by the LPAs Tree Planning Team which will include further land checks and legal documents associated to a TPO assisted by the Technical Support Team. All interested parties will be updated.

Site visit: tree identification & evaluation

Provisional TPO title: Hall Close, Foxton Oak tree


Reference: ZGHDTZHV

Site: Hall Close, Foxton

Case information

Foxton Parish Council have requested for one mature Oak tree to be considered for a TPO located on the south verge of Hall Close, adjacent to 57 Station Rd. reasons for the TPO request extracted from the TPO application form: *Correct maintenance of the due to its age and potential root damage due to development. The oak trees is considered to be part of local history or lore, it is also mentioned that this is the only ancient Oak tree within the Foxton development zone*

Images of the tree & description

Image	Image description
	taken east from the top of Hall Close near to the main junction to Station Rd.



Taken central to hall

Close

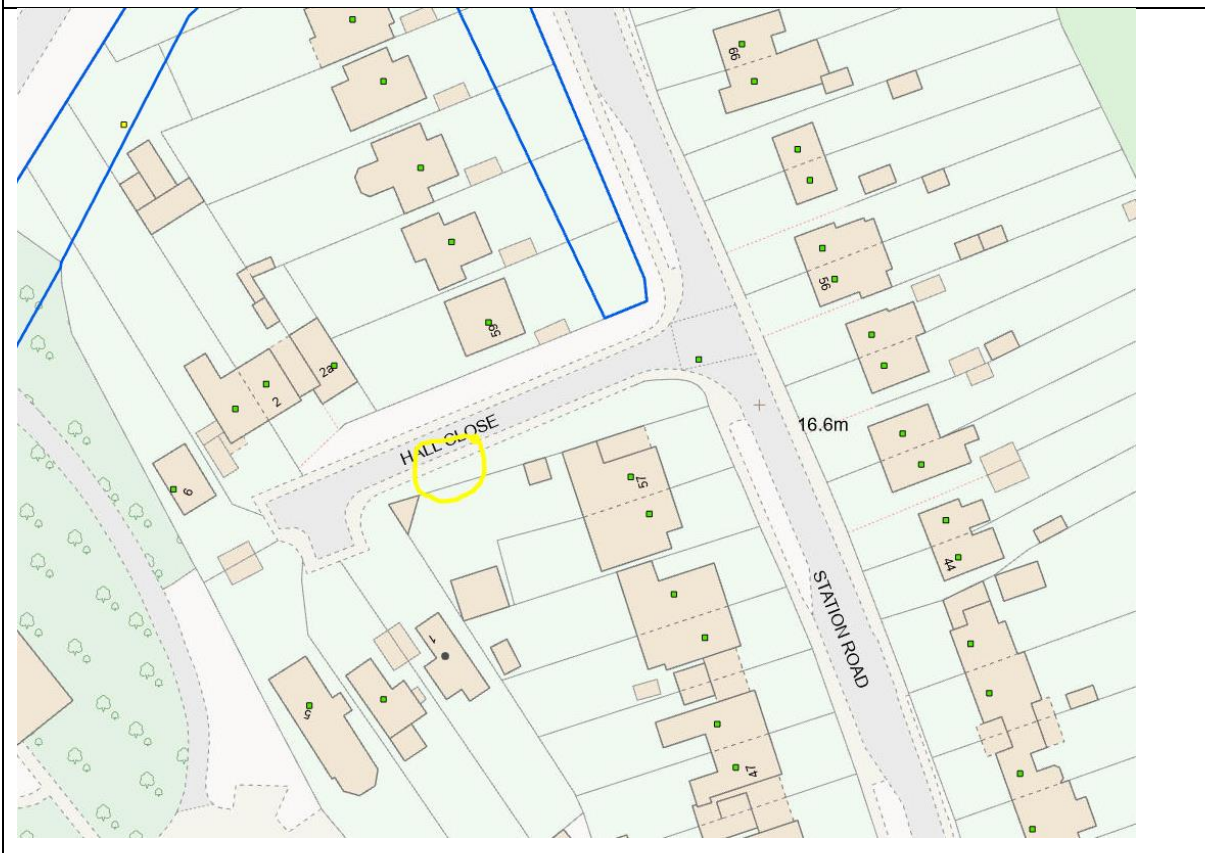


Taken west of Hall
Close looking back
towards the main
entrance from Station
Rd.



A close image of the
upper main trunk and
connecting main limb.
Possible cavity on the
main trunk and clear
observation of an old
wound.

Site map & tree location




Landownership checks and historical mapping

[View map: Ordnance Survey, Cambridgeshire LIII.SE \(includes: Fowlmere; Foxton; Melbourn; Meldreth; Shepreth.\) - Ordnance Survey Six-inch England and Wales, 1842-1952 \(nls.uk\)](#) the Oak tree appears to be shown on a 1886 survey



Land Register check suggests there are no records associated with the land, however, it may be managed by Cambridge Highways but this is not proven –

MapSearch 

Postcode Title number

Postcode

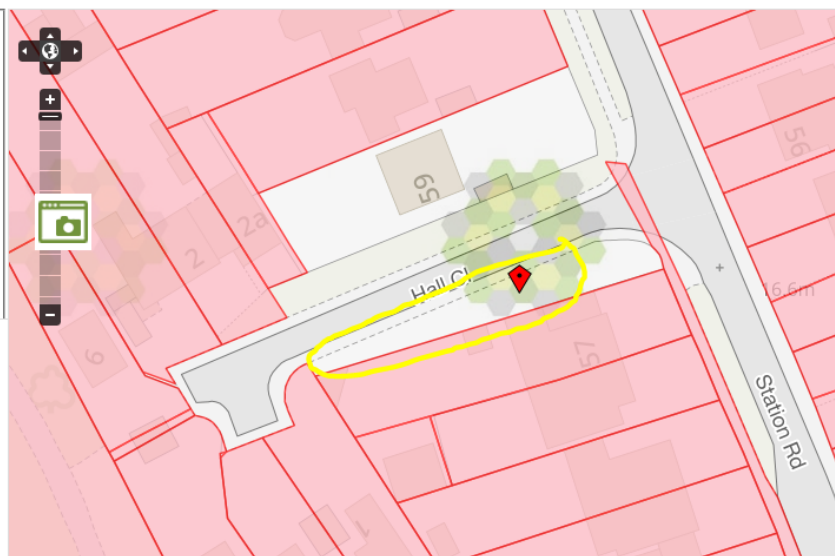
or

Street name only

FOXTON

Titles

Title number	Estate information	Address
No registrations found		



**South Cambridgeshire District Council (2022)
TREE EVALUATION METHOD FOR PRESERVATION ORDERS (TEMPO):**

**South Cambridgeshire District Council (2022)
TREE EVALUATION METHOD FOR PRESERVATION ORDERS (TEMPO):**

Refer to the guidance notes before starting.

SURVEY DATA SHEET & DECISION GUIDE

Date: 02/11/23 Surveyor: A. Sargeant	
Tree & Site details	
Tree Ref: 001	Owner (if known):
Tree/Group No: 01	Location: Hall Close, Foxton
Tree Species: Oak (<i>Quercus</i>)	

Part 1: Amenity assessment

a) Condition & suitability for TPO:

Refer to Guidance Note for definitions

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 5) Good | Highly suitable |
| 3) Fair | Suitable |
| 1) Poor | Unlikely to be suitable |
| 0) Dead/dying/dangerous* | Unsafe Unsuitable |

A) Score & Notes: 3- Fair.
The Oak tree is within its later stage of its life cycle, with obvious trunk and lower limb cavity and woundings.

** Relates to existing context and is intended to apply to severe irremediable defects only*

b) Remaining longevity (in years) & suitability for TPO:

Refer to 'Species Guide' section in Guidance Note

- | | |
|-----------|-----------------|
| 5) 100+ | highly suitable |
| 4) 40-100 | Very suitable |
| 2) 20-40 | Suitable |
| 1) 10-20 | Just suitable |
| 0) <10* | Unsuitable |

B) Score & Notes 4 – very suitable.
Given the species and general appearance, the tree has the potential to live beyond 40yrs

**Includes trees which are an existing or near future nuisance, including those clearly outgrowing their context, or which are significantly negating the potential of other trees of better quality*

c) Relative public visibility & suitability for TPO:

Consider realistic potential for future visibility with changed land use; refer to Guidance Note

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| 5) Very large trees, or large trees that are prominent landscape features | Highly suitable |
| 4) Large trees, or medium trees clearly visible to the public | Suitable |
| 3) Medium trees, or larger trees with limited view only | Just suitable |
| 2) Small trees, or larger trees visible only with difficulty | Unlikely to be suitable |
| 1) Young, v. small, or trees not visible to the public, regardless of size | Probably unsuitable |

C) Score & Notes. 5 – very large tree
Although the Oak tree is located within a residential dead-end road, it is prominent within the landscape and visible for the entrance junction from Station Rd.

d) Other factors

Trees must have accrued 7 or more points (with no zero score) to qualify

- 5) Principal components of arboricultural features, or veteran trees
- 4) Members of groups of trees that are important for their cohesion
- 3) Trees with significant historical or commemorative importance
- 2) Trees of particularly good form, especially if rare or unusual
- 1) Trees with none of the above additional redeeming features

D) Score & Notes 3-
historical importance. The
Oak tree is considered to
be part of Foxton village
history considering its
age and size.

Part 2: Expediency assessment

Trees must have accrued 9 or more points to qualify; refer to Guidance Note

- 5) Known threat to tree inc.s,211
- 3) Foreseeable threat to tree
- 2) Perceived threat to tree
- 1) Precautionary only
- 0) Tree known to be an actionable nuisance

Score & Notes 1 precautionary only.
There is no knowing strong evidence to suggest
that the tree is under immediate threat.

Part 3: Decision guide

- Any 0 Do not apply TPO
- 1-6 TPO indefensible
- 7-11 Does not merit TPO
- 12-15 TPO defensible
- 16 + Definitely merits TPO

Add Scores for

Total:

16

Decision:

Definitely merits TPO

Part 4

Conclusions & Recommendations

The Oak tree within Hall Close, Foxton appears to have reasonable vitality given its density and vibrant crown for the time of year. The tree exhibits an entry to a possible cavity at the top of the main trunk and old woundwood scaring on the lower section of the limb growing over Hall Close. The overall crown is dominant encroaching over neighbouring land also across Hall Close road, the size of the crown and girth of the trunk suggest that the tree is of some age giving a grand presents when entering Hall Close.

The Oak tree is recorded on an 1886 OS map as an individual field tree but now a street, which demonstrates that the tree has historical connection to the village of Foxton. Furthermore, given the trees location and stature, it is of high amenity value contributing to the street and wider character of Foxton.

In consideration to the trees; species, age, also physiological condition there is an environmental importance associated to the tree possible supporting a wide variety of wildlife however no ecological survey has been undertaken to support this.

It is viewed by members of Foxton Parish Council who originally requested for the Oak tree to be TPO'd, and confirmed by SCDC Tree Officer through a series of assessments that the Oak tree is fundamental to the character of Hall Close, Foxton and a good example of its species and age.

In consideration of "what is the threat" to the Oak tree, there is no known immediate or perceived threat and therefore this is only a provisional TPO request.

I therefore recommend that the Oak tree is approved for a Provisional TPO through support by the Councils Planning Committee to give temporary protection for consideration for confirmation of a full Tree Preservation Order.

SCDC Planning Tree Officer

Appendices

- Making & confirming (Emergency) Provisional TPOs check list.
- Legislation guidelines
- Tree Evaluation Method for Provisional Orders (TEMPO)

Non-urgent TPO requests check list.

Parish/Ward:

Location:

Ref Number:

Preparation for serving an (Emergency) Provisional TPO		
0.5	Check for planning applications	
1	Create folder for TPO in: SharePoint – Arboriculture – TPO request	
2	Desktop Validation	
3	Update customer either way within reasonable timeframe	
4	Undertake site visit evaluation – TEMPO & photo	
5	Create summery report	
6	Update customer & consider: PC, Cllr, Ward Member	
7	Save to file: correspondence and summery report	
8	Arrange taking to Planning Committee for approval of Provisional TPO	
9	Create Provisional TPO	
10	6-months to determine	
11		

Representations / Objections		
12	28 days hiatus final date is _____	

Objections		
13	Seek manager's advice on how to deal with the objections. Previous cases have been to Planning Committee but there has been discussion that the meeting is usually too busy to deal with TPO objections and that there might be a sub-committee to discuss the matter of whether to confirm a TPO in the light of valid objections.	

No objections		
14	Confirm TPO: take back to Plannning Committee for approval	

Confirming TPOs		
15	Sign and date TPO	
16	Sign and date the notice of confirmation	
17	Post the notice of confirmation and covering letter to the tree owner by RECORDED DELIVERY.	
18	Create new folder on PC called 'Confirmation' inside the TPO folder you have already created.	
19	Scan the completed confirmed / signed TPO & map and the completed signed notice of confirmation	
20	File the documents in the physical file folder and put away.	

21	Update stakeholders with scanned copy of notice of confirmation. Note: There is no need to send physical copies of the confirmed TPO to tree owner / stakeholders; the confirmation notice is sufficient.	
----	--	--

Legislation guidelines

[Tree Preservation Orders and trees in conservation areas - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

Who makes Tree Preservation Orders and why?

Local planning authorities can make a [Tree Preservation Order](#) if it appears to them to be '[expedient in the interests of amenity to make provision for the preservation of trees or woodlands in their area](#)'.

Authorities can either initiate [this process](#) themselves or in response to a request made by any other party. When deciding whether an Order is appropriate, authorities are advised to take into consideration [what 'amenity' means in practice](#), what to take into account when assessing [amenity value](#), [what 'expedient' means in practice](#), [what trees can be protected](#) and [how they can be identified](#).

What might a local authority take into account when assessing amenity value?

When considering whether trees should be protected by an Order, authorities are advised to develop ways of assessing the amenity value of trees in a structured and consistent way, taking into account the following criteria:

Visibility

The extent to which the trees or woodlands can be seen by the public will inform the authority's assessment of whether the impact on the local environment is significant. The trees, or at least part of them, should normally be visible from a public place, such as a road or footpath, or accessible by the public.

Individual, collective and wider impact

Public visibility alone will not be sufficient to warrant an Order. The authority is advised to also assess the particular importance of an individual tree, of groups of trees or of woodlands by reference to its or their characteristics including:

- size and form;
- future potential as an amenity;
- rarity, cultural or historic value;
- contribution to, and relationship with, the landscape; and
- contribution to the character or appearance of a conservation area.

Other factors

Where relevant to an assessment of the amenity value of trees or woodlands, authorities may consider taking into account other factors, such as importance to nature conservation or response to climate change. These factors alone would not warrant making an Order.

What does 'amenity' mean in practice?

'Amenity' is not defined in law, so authorities need to exercise judgment when deciding whether it is within their powers to make an Order.

Orders should be used to protect selected trees and woodlands if their removal would have a significant negative impact on the local environment and its enjoyment by the public. Before authorities make or confirm an Order they should be able to show that protection would bring a reasonable degree of public benefit in the present or future.

What does 'expedient' mean in practice?

Although some trees or woodlands may merit protection on amenity grounds it may not be expedient to make them the subject of an Order. For example, it is unlikely to be necessary to make an Order in respect of trees which are under good arboricultural or silvicultural management.

It may be expedient to make an Order if the authority believes there is a risk of trees being felled, pruned or damaged in ways which would have a significant impact on the amenity of the area. But it is not necessary for there to be immediate risk for there to be a need to protect trees. In some cases the authority may believe that certain trees are at risk as a result of development pressures and may consider, where this is in the interests of amenity, that it is expedient to make an Order. Authorities can also consider other sources of risks to trees with significant amenity value. For example, changes in property ownership and intentions to fell trees are not always known in advance, so it may sometimes be appropriate to proactively make Orders as a precaution.

What trees can be protected?

An Order can be used to protect individual trees, trees within an area, groups of trees or whole woodlands. Protected trees can be of [any size or species](#).

Orders covering a woodland protect the trees and saplings of whatever size within the identified area, including those planted or growing naturally after the Order was made. This is because the purpose of the Order is to safeguard the woodland as a whole, which depends on regeneration or new planting.

Tree Evaluation Method for Preservation Orders

Prior to seeking consent to raise a Tree Preservation Order the Council's Planning Trees Officer and/or Tree Officer Assistant visits the site and completes a Tree Evaluation Method for Preservation Orders assessment (TEMPO).

The method, developed by an Registered Consultant of the Arboricultural Association, is a systematised assessment tool and has been widely used across the arboricultural profession since its introduction in 2009.

The TEMPO methodology is open, to a degree, to the interpretation and judgement of the assessor but invites consideration of amenity and expediency; each criterion is given a score of between 0 and 5 and there are guidance notes for the assessor to help provide a consistent level of assessment.

Following overview and guidance is from the original developer and author.

Overview

TEMPO is designed as a field guide to decision-making, and is presented on a single side of A4 as an easily completed pro forma. As such, it stands as a record that a systematic assessment has been undertaken.

TEMPO considers all of the relevant factors in the TPO decision-making chain. In this connection, it is helpful to revisit the wording of central government advice¹ :

'Although a tree may merit protection on amenity grounds it may not be expedient to make it the subject of a TPO'

From this, it becomes apparent that most existing methods are inadequate, seeking as they do solely to consider the tree rather than any known threats to its retention.

TEMPO corrects this omission by including an expediency assessment within the framework of the method.

Excluding the first section, which is simply the survey record and is thus self-explanatory, TEMPO is a three-part system:

- Part 1 is the Amenity Assessment
- Part 2 is the Expediency Assessment
- Part 3 is the Decision Guide

These parts are set out and function as follows:

Part 1: Amenity Assessment

This part of TEMPO is broken down into four sections, each of which are related to suitability for TPO:

- a) Condition
- b) Retention span
- c) Relative public visibility
- d) Other factors

The first three sections form an initial assessment, with trees that 'pass' this going on to the fourth section.

Looking at the sections in more detail:

A) Condition

This is expressed by five terms, which are defined as follows:

GOOD Trees that are generally free of defects, showing good health and likely to reach normal longevity and size for species, or they may have already done so.

FAIR Trees which have defects that are likely to adversely affect their prospects; their health is satisfactory, though intervention is likely to be required. It is not expected that such trees will reach their full age and size potential or, if they have already done so, their condition is likely to decline. However, they can be retained for the time being without disproportionate expenditure of resources or foreseeable risk of collapse

POOR Trees in obvious decline, or with significant structural defects requiring major intervention to allow their retention, though with the outcome of this uncertain. Health and/or structural integrity are significantly impaired, and are likely to deteriorate. Life expectancy is curtailed and retention is difficult

DEAD Tree with no indication of life

DYING/ DANGEROUS Trees showing very little signs of life or remaining vitality, or with severe, irremediable structural defects, including advanced decay and insecure roothold. Death or catastrophic structural failure likely in the immediate future, retention therefore impossible as something worthy of protection

The scores are weighted towards trees in good condition. It is accepted that trees in fair and poor condition should also get credit, though for the latter this is limited to only one point.

Dead, dying or dangerous trees should not be placed under a TPO, hence the zero score for these categories, due to exemptions within the primary legislation. A note on the pro forma emphasizes that 'dangerous' should only be selected in relation to the tree's existing context: a future danger arising, for example, as a result of development, would not apply. Thus, a tree can be in a state of collapse but not be dangerous due to the absence of targets at risk.

Where a group of trees is being assessed under this section, it is important to score the condition of those principle trees without which the group would lose its aerodynamic or visual cohesion. If the group cannot be 'split' in this way, then its average condition should be considered.

Each of the condition categories is related to TPO suitability.

B) Remaining longevity

The reason that this is included as a separate category to 'condition' is chiefly to mitigate the difficulty of justifying TPO protection for veteran trees.

For example, it is necessary to award a low score for trees in 'poor condition', though many veteran trees that could be so described might have several decades' potential retention span. This factor has been divided into ranges, which are designed to reflect two considerations:

- It has long been established good practice that trees incapable of retention for more than ten years are not worthy of a TPO (hence the zero score for this category); this also ties in with the U category criteria set out in Table 1 of BS5837:2012
- The further ahead one looks into the future, the more difficult it becomes to predict tree condition: hence the width of the bands increases over time Scores are weighted towards the two higher longevities (40-100 and 100+), which follow the two higher ranges given by Helliwell2 .

The Arboricultural Association (AA) publishes a guide³ to the life expectancy of common trees, which includes the following data:

300 years or more Yew 200-300 Common [pedunculate] oak, sweet chestnut, London plane, sycamore, limes
50-200 Cedar of Lebanon, Scots pine, hornbeam, beech, tulip tree, Norway maple
100-150 Common ash, Norway spruce, walnut, red oak, horse chestnut, field maple, monkey puzzle, mulberry, pear
70-100 Rowan, whitebeam, apple, wild cherry, Catalpa, Robinia, tree of heaven 50-70
Most poplars, willows, cherries, alders and birches

The above should be considered neither prescriptive nor exclusive, and it is certainly not comprehensive. However, it should assist with determining the overall lifespan of most trees, in light of their current age, health and context as found on inspection.

It is important to note that this assessment should be made based on the assumption that the tree or trees concerned will be maintained in accordance with good practice, and will not, for example, be subjected to construction damage or inappropriate pruning. This is because if the subject tree is 'successful' under TEMPO, it will shortly enjoy TPO protection (assuming that it doesn't already).

If a group of trees is being assessed, then the mean retention span of the feature as a whole should be evaluated. It would not be acceptable, for example, to score a group of mature birches based on the presence of a single young pedunculate oak.

A note on the pro forma identifies for inclusion in the less than ten years band trees which are assessed being an existing or near future nuisance, including those clearly outgrowing their context, or which are having an adverse effect on adjacent trees of better quality.

The nuisance element is introduced to cover situations where, for example, a Section 211 Notice has been received by the LPA for removal of a tree causing subsidence damage. In relation to outgrowing context, some common sense is needed here: if the trees are being considered for TPO protection prior to development, and if it is apparent that demolition of existing structures will be a component of this process, then a tree should not be marked down simply because it is standing hard up against one of the existing structures.

As with condition, the chosen category is related to a summary of TPO suitability.

C) Relative public visibility

The first thing to note in this section is the prompt, which reminds the surveyor to consider the 'realistic potential for future visibility with changed land use'. This is designed to address the commonplace circumstance where trees that are currently difficult to see are located on sites for future development, with this likely to result in enhanced visibility.

The common situation of backland development is one such example. The categories each contain two considerations: size of tree and degree of visibility.

I (the author) have not attempted to be too prescriptive here, as TEMPO is supposed to function as a guide and not as a substitute for the surveyor's judgement. However, I have found that reference to the square metre crown size guide within the Helliwell System4 can be helpful in reaching a decision. Reference is made to 'young' trees: this is intended to refer to juvenile trees with a stem diameter less than 75mm at 1.5m above ground level.

The reasoning behind this is twofold: this size threshold mirrors that given for trees in Conservation Areas, and trees up to (and indeed beyond) this size may readily be replaced by new planting. In general, it is important to note that, when choosing the appropriate category, the assessment in each case should be based on the minimum criterion.

Whilst the scores are obviously weighted towards greater visibility, we take the view that it is reasonable to give some credit to trees that are not visible (and/or whose visibility is not expected to change: it is accepted that, in exceptional circumstances, such trees may justify TPO protection.

Where groups of trees are being assessed, the size category chosen should be one category higher than the size of the individual trees or the degree of visibility, whichever is the lesser. Thus a group of medium trees would rate four points (rather than three for individuals) if clearly visible, or three points (rather than two) if visible only with difficulty.

Once again, the categories relate to a summary of TPO suitability.

Sub-total 1 At this point, there is a pause within the decision-making process: as the prompt under 'other factors' states, trees only qualify for consideration within that section providing that they have accrued at least seven points. Additionally, they must not have collected any zero scores.

The total of seven has been arrived at by combining various possible outcomes from sections a-c.

The scores from the first three sections should be added together, before proceeding to section d, or to part 3 as appropriate (i.e. depending on the accrued score). Under the latter scenario, there are two possible outcomes:

- 'Any 0' equating to 'do not apply TPO'
- '1-6' equating to 'TPO indefensible'

D) Other factors

Assuming that the tree or group qualifies for consideration under this section, further points are available for four sets of criteria, however only one score should be applied per tree (or group):

- 'Principle components of arboricultural features, or veteran trees' – The latter is hopefully self-explanatory (if not, refer to Read 2000). The former is designed to refer to trees within parklands, avenues, collections, and formal screens, and may equally apply to individuals and groups
- 'Members of groups of trees that are important for their cohesion' – This should also be self-explanatory, though it is stressed that 'cohesion' may equally refer either to visual or to aerodynamic contribution. Included within this definition are informal screens. In all relevant cases, trees may be assessed either as individuals or as groups
- 'Trees with significant historical or commemorative importance' – The term 'significant' has been added to weed out trivia, but we would stress that significance may apply to even one person's perspective. For example, the author knows of one tree placed under a TPO for little other reason than it was planted to commemorate the life of the tree planter's dead child. Thus whilst it is likely that this category will be used infrequently, its inclusion is nevertheless important. Once again, individual or group assessment may apply
- 'Trees of particularly good form, especially if rare or unusual' – 'Good form' is designed to identify trees that are fine examples of their kind and should not be used unless this description can be justified. However, trees which do not merit this description should not, by implication, be assumed to have poor form (see below).

The wording of the second part of this has been kept deliberately vague: 'rare or unusual' may apply equally to the form of the tree or to its species. This recognises that certain trees may merit protection precisely because they have 'poor' form, where this gives the tree an interesting and perhaps unique character. Clearly, rare species merit additional points, hence the inclusion of this criterion.

As with the other categories in this section, either individual or group assessment may apply. With groups, however, it should be the case either that the group has a good overall form, or that the principle individuals are good examples of their species

Where none of the above apply, the tree still scores one point, in order to avoid a zero score disqualification (under part 3).

Sub-total 2

This completes the amenity assessment and, once again, there is a pause in the method: the scores should be added up to determine whether or not the tree (or group) has sufficient amenity to merit the expediency assessment.

The threshold for this is nine points, arrived at via a minimum qualification calculated simply from the seven-point threshold under sections a-c, plus at least two extra points under section d. Thus trees that only just scrape through to qualify for the 'other factor' score, need to genuinely improve in this section in order to rate an expediency assessment. This recognises two important functions of TPOs:

- TPOs can serve as a useful control on overall tree losses by securing and protecting replacement planting
- Where trees of minimal (though, it must be stressed, adequate) amenity are under threat, typically on development sites, it may be appropriate to protect them allowing the widest range of options for negotiated tree retention.

Part 2: Expediency assessment

This section is designed to award points based on three levels of identified threat to the trees concerned. Examples and notes for each category are:

- 'Immediate threat to tree' – for example, Tree Officer receives Conservation Area notification to fell
- 'Foreseeable threat to tree' – for example, planning department receives application for outline planning consent on the site where the tree stands
- 'Perceived threat to tree' – for example, survey identifies tree standing on a potential infill plot.

However, central government advice⁷ is clear that, even where there is no expedient reason to make a TPO, this is still an option. Accordingly, and in order to avoid a disqualifying zero score, 'precautionary only' still scores one point. This latter category might apply, rarely for example, to a garden tree under good management.

Clearly, other reasons apply that might prevent/usually obviate the need for the making of a TPO. However, it is not felt necessary to incorporate such considerations into the method, as it is chiefly intended for field use: these other considerations are most suitably addressed as part of a desk study.

As a final note on this point, it should be stressed that the method is not prescriptive except in relation to zero scores: TEMPO merely recommends a course of action. Thus a tree scoring, say, 15, and so 'definitely meriting' a TPO, might not be included for protection for reasons unconnected with its attributes.

Part 3: Decision Guide

This section is based on the accumulated scores derived in Parts 1 & 2, and identifies four outcomes, as follows:

- Any 0 Do not apply TPO Where a tree has attracted a zero score, there is a clearly identifiable reason not to protect it, and indeed to seek to do so is simply bad practice
- 1-6 TPO indefensible This covers trees that have failed to score enough points in sections 1a-c to qualify for an 'other factors' score under 1d. Such trees have little to offer their locality and should not be protected

- 7-10 Does not merit TPO This covers trees which have qualified for a 1d score, though they may not have qualified for Part 2. However, even if they have made it to Part 2, they have failed to pick up significant additional points. This would apply, for example, to a borderline tree in amenity terms that also lacked the protection imperative of a clear threat to its retention
- 11-14 Possibly merits TPO This applies to trees that have qualified under all sections, but have failed to do so convincingly. For these trees, the issue of applying a TPO is likely to devolve to other considerations, such as public pressure, resources and 'gut feeling'
- 15+ Definitely merits TPO Trees scoring 15 or more are those that have passed both the amenity and expediency assessments, where the application of a TPO is fully justified based on the field assessment exercise

Notation boxes

Throughout the method, notation space is provided to record relevant observations under each section. For local authorities using TEMPO, it may even be helpful to include a copy of the TEMPO assessment in with the TPO decision letter to relevant parties, as this will serve to underline the transparency of the decision-making process.