

Marcus Brooke Tree Services

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17th July 2020

Mr Mark Warwick

Tree Officer

Arun District Council

Maltravers Road

Littlehampton

BN17 5LF

Dear Mr Warwick

This is a letter to be submitted with a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) application on behalf on No.1 Grange Court, Aldwick. The owner, Mr Songhurst wishes to have some pruning work to be carried out to certain trees. The reason for the works is to improve light to the garden area as the trees have become imposing to it.

Some of these trees may be protected by a TPO and some of these may not. The trees at No.1 Grange Court include the Ash leaf maple at the front garden, two medium sized trees within the rear garden, an oak and a lime, and a line of trees within a woodland belt to the north of the property, behind a perimeter fence but within the southern section of a ditch line.

There is a confusion about which trees are protected by a tree preservation order and this has led to my involvement with this TPO application. Historically, Mr Songhurst has contacted the Arun DC on many occasions to establish which of the trees are protected by the TPO and which of the trees are not. Unfortunately, Mr Songhurst has not received a sufficient response from Arun DC to bring the matter to a close. We are hoping that on this occasion we may be more successful.

As I understand it, there are two Tree Preservation Orders that protect the trees at this site. The first is Area 1 of the Bognor No2 TPO (1958) that covers this property and a much wider area, it protects *all trees of whatever species*. This TPO was served in 1958.

The other is TPO/AW/197/10 and covers a **single magnolia tree** (T-225) within the front garden of No.1 Grange Court and a group of trees (G-142) either side of a ditch line to the north of No.1 Grange Court and to the south of Craigwell Lane. The TPO states that the group (G-142) contains **eight sycamore, two ash and three yew trees**. The TPO was served on 11th December 2013 and confirmed on 10th January 2014.

Mr Songhurst is responsible for the trees south of the middle of the ditch line and The Aldwick Grange Estate are responsible for the trees north of the middle of the ditch line.

The reason for the confusion about protected trees is that the tree within the front garden of No.1 Grange Court is **not** a magnolia, the tree in the same position as the magnolia drawn on the TPO map is an **Ash leaf maple or box elder (Acer negundo)**. In addition to this there is **one ash tree, two yew trees** and at least **12 sycamore trees** within the area marked G-142 on the TPO map. There is also a large Lime tree (Tilia spp), possibly the largest tree, adjacent to Craigwell Lane that has not been included within TPO/AW/197/10.

In addition, there are many elms, elder and cherry trees that grow within the understorey of the bigger trees within the woodland belt.

A magnolia and an ash leaf maple are two quite different trees in both summer and winter so the identification of the tree within the TPO is rather baffling. It is possible that one ash tree and one yew tree may have died since 2013 some seven years ago, leaving the one ash and two yew trees left at this time. However, it is also possible they may have been miscounted at the time the TPO was made.

The large lime tree may have been mis-identified as a sycamore, or completely overlooked, this is interesting as it is one of the largest trees and very visible, with high amenity value from Craigwell Lane.

There are two large, very visible sycamores upon the Craigwell Lane side of the ditch that have high public amenity, and this would leave six sycamores remaining that would be covered by the TPO south of the ditch. However, there are at least ten sycamores on the southern side of the ditch. One option would be to select the six best specimens of sycamore from the ten that presently exist. Some are much smaller, suppressed specimens than others and some trees have structural defects, although none of these are in a dangerous condition at this time.

It was kind of you to meet with me on 29th June to discuss the trees at this location. We have both agreed that T-225 is not a magnolia as per TPO TPO/AW/197/10 and it is an ash leaf maple, although the position on the TPO map is the same as the magnolia.

An area TPO protects any trees that were there when the TPO was made. In this case, any tree over 62 years old would be protected by Area 1 of the Bognor No2 TPO (1958). Some of the largest sycamores could be close to 62 years old and the large lime tree on the Aldwick Grange Estate side is certainly within that age bracket and therefore protected by this TPO.

I do not believe that the lime and oak tree within the rear garden of number 1 Grange Court are protected by TPO/AW/197/10 as they are not marked or mentioned within it, or by Area 1 of the Bognor No2 TPO (1958). Mr Songhurst planted the oak tree after he moved to the property many years after the Area TPO was made in 1958. The girth of both species of trees is not to the scale of trees that have an age of 62 years old. These two trees are within a cycle of crown reduction and this is proposed to continue in future years as good arboricultural management.

I have prepared a schedule of works for the trees within the same position as T-225 and G-142 of TPO/AW/197/10 and prepared a sketch plan of the trees that Mr Songhurst wishes to have pruned clearly marked. None of these trees are within the section maintained by The Aldwick Grange Estate.

The schedule of works has a protection status column. I have used information from our meeting and the current TPO to determine this, however, if I have misinterpreted anything from our discussion or made any errors, please let me know.

I hope this letter, the schedule of works, plan and a completed application form will allow Arun DC to make an informed decision in order to determine the application in this instance.

Mr Songhurst would appreciate a response from Arun District Council detailing the protection status of the trees upon his land to clarify any confusion.

Please contact me if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely

Marcus Brooke