

Mr & Mrs T Gabb
High Beeches
Clayhanger Tiverton
EX16 7NY

Arboricultural Officer
Mid Devon District Council
Phoenix House
Phoenix Lane
Tiverton
EX16 6PP

21st October 2022

Tree Preservation Order 4/14/02/TP4

Dear Sir/Madam,

We refer to the above TPO which concerns a group of trees situated in the garden of the above address. High Beeches is a detached property situated in the centre of the rural village of Clayhanger.

The TPO was placed on the trees on 2002 when planning permission was sought for the building of the house. Five trees were covered by the provisions of the TPO, all of which are still present in our garden. On the document in our possession none of the trees are individually numbered.

The largest of the trees, a beech, is situated at the northern end of the garden and is adjacent to the access drive of Nutcombe Manor, which is also a public footpath.

Last year, in the autumn, we noticed a small fruiting body of the fungus *Meripilus Giganteus* at the base of the stem on the south side of the tree. This year there are two additional fruiting bodies at the base of the tree, on the north side and the west side. All the fruiting bodies have increased in size since their appearance.

Additionally a fruiting body of the fungus *Ganoderma Applanatum* has appeared on the south side of the stem of the tree at the height of about 1m above ground level.

We attach photographs of the fungal fruiting bodies annotated as shown and the site plan in our possession.

As you will be aware *Meripilus* causes white/ soft rot affecting the roots of the tree. This can lead to brittle fracture and windthrow. *Ganoderma* also causes white rot in the stem base and roots, leading to ductile fracture. The extent of any decay to the tree roots is difficult to detect in the case of *Meripilus*.

The tree is of huge proportions and is over 20 metres tall. The distance from the base of the tree to our conservatory is 11.30 metres and to the house wall is 14 metres. The canopy of the tree and structural branches of the tree are considerably closer. As stated earlier, the tree is adjacent to the access drive of Nutcombe Manor. The tree is situated to the west side of our house and winter gales are predominately from the west. If the tree was to fall there would be significant danger to any persons in our house and any person or vehicle using Nutcombe access drive. Major damage would also occur to our property.

In view of the foregoing, we ask that the TPO be removed from one of the trees described in order that it may be removed completely. We do not consider any remedial work to the tree would be appropriate owing to its location and maturity.

Should you consider an inspection of the tree by council officers is necessary, we can be contacted on [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely,
Mr Terry and Mrs Janet Gabb