

Application to undertake works to trees subject to Tree Preservation Order

The owners of 507 Holcombe Road, Helmshore, Mr and Mrs Howard, have instructed Birtle Tree Services to undertake a condition survey of a number of trees that are located within the boundary of their property. The Local Planning Authority have confirmed that Tree Preservation Order Hollin Bank District T2/F/G4, T2/F/W2, T2/F/G5 are located within the boundary of the property. All of the TPOs are either Group or Woodland categories.

Appendix 1 provides the sketch plan of the location of the trees which have been numbered from T1 to T13 for ease of identification. Appendix 2 provides the location of the TPOs as provided by the Local Planning Authority.

The trees were surveyed on 3rd February 2024 and the weather was fine with good visibility. The trees were surveyed from ground level and no climbing was undertaken.

T1, T2, T3 and T4, which are all Horse Chestnuts and have an estimated height of 20m, are located approximately 10m from the residential property and are causing significant shade to the main living areas of the property requiring the almost constant use of internal electric lighting. The mature trees are in good condition. The recommendation is to remove a small number of scaffold branches which are either crossing or have a poor form and weak union. In order to increase natural light levels within the property, it is recommended that the four trees are crown lifted and thinned to a maximum of 30%.

T5 (Ash) is located in very close proximity to the north of the property, to the west of a garage and the public highway (Holcombe Road) beyond. It is unclear from the TPO map provided by the Local Planning Authority whether T5 is actually included within the TPO as it appears to be outside of both G5 and W1 however to prevent any possible infringement an application for T5 has been included. Evidence from the survey and also from photographs provided by Mr and Mrs Howard confirm that T5 has symptoms indicative of Ash Dieback (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*) indeed the images from summer 2023 show very little leaf cover. It is therefore recommended that T5 is section felled to ground level in order to mitigate the risk of damage to property and harm to people within the property and/or using the pathway and highway to the east of the tree and within the fell zone of the tree if it fails in that direction. There are a significant number of saplings within the woodland, most of which are beech (*Fagus*) and are thriving in the understorey of the canopies of the other trees within the woodland, which are sufficient as replacements for T5.

T6 to T13 are located on the eastern boundary of the property along the public pathway and highway (Holcombe Road). The trees are, in the main in good health and appear to be structurally sound, however in order to maintain sufficient vehicular clearance, crown lifting to create a 5m clearance is recommended for some of the trees together with the removal of a small number of scaffold branches which are either crossing or have poor form. The work is recommended to prevent damage to vehicles and to ensure good arboricultural management by preventing the trees being damaged by vehicles.

In addition removal of deadwood is recommended where it is present in all the trees and the ivy which is beginning to colonise some of the trees should be ring barked so that it will be prevented from further growth which may cause kiting in high winds.

Tree Reference, species and details	Specification of Work Requested	Reasons for work
<p>T1 Horse Chestnut <i>(Aesculus hippocastanum)</i></p>	<p>a. Crown thin 30% b. Ring bark ivy c. Remove deadwood from canopy</p>	<p>a. To increase natural light into residential property which will reduce the current need for internal artificial light b. Removal of ivy to prevent kiting in the future if the ivy is allowed to colonise the canopy c. Good arboricultural management</p>
<p>T2 Horse Chestnut <i>(Aesculus hippocastanum)</i></p>	<p>a. Crown lift lower branches that are overhanging the decking area and crown thin 30% b. Remove branch which is poorly formed c. Remove deadwood from canopy</p>	<p>a. To increase natural light into residential property which will reduce the current need for internal artificial light b. Good arboricultural management c. Good arboricultural management</p>
<p>T3 Horse Chestnut <i>(Aesculus hippocastanum)</i></p> <p><i>Note – Wound area to north of stem is callusing well and no evidence of decay</i></p>	<p>a. Crown lift lower branches that are overhanging the decking area and crown thin 30% b. Remove deadwood from canopy</p>	<p>a. To increase natural light into residential property which will reduce the current need for internal artificial light b. Good arboricultural management</p>
<p>T4 Horse Chestnut <i>(Aesculus hippocastanum)</i></p> <p><i>Note – small cavity at base of tree but no evidence of decay</i></p>	<p>a. Crown lift lower branches that are overhanging the decking area and crown thin 30% b. Remove two branches which are poorly formed c. Remove deadwood from canopy</p>	<p>a. To increase natural light into residential property which will reduce the current need for internal artificial light b. Good arboricultural management c. Good arboricultural management</p>
<p>T5 Ash <i>(Fraxinus)</i></p>	<p>Section fell to ground level</p> <p>Replacement to be the saplings already growing in the woodland area</p>	<p>Evidence indicates that T5 is dead or dying due to Ash Dieback. A residential property (1.5m from tree), garage (0.5m from tree) and busy public highway (1m from tree) are within the fell zone and therefore removal is recommended to mitigate the risk of harm to people or damage to property.</p>
<p>T6 Beech <i>(Fagus)</i></p> <p><i>It is noted that T6 has a lean to the east over the highway of approximately 20° and re-inspection should observe if this is increasing</i></p>	<p>a. Crown lift to create clearance of 5m to east of tree over highway b. Ring bark ivy c. Remove deadwood from canopy</p>	<p>a. To ensure sufficient vehicular clearance to avoid damage to vehicles by the tree and damage to the tree from the vehicles – reducing the weight of the canopy may reduce the potential for the lean to the east to increase over time b. Removal of ivy to prevent kiting in the future if the ivy is allowed to colonise the canopy c. Good arboricultural management</p>

<p>T7 Ash (<i>Fraxinus</i>)</p> <p>It is noted that T7 currently does not appear to have any symptoms of Ash Dieback but future inspections should confirm continued health</p>	<p>a. No work required b. Remove deadwood from canopy</p>	<p>a. Currently T7 appears to be in a health condition and has sufficient clearance over the highway b. Good arboricultural management</p>
<p>T8 Beech (<i>Fagus</i>)</p> <p><i>It is noted that T8 has a lean to the east over the highway of approximately 30° and re-inspection should observe if this is increasing</i></p>	<p>a. Crown lift to create clearance of 5m to east of tree over highway b. Ring bark ivy c. Remove deadwood from canopy</p>	<p>a. To ensure sufficient vehicular clearance to avoid damage to vehicles by the tree and damage to the tree from the vehicles – reducing the weight of the canopy may reduce the potential for the lean to the east to increase over time b. Removal of ivy to prevent kiting in the future if the ivy is allowed to colonise the canopy c. Good arboricultural management</p>
<p>T9 Beech (<i>Fagus</i>)</p>	<p>a. Remove two lower branches to achieve 5m clearance to east of tree over highway b. Ring bark ivy c. Remove deadwood from canopy</p>	<p>a. To ensure sufficient vehicular clearance to avoid damage to vehicles by the tree and damage to the tree from the vehicles b. Removal of ivy to prevent kiting in the future if the ivy is allowed to colonise the canopy c. Good arboricultural management</p>
<p>T10 Beech (<i>Fagus</i>)</p>	<p>a. Crown lift to create clearance of 5m to east of tree over highway b. Ring bark ivy c. Remove deadwood from canopy</p>	<p>a. To ensure sufficient vehicular clearance to avoid damage to vehicles by the tree and damage to the tree from the vehicles b. Removal of ivy to prevent kiting in the future if the ivy is allowed to colonise the canopy c. Good arboricultural management</p>
<p>T11 Sycamore (<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>)</p> <p><i>It is noted that T11 has a lean to the east over the highway of approximately 20° and re-inspection should observe if this is increasing</i></p>	<p>a. Remove epicormic growth from previous pruning sites to create clearance from pathway b. Ring bark ivy c. Remove deadwood from canopy</p>	<p>a. To ensure sufficient pedestrian clearance b. Removal of ivy to prevent kiting in the future if the ivy is allowed to colonise the canopy c. Good arboricultural management</p>
<p>T12 Elm (<i>Ulmus</i>)</p>	<p>a. Crown lift to create clearance of 5m to east of tree over highway – epicormic growth removal included in the crown lift</p>	<p>a. To ensure sufficient vehicular clearance to avoid damage to vehicles by the tree and damage to the tree from the vehicles b. Good arboricultural management</p>

	b. Remove deadwood from canopy	
T13 Beech (<i>Fagus</i>)	a. Crown lift to create clearance of 5m to east of tree over highway b. Remove deadwood from canopy	a. To ensure sufficient vehicular clearance to avoid damage to vehicles by the tree and damage to the tree from the vehicles b. Good arboricultural management

Appendix 1 provides sketch plan of the location of the trees

Appendix 2 provides the location of the TPOs sourced from the Rossendale Planning Department.

Appendix 3 provides images of the trees

Appendix 1

Sketch map to indicate location of trees

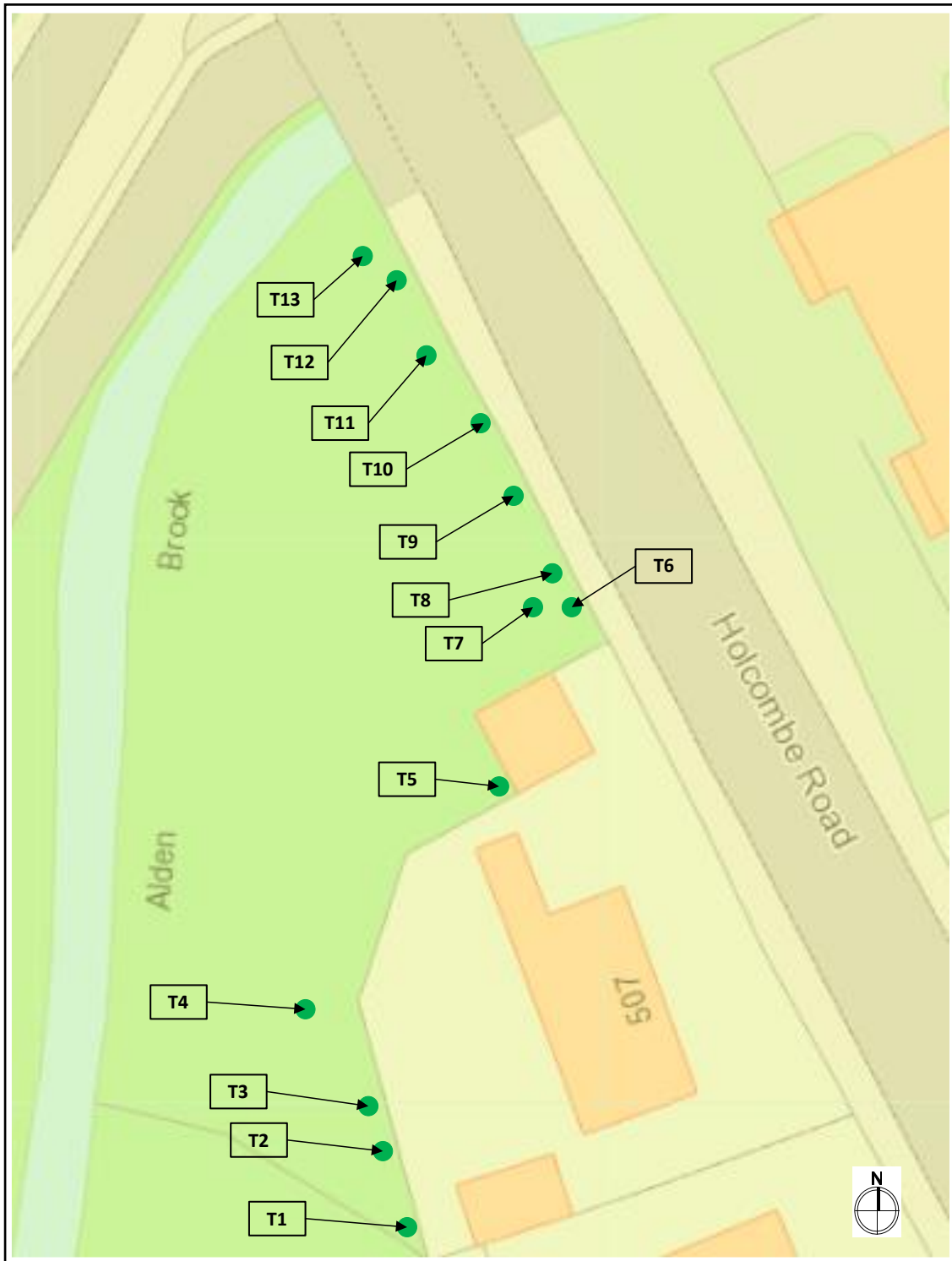


Image courtesy of <https://e-pims.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/government-property-finder/SearchToLet.aspx> for the purposes of identifying location of trees for client use only

Appendix 2

Showing location of TPOs



Image courtesy of Rossendale Planning Department

Appendix 3

Images of trees



T1

Image 1 - T1 to be crown thinned



T2

Image 2 - T2 to be crown lifted and thinned

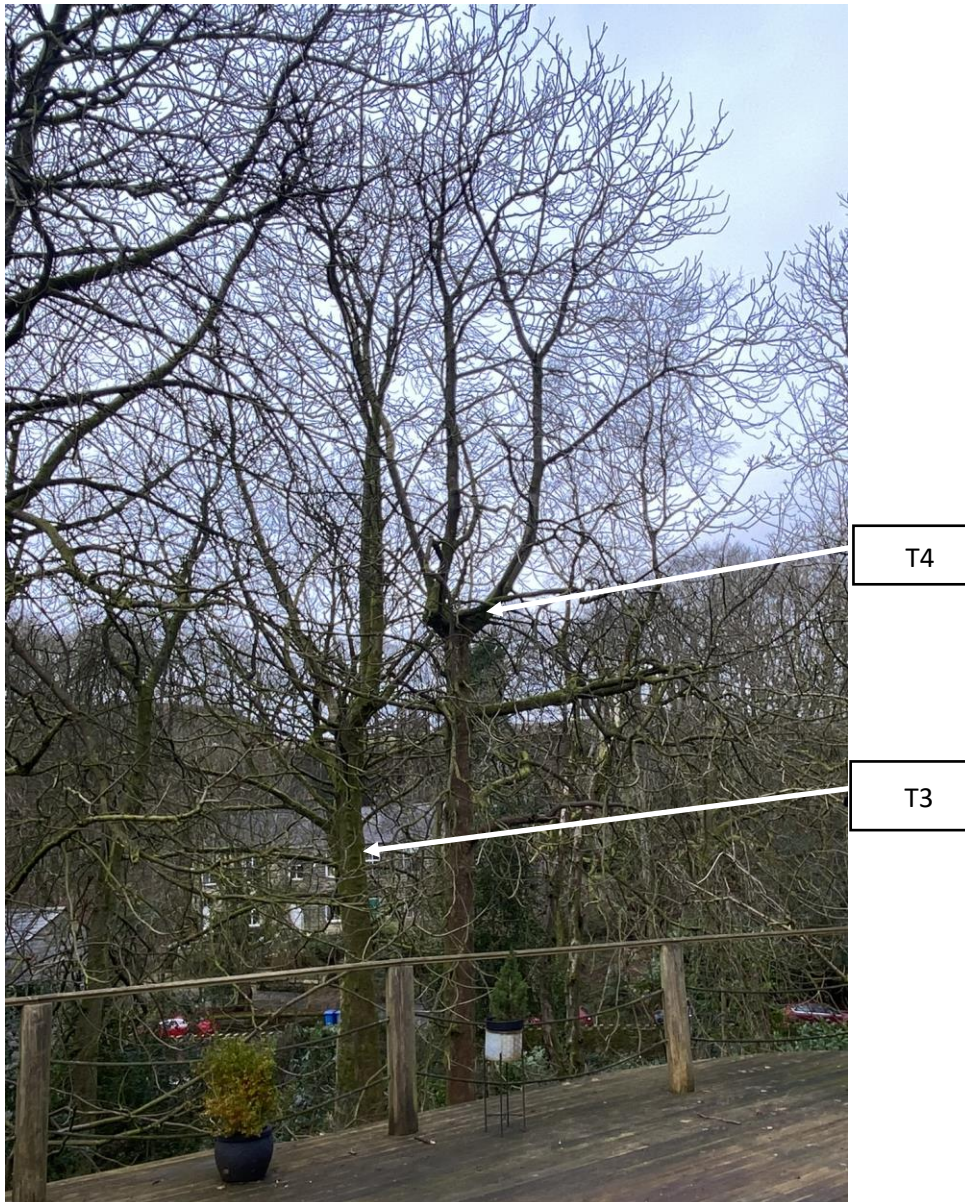


Image 3 - T3 and T4 to be crown lifted and thinned



T5

Image 4 – T5 (to be removed) taken summer 2023 showing proximity to highway and evidence of Ash Dieback



T5

Image 5 - showing proximity of T5 to residential property and garage

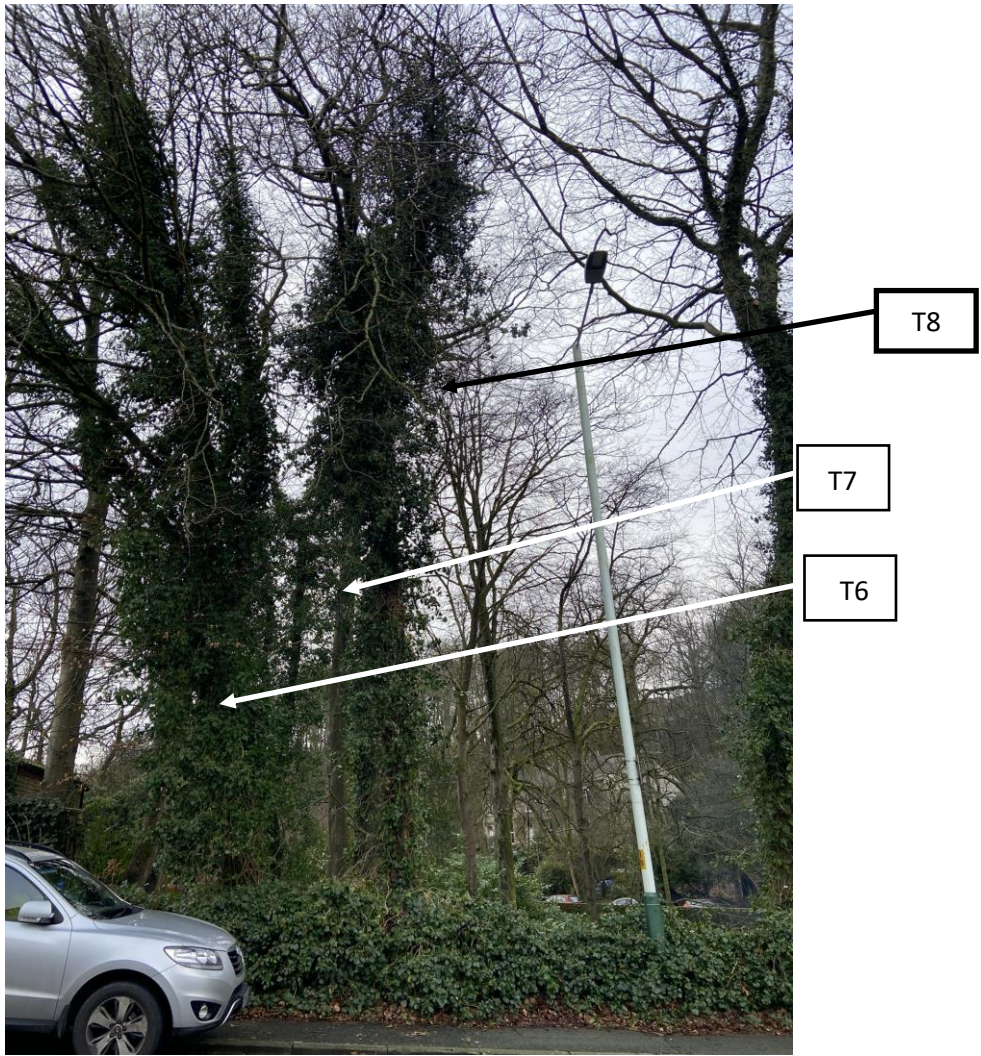


Image 6 - T6, T7 and T8 – T6 and T8 to be crown lifted



T11

T10

T9

Image 7 - T9, T10, T11 to be crown lifted



Image 8 - T12 and T13 to be crown lifted

Ref 1 – 507 Holcombe Road, Helmshore BB4 4LX 100224



Image 9 – indicating T6 – T13 overhanging highway and pathway – request for crown lift to create sufficient vehicular and pedestrian clearance



Image 10 – indicating multiple saplings within woodland