



South Tyneside Council

Reference:	250662
Location:	5 Orwell Close South Shields NE34 9JT
Ward:	Biddick and All Saints
Description:	Application for Tree Works: Works to Trees Subject to a Tree Preservation Order (TPO 340). T1 - Sycamore - Reduce crown by 2m on the east face (to pin curb of tarmac area minimum), and remove epicormic growth from basal area - reduce shade, remove perch area which is causing a slip hazard from amount of bird poo, and improve aesthetics.
Recommendation:	Grant Permission with Conditions
Case Officer:	Casey Scott
Case Officer Contact No.:	0191 4246780 or 07442 655446

Summary of Consultation Responses

Tree Team

I have visited the site and reviewed the application. The sycamore is a prominent, mature specimen with significant amenity value and has previously undergone crown reduction as part of previous management.

The proposal seeks to shorten selected branches on the eastern side of the crown by approximately 2 metres. These branches are primarily those extending over the resident's driveway.

Please note that pruning trees to deter birds from perching is not considered an acceptable justification. This approach is ineffective, as birds will continue to inhabit trees regardless of pruning.

That said, selectively shortening some lower branches is unlikely to have a detrimental impact on the tree's health or amenity value. I recommend that the application be approved, subject to conditions ensuring the work is carried out to the relevant standards and does not exceed previous reduction points.

Relevant planning policy

The following policies are relevant to this application:

- LDF Policy DM1
- NPPF Part 15

Assessment

Trees and landscaped features make a significant contribution to the character and appearance of the urban area and to nature conservation. Trees in parks and public open spaces, in private gardens and grounds and on streets and highways are all significant in this respect. Many of the important groups of trees are protected by tree preservation orders (TPOs).

LDF Policy DM1 seeks to protect existing soft landscaping, including trees and hedges, where possible or provides replacement planting where necessary.

The application proposed works to one tree (Sycamore), which is protected by TPO 340. The tree is located to the north of 5 Orwell Close. The application seeks consent for a crown reduction to the tree by 2m on the east face (to pin curb of tarmac area minimum), and remove epicormic growth from basal area. The justification for the works are to reduce shade, remove perch area which is causing a slip hazard from amount of bird poo, and improve aesthetics.

It is therefore considered that the main issues in this instance relate to whether there is sufficient justification for the proposed works to the protected trees. Having regard for the Tree Team's comments, in this case, subject to conditions, there are no objections to the proposals and the works are deemed acceptable in the interests of good arboricultural practice. As set out in the tree team's comments, they consider that the works would not deter birds and this would be ineffective approach to addressing nuisance from birds. However, as set out in the tree team comments, overall they consider the works to be acceptable subject to standard tree planning conditions. As a result, the scheme would accord with objectives outlined in relevant planning policies and guidance.

Recommendation

Grant Permission with Conditions

Conditions

1. The tree work to which this consent relates must be completed in full, no later than 2 years from the date of this consent and may not be carried out more than once, unless authorised by a further grant of consent.

In order that the works remain appropriate and suited to the present form and condition of the trees concerned, in line with LDF Policy DM1 and the NPPF.

2. The tree works are to be compliant with British Standard: 3998 [2010] (tree work - recommendations).

In order to maintain the health and visual amenity of the trees affected, in accordance LDF Policy DM1 and the NPPF.

List of plans/documentation etc. for standard note on decision

Plans/Documentation

Application form – received 27.10.2025

Tree Location Plan – received 27.10.2025.

Case officer: Casey Scott

Signed: C.Scott

Date: 19.12.2025

Authorised Signatory: Helen Lynch

Date: 19/12/2025