

c/o Blackett, Hart & Pratt, LLP  
Aire House  
Mandale Business Park  
Belmont  
Durham, DH1 1TH

12 June 2023

Dear Ms Walton,

**DM/23/01422/TPO The Reeds Houghall Durham DH1 3SQ**

*Removal of 5 trees and crown lifting to 5m of 5 trees*

The Trust objects to the removal of trees based on insufficient justification and lack of submitted information.

Houghall College Campus has an interesting range of trees and is also believed to still host part of the national collection of Sorbus species. The submitted information lacks any information on species and condition. It may well be the case that these trees are not part of the national collection concentrated in the arboretum, but the application needs to identify this. The trees will have a role in softening the views of buildings on site and this needs identifying in any proposal for felling.

There is no reason given other than to note that the removal is preparatory to further proposals for new teaching space. This is pre-empting the decision on the future proposal. The removal of trees should be part of the development application with full justification and, if this is approved, the Tree Preservation Order (TPO) application for felling should follow. It should be noted that the college campus is in the Green Belt and there will be Trust concern if any proposal threatens to decrease the openness of the site.

As submitted the application lacks detail and has no appropriate justification such as condition or damage caused by trees. The Trust therefore objects to the felling of the five trees.

Yours sincerely

John Lowe,  
Chair, City of Durham Trust