

THE CITY OF DURHAM TRUST

c/o Blakett, Hart & Pratt, LLP
Aire House
Mandale Business Park
Belmont
Durham, DH1 1TH
15 November 2023

Dear Ms Outhwaite,

DM/23/03290/TPO 3 Woodland Close Bearpark Durham DH7 7EB

Felling of two oak trees to ground level. - TPO - PN1-317

1. The Trust objects to this application based on the importance of the trees and lack of evidence to justify felling.

Context

2. Woodland Close is a new development inserted into a copse of mature trees. These are important for the surrounding open space, the setting to the Close and as a division between blocks of development. They are also important for Bearpark more generally as well as having wildlife value.

Proposal and Impact

3. The evidence submitted is very limited and does not indicate that subsidence is occurring or explain how it might. The bungalow rear is part skirted by a retaining wall close to the trees and this might well act as a form of root barrier. There are no trial holes to show foundation depths that should be greater than normal because of the tree proximity at the time of construction. There is also no soil description and profiles. A nearby conifer hedge is likely to have roots in the area as well as the trees. The trees show signs of needing some limited tree work on broken branches.

4. The Trust is very aware of and sympathetic to the anxiety caused by concern about trees in relation to buildings, but it is worried that allowing this application to fell would be regarded as a precedent to fell others in this grouping. It points out that the property appears to have been purchased relatively recently in May 2022 in the knowledge of the presence of these trees.

Yours sincerely

John Lowe

Chair, City of Durham Trust