

# THE CITY OF DURHAM TRUST

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

24 April 2024

Amy Beveridge  
Durham County Council  
Planning Development  
County Hall  
Durham DH1 5UL

Dear Ms Beveridge,

**DM/24/00876/TPO East Durham And Houghall Community College Houghall Durham DH1 3SG**

*TPO Removal of 5 trees and the pruning of 4 trees/shrubs*

1. The Trust wishes to object to this felling application because of the lack of evidence of need, quality and condition of the trees and absence of proposed replacements.

**Context**

2. East Durham College is situated in the Green Belt and is important for its arboretum and also other trees planted through the college complex. The trees are of value in breaking up the scale of the college development and maintaining its campus character. They also help minimise impact on the Green Belt.

**Proposal and Impact**

3. There is no evidence submitted justifying the work. There is only a statement of works with no plan and no indication of why tree removal is the only option for their implementation. The trees are not described by size, condition or age and root zones are not shown. No replacement planting is proposed. The assumption is that the permitted development works supersede the requirements of the TPO, but the Trust considers that the TPO should take precedence.

The need is not just for sufficient information on this application but also a strategic tree strategy that will allow the significant number of changes to the College to be adequately absorbed into the landscape and protect trees where necessary.

4. The Trust therefore objects to this application.

Yours sincerely

John Lowe  
Chair, City of Durham Trust