

THE CITY OF DURHAM TRUST

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31 May 2026

Ms Emma Price
Durham County Council
Planning Department
PO Box 274
Stanley
County Durham DH8 1HG

Dear Ms Price,

DM/26/01203/TPO Southlands Gilesgate Durham DH1 1QN

T1 Sycamore- reduce and reshape by 2-3m T2 Ash- reduce and reshape by 2-3m

The Trust objects to this application based on concerns about necessity of the proposed work and the lack of information provided on and with the application form.

The trees form part of an extended grouping that line the A690 and is part of the hillside tree mass rising from the river through the Hild and Bede College. It is also a buffer against the A690 for houses on Claypath. This has a strong local role and is part of the green infrastructure of the conservation area. Although on private land, care needs to be exercised in treatment of the trees to ensure compatibility with their wider role. Adjacent trees have had their crowns reduced.

The requirements of the Tree Preservation Order (TPO) application form have not been met.

The form requires: *'Where trees are protected by a Tree Preservation Order you must also provide: Reasons for the worke.g. Oak (T3) – Whole crown reduction to 12m above ground level, to provide sufficient clearance to property.'* The submission only states: *'T1 Sycamore- reduce and reshape by 2-3m T2 Ash- reduce and reshape by 2-3m'*. There are therefore no reasons given for the work as clearly required by the form. There is no supporting evidence on tree condition or demonstrating any other reasons for the work. It is not clear from the submitted photographs why the trees need reduction and reshaping.

Given the high visibility of the grouping that the trees are part of, the submission is inadequate and more information should be required of the applicant. This should indicate why the work is necessary and analyse the impact on the group and its role in the conservation area and green infrastructure.

Yours sincerely,

Sue Childs

Vice-Chair, City of Durham Trust
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Celebrating, Protecting and Enhancing the City of Durham