

**REPORT TO AREA PLANS EAST COMMITTEE**

**Date of Meeting: 4th December 2013**

**CONFIRMATION OF TREE PRESERVATION ORDER  
EPF/17/13  
Ongar Bridge, High Street, Ongar, Essex.**



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**Democratic Services Officer: Mark Jenkins (01992 56 4607)**

**Recommendation :**

**That Tree Preservation Order 17/13 is confirmed with modifications.**

**Background :**

TPO/EPF/17/13 was made on 16<sup>th</sup> of July 2013 to protect; T1 – 4 Sycamore, a line of four mature trees standing on the river bank along the northern site boundary of this former allotment open space.

The threat was of immediate clearance of the site.

The four trees were judged to be of significant landscape importance, prominently positioned on the riverbank, close to the main bridge into Ongar.

At the time the order was served unfortunately two of the trees; T3 and T4 had been destroyed.

**Objection and representations to the Tree Preservation Order :**

There have been no objections to the Order received.

**Head of Planning Services Comments :**

The reason for the modification to the order is explained, as follows:

The site activity at the initial site visit was focused on removing all the trees. It was, therefore, deemed expedient to serve the order on all four trees present at that time to control requirements for replacement should a later application to remove trees be deemed acceptable by members.

In the intervening hours between surveying and informing the owner of the council's intention to preserve all four trees and the physical service of the order on site the following day, the owner had destroyed T3 and T4 and damaged T1. T3 and T4 now require removing from the order's plan and schedule. A new plan is necessary. That plan will show only those trees present at the service of the order i.e. T1 and T2.

Although T1 was also damaged, it was deemed expedient to protect it under the new order. The poor execution of the lopping and the loss of part of the crown is considered not so serious that the tree's public value has been lost. The vigorous nature of this species will allow a full crown to develop in the medium to long term.

**Conclusion :**

It is recommended that, in the interests of public amenity, the order be confirmed with modifications by the omission of T3 and T4. The new order will allow the council to ensure that any future planning permission to develop the site will be designed, taking account of the trees and safeguarding their amenity value; in accordance with Council local landscape planning policy LL7.