

Historic Environment

Planning Consultation Comments

RE: 20/00067/TPO Marlhill Copse

Consultation response

Background

- The 5no. trees affected sit within Marlhill Copse which falls within the Itchen Valley Conservation Area and thus are part of its overall character.
- The trees also sit outside, but adjacent to, Town Hill Park - a Registered Park and Garden.

Assessment and advice

Historic maps appear to indicate that the trees in question post-date 1909 and were probably introduced when the secondary driveway was laid out as part of Guthrie's landscaping of Town Hill House park estate that began around 1912 and completed prior to 1933. Consequently, the trees in this area are unlikely to be 160 years old as claimed and they are more likely to be of around 90-100 years in age.

Therefore, although it is acknowledged that various species of tree have a finite lifespan, and that trees are a dynamic feature of the environment, the loss of the trees would only be supported should you concur with the Tree Surgeon's findings in that they are in a poor state of health and/or are of immediate risk of failure. If the trees are to be removed, replacements of an appropriate species would be encouraged to ensure that the setting of the above heritage assets would be maintained.

[Historic Environment Officer 20/04/2020]