

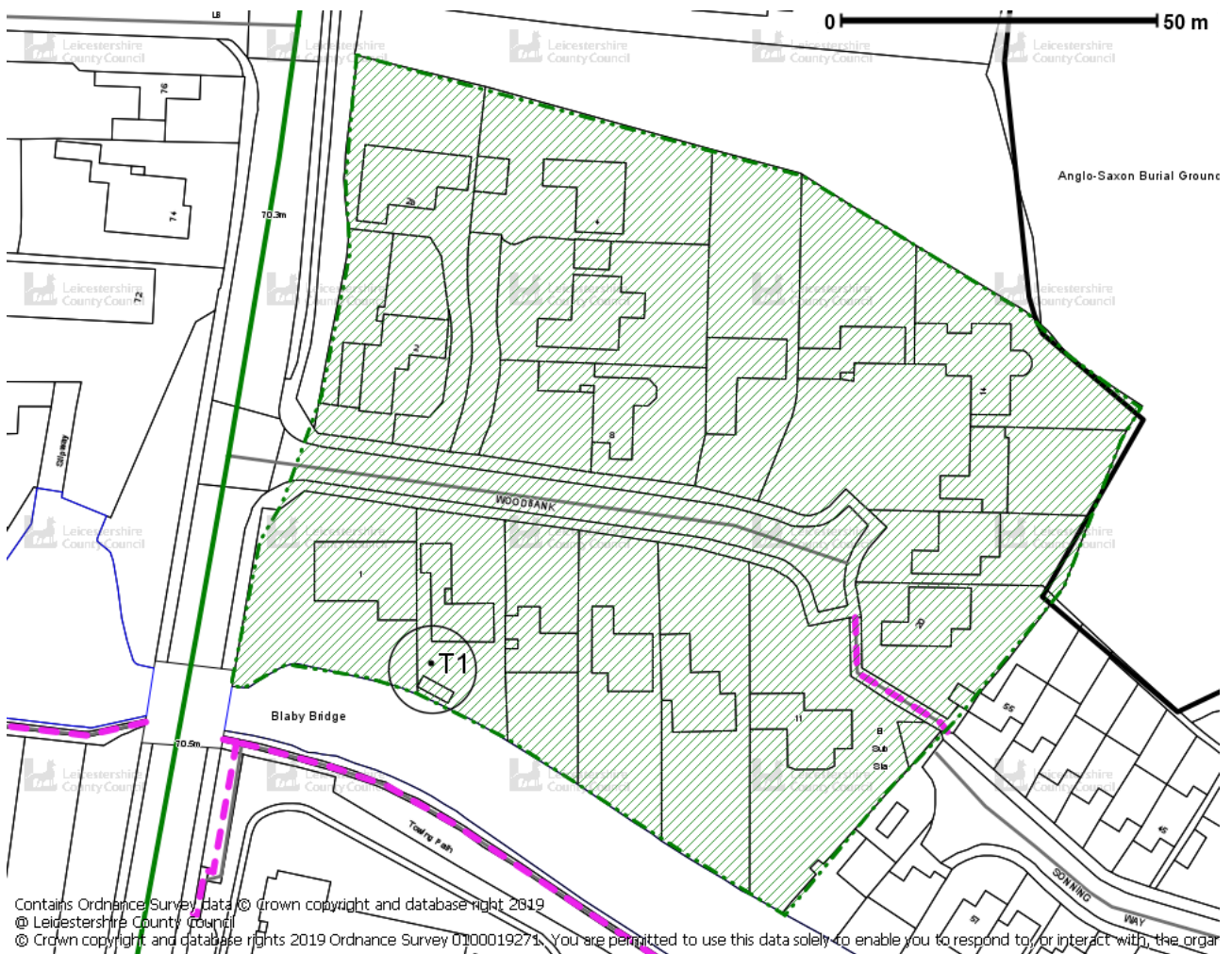


## DEVELOPMENT CONTROL AND REGULATORY BOARD

23<sup>rd</sup> MAY 2019

### LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL GLEN PARVA (LEICESTER ROAD) TREE PRESERVATION 1971

#### REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT





## **Purpose of Report**

1. To enable members to consider an application by Mrs Tracey Inkley of 3 Woodbank, Glen Parva LE2 9QP to fell a Corsican pine tree T1 located on her property.

## **Background**

2. The Corsican pine T1 is included in a 1.16ha Area Tree Preservation Order that includes broadleaf and conifer trees located in the gardens of 16 residential properties.
3. The property 3, Woodbank is located adjacent to the Grand Union Canal Conservation Area.
4. A structural engineers report by Diamond Wood & Shaw Limited (DWS) was submitted with the application. The report stated that the Corsican pine tree T1 is not implicated in causing subsidence related cracking damage to the gable end of the neighbouring property 1, Woodbank. In addition the report stated that though the Corsican pine tree T1 is 4.2m from the south elevation of the Applicant's property there is no evidence of subsidence damage. The report concludes that should the tree be removed there would be a low risk of the clay below the foundation rehydrating, swelling and causing the foundations to lift resulting in cracking damage to the walls of the property.

5. A Tree Report was submitted by the Agent Mr. Prewett of MSP Tree Care, Leicester that stated that the Corsican pine tree was fully mature, and the stem and crown are unbalanced towards the south and the canal. It concludes that the tree has outgrown the location.

### **Consultations**

#### **Blaby District Council**

6. Response received from the Tree Consultant for Blaby District Council. The Corsican pine T1 is visible to the public and the residents of the neighbouring Glenhills Court apartments, and contributes to the street-scene.
7. The tree has no significant structural defects. The tree has grown at an angle (rather than subject to an active lean) with no indication of any movement. The crown is slightly asymmetric towards the canal, but since the tree has grown in this form it is not considered of any significance.
8. Blaby District Council objects to the proposal to fell the Corsican pine tree T1 .

#### **Glen Parva Parish Council**

9. The Parish Tree Warden has written objecting to the proposal to fell the Corsican pine tree T1 for the reason that the removal of the tree will have a detrimental impact on the character and appearance of the area.

#### **Local Member**

10. No comments received.

#### **Local Residents**

11. No comments have been received

### **Issues**

12. The Applicant wishes to fell the Corsican pine tree T1 for the reasons that the tree is fully mature and has outgrown the location. The stem and crown are unbalanced and lean towards the canal and there is an increased risk that the tree could blow over in high winds causing damage to the canal banks. It is proposed to plant a replacement tree of suitable species.
13. The mature Corsican pine T1 is located in the rear garden of the property adjacent to the canal bank and brick garden walls. The main stem has an estimated diameter of 80cm and height of 22.0m. The tree appears to be stable in the ground. The stem leans slightly to the south and the crown is unbalanced to the south. There is some minor dead wood in the crown and the foliage is generally healthy. It was noted that there was evidence of debris such as small dead branches and cones together with pigeon droppings on the lawn and the slabbed patio.
14. The Corsican pine T1 contributes to a line of 9 protected Corsican pine trees located in the rear gardens of 5, 7, 9 and 11 Woodbank that can be viewed from the public

highway on Woodbank, Leicester Road and the canal towpath that is public footpath Z13.

### **Equality and Human Rights Implications**

9. There are no discernible equality and human rights implications.

### **Conclusion**

10. The Corsican pine tree T1 was found to be stable in the ground with no significant faults and is considered to be at low risk of failing in high winds. The tree as part of a line of protected canal side Corsican pine trees that contributes to the amenity of the Grand Union Canal Conservation Area and the surrounding area.
11. The removal of the Corsican pine tree T1 would have a detrimental impact on the amenity of the area.

### **Recommendations**

12. It is recommended that Consent is **refused** to fell the Corsican pine tree T1.

### **Reason for Recommendations**

13. The removal of the Corsican pine tree T1 would have detrimental impact on the amenity of the area.

### **Background Papers**

The background papers used in the preparation of this report are held on Environment and Transport files No. 2019/TPO/0077/LCC.

### **Circulation Under the Local Issues Alert Procedure**

Mr. G. Welsh CC

### **Officers to Contact**

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**APPENDIX 1** PHOTOGRAPHS OF CORSICAN PINE TREE T1 FROM CANAL TOWPATH



Corsican pine T1



Corsican pine T1



Corsican pine T1 showing line of protected Corsican pine trees



Corsican pine T1 showing line of protected Corsican pine trees

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