

APPLICATION NO	PA/2023/1379
APPLICANT	Olivia Minaudo, Ongo Homes
DEVELOPMENT	Application to crown reduce by 40% and crown lift by 2.5 metres above ground level two beech trees identified as T1 and T2 within and protected by Tree Preservation (Morfield Grove, Epworth) Order 2022
LOCATION	9 Morfield Grove, Epworth, DN9 1DQ
PARISH	EPWORTH
WARD	Axholme Central
CASE OFFICER	Gavin Coleby
SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION	Refuse
REASONS FOR REFERENCE TO COMMITTEE	Support by Epworth Town Council

POLICIES

National Planning Policy Framework:

12 Achieving well-designed places

North Lincolnshire Local Plan:

DS1 General requirements

LC12 Protection of trees, woodland and hedgerows

North Lincolnshire Core Strategy:

CS5 Delivering quality design in North Lincolnshire

New North Lincolnshire Local Plan Submission: The new North Lincolnshire Local Plan was submitted for public examination to the Planning Inspectorate on 11 November 2022. Examination of the Plan has therefore commenced, although public hearing sessions are not anticipated until later in 2023.

The Submitted North Lincolnshire Local Plan can be given some weight as a material planning consideration in the determination of planning applications. The relevant policies concerning this application are:

DQE1 Protection of landscape, townscape and views

DQE3 Biodiversity and geodiversity

DQE12 Protection of trees, woodland and hedgerows

DM1 General requirements

CONSULTATIONS

Highways: Should consent be granted, advise an informative regarding the traffic management that would be required to carry out the works.

LLFA Drainage: No comments or objection.

TOWN COUNCIL

Supports the application.

PUBLICITY

Advertised by site notice – one resident has supported the application.

ASSESSMENT

Planning history

2022/1500 Application to undertake pruning on two beech trees, identified as T1 and T2, subject to and within Tree Preservation (Morfield Grove, Epworth) Order 2022. This application was to undertake a 40% crown reduction and 4 metres crown lift. This application was refused and is presently being appealed to the Planning Inspectorate.

These are two mature beech trees situated within and at the end of a cul-de-sac where they form a significant visual amenity worthy of the recent tree preservation order placed on them due to concerns over potential excessive pruning being undertaken on them by their owner and the need to ensure that trees with such high visual amenity are retained and maintained within the confines of good arboricultural practice.

The beech trees appear to be in a good condition, with little to no deadwood within them and they are not causing any physical obstruction to dwellings, footpaths or roads in the vicinity. It is not considered that the trees need to be crown lifted.

The requested work to these trees is considered excessive, contrary to good arboricultural practice and detrimental to the visual amenity and health of the trees as it would cause severe stress: the response from beech trees, which are known to be a species that do not respond well to any pruning, is usually dieback along the cut stems. In short, if this work were to be given consent, the trees would likely die due to the excessive nature of the request.

A previous application (PA/2022/1500) for a similar 40% crown reduction and crown lift to 4 metres was refused. The applicant lodged an appeal with the Planning Inspectorate in January 2023 and no decision has yet been made.

This application is identical to the previous one, apart from seeking a crown lift of the lower branches to 2.5 metres instead of 4 metres. The lower branches are already more than 2.5 metres above ground level, so this part of the application is not relevant.

Epworth Town Council have commented that they support this application; however, they did not support the previous application commenting that a 40% reduction of the trees appeared

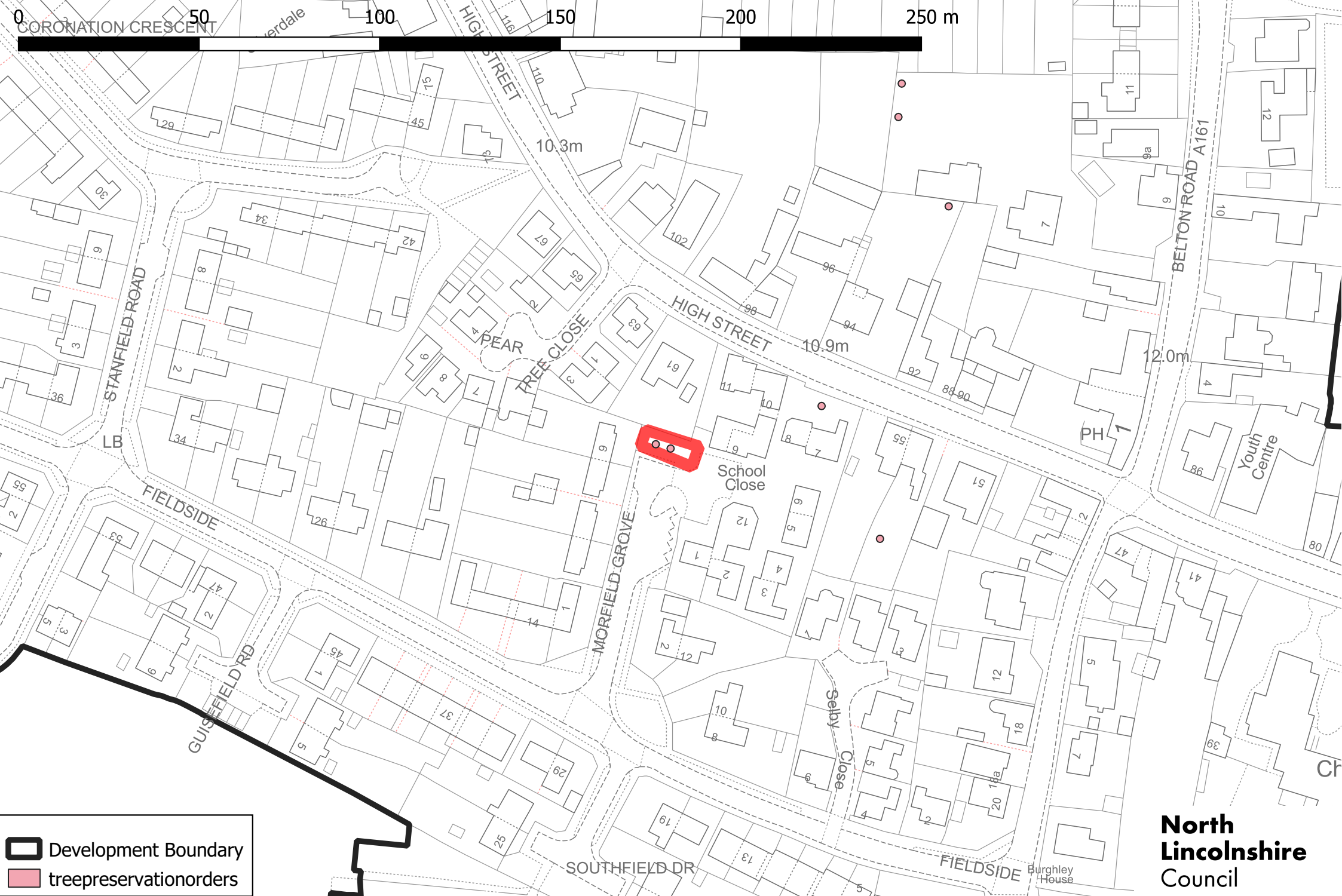
to be a lot. It is not clear why they have changed their opinion as the extent of this part of the application remains the same.



North Lincolnshire Council's position regarding the work to these trees has not changed and this application, like the previous one, should be refused due to the excessive nature of the work being requested which is considered to be bad arboricultural practice likely to cause severe stress and ultimately kill the trees. In addition, the proposal will ultimately lead to the loss of these trees which would have an adverse impact on the visual amenity of the locality. Accordingly, the proposal is contrary to policies LC12 and DS1 of the North Lincolnshire Local Plan, CS5 of the Core Strategy and paragraph 131 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

RECOMMENDATION Refuse consent for the following reasons:

1.

The trees identified on the application form as T1 and T2 are not dead or in a dangerous condition. Inspection of the trees does not indicate there are any existing safety issues sufficient to justify the proposed works. The work requested appears to be excessive, contrary to good arboricultural practice and detrimental to the health and visual amenity of these trees. The proposal is therefore contrary to policies LC12 and DS1 of the North Lincolnshire Local Plan, CS5 of the Core Strategy and paragraph 131 of the National Planning Policy Framework.



 Development Boundary
 treepreservationorders

**North
Lincolnshire
Council**

PA/2023/1379