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TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 TREE WORKS IN A CONSERVATION AREA

Reference: H06-1061-25 **Date of Decision:** 9th December 2025

Applicant: Mr I Hirst
The Old School
Church Street
Gedney Dawsmere
Spalding
PE12 9NL

Location: The Old School Church Street Gedney Dawsmere Spalding

Description: Works to trees in Gedney Dawsmere Conservation Area

Detailed Description:

Notification to carry out very major tree works to a combined row of Lombardy poplars and Leylandii cypress.

The trees are located on the western side of Dawsmere Bank extending north from the junction with Church Street, adjoining the property known as 'The Old School'.

'Request permission to reduce 11 Lombardy poplars and multiple (Lombardy poplars) corrected to LEYLANDII CYPRESS* to the apex height of outbuilding/garage. One poplar tree is standing dead. The remaining poplars are in competition with the conifer trees below and lack side/lateral growth as a result. The conifer trees below have previously had height removed. This has resulted in lateral side branches becoming tall, thin leaders. In my experience these trees are now vulnerable to rain and snow loading. There is also evidence of wind/storm damage. The face edge of the trees road side will still have a live formal appearance.'

* corrected following discussion between Applicant and Trees and Nature Conservation Officer on 19.11.2025.

South Holland District Council has considered the proposal and has no objections,

subject to any recommendation set out below;

- 1 That the proposed work is carried out within two years of the date of this letter of 'No Objection'.
- 2 Work is to be carried out in accordance with BSI 3998 : 2010, 'Recommendations for Tree Work'.
- 3 The resulting stump of the dead poplar tree should be ground out/removed to at least 300mm below ground level, to help reduce the risk of the stump harbouring decay fungi which could infect nearby trees. (Care must be taken not to damage the roots of adjacent trees in the process.)

Notes:

The necessary consent of all other interested parties should be obtained before the works take place. To enable this the owner of the land on which the trees grow should be ascertained and contacted before works take place. If not the 'Applicant' possibly Lincolnshire County Council.

Poplar trees are prone to bleeding of sap if cut during January and through the spring months and therefore works on them at this time are best avoided.

Conifers such as Leyland cypress should ideally only be heavily pruned (or topped) in July. The optimum time for annual trimming works is between July and August. Works in the late autumn, winter and early spring months should be avoided. Always check if nesting birds are present before works are to be undertaken and, if present, delay until the fledglings have been reared and have flown the nest.

Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) all birds, their nests and eggs are protected by law and it is an offence to damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or being built. In the event of query please contact Natural England on Tel: 03000 603900.

Bats are protected species under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and in the event that bats are living in any cavities in the tree(s), or if they are discovered while the works are taking place, please inform Natural England on Tel: 03000 603900 before works proceed.

(The pruning of the poplars and Leylandii cypress to the level proposed in one go is not recommended good practice. Ideally such radical reductions if absolutely essential should be carried out gradually in stages over a number of years. Probably a good idea if poplars were left slightly higher than cypress trees, otherwise the cypress will tend to shade them and cause them to dieback completely.)



Phil Norman
Assistant Director - Planning and Strategic Infrastructure
South Holland District Council