

PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER:P09/0159

Type of approval sought	Tree Preservation Order
Ward	KINGSWINFORD SOUTH
Applicant	Mr Gary Cooper
Location:	5, SANDMEADOW PLACE, KINGSWINFORD, DY6 9RF
Proposal	TO FELL 1 NO. SYCAMORE TREE, REDUCE 1NO. SYCAMORE TREE BY 6 METRES AND REDUCE 9 NO. SYCAMORE TREES BY 30%
Recommendation Summary:	APPROVE SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS

TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NO: D377 (1992) – W1

SITE AND SURROUNDINGS

1. The trees subject to this application are eleven early mature sycamore trees. The trees are situated in the rear garden of 5 Sandmeadow place and are visible from Sandmeadow Place over the bungalows and are visible through gaps in the properties from the arm of Ridge Road to the east of the trees.
2. The trees subject to this application are remnants of the wooded area that covered this site prior to the infilling of the abandoned sand pit, and the development of the residential bungalows.

PROPOSAL

3. Summary of proposals for the works as written on application form is as follows:
 - Fell 1 Sycamore trees, Crown reduce 10 sycamore trees by 30%.
4. The trees have been marked on the attached plan.

HISTORY

5. There have been no previous Tree Preservation Order applications on this site.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

6. No public representations have been received.

ASSESSMENT

Tree(s) Appraisal

Criteria	Tree 1	Trees 2 – 11
TPO No	W1	W1
Species	Sycamore	Sycamore
Height	12m	12m
Spread	4m	3m
Diameter	300mm	250mm
Form	Moderate	Poor
Vigour	Poor	Poor
Approx Age	Early Mature	Early Mature
Pests / Diseases	None evident.	None Evident
Canopy	Moderate	Poor
% Deadwood	15%	10%
Cavities	Decay at base as the result of an old stem injury. Decay appears to extend to a substantial section of the stem	Some decay present on main stems – not currently significant
Bark	Poor	Poor
Roots	Moderate	Moderate
Overall Health	Poor	Moderate / Poor
Visibility	Moderate	Moderate
Amenity Value	Moderate	Moderate

Further Assessment

7. The trees subject to this application were retained as part of the redevelopment of the site from a disused sand pit to a residential development. Prior to this re-development the site was heavily wooded. As such the trees have developed woodland tree characteristics and have been drawn up in an attempt to gain more light.
8. The applicant has proposed to fell the sycamore tree (Tree 1) due to the discovery of an internal cavity at the base of the tree. This cavity has developed following a basal wound that occurred a number of years ago. On inspection the cavity was found to extend a decent way into the stem, and is likely to have an impact on the structural integrity of the stem.

9. Due to the heightened risk of failure it is recommended that the tree is felled. As there are still 10 trees remaining it is not recommended that replacement tree is planted, as it will struggle to establish itself due to the competition for light and nutrients that will be provided by the existing trees.
10. The applicant has also proposed to prune the remaining 10 sycamore trees (Tree 2 – 11) to reduce them in size to allow more light to the garden and improve the health of the trees.
11. On some of the trees there is evidence of severe bark damage. This may have started as squirrel damage, but with time this has developed into larger scale bark dysfunction. Also on a number of trees there were other defects such as included branch unions. As the previous shelter of other trees has now been removed, they are no more liable to limb failure, and as such should be maintained accordingly.
12. It is considered that the proposed pruning of these trees will reduce the trees susceptibility to failure as it will reduce the mechanical forces and leverage that will be exerted on the crown.
13. The proposed works will have a slightly detrimental impact on the amenity of the area; however this is considered justified as the works will serve to reduce the chances of tree failure in the future. Also any lost amenity will be regained as the trees start to develop bigger crowns in the future.

CONCLUSION

14. This application proposes to fell 1 early mature sycamore tree and prune a further 10 early mature sycamore trees. On inspection the trees were all found to be moderate / poor specimens, with various defects.
15. The felling of Tree 1 is considered to be appropriate due to the area of decay at the base; this decay will make the tree more liable to failure in the future and should be removed.
16. It is considered that the pruning of the remaining trees is acceptable as there are various defects present that are liable to lead to the regular failure of branches within the crowns. The pruning of the trees will reduce the chances of failure by reducing the leverage and mechanical forces that will be exerted on the trees.

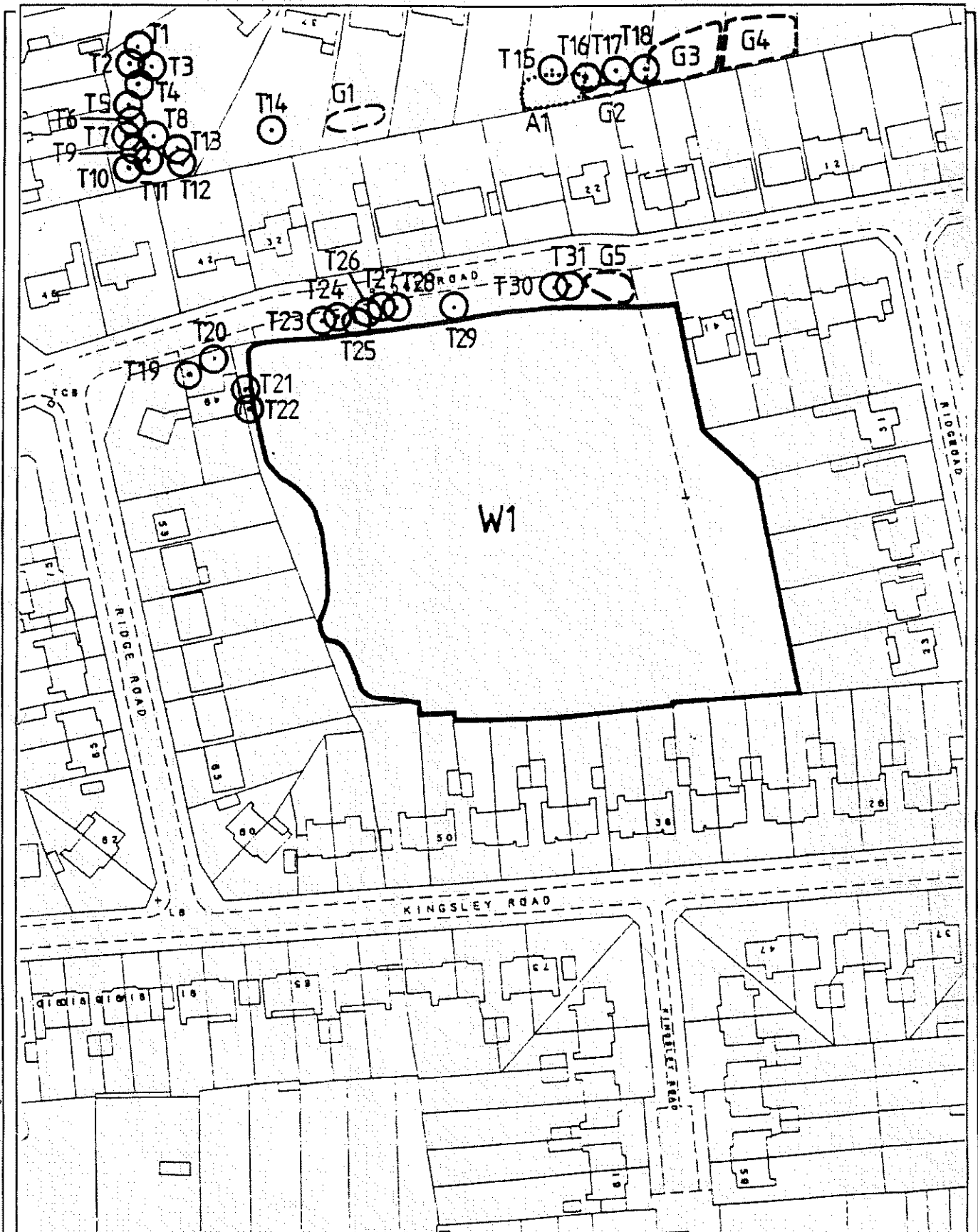
RECOMMENDATION

17. It is recommended that application is approved subject to the conditions set out below.

Conditions and/or reasons:

1. The tree works subject of this consent shall be carried out in accordance with British Standard BS 3998:1989 'Recommendations for Treework'.
2. The works hereby approved shall be carried out within 12 months of the date of this decision.





DUDLEY
Metropolitan Borough

ORDNANCE SURVEY
MAPPING IS BASED UPON
THE ORDNANCE SURVEY
MAP WITH THE SANCTION
OF THE CONTROLLER OF
H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE.
LICENCE NUMBER LA
078171

*Map referred to in
the Borough Council of Dudley*

**Ridge Road,
Kingswinford. No 2 (D377)**

Tree Preservation Order 1992

grid ref:	881 881
scale:	1:1250
drwg no.:	A:2113(A)

Groups

G1	3 Pines	35 Summercourt Square, Kingswinford
G2	2 Sycamores	27 Summercourt Square, Kingswinford
G3	3 Pines, 2 Sycamore, 1 Lime	25 Summercourt Square, Kingswinford
G4	1 Beech, 1 Oak, 1 Lime, 2 Sycamores	23 Summercourt Square, Kingswinford
G5	7 Sycamores	Woodland between 41, 49, Ridge Road, Kingswinford

Woodland

W1	Mixed Hardwood and Conifers	Woodland between 41, 49, Ridge Road, Kingswinford
----	-----------------------------	---

Area

A1	Several trees of whatever species within the area marked A1 on the map	29 Summercourt Square
----	--	-----------------------