

PLANNING REF : 251317
PROPERTY ADDRESS : Houston Way
: County (Optional)
: RG45 6BY
SUBMITTED BY : Mrs K MCCORMICK
DATE SUBMITTED : 30/06/2025

COMMENTS:

I wish to raise concerns and object to the proposed 20% thinning of trees on the land adjacent to Monterey. As neighbours to Monterey, we are adjacent to the woodland in question. We have previously raised objections under application number 233169, which was refused by the council with additional restrictions for the plot put in place, and we maintain our stance with respect to this new application.

Following extensive tree felling, as well as the removal of rhododendron and holly at the Monterey site, a TPO was implemented to protect the remaining trees, saplings, and holly including the woodland to the east of Monterey. The applicant, who was denied permission to remove approximately 100 trees last year, has now chosen to adopt an eco-friendly approach and has decided to try and preserve the woodland. However, in doing this he wishes to secure the

woodland and prevent wildlife such as roe deer and muntjac from entering the plot as they are allegedly causing the most damage - how environmental is it to be excluding the wildlife? Also contradictory to what was his intentions were in his previous application.

The applicant has stated that this will now be;

"Selective thinning to remove 20% from poor form / unhealthy trees as per specifications in the Woodland Management Plan; removal of invasive rhododendron and holly" I have a few questions:

1. Who will calculate the 20% removal?
2. Who will monitor and ensure that no more than 20% is removed?
3. Who decides which trees/undergrowth are to be removed within this 20%?
4. Who will verify the accuracy of the maintenance programme regarding dying pine trees and the potential Dothistroma Needle Blight?
5. Who will advise the applicant to stop once the 20% removal is achieved?
6. What will the sanctions be if he exceeds 20%?

7. The report also states;

"Consider formal training for a LANTRA Basic Tree Inspection qualification for the owner and therefore implementing an ongoing tree inspection regime"

Does this mean that Mr Saunders will be authorized to inspect the woodland and determine which trees require removal without the necessity of submitting an application to WBC or seeking advice from the Tree Officer?

If this maintenance program is approved, the applicant should be required to employ a contractor to carry out the work during weekday working hours and not at weekends when council officers are not around to monitor the activities.

Upon reviewing the decision letter for last year's application regarding the thinning of this site, I believe that the reasons for refusal remain valid. The site is undergoing natural thinning, which facilitates regrowth and supports the continued presence of wildlife

in the area.