

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

1ST December 2021

Dear Sir/Madam

Ref TPO/21/0987: Land at Farmland North of A1067, Norwich Road, Langor Bridge, Little Ryburgh. NR21 0LW

I am writing in support of the TPO listed above.

The trees in question are mature, the oaks over 200 years old and an aged coppiced Ash bowl. This line of trees can be seen on the First Edition OS map circa`1880s (they are shown as mature trees on this map). Copy of map from the Historic Map Explorer attached. The trees are therefore of historic status, and form a historic boundary.

As well-established, healthy trees they provide home to a great many species, and are hugely beneficial in terms of biodiversity and climate change. Mature oaks, in particular, providing a vital habitat for a vast and diverse number of species. As such, they are an asset: at a time when mature trees are so much needed to offset CO2, such heritage trees need to be protected. (For each mature oak lost will require over 150 years to replace its benefit from any new planting.)

The land on which the trees are situated adjoins Little Ryburgh Common (SSSI) which is managed by Pensthorpe Nature Reserve. As such they form a wildlife corridor between the field and the Common for many species.

Each year, for the last 5 years my husband and I have conducted the Bat Survey for the BTO (British Trust for Ornithology) on Little Ryburgh Common. The results of this survey form part of the records held by NBIS (Norfolk Biological Information Service). The Common has a large bat population with some rare bat species. The point of contact where this line of oaks intersects the Common is very busy in terms of bat activity due to the linear nature, encouraging bats to hunt on the field and the Common. The loss of these trees would in my view, have a significant impact on the bats who hunt in this area. Plus the loss of summer roosts.

The trees have a landscape impact as they are prominent on the skyline, from both A1067 and Little Ryburgh, where they are an attractive part of the landscape. They are no danger to the public (no public footpath in the majority of the area).

I contacted North Norfolk District Council regarding these trees when I became aware that two healthy oaks of significant size, and an ash had been felled for no apparent reason. I hold a Level 1 Tree Inspection qualification and have always taken an active interest in the mature trees in my local area. The trees which were felled were in full leaf and I could not see any evidence of disease. I viewed these trees regularly, (from a distance on my daily walk) and was shocked at their destruction. The trees which were felled formed part of a historic hedgerow alongside an ancient track, heading from the field entrance in an approximately northerly direction, where they adjoined in a 'T' formation the now protected line of trees in the TPO, growing along the ridgeline of the hill. This treeline itself forming a further ancient field boundary (there is in actual fact a height variance of approximately 1 metre in the difference of height from one side to the other). Clearly a historic land feature and is also shown on the First Edition OS map circa`1880s.

It is my concern that if the trees listed in the TPO are not protected, they will also be felled with enormous loss to local wildlife, and once lost, they will be gone forever.

The fact that three healthy mature trees have been felled by this landowner leaves me to conclude that the remaining trees are at high risk if not protected.

(If the landowner should appeal against the TPO this could be interpreted as their intention to fell the trees in the future.)

Mrs L Giles