

DATE: April 2022



Cedarwood
T R E E C A R E

Independent Arboricultural Consultancy

**TREE PRESERVATION ORDER Application to fell
TPO Ref 685, Llwynderw Primary School, West Cross Road,
Swansea**

AUTHOR: MARK CHESTER

1.0 Brief

This statement has been commissioned by Mr. & Mrs Evans of The Lodge, Wesr Cross Avenue, Swansea.

2.0 Site Description

Llwyndinderw Primary School occupies an elevated position overlooking The Mumbles. The site is broadly level. To the south of the site, on the western corner, is The Lodge. This is a residence built at a lower level. There is a small area of land on the boundary of the school and The Lodge. It is part of the grounds of the school but is fenced off and separated. It is accessible to The Lodge. There is a mature Corsican Pine within this area of land. The tree is visually prominent. It is centrally positioned within this small area of land, which is about 5-6 metres in depth. The ground on which the tree is positioned is elevated, with a retaining wall about one metre to the south. There is then a drop in levels of about four metres to the lower ground where The Lodge is situated.

3.0 Grounds for the Objection

3.1 In the Regulation 3 Notice, the reason given for making the Order is 'To prevent felling or lopping of trees adversely affecting amenity of the area'. This is a limited statement. The tree has not been subject to a detailed inspection by a tree officer (it was observed from a distance). The tree is in decline and shedding branches. There has been no assessment of the merits of the tree and its suitability for retention. An assessment is made in this report based on TEMPO (Tree Evaluation Methodology for Preservation Orders). It is based on the condition of the tree and the setting. Based on our assessment, the conclusion is that the tree is not suitable for protection.

4.0 Assessment of the Tree

4.1 The tree is a mature specimen. During recent inclement weather, several large branches were shed, some landing in the grounds of the primary school in which the tree is standing. One landed on the neighbouring property, causing damage to the roof. The tree has fine, evergreen foliage which is vulnerable to branch failure. Use of the tapping hammer resulted in bark platelet shedding, which is not expected. Insect bore holes are present on the trunk. The tree has Diplodia tip, and we estimate a future life expectancy of five years. As such, the tree is not suited to long-term retention and there is an increased concern about safety. Further branch loss can be expected. There is only a small area south of the tree for anchoring roots, so little protection against on-shore prevailing winds.

4.2 There is evidence of cracking on the boundary wall which is close to the tree. Whilst this is beyond the scope of this report, it is consistent with rooting damage and presents another potential problem.

4.2 The tree is a substantial specimen in a visually-prominent setting. It makes a recognised contribution to the amenity of the area. There is potential to establish a replacement tree of notable stature, such as London Plane, Birch or similar (ensuring suitability to a coastal environment) if preferred.

5.0 Conclusions

5.1 The tree is a mature, prominent specimen. However, it is in decline and shedding of branches is happening on the surrounding, residential area which includes a primary school to the north and a dwelling with permanent occupancy to the south. The tree is suffering from infestation from a boring insect. It is considered to have fewer than ten years of life, and possibly as few as five years remaining due to its condition.

In summary, the Order is not appropriate in this situation, and we recommend that it is 'not confirmed'. We request that this decision is made at the earliest opportunity. A site visit from the officer can be facilitated if required.

Mark Chester

BSc (Hons); MICFor; CUEW; C. Hort; MCIOH; Tech.Cert (Arbor.A); F.Arbor.A; C. Env.



Professional Member



Registered Consultant

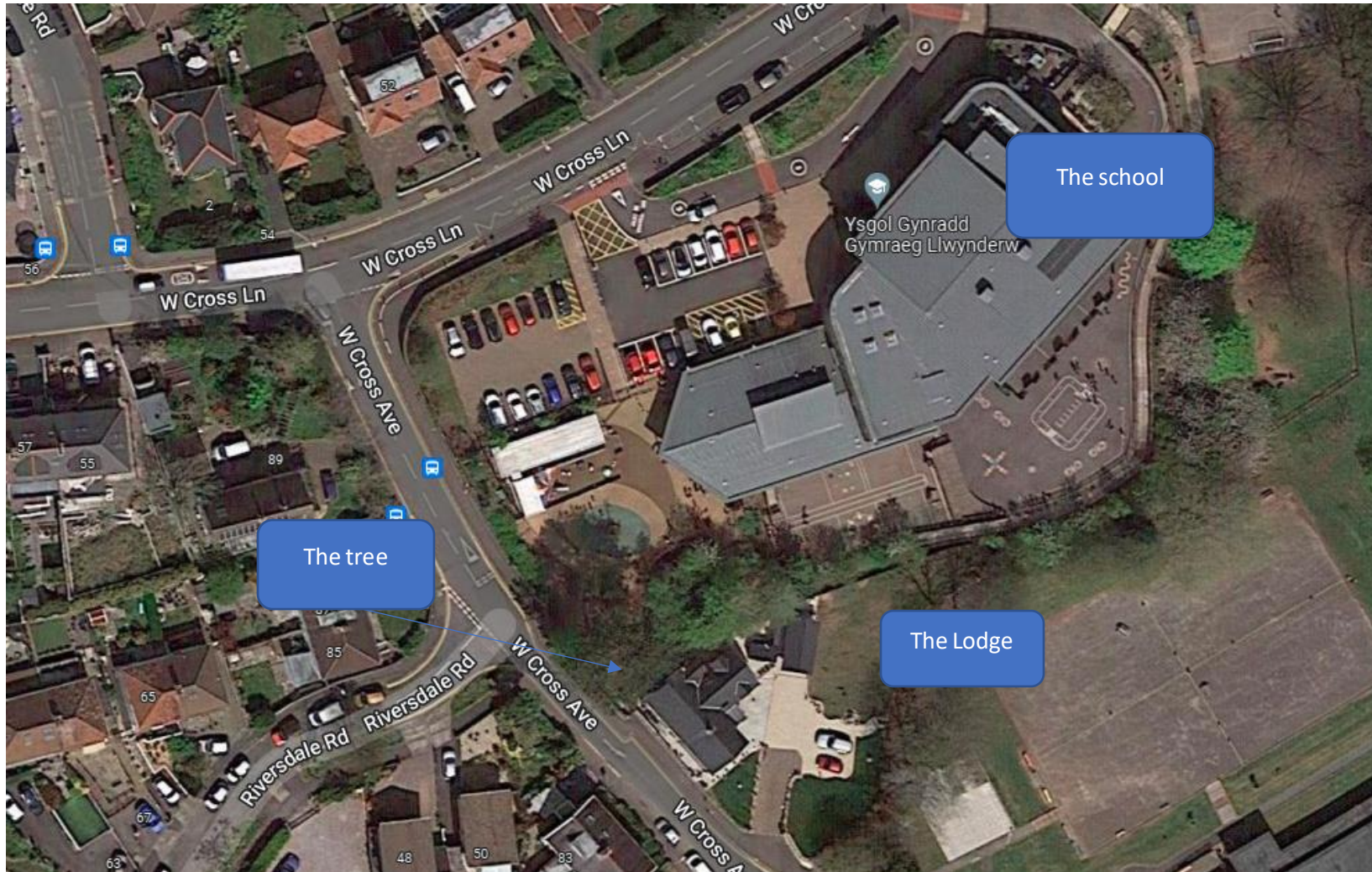


Arboricultural
ASSOCIATION

Professional Member

Principal Consultant | Cedarwood Tree Care Ltd | 01981 570426 07888 838360

TITLE: Site Plan



Reference: Photographs



IMAGE 1 (above) The tree viewed from up the hill, opposite the school.

IMAGE 2 (below): The tree viewed from within the school grounds. The left arrow shows a hung-up branch, the right arrow shows where the branch broke that landed in The Lodge.





IMAGE3 (above) The trees viewed from below The Lodge.

IMAGE4 (below): Ground conditions around the tree. Note that there is little rooting to the south which is where the impact of on-short winds would be.





IMAGE 5 (above): Insect bore holes.

IMAGE 6 (below): The upper crown viewed from within The Lodge.

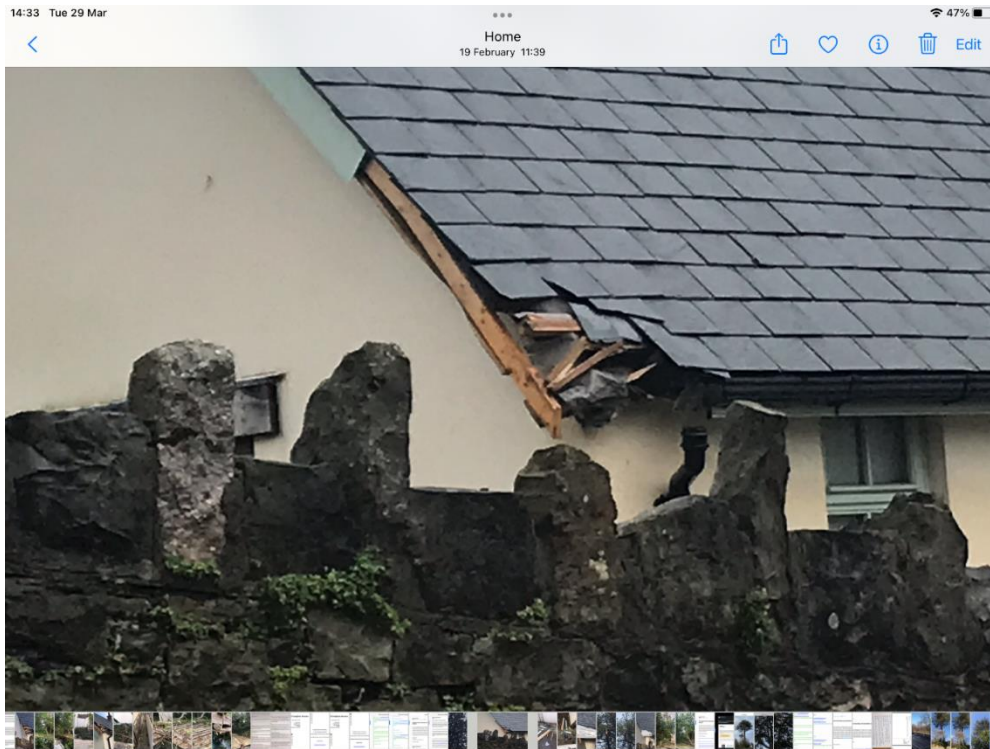




Above & Below: Two views of the branch which broke and landed in The Lodge.



OBJECTION TO TPO 685 LLWYNDERW PRIMARY SCHOOL, WEST CROSS ROAD, SWANSEA. APRIL 2022



Damage to the roof of The Lodge from the branch fall (above). Cracks to the wall (below)



3 Howton Grove Barns, Wombbridge, Herefordshire HR2 9DY
Tel: 01981 570426 or 07888 838360
Email: enquiries@cedarwoodtreecare.co.uk **Website:** www.cedarwoodtreecare.co.uk



TEMPO ASSESSMENT

1 Condition assessment:	Suitability	Score	Our survey
Good	Highly suitable	5	
Fair/satisfactory	Suitable	3	
Poor	Unlikely to be suitable	1	1
Dead/dying/dangerous	Unsuitable	0	
			1
(b) Retention span (years)			
100+	Highly suitable	5	
40-100	Very suitable	4	
20-40	Suitable	2	
10-20	Just suitable	1	1
Fewer than 10	Unsuitable	0	
			2
(c) Public visibility (Consider realistic potential for future visibility with changed land use)			
Very large tree with some visibility or prominent large tree	Highly suitable	5	
Large or medium trees clearly visible to the public	Very Suitable	4	4
Medium trees, or large trees with limited view only	Suitable	3	
Young, small, or medium/large trees visible only with difficulty	Barely suitable	2	
Trees not visible to the public, regardless of size	Probably unsuitable.	1	
			6

At this stage, a tree must have accrued 7 or more points, with no zero scores, for the process to continue.

Other factors		
Principal components of formal arboricultural features, or veteran trees.	5	
Tree groups, or principal members of groups important for their cohesion	4	

Trees with identifiable historic, commemorative or habitat importance	3	
Trees of particularly good form, especially if rare or unusual.	2	
Trees with none of the above additional redeeming features, including those of indifferent form.	1	1
		7

Part 2: Expediency assessment. A tree must have accrued 10 or more points to qualify.

Immediate threat to tree.	5	
Foreseeable threat to tree	3	
Perceived threat to tree	2	
Precautionary only	1	
		7

Part 3: Decision Guide

Definitely merits TPO	16+	
TPO is defensible	12-15	
Does not merit TPO	7-11	7
TPO indefensible	1-6	
Do not apply TPO	0	

END OF REPORT