

BREINTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Planning Application [P252354/J](#) 353 Kings Acre Road Herefordshire, HR4 0SL

T1: Common Lime (Large) - reduce the overall crown down leaving at approx. 15m from ground level to leave as a pollard and reduce the branch growing towards the house back to the main stem. In order to reduce size and also avoid the current damages/dents to cars, from falling branches. Fungal brackets also present see pictures.

T2: Apple (dead) - fell to as near ground level as possible.

- **Tree Preservation Order:** Reference: 027366, Location: 353 Kings Acre Road Hereford
LA REF: Lime. (1), Designation date: TPO_214

Breinton Parish Council Objection

We believe this specimen tree is the weeping form of a Pendant silver lime (*Tilia tomentosa* 'Petiolaris'). It is [recorded in the Ancient Tree Inventory](#) as a veteran tree no. 110496, described in the ancient and veteran tree records, as a superb example.

Breinton Parish Council considered this application at a meeting held on 17th September and objects to the proposed works as this veteran tree is an outstanding visual amenity on the western approach to the city with no sign of significant disease or decay in the trunk and the branches, according to recognised tree expert J.P.Ross. (See objection dated 24 August 2025). We concur with him that the presence of bracket fungus in two areas at the base of the trunk does not indicate imminent risk of failure, but a detailed investigative analysis of the tree structure would further clarify the extent and depth of decay.

The proposed 40% reduction of the tree height by pollarding, from 25m down to 15m, would reduce the tree canopy from circa 25m diameter to just 10m diameter. Such a reduction in height would reduce the area of the canopy by more than 80%. We believe that a reduction in tree canopy of greater than 80% is excessive, given the current need to increase the tree canopy in the declared climate and ecological emergency.

Two previous planning applications have been made to work on this important tree.

- In 2018 (application no. P181002) the applicant described the tree as being '*spectacular*' and '*in very good health*'. Permission was sought (and granted) for some work to reduce the tips of the lowest branches and for all major dead wood to be removed.
- In 2022 application P222538 requested permission "*to remove [the tree] completely or to pollard to reasonable height. Tree has been pollarded in the past and as such has inherent weaknesses at the old pollard locations*". Breinton Parish Council

objected in 2022 stating that *"this is a splendid tree and one of the most significant trees in Hereford"*, also pointing out its historical links to the Williamson family of Hereford horticulturists.

The tree is subject to a tree preservation order (TPO) and applications to fell or reduce the tree would normally include a report by a recognised expert to justify the necessity of the proposed work. In this application, no expert opinion is provided, but we note that the local tree expert J.P.Ross B.Sc.(hons) F.Arbor.A and chairperson of the Herefordshire Tree Forum, visited the site to examine the tree last month.

With permission of the owner, J.P. Ross measured the girth and height of the tree and observed and photographed the condition of the trunk where bracket fungus is growing. In his report submitted in objection to this proposal, dated 24 august 2025 expert J. P. Ross states:

'It is recognised as a tree of singular importance. It is also a specimen of outstanding visual amenity on the western approach to the city and as such is undoubtedly one of the most significant individual trees in Hereford'.

The general health of the trees appears to be good: the crown is well balanced and the foliage dense and of good colour; shoot extension growth is normal for a tree of this maturity, indicating that it retains good vigour.

Form: the tree forks at about four metres and has been described as having been pollarded, but I could see no evidence of that, the main forks appearing to be natural rather than having arisen as a result of cut-back (pollarding) in the past.

Branch structure appears to be good; the upper and outer crown is reported to have been cut back in the past but the dense foliage present at the time of my visit did not permit direct observation. No sign of significant disease or decay was observed in the major branches or in the main trunk; however, fungal brackets were noted in two locations in the south-west quarter of the base'.....'In this instance, while some decay is certainly present, observations suggest that it is relatively limited in extent and that it is not 'advanced and extensive'.

With regard proposed works J.P.Ross states:

'I am of the opinion that the works proposed, involving reducing "the overall crown down to approx. 15m from ground level to leave as a pollard" are excessive and unjustified'.

Breinton Parish Council objects to the proposed works as excessive and unjustified, a reduction in in tree height by 11m, or 44% would result in circa 84% loss of canopy. (A 20% reduction in height would result in a much lower 35% loss of canopy).

Lisa Law
Clerk / RFO
Breinton Parish Council