

STATEMENT OF WITNESS
(Civil Procedure Rules 25.3(2))

STATEMENT OF James Palmer Tree Officer New Forest National Park Authority

Age of witness (if over 18, enter "over 18"): ... Over 18

This statement (2 pages) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.

I am employed as a Tree Officer by the New Forest National Park Authority (the 'NPA'). This witness statement is made in relation to land at Lot 2, Petlake Farm, Ringwood Road, Bartley, Southampton SO40 7LA, known as 'Terry's Patch' (as shown outlined in red on the attached plan at EX1, the 'Property').

On Monday 7 December 2020 I received an email from David Rigby (the Copythorne Parish Council Clerk) suggesting that trees were being felled at the Property on Sunday 6 December 2020 at around 11am and explaining that before he managed to return to speak with the two males who were undertaking the work they had left the site. The email included several photos and a description of the works in question.

In response to David Rigby's email I made a site visit on 7/12/2020 at 9.15am to establish what works had been undertaken. I was on site for approximately 30 minutes. Prior to my visit I checked for any tree work applications or exempt works (R14/15 notice) that may have been submitted/approved for the trees in question. No such applications had been made. An Exclusive Estates and Auctioneers sign was on site (telephone 0208 432 7330). The site is subject to a Tree Preservation Order with reference 26/93 dated 17 May 1993 (Exhibit EX2).

It appeared from my site visit that unauthorised tree works have been undertaken towards the northern boundary of the site and adjacent to the main Ringwood Road (A 336). The works consist of the felling of mature, semi mature and young Oak trees within W1 of Tree Preservation Order 26/93. Stem diameters of the felled trees appeared to range from 100 mm to circa 300-400 mm in diameter. The height of the trees range from 5 – 16 m in height and the trees have been felled to circa 1- 2 m above ground level. In excess of 10 trees appear to have been felled. Trees growing/weighted towards the highway and growing close to the road edge have not been felled.

The trees that have been felled appear in good health and from my observations appeared to be free of major defects and would not have been considered an exception to application through an R14/15 notice. I did not note anything during my site that would warrant the removal of the trees and if The New Forest National Park Authority had received an application for the removal of these trees it would have likely been refused due to lack of justification for such works and the resulting detrimental impact the works would have had on the visual amenity that the trees provide while altering the character and appearance of the woodland belt.

The works appear to have been undertaken in an unprofessional and dangerous manner given the cuts that had been made leaving large fractures and splits on the main stems. It appears at present that the trees that have been felled are those that lean or are weighted towards the field (south). Several further trees have been marked with a white X

potentially indicating that these trees may also be marked to be felled. Several ropes run from north to south (from road edge to field edge) just above ground level potentially indicating an area to be cleared. This is to be confirmed. I took photographs (attached as EX3) and a video of the works that have been undertaken.


On Tuesday 8 December 2020 I received an email from David Williams, the Planning Enforcement Manager at the NPA, stating that Police had attended the site after reports that further trees had been felled in late evening on 7 December 2020 (EX4). A copy of the Police officer's report contained within David's email details what was found and discussed during the Police's visit.

I made a second site visit on 8 December in response to the report of apparent further works, accompanied by David Williams, Nik Gruber (Senior Tree Officer at the NPA) and a Police Officer. We were on site for approximately 30-40 minutes.

Two further mature Oak trees had been felled since my visit the previous day. Both trees had a stem diameter of circa 300 - 400 mm in diameter and appear to have been 10-15 in height. Both trees have been felled in a northern direction towards the highway and it is likely they were felled onto the highway and then cleared. Works appear to have been undertaken in an unprofessional manner. Trees appeared in good health and free from major defects. As with the trees that had been felled previously I did not note anything during my site that would warrant the removal of the trees and if The New Forest National Park Authority had received an application for the removal of these trees it would have been refused due to lack of justification for such works and the resulting detrimental impact the works would have had on the visual amenity that the trees provide.

I took additional photographs (EX5) and Nik Gruber and I attached 3 copies of the Tree Preservation Order that protects these trees to 2 trees in the area where works had been undertaken and another one on the main access gate.

Nik Gruber told me that he had subsequently received a phone call from Arb Assist (tree contractor) on 8 December 2020 after he was asked to quote for the removal of further trees on site. The contractor questioned the works given the unusual nature of the site and questioned what had works had been undertaken to date. Nik Gruber confirmed with the tree contractor that the trees were protected and that we are investigating the works that have already been undertaken.

Signed: ...  (witness)

Date: 9/12/2020

(To be completed if applicable: being unable to read the above statement I, of read it to him/her before he/she signed it.

Signed: Date:)

Exhibit JP1 Location plan



**NEW FOREST
NATIONAL PARK**

New Forest National Park Authority
Lymington Town Hall
Avenue Road
Lymington
SO41 9ZG

Tel: 01590 646600
Fax: 01590 646666

Date: 09/12/2020

LOCATION PLAN

Land at Lot 2
Petlake Farm
Ringwood Road
Bartley
Southampton SO40 7LA
known as 'Terry's Patch'
SCALE: 1:2500



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Exhibit JP2

Copy of TPO

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

DISTRICT COUNCIL OF NEW FOREST

TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NO. 26/93

LAND SOUTH OF A336 BETWEEN JUNCTIONS WITH
EADENS LANE AND TATCHBUCK LANE, BARTLEY

The District Council of New Forest (in this Order called "the Authority") in pursuance of the powers conferred in that behalf by sections 198 and 201 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and subject to the provisions of the Forestry Act 1967 hereby make the following Order:-

1. In this Order -

"The Act" means the Town and Country Planning Act 1990;

"Owner" means the owner in fee simple, either in possession or who has granted a lease or tenancy of which the unexpired portion is less than three years; lessee (including a sub-lessee) or tenant in possession, the unexpired portion of whose lease or tenancy is three years or more; and a mortgagee in possession; and

"The Secretary of State" means the Secretary of State for the Environment.

2. Subject to the provisions of this Order and to the exemptions specified in the Second Schedule hereto, no person shall, except with the consent of the Authority and in accordance with the conditions, if any, imposed on such consent, cut down, top, lop, uproot, wilfully damage or wilfully destroy or cause or permit the cutting down, topping, lopping, uprooting, wilful damage or wilful destruction of any tree specified in the First Schedule hereto or comprised in a group of trees or in a woodland therein specified, the position of which trees, groups of trees and woodlands is defined in the manner indicated in the said First Schedule on the map annexed hereto, which map shall, for the purpose of such definition as aforesaid, prevail where any ambiguity arises between it and the specification in the said First Schedule.

3. An application for consent made under Article 2 of this Order shall be in writing stating the reasons for making the application and shall by reference if necessary to a plan specify the trees to which the application relates, and the operations for the carrying out of which consent is required.

4. (1) Where an application for consent is made to the Authority under this Order, the Authority may grant such consent either unconditionally, or subject to such conditions (including conditions requiring the replacement of any tree by one or more trees on the site or in the immediate vicinity thereof), as the Authority may think fit, or may refuse consent:

Provided that where the application relates to any woodland specified in the First Schedule to this Order the Authority shall grant consent:

so far as accords with the principles of good forestry, except where, in the opinion of the Authority, it is necessary in the interests of amenity to maintain the special character of the woodland or the woodland character of the area, and shall not impose conditions on such consent requiring replacement or replanting.

(2) The Authority shall keep a register of all applications for consent under this Order containing information as to the nature of the application, the decision of the Authority thereon, any compensation awarded in consequence of such decision and any directions as to replanting of woodlands; and every such register shall be available for inspection by the public at all reasonable hours.

5. Where the Authority refuse consent under this Order or grant such consent subject to conditions they may when refusing or granting consent certify in respect of any trees for which they are so refusing or granting consent that they are satisfied -

- (a) that the refusal or condition is in the interests of good forestry; or
- (b) in the case of trees, other than trees comprised in a group of trees or in a woodland, that the trees have an outstanding or special amenity value; or
- (c) in the case of trees which are comprised in a group of trees or in a woodland, that the group of trees or the woodland, as the case may be, has an outstanding or special amenity value,

but a certificate shall not be given in the case of trees falling within (c) above if the application in respect of them has been referred by the Forestry Commissioners under section 15(1)(b) or 15(2)(a) of the Forestry Act 1967(c).

6. (1) Where consent is granted under this Order to fell any part of a woodlands other than consent for silvicultural thinning then unless -

- (a) such consent is granted for the purpose of enabling development to be carried out in accordance with a permission to develop land under Part III of the Act; or
- (b) the Authority with the approval of the Secretary of State dispense with replanting

the Authority shall give to the owner of the land on which that part of the woodland is situated a direction in writing specifying the manner in which and the time within which he shall replant such land and where such a direction is given and the part is felled the owner shall, subject to the provisions of this Order and section 204 of the Act, replant the said land in accordance with the direction.

(2) Any direction given under paragraph (1) of this Article may include requirements as to -

- (a) species;
- (b) number of trees per acre;
- (c) the erection and maintenance of fencing necessary for protection of the replanting;
- (d) the preparation of ground, draining, removal of brushwood, lop and top; and

(e) protective measures against fire.

7. On imposing any condition requiring the replacement of any tree under Article 4 of the Order with respect to the replanting of woodlands, the Authority shall if such condition or direction relates to land in respect of which byelaws made by a river authority or drainage board restrict or regulate the planting of trees, notify the applicant or the owner of the land, as the case may be, of the existence of such byelaws and that any such condition or direction has effect subject to the requirements of the river authority or drainage board under those byelaws and the condition or direction shall have effect accordingly.

8. The provisions set out in the Third Schedule to this Order, being provisions of Part III, and of section 107 of the Act, adapted and modified for the purposes of this Order, shall apply in relation thereto.

9. Subject to the provisions of this Order, any person who has suffered loss or damage in consequence of any refusal (including revocation or modification) of consent under this Order or of any grant of any such consent subject to conditions, shall, if he makes a claim on the Authority within the time and in the manner prescribed by this Order, be entitled to recover from the Authority compensation in respect of such loss or damage.

Provided that no compensation shall be payable in respect of loss or damage suffered by reason of such refusal or grant of consent in the case of any trees the subject of a certificate in accordance with Article 5 of this Order.

10. In assessing compensation payable under the last preceding Article account shall be taken of -

- (a) any compensation or contribution which has been paid whether to the claimant or any other person, in respect of the same trees under the terms of this or any other tree preservation order under sections 198 or 201 of the Act, or any compensation which has been paid or which could have been claimed under any provision relating to the preservation of trees or protection of woodlands contained in an operative scheme under the Town and Country Planning Act 1932, and
- (b) any injurious affection to any land of the owner which would result from the felling of the trees the subject of the claim.

11. (1) A claim for compensation under this Order shall be in writing and shall be made by serving it on the Authority, such service to be effected by delivering the claim at the offices of the Authority addressed to the Solicitor thereof or by sending it by prepaid post so addressed.

(2) The time within which any such claim shall be made as aforesaid shall be a period of twelve months from the date of the decision of the Authority, or of the Secretary of State, as the case may be, or where an appeal has been made to the Secretary of State against the decision of the Authority, from the date of the decision of the Secretary of State on the appeal.

12. Any question of disputed compensation shall be determined in accordance with the provisions of section 205 of the Act.
13. The provisions of section 201 of the Act shall apply to this Order and the Order shall take effect on 17 MAY 1993.
14. This Order may be cited as The District Council of New Forest Tree Preservation Order No. 2693

NOTE:

Any person contravening the provisions of this Order by cutting down, uprooting or wilfully destroying a tree, or by wilfully damaging, topping or lopping a tree in such a manner as to be likely to destroy it is guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £20,000, or on indictment to a fine. The penalty for any other contravention of this Order is a fine not exceeding £1,000 on summary conviction.

If a tree other than one to which an Order applies as part of a woodland is removed, uprooted or destroyed in contravention of an Order or is removed, uprooted or destroyed or dies at a time when its cutting down or uprooting is authorised only by section 198(6) of the Town and County Planning Act 1990 relating to trees which are dying or dead or have become dangerous, it is the duty of the owner of the land, unless on his application the local planning authority dispense with the requirement, to plant another tree of appropriate size and species at the same place as soon as he reasonably can. Except in emergency, not less than five days previous notice of the removal, etc. should be given to the Authority to enable the latter to decide whether or not to dispense with the requirement.

FIRST SCHEDULE

TREES SPECIFIED INDIVIDUALLY
(marked in black on the map)

<u>No. on Map</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Situation</u>
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NONE

TREES SPECIFIED BY REFERENCE TO AN AREA
(within a dotted black line on the map)

NONE

GROUPS OF TREES
(within a broken black line on the map)

NONE

WOODLANDS
(within a continuous black line on the map)

W1	WOODLAND COMPRISING MAINLY OAK, ASH AND BIRCH	SOUTH OF A336, AS SHOWN ON ATTACHED PLAN
W2	WOODLAND COMPRISING MAINLY OAK, ASH AND BIRCH	SOUTH OF A336, AS SHOWN ON ATTACHED PLAN

- 5 -

SECOND SCHEDULE

This Order shall not apply so as to require the consent of the Authority to

- (1) the cutting down of any tree on land which is subject to a forestry dedication covenant where:-
 - (a) any positive covenants on the part of the owner of the land contained in the same deed as the forestry dedication covenant and at the time of the cutting down binding on the then owner of the land are fulfilled;
 - (b) the cutting down is in accordance with a plan of operations approved by the Forestry Commission under such deed.
- (2) The cutting down of any tree which is in accordance with a plan of operations approved by the Forestry Commission under the approved woodlands scheme or other grant scheme under section 4 of the Forestry Act 1967 except a scheme which applies to a forestry dedication covenant;
- (3) the cutting down, uprooting, topping or lopping of a tree -
 - (a) in pursuance of the power conferred on the Minister of Posts and Telecommunications by virtue of section 5 of the Telegraph (Construction) Act 1908;
 - (b) by or at the request of
 - (i) a statutory undertaker where the land on which the tree is situated is operational land as defined by the Act and either works on such land cannot otherwise be carried out or the cutting down, topping or lopping is for the purpose of securing safety in the operation of the undertaking;
 - (ii) an electricity board within the meaning of the Electricity Act 1947, where such tree obstructs the construction by the board of any main transmission line or other electric line with the meaning respectively of the Electricity (Supply) Act 1919, and the Electric Lighting Act 1882, or interferes or would interfere with the maintenance or working of any such line;
 - (iii) a river authority established under the Water Resources Act 1963, or a drainage board constituted or treated as having been constituted under the Land Drainage Act 1930, where the tree interferes or would interfere with the exercise of any of the functions of such river authority or drainage board in relation to the maintenance, improvement or construction of water courses or of drainage works;
 - (iv) the Minister of Defence for the Royal Air Force, the Minister of Technology or the Board of Trade where in the opinion of such Minister or Board the tree obstructs the approach of aircraft to or their departure from any aerodrome or hinders the safe and efficient use of aviation or defence technical installations.

- (c) where immediately required for the purpose of carrying out development authorised by the planning permission granted on an application made under Part III of the Act, or deemed to have been so granted for any of the purposes of that Part;
- (d) which is a fruit tree cultivated for fruit production growing or standing on land comprised in an orchard or garden.

NOTE: Section 206 of the Act requires, unless on the application of the owner the local authority dispense with the requirement that any tree removed or destroyed under section 198(6) of the Act, shall be replaced by another tree of appropriate size and species. In order to enable the local planning authority to come to a decision, on whether or not to dispose with the requirement, notice of the proposed action should be given to the local planning authority which except in a case of emergency should be of not less than five days.

THIRD SCHEDULE

Provision of the following parts of the Act as adapted and modified to apply to this Order.

75 - (1) Without prejudice of the following provisions as to the revocation or modification of consents, any consent under the Order including any direction as to replanting given by the Authority on the granting of such consent, shall (except insofar as the consent otherwise provides), ensure for the benefit of the land and of all persons for the time being interested therein.

77 - (1) The Secretary of State may give directions to the Authority requiring applications for consent under the Order to be referred to him instead of being dealt with by the Authority.

77 - (2) A direction under this section may relate either to a particular application or to applications of a class specified in the direction.

77 - (3) Any application in respect of which a direction under this section has effect shall be referred to the Secretary of State accordingly.

77 - (4) Where an application for consent under the Order is referred to the Secretary of State under this section, the provisions of Articles 4 and 5 of the Order shall apply as they apply to an application which falls to be determined by the Authority.

77 - (5)&(6) Before determining an application referred to him under this section the Secretary of State shall, if either the applicant or the Authority so desire, afford to each of them an opportunity of appearing before, and being heard by, a person appointed by the Secretary of State for the purpose.

77 - (7) The decision of the Secretary of State on any application referred to him under this section shall be final.

78 - (1) Where an application is made for consent under the Order and that consent is refused by the Authority or is granted by them subject to conditions, or where any certificate or direction is given by the Authority, the applicant, if he is aggrieved by their decision on the application, or by such certificate, or the person directed if he is aggrieved by the direction, may by notice under this section appeal to the Secretary of State.

78 - (3)&(4) A notice under this section shall be served in writing within twenty eight days from the receipt of notification of the decision, certificate or direction, as the case may be, or such longer period as the Secretary of State may allow.

79 - (1) Where an appeal is brought under this section from a decision, certificate or direction of the Authority, the Secretary of State, subject to the following provisions of this section, may allow or dismiss the appeal, or may reverse or vary part of the decision of the Authority, whether the appeal relates to that part thereof or not, or may cancel any certificate or cancel or vary any direction, and may deal with the application as if it had been made to him in the first instance.

79 - (2)&(3) Before determining an appeal under this section the Secretary of State shall, if either the appellant or the Authority so desire, afford to each of them an opportunity of appearing before, and being heard by, a person appointed by the Secretary of State for that purpose.

79 - (5) The decision of the Secretary of State on any appeal under this section shall be final.

78 - (2)&(5) Where an application for consent under the Order is made to the Authority, then unless within two months from the date of receipt of the application, or within such extended period as may at any time be agreed upon in writing between the applicant and the Authority, the Authority either -

- (a) give notice to the applicant of their decision on the application:
or
- (b) give notice to him that the application has been referred to the Secretary of State in accordance with directions given under section 77 of the Act:

the provisions of the last preceding section shall apply in relation to the application as if the consent to which it relates had been refused by the Authority, and as if notification of their decision had been received by the applicant at the end of the period prescribed by the development order, or at the end of the said extended period, as the case may be.

97 - (1)&(2) If it appears to the Authority that it is expedient to revoke or modify any consent under the Order granted on an application made under Article 3 of the Order, the Authority may by Order revoke or modify the consent to such extent as they consider expedient.

98 - (1)&(6) Except as provided in section 99 of the Act, an Order under section 97 shall not take effect unless it is confirmed by the Secretary of State; and the Secretary of State may confirm any such Order submitted to him either without modification or subject to such modification as he considers expedient.

98 - (2)-(5) Where an Authority submit an Order to the Secretary of State for his confirmation under this section, the Authority shall furnish the Secretary of State with a statement of their reason for making the Order and shall serve notice on the owner of the land affected, and on any other person who in their opinion will be affected by the Order, and if within the period of twenty eight days from the service thereof any person on whom the notice is served so requires, the Secretary of State, before confirming the Order, shall afford to that person, and to the Authority an opportunity of appearing before and being heard by a person appointed by the Secretary of State for the purpose.

97 - (3)&(4) The power conferred by this section to revoke or modify a consent may be exercised at any time before the operations for which consent has been given have been completed.

Provided that the revocation or modification of consent shall not affect so much of those operations as has been previously carried out.

97 - (5) Where a notice has been served in accordance with the provisions of section 98(2) to (5), no operations or further operations as the case may be, in pursuance of the consent granted, shall be carried out pending the decision of the Secretary of State under sub-section (1) and (6) of section 98.

99 - (1)&(2) The following provisions shall have effect where the local planning authority have made an Order (hereinafter called "such Order") under section 97 above revoking or modifying any consent granted on an application made under a tree preservation order but have not submitted such Order to the Secretary of State for confirmation by him and the owner and the occupier of the land and all persons who in the Authority's opinion will be affected by such Order have notified the Authority in writing that they do not object to such Order.

99 - (4)&(5) The Authority shall advertise the fact that such Order has been made and the advertisement shall specify -

- (a) the period (not less than twenty eight days from the date on which the advertisement first appears) within which persons affected by such Order may give notice to the Secretary of State that they wish for an opportunity of appearing before, and being heard by a person appointed by the Secretary of State for the purpose, and

(b) the period (not less than fourteen days from the expiration of the period referred to in paragraph (a) above) at the expiration of which, if no such notice is given to the Secretary of State, such Order may take effect by virtue of this section and without being confirmed by the Secretary of State.

99 - (3) The Authority shall also serve notices to the same effect on the persons mentioned in sub-section (1) above.

99 - (6) The Authority shall send a copy of any advertisement published under sub-sections (4) and (5) above to the Secretary of State, not more than three days after the publication.

99 - (7) If within the period referred to in sub-section (4) above no person claiming to be affected by such Order has given notice to the Secretary of State as aforesaid and the Secretary of State has not directed that such Order be submitted to him for confirmation, such Order shall at the expiration of the period referred to in sub-section (5) of this section take effect by virtue of this section and without being confirmed by the Secretary of State as required by section 98(1) of the Act.

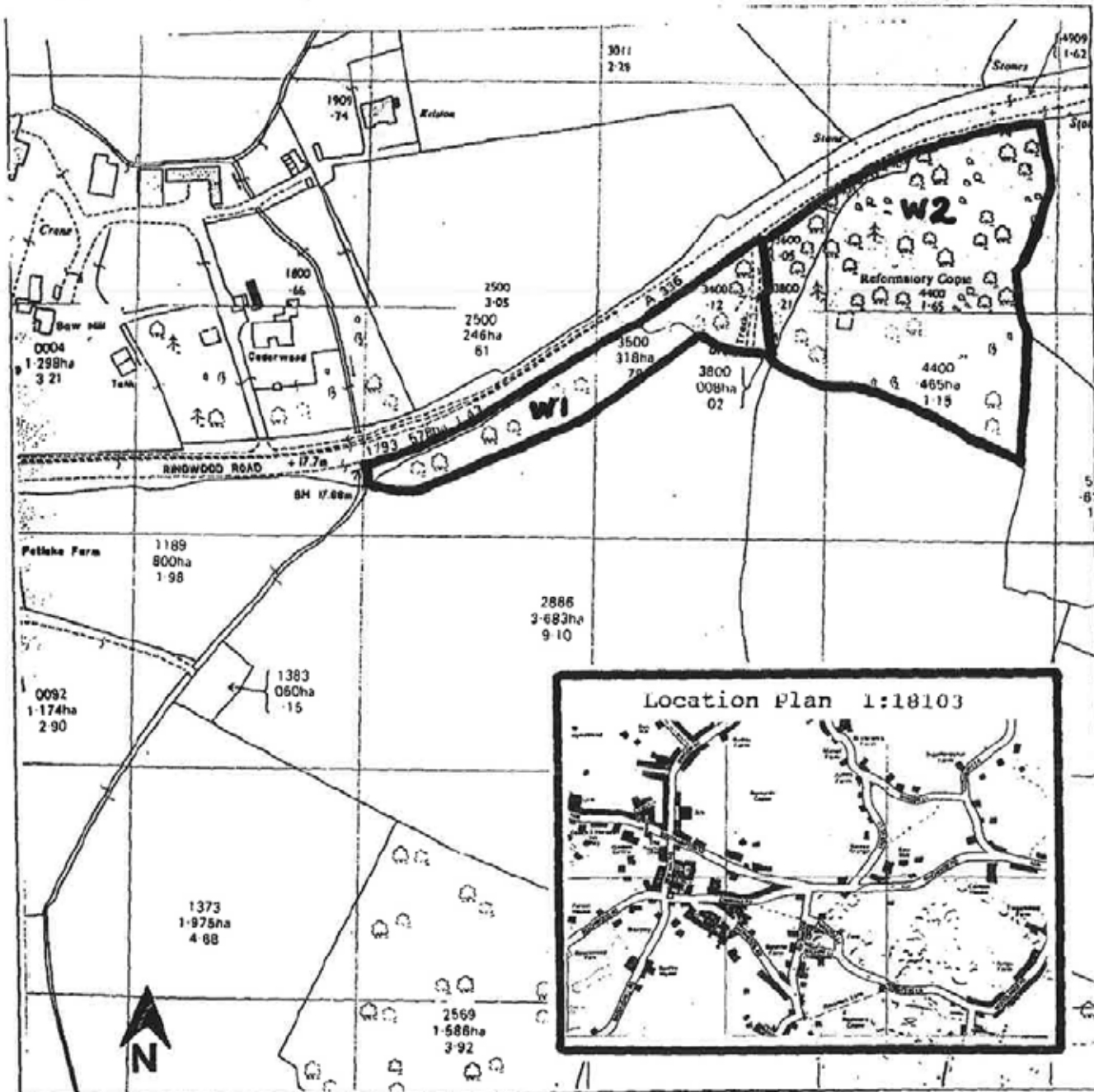
99 - (8) This section does not apply to such Order revoking or modifying a consent granted or deemed to have been granted by the Secretary of State under the Act, nor does it apply to an Order modifying any conditions to which a planning permission is subject by virtue of section 91 or 92 of the Act.

GIVEN under the COMMON SEAL of)
the DISTRICT COUNCIL OF NEW)
FOREST in the presence of:-)

Terry Simpson

AN AUTHORIZED
SIGNATORY





New Forest District Council

Tree Preservation Order Plan

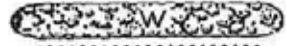

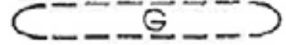


Terry Simpson
 AUTHORIZED SIGNATOR

Town and Country Planning Act 1990

T.P.O. Number: 26193

Extract of O.S. Sheet: SU 3212/3312
 SU 3213/3313

Date: May 1993
 Scale: 1:2500

- Notation: Woodland of Trees Covered by T.P.O. 
- Area of Trees Covered by T.P.O. 
- Groups of Trees Covered by T.P.O. 
- Individual Trees Covered by T.P.O. 
- Trees noted but Not Worthy of Preservation 

E.S. Johnson B.A., F.R.I.C.S., F.R.T.P.I.
 Director of Planning, Appletree Court, Lyndhurst

DATED 17 MAY 1993

DISTRICT COUNCIL OF NEW FOREST

Town & Country Planning Act 1990

TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NO. 26/93

LAND SOUTH OF A336 BETWEEN JUNCTIONS
WITH EADENS LANE AND TATCHBURY LANE,
BARTLEY IN HAMPSHIRE

B. BUCHANAN
Chief Solicitor
New Forest District Council
Appletree Court
Lyndhurst
Hants. S043 7PA

The District Council of New Forest in pursuance
of the powers conferred upon them in that behalf
hereby confirm the within written Order as an
unopposed Order.

Given under the Common Seal of the District
Council of New Forest this 23rd
day of June One thousand nine hundred
and ninety-three In the presence of



D.M. Milton
AN AUTHORISED SIGNATORY

12255



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
COUNCIL OF THE STATE
OFFICE OF THE CLERK
TREASURY BUILDING
TREASURY STREET
TREASURY BUILDING
TREASURY STREET
TREASURY BUILDING
TREASURY STREET

Exhibit JP4

Police report extract

Email dated 08.12.20 from Hampshire Police report

From: [REDACTED]@hampshire.pnn.police.uk>
Sent: 08 December 2020 08:23
To: David Williams <[REDACTED]@newforestnpa.gov.uk>; [REDACTED]
<[REDACTED]@forestryengland.uk>; [REDACTED]@naturalengland.org.uk>
Subject: 44200472903 - MESSAGE FROM HAMPSHIRE POLICE
Importance: High

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

This isn't about the A31.

We attended an incident last night where a male appears to have bought some woodland and decided to chop down a vast amount of trees. We attended last night after receiving a call from a concerned member of the public.

The informant lives at [REDACTED] and describes woodland as between Cadnam and Netley Marsh off of Ringwood Road. The officers write up (minus the GDPR stuff) is below. I specifically note the new owners intention to turn this piece of woodland into a truck stop!

At 2145 on Monday 7th December, Police were called to a report of men cutting down trees with chain saws in a copse in Ringwood Road, between Cadnam and Netley Marsh. Information was received that a Mercedes Vito van - BV67*** was at the location.

Officers attended at 2300 and passed the Mercedes Van - BV67*** driving in the opposite direction. This was stopped and two occupants spoken to.

Officers attended the location of the tree cutting and saw a large amount of trees had been cut, and three males were present. Officers spoke with David ****.

David stated that he was the owner of the land, and that he had bought four acres of the woodland in an auction a couple of weeks ago. He stated that he bought the land for £228,000 from an Auctioneers in London called "Exclusive". David stated that he lives in Birmingham and had come down at night to specifically cut down the trees on his land with the two other males, as it was too dangerous during the day as the road (Ringwood Road) was so busy. He stated that he had cut the trees down in order to create an access area into his land, although there was an access road and metal five bar gate leading into his land about 100 metres away. He stated that he had no plans on how or when to remove the cut down trees.

David stated that he planned to build a truck stop with fuel service station on the land. He was asked whether he had permission to cut down the trees, and he stated that it was his land, so he didn't think he needed any permission. He stated that he had sent the NFDC a letter that day informing them that he will be cutting down trees on his land for access purposes, but stated that he had not waited for any response. David stated that he had not submitted any planning permission for his truck stop nor had he submitted any submission form to enquire about any TPO's in the area of his purchased land.

David stated that he had brought the two males with him down from Birmingham to cut down the trees. The two males were from Afghanistan and did not speak very good English. None of the males were wearing any Health and Safety equipment, and did not have any lighting - cutting the trees in the dark. David confirmed that he did not have a felling licence to cut down the large amount of trees.

The two other males from the Mercedes van returned and confirmed that they had been assisting David cutting down the trees.

David was told to stop the work, and informed that his details would be passed to NFDC.

Hampshire Constabulary currently use the Microsoft Office 2013 suite of applications. Please be aware of this if you intend to include an attachment with your email. This communication contains information which is confidential and may also be privileged. Any views or opinions expressed are

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