



ACJ[®] *ecology*

Tree Officer

Cotswold District Council

Council Offices,

Trinity Road,

Cirencester,

GL7 1PX

6 May 2026

Dear Tree Officer,

Subject: Objection to Temporary Tree Preservation Order and any future TPOs – The Folly, West End Gardens, Fairford, Gloucestershire GL7 4JB (TPO 26/00002)

I am writing on behalf of ACJ Ecology to formally object to the temporary Tree Preservation Order (TPO 26/00002) affecting trees at The Folly, West End Gardens, Fairford, and to object to any future TPO proposed for this site.

ACJ Ecology has worked alongside the scheme specialists and the client team to review the evolving design and to provide expert input on the current and future ecological features of the site. This has included considerable review of the existing trees and wider habitats, and ongoing discussion with the scheme architects to minimise tree removal wherever practicable.

The emerging proposals are intended to deliver measurable ecological enhancement, including replacement planting where trees are removed and the introduction of specimen species and habitat features that will increase structural diversity, resilience, and overall biodiversity value. This approach reflects the client's expectations and primary objectives for the site.

In our professional opinion, the trees identified within the temporary TPO are of comparatively low ecological value in the context of what is proposed. Once the scheme is developed and the replacement planting and habitat measures are established, the ecological value of the site would be significantly higher than at present, resulting in a net improvement for biodiversity.

The confirmation of the current temporary TPO (or the introduction of any future TPO) would risk delivery of these ecological gains by preventing the necessary tree removals and, in turn, constraining the agreed planting strategy and habitat creation proposals. For these reasons, the trees identified in the TPO should be removed from the Order to



enable implementation of the planting scheme and the ecological enhancements proposed.

In summary, our objection is made on the following grounds:

1. ACJ Ecology has undertaken detailed review of the existing trees and wider ecological baseline and has provided input to the scheme design to create a better outcome.
2. The design team has sought to minimise tree removal; however, some removals are necessary to deliver a coherent scheme and the proposed ecological mitigation and enhancement strategy.
3. The trees included within the temporary TPO are of relatively low ecological value compared with the habitat value that would be delivered through the proposed replacement planting and associated biodiversity measures. The land has been subject to pesticides reducing bio diversity around the apple trees and the invasive species have low ecological value and attract disease and spread infection that could be detrimental to other trees in the area.
4. The proposed planting scheme (including specimen replacement species) would enhance habitat connectivity, structural diversity and long-term ecological resilience, increasing biodiversity value on completion.
5. Confirmation of the TPO would impede the ability to deliver the planned ecological gains and could lead to a worse ecological outcome for the site.

I would be grateful if the Council could take account of the above in determining whether to confirm the temporary Order, and I respectfully request that the trees identified within TPO 26/00002 are not confirmed for protection. Should it be helpful, ACJ Ecology would be pleased to discuss our findings and the proposed ecological enhancement strategy with the Tree Officer in more detail to validate our professional opinion.

Yours faithfully,

Andrew May

Chief Executive

ACJ Ecology