

**AGENDA ITEM NO.15**

**PLANNING COMMITTEE**

<b>Date</b>	<b>6 FEBRUARY 2013</b>
<b>Title</b>	<b>TPO 16/2013 LAND SOUTH EAST OF SHARPES FARM, CHURCH END, LEVERINGTON</b>

**1. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to advise members of the current situation in respect of confirmation of a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) at land south east of Sharpes Farm, Church End, Leverington and to determine an appropriate course of action

**2. SUMMARY**

Matters relating to the issue and confirmation of a TPO are normally dealt with by delegated powers and confirmations are only referred to this Committee where objections to the Order are received. The Weeping Willow is a fine specimen and is of high landscape value. The Scots Pine is of long term potential and also worthy of retention. The decision to seek their retention was made in November 2012.

The aforementioned trees are located toward the north western and southern corner of the curtilage of Sharpes Farm, Church End, Leverington.

**3. RECOMMENDATION**

It is, therefore, recommended that members confirm the TPO in respect of the Weeping Willow and Scots Pine at Sharpes Farm, Church End, Leverington.

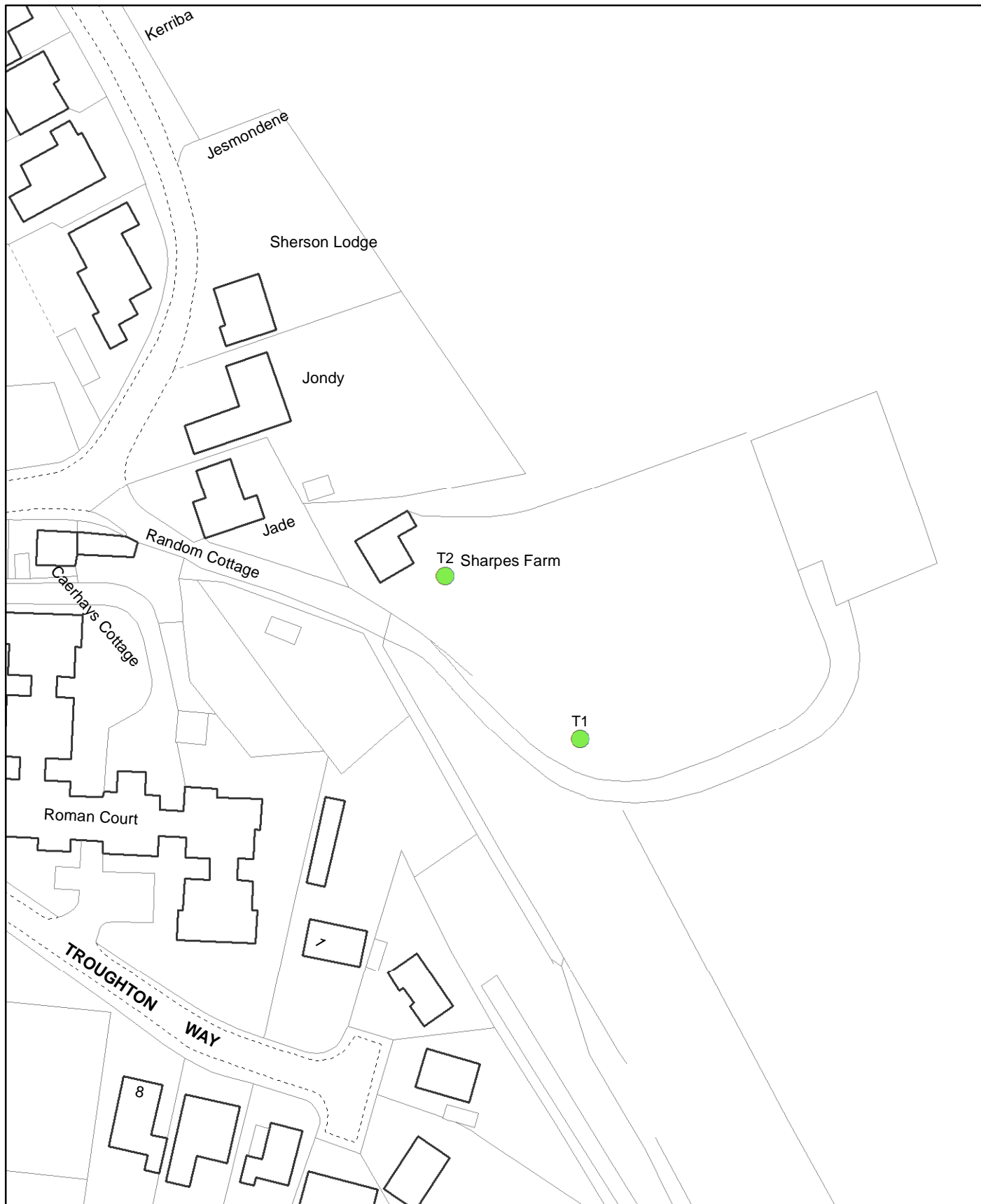
<b>Forward Plan Reference No.</b> (if applicable)	Not applicable
<b>Portfolio Holder(s)</b>	Not applicable
<b>Report Originator</b>	Shanna Penney
<b>Contact Officer(s)</b>	Graham Nourse, Head of Planning
<b>Background Paper(s)</b>	Not applicable



## **1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 Following a review of the site addressing an enquiry, it became apparent that the Weeping Willow and Scots Pine were worthy of preservation and authority was sought to issue a TPO. The Order was subject to a 28 day period for the receipt of any objections prior to final confirmation.
- 1.2 A letter has been received on behalf of the owner of the site, objecting only to the TPO on the Weeping Willow due to it not being native species and an independent Arboriculturist being of the opinion that it is not of long term potential.

## **2. ASSESSMENT**

- 2.1 The Order, which encompasses the aforementioned trees, is detailed on the accompanying plan.
- 2.2 The placement of a TPO does not prevent tree works or even removal, but gives the Local Planning Authority control over 'inappropriate' works.
- 2.3 Whilst the comments raised in the letter of objection have been noted, it is also important to highlight that the independent assessment stipulates that continued management of the Weeping Willow will extend its life. The report also goes on to say that it is proposed to remove the Weeping Willow as it takes up approximately 40% of the site which is proposed to be developed for 4 houses.
- 2.4 FDC Arboricultural Officer notes that independent report states that the Weeping Willow is structurally good with a life of 10 to 20 years. Guidance given to placing a TPO states that the tree should have a minimum life expectancy of at least 10 years to justify its retention. This particular tree is growing in an exposed position and shows very little evidence of major shed limits. Trees become more valuable in terms of biodiversity and visual amenity with age. Whilst the species is not native it has become part of the landscape providing character and amenity to the region.
- 2.5 Both trees are worthy of retention due to their amenity values and contributions to the character of the area. It is, therefore, recommended that the TPO is confirmed.



<p>Created on: 28/11/2012</p>	<p>Development Services  <b>TPO16/2012</b>  TPO Land South East Of Sharpes Farm,  Church End, Leverington</p> <p>T1 Weeping Willow, T2 Scots Pine</p>	<p>Scale = 1:1,000</p>  
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