

## 5.2 Objection to Tree Preservation Order number 4 of 2017

Stone Wood, Poundsbridge Lane, Poundsbridge, Penshurst, Kent

### ITEM FOR DECISION

TPO 4 of 2017 has been served in response to an investigation following reports of works within an unprotected Ancient Woodland.

RECOMMENDATION: That TPO 4 of 2016 is confirmed without amendment.

### Details leading to the serving of the TPO.

- 1 We became aware of works in this woodland from the Arboricultural Officer at Tunbridge Wells Borough Council (TWBC). He had been contacted by a resident who reported that a tracked JCB vehicle was working within the area known as Stone Wood.
- 2 Stone Wood abuts the TWBC boundary but is known as Furze field Wood within TWBC. It is basically the same wood albeit dissected by the District Boundary.
- 3 Given the shared interest of the two authorities, it was decided to carry out a joint investigation.

### Description of Site

- 4 Stone Wood is located to the east of a paddock within a small valley. The woodland has been formally recognised as Ancient following a project carried out by the Weald & Downs Ancient Woodland survey. This means that there has been woodland at this location for at least the last 400 years. This remaining Ancient Woodland is made up of two areas next to each other. One larger and one smaller area.
- 5 No works were being carried out on the day of our visit. It was clear however that works had taken place within the paddock and to trees within the wood.
- 6 Earth works had taken place within the paddock. Boundary trees to the wood had been removed and had been dragged further into the paddock by the tracked vehicle. The vehicle was parked within the middle of the Ancient Woodland.
- 7 The vehicle's journey into the woodland to its stationary position was a forceful one with trees and branches cleared and stacked to one side.
- 8 TPO 4 of 2017 was served on the owner to ensure that harm being caused to the trees did not continue.

## **Constraints**

- 9 TPO 4 of 2017
- 10 High Weald AONB

## **Representations**

- 11 We have received an objection letter from the woodland owner Mr A Bastable, after serving TPO 4 2017.
- 12 Mr Bastable has stated that he had not instructed the machine operator properly, as to what his objective was. This resulted in the damage to the trees within the wood.
- 13 The owner also states that he wishes to carry out coppicing works within the woodland in the future.

## **Appraisal**

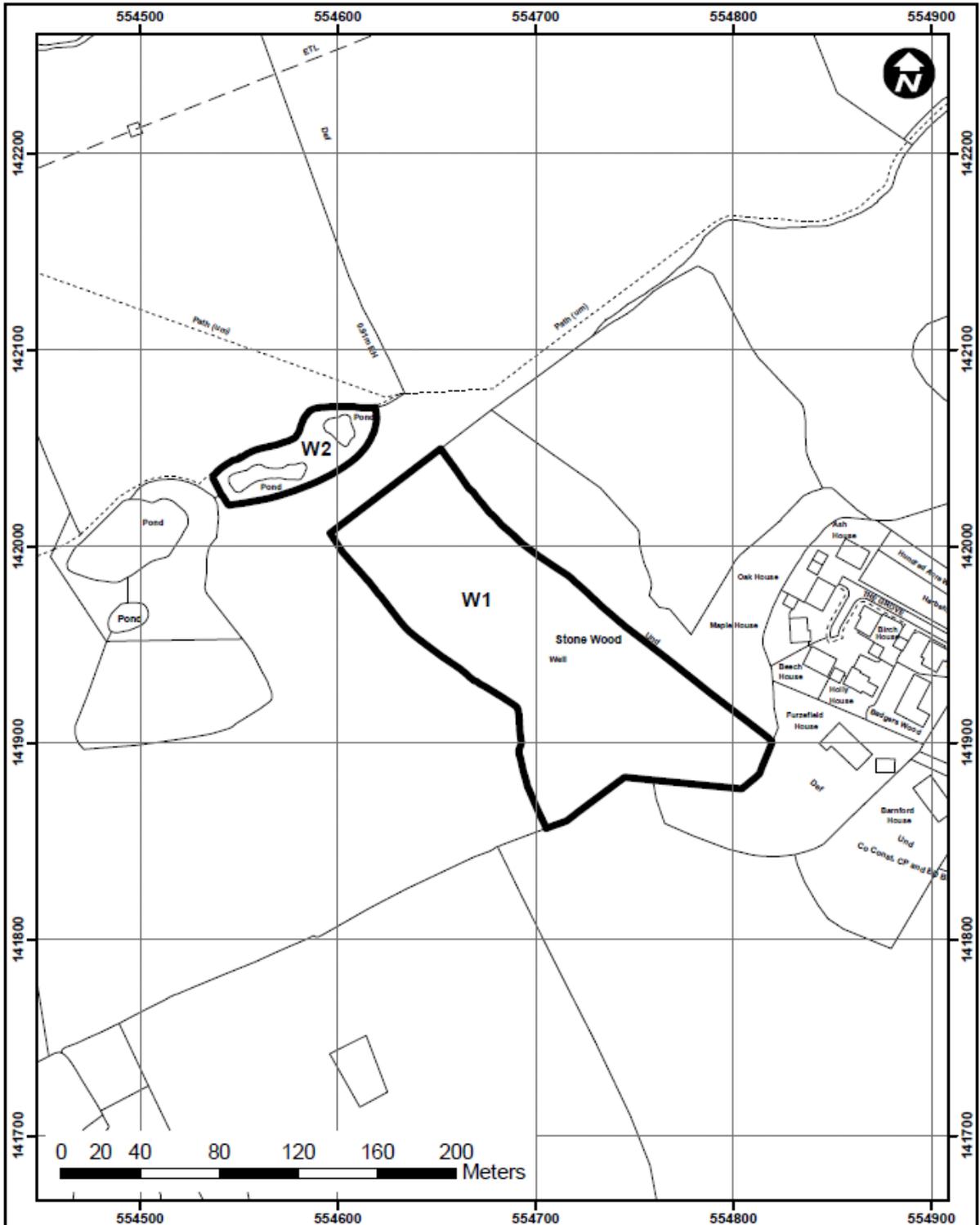
- 14 Whatever the reasoning behind the previous works, damage has occurred to the woodland. TPO 4 of 2017 which is now valid will afford protection for the future and provide a degree of control over future works.
- 15 Mr Bastable's intention to carry out coppicing within the wood would require consent either from the Forestry Commission, in the form of a felling licence, or from ourselves depending on the amount of timber he proposes to remove per calendar quarter. As this wood is now protected by the preservation order, we would be consulted for our comments on any felling licence application.

## **Conclusion**

- 16 It is recommended that TPO 4 of 2017 be confirmed without amendment. TPO Plan and Schedule 1 attached as (Appendix 1).

Contact Officer(s): Les Jones Arboricultural & Landscape Officer  
Extension 7289

**Richard Morris**  
Chief Planning Officer



 <p>Sevenoaks DISTRICT COUNCIL</p> <p>© Crown copyright and database rights 2017 Ordnance Survey 100019428.</p>	<b>Tree Preservation Order</b>	
	TPO 4 (2017)	Scale: 1:2,500 Date: April 2017
	Stone Wood, To The West of Furzefield Avenue, Speldhurst	
Produced by the GIS Team, Sevenoaks District Council		

**SCHEDULE 1**

**SPECIFICATION OF TREES**

**Trees specified individually**  
(encircled in black on the map)

<i>Reference on Map</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Situation*</i>
	None	

**Trees specified by reference to an area**  
(Within a dotted black line on the map)

<i>Reference on Map</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Situation*</i>
	None	

**Groups of trees**  
(Within a broken black line on the map)

<i>Reference on Map</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Situation*</i>
	None	

**Woodlands**  
(Within a continuous black line on the map)

<i>Reference on Map</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Situation*</i>
W1	Mixed deciduous woodland	Situated to the west of Furzeffeld Avenue, Speldhurst, Kent.
W2	Mixed deciduous woodland	Situated to the west of Furzeffeld Avenue, Speldhurst.

\* complete if necessary to specify more precisely the position of the trees.