

**Committee:** Development Control  
**Date:** 12 October 2005  
**Agenda Item No:** 6  
**Title:** Provisional Tree Preservation Order No: 6/05 Manor Hotel,  
Birchanger  
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### **Introduction**

- 1 This item seeks Members' consideration of provisional Tree Preservation Order no.6/05 Manor Hotel, Birchanger.

### **Background**

- 2 Following a request from the owners of Manor Hotel for trees on land adjacent to the Hotel to be considered for protection, an assessment was carried out by the Essex County Council Arboriculture Service on behalf of the District Council. Based on the ECC Officer recommendation a provisional 'Area' Tree Preservation Order was served.

### **Representations/objections**

- 3 An objection to the serving of the Order has been received from OCA UK Limited on behalf of the landowner, Flockfield Limited. The grounds of objection are summarised as follows:
  1. The Council has failed to demonstrate that these trees stand out as selected trees and woodlands.
  2. There are a number of trees which due to there size cannot be seen, either internally from the drive to the Hotel, or externally, from the field edge. The Birch trees can hardly be seen from Birchanger village. The many hidden young Birch saplings cannot be considered as contributing to visual amenity because they cannot be seen.
  3. The 'Area' classification should only be used as a temporary measure.

### **Assessment**

- 4 The area has been inspected by the Council's Landscape Officer.
- 5 It is considered that it was expedient to use the 'Area' classification to provide immediate protection until the trees were properly assessed. This practice is in accordance with Government guidance.
- 6 Within the area described by the provisional tree preservation order the principal tree cover is Birch. These trees are relatively young self-sown

subjects. The development of these Birch stands is typical of pioneer species colonising open ground. This is an interim stage, which, through natural processes, may ultimately lead to the development of climax woodland.

- 7 It is considered that the Birch trees are not individually, or as groups of trees, of an amenity value which would warrant them being made the subject of a tree preservation order. At this time the trees are not highly visible from public places, and neither individually, or collectively, have significant impact on the wider landscape.
- 8 It is considered that at this stage it would not be justifiable to classify these stands of Birch as being woodland.

RECOMMENDED that the tree preservation order not be confirmed.