

<b>APPLICATION NO</b>	<b>PA/2010/1518</b>
<b>APPLICANT</b>	Mr B Brinkley
<b>DEVELOPMENT</b>	Consent to fell a horse chestnut tree (T3) protected by Tree Preservation (Land off King Edward Street, Belton) Order 1998
<b>LOCATION</b>	Land at the corner of High Street and King Edward Street, Belton
<b>PARISH</b>	<b>BELTON</b>
<b>WARD</b>	Axholme Central
<b>SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION</b>	<b>Grant consent subject to conditions</b>
<b>REASONS FOR REFERENCE TO COMMITTEE</b>	Significant public interest  Third party request to address the committee

## **POLICIES**

**Regional Spatial Strategy for Yorkshire and the Humber:** No specific policies apply.

**North Lincolnshire Local Plan:** Policy LC12 states that proposals for all new development will, wherever possible, ensure the retention of trees, woodland and hedgerows. Particular regard will be given to the protection of these features within the setting of settlements, the protection of ancient woodlands and historic hedgerows and the amenity value of trees within built-up areas. Tree preservation orders will be made where trees which contribute to local amenity or local landscape character are at risk. Landscaping and tree and hedgerow planting schemes will be required to accompany applications for new development where it is appropriate to the development and its setting.

## **CONSULTATIONS**

**Highways:** Advises the applicant contact them before any works commence because of the tree's proximity to the highway.

## **PARISH COUNCIL**

Any decision to fell the tree should be deferred until such time as a North Lincolnshire Council representative has inspected the tree itself to confirm that felling is necessary.

## **PUBLICITY**

Site notices have been placed in the vicinity, and letters sent to properties closest to the tree. The following comments have been received:

- Felling the tree would contravene planning permission conditions on previous development applications on this site.

- Although the tree has dead branches and decaying wood, removal of this alone should suffice as the rest of the tree is living.
- Development of the site (in previous planning consents) was only given on condition that existing trees were protected.

A petition of 16 signatures has also been received. The comments on this petition include: planning for building on this site was passed subject to the trees remaining in place; the plans should have taken this into consideration when siting properties and garages; and the tree preservation order should be upheld.

Third parties indicated that they were considering commissioning another, independent report on the tree, but at the time of writing this report, none has been forthcoming.

## **ASSESSMENT**

A qualified arboriculturist from North Lincolnshire Council visited the site and considers that this mature horse chestnut tree is in poor condition.

The tree is suffering from bleeding canker of horse chestnut and also has several saprophytic fungi (which only live on dead wood) visible up the main stem from ground level to approximately 2 metres up the tree on several sides. This would indicate that much of the main stem appears to be dead/dying.

There are extensive areas of cracked bark up both the main stems within the canopy, an indication that bleeding canker is severely affecting the tree, and it is very unlikely to survive the infection.

There is poor bud formation within the canopy of the tree, and many branches are clearly dead and at a height within the tree. There is some epicormic growth at lower levels as the tree attempts to compensate as its main canopy continues to be affected by the bleeding canker.

With the amount of dead wood in the crown, and main stem of the tree, there is considered to be a danger to the highway and also to the electric cables that run alongside the road in this location.

This tree should be removed for reasons of safety and a replacement tree required to be planted. Due to the diseases affecting horse chestnut trees at present, it is suggested that this species not be replanted, but a lime tree would be considered suitable.

## **RECOMMENDATION      Grant consent subject to the following conditions:**

1.

Within 12 months of the date of the felling of this tree, or within such extended period as the local planning authority may allow, a lime tree (or other species to be agreed in writing beforehand with the local planning authority) shall be planted in the same or similar location as the tree which is the subject of this consent. The new tree shall have a minimum girth of 12-14 centimetres on planting.

### **Reason**

To ensure replacement planting is undertaken in the interests of visual amenity.

2.

The tree, when planted, shall be adequately staked and tied and protected by a sleeve.

Reason

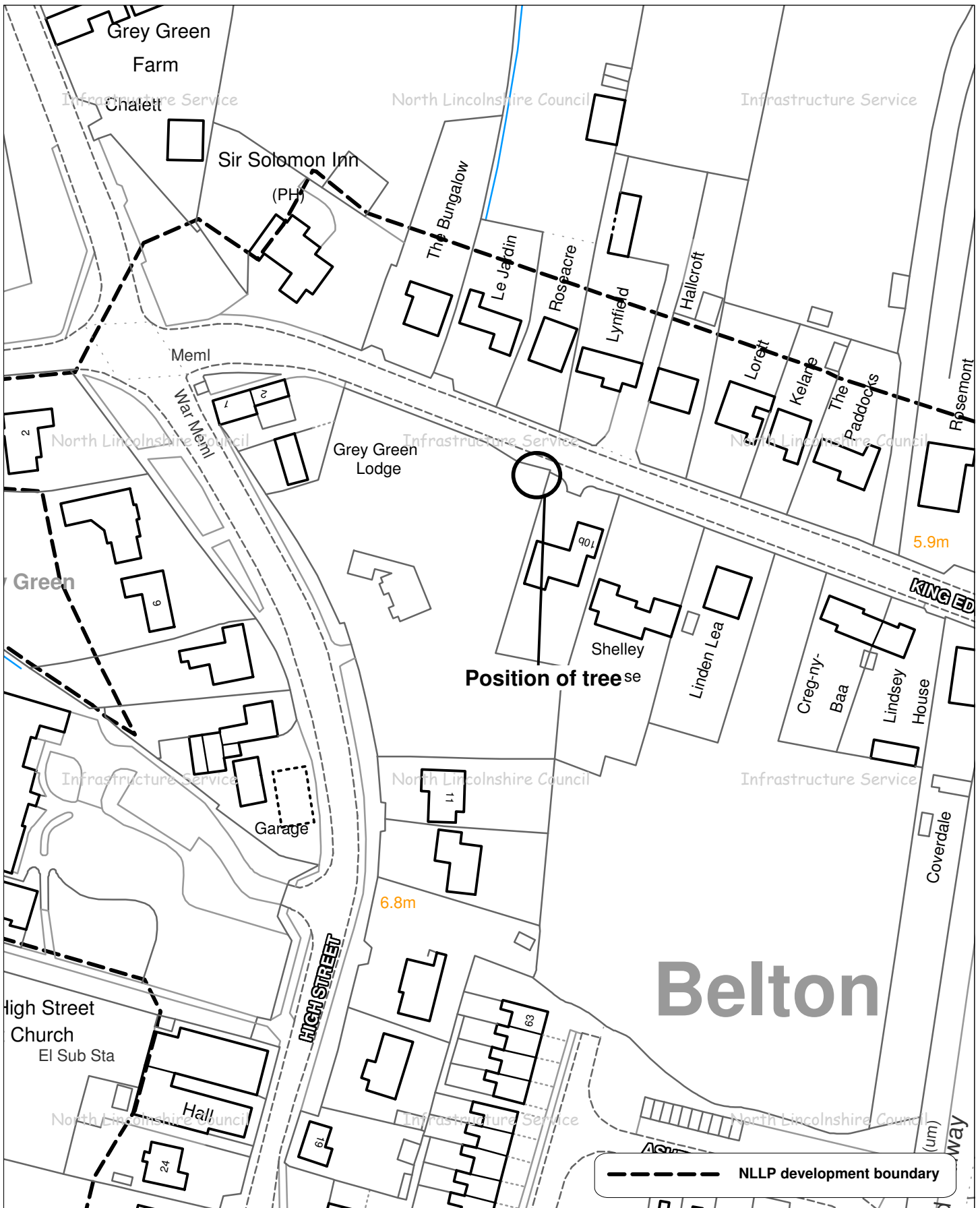
In the interests of good arboricultural practice.

3.

For a period of two years from the completion of the planting, the tree, together with its stake, tie and sleeve, shall be adequately maintained and during that period all losses made good.

Reason

To help the tree become established and to ensure it is replaced if it fails.



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NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL 0100023560 2011



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