

Tragic News



The nature reserve quality site adjacent to Cator Park in Beckenham (officially known at land registry as 'land lying to the West of Kings Hall Rd, Beckenham (freehold) Title No SGL564389) has faced a heart-wrenching experience - 131 young oak trees have been felled despite the fact they were under the protection of a TPO.

This devastating scene is no less than an ecocrime. This happened on Saturday 10th June. First thing Monday morning someone from the Tree team at London Borough of Bromley arrived. Apparently, he was horrified and it's the worst breach of a TPO they've ever seen.

The importance of trees in the fight against climate change cannot be overstated. They are crucial for wildlife habitats and air quality. The loss of 131 oak trees is a severe blow to our environment.



The brambles, nettles and tall grasses have become sanctuary to many small mammals, bats, invertebrates and birds including home to a Kingfisher, Woodpeckers and Owls. As well as being much loved by dog walkers for 20+ years and a sanctuary for many people.

A Tree Preservation Order (TPO) is an order made by a local planning authority in England to protect specific trees, groups of trees or woodlands.

A Bromley Council spokesperson said "This is a serious matter, with anyone who is found guilty of committing an offence which contravenes Section 210 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 being fined up to £20,000 at a Magistrates Court or an unlimited fine at Crown Court.

"We are grateful to local residents who have already come forward to help with that investigation, which is at its early stages."

Oak trees improve air quality by storing carbon dioxide and exhaling oxygen through the process of photosynthesis. The leaves of an oak tree absorb airborne pollutants.

We will keep you updated on the progress of this situation as and when we hear.

