

Eastleigh Borough Council Tree Preservation Order and Conservation Area Assessment Form

Application Number	T/23/96272
Surveyor	SK
Address	MONTEREY COURT, 86 CHALK HILL, WEST END SO18 3DB
Proposed work	1no. Oak (T1) - Retrench crown by 3m and pruning to suitable growth point. 1no. Oak (T2) - Retrench crown by 3m and pruning to suitable growth point.
Assessment Date	09/11/23
Officer comments	Site visited. Both trees highly prominent on the frontage to the property. Both have been reduced fairly significantly. T1 is to the south of the access and is in poorer condition, it is showing some signs of developing a secondary canopy but is already at a reduced foliar mass for the age of the tree. Retrenchment pruning. The applicant has applied for retrenchment pruning, which is a specialised operation and aims to mimic the natural branch shedding process of over-mature and veteran trees, essentially allowing a smaller crown to develop while removing the risk from falling branches which is part of the natural process of ageing. It is often carried out over a period of many years, and in a phased manner to reduce stress on the tree. The British Standard (BS3998: 2010 Tree works - recommendations) states: <i>“Retrenchment pruning should be chosen as the main option for manging lapsed pollards that would otherwise tend to break up and that, because of an inadequate lower crown, might not have enough leaf areas to survive if reduces to the ultimately intended height and spread in a single operation.”</i> Neither tree is a lapsed pollard or a veteran tree, so this is an inappropriate work recommendation. No further detail on the work specification has been provided, so it is read that this essentially is seeking a 3m crown reduction. The reduction of the current canopies by 3m is a very large proportion of the retained canopy and would only serve to shorten the trees' lifespan by reduction their ability to generate energy to develop a secondary canopy. T2 is in better condition but has also been reduced significantly since Monterey Court was built. The trees were retained through the development and their continued retention is desirable. There is significant dead wood in the canopy of T1 - this needs to be removed as it could potentially fail onto the parked cars or the public highway.

Decision	Consent	Refuse	Part consent/ Part refuse	Withdrawn / Invalid	Conservation Area	
					Raise no objection	TPO
			X			
Decision notice	REFUSE: 1no. Oak (T1) - Retrench crown by 3m and pruning to suitable growth point. 1no. Oak (T2) - Retrench crown by 3m and pruning to suitable growth point.					
Conditions	None					
Notes to applicant	Dead wood is exempt and may be removed without permission. It may be prudent to take photographs before starting work, or of the arisings to show it is dead if challenged.					
Parish comments	None					
Public objection/ support	Support		Objection		Observation	
	0		0		0	
Objection/ support consideration	n/a					