

Eastleigh Borough Council Tree Preservation Order and Conservation Area Assessment Form

Application Number	T/23/96499
Surveyor	
Address	6 BEECHWOOD RISE, WEST END, SOUTHAMPTON, SO18 3PW
Proposed work	1no. Birch (T1) - Fell to ground level, leaning towards building and to allow more light to solar panels. 1no. Birch (T2) - Reduce in height by approx. 3m to allow more light to solar panels. 2no. Conifers (T3) - Reduce height by approx. 3m to allow light for solar panels. 1no. Conifer (T4) - Reduce height by approx. 3m to allow more light to solar panels.
Assessment Date	14/12/23
Officer comments	Site visited with IF. T1 and T2 may be labelled incorrectly on the plan. T1 is a good birch tree with a slight phototropic lean to the north. T1 has good amenity from the public footpath that runs to the south of the property. The tree is in public ownership and is healthy so there is no reason to lose the public asset. Granting consent for private individuals to manage public trees to their own preference is a poor precedent to set. T2 is a poor-quality birch. The amenity is relatively low but will be reduced by reduction in height. The application is to reduce in height by 3m. The British Standard for tree works cites birch in particular as being unsuitable for reduction: 'Species of <i>Betula</i> [birch] which generally have particularly weak defences against the development of decay, should be pruned as sparingly as possible and without exposing heartwood or ripe wood.' A reduction in height would need to be an ongoing maintenance operation if allowed as the regrowth will be poorly attached and has a public target. None of the reasons stated are acceptable reasons to prune publicly owned trees. T3 (2 conifers) and T4 (1 conifer) are shown on the plan as within the length of the gable wall of No.6. These are outgrown conifers that presumably were planted for screening. Reduction for these is acceptable – they are privately owned and offer little amenity. There is a better-quality Sawara cypress (a brighter green with a good form) which grows to the west beyond the western extent of the property line. This is not T4 according to the plan, and a reduction on this would not be consented as it has a good form and a high amenity.

Decision	Consent	Refuse	Part consent/ Part refuse	Withdrawn / Invalid	Conservation Area	
					Raise no objection	TPO
			X			
Decision notice	REFUSE: 1 no. Birch (T1) - Fell to ground level 1no. Birch (T2) - Reduce in height by approx. 3m CONSENT: 2no. Conifers (T3) - Reduce height by approx. 3m leaving trees at approximately 7-8m tall 1no. Conifer (T4) - Reduce height by approx. 3m leaving trees at approximately 7-8m tall. See note about T4 NOT being the Sawara cypress growing further west					
Conditions	Standard.					
Notes to applicant	None					
Parish comments	None					
Public objection/ support	Support		Objection		Observation	
	0		0		1	
Objection/ support consideration	The public comment has been considered.					