

Eastleigh Borough Council Tree Preservation Order and Conservation Area Assessment Form

Application Number	T/26/101026
Surveyor	AM
Address	1 SPITFIRE WAY, HAMBLE-LE-RICE, SOUTHAMPTON, SO31 4RX
Proposed work	1no. Horse Chestnut (T1) - Reduce entire crown by approx 3m in height and lateral spread, back to suitable secondary growth points (as indicated by the red line on the submitted photograph). The proposed reduction represents approx 20–25% of the live crown volume. Required to maintain appropriate clearance over the public highway, manage encroachment towards neighbouring properties, reduce end-weight on extended regrowth, mitigate potential branch failure risk over a high-use vehicular route. Continue cyclical size management appropriate for a large tree in a constrained roadside setting. The intention is to retain the tree long-term while managing its size proportionately and responsibly within its urban environment.
Assessment Date	20 th April 2026
Officer comments	Large, mature horse chestnut protected within area A5 of TPO ref: 125-E (confirmed 2nd June 1986). The tree is old enough that it would have been present at the time the TPO was served, in 1986. The tree is prominent within the streetscene. At the time of my site visit, it was fully in leaf and had a good display of emerging flowers. The tree offers significant benefit in terms of public, visual amenity. A previous application to reduce the tree was allowed at appeal. This was had been carried out and the tree has responded well. There is 1.5-2m of healthy regrowth from the reduction points. Only a few of these points were visible due to being screened by foliage but those did not show any signs of deterioration or decay. The proposal is to reduce the crown by approx. 3m. This would go past the previous reduction points (as demonstrated by the annotated image supplied by the Applicant). The reasons put forward will be addressed below: To maintain appropriate clearance over the public highway - This can be addressed by crownlifting to highway specification, without requiring reduction of the remainder of the crown. Manage encroachment towards neighbouring properties - The northern aspect of the crown is growing close to the line of the south-west corner of the neighbouring property. Reduction

	back to previous reduction points would achieve reasonable clearance. Given the 8-9 year time since the previous reduction, it seems likely that this work would be effective for a similar length of time. Reduce end-weight on extended regrowth - The regrowth does not appear weakened by extension. It is only approx. 1.5-2.0m long and has normally tapered branches with multiple internal branchlets. The proposed reduction would remove not just all of the regrowth but also reduce the length of the original branch framework. Mitigate potential branch failure risk over a high-use vehicular route. - No evidence has been supplied which would indicate that any of the branches are defective or dangerous and present a foreseeable risk to users of the highway. However, the overall risk can be successfully reduced by simply pruning back to previous reduction points. Continue cyclical size management appropriate for a large tree in a constrained roadside setting. - Reduction past/below previously established reduction points would not be “cyclical” work. However, it is acknowledged that the Appeal Inspector’s view was that the tree is in a constrained setting therefore it is accepted that crown reduction is necessary in the circumstances. The tree has been reduced in the past and has subsequently regrown. The regrowth is healthy and this indicates that the tree would respond well to this work being repeated. However, reducing the tree beyond/beneath the previous reduction points would result in considerably larger wounds. As horse chestnut lacks a durable heartwood, there would be an increased risk of deterioration/dysfunction and decay. Reduction to this extent could therefore reduce the life expectancy of the tree and its contribution to public, visual amenity. The reasons put forward for this does not justify works in excess of that which was previously consented. They do however justify reduction back to previous reduction points.					
Decision						
	Consent	Refuse	Part consent/ Part refuse	Withdrawn / Invalid	Conservation Area	
					Raise no objection	TPO
			X			
Decision notice	REFUSE CONSENT: 1no. Horse Chestnut (T1) - Reduce entire crown by approx 3m in height and lateral spread, back to suitable secondary growth points (as indicated by the red line on the submitted photograph). REASONS FOR REFUSAL: T1 is a prominent specimen, sited adjacent to the main road running through Hamble. It is visually healthy and of reasonable					

	form. It offers significant benefit in terms of public, visual amenity. As such, the reasons put forward to prune the tree must be compelling. The reasons stated do justify crown reduction however do not justify this work going past previously established reduction points. This would result in larger pruning wounds than those that already exist. This would be disfiguring to the tree and would increase the risk of decay, dysfunction and deterioration of the new pruning points. This would be likely to reduce the lifespan of the tree and its contribution to public, visual amenity. Lesser works will be consented (see below). The Council GRANTS CONSENT for the following works: 1no. Horse Chestnut (T1) - Reduce entire crown by approx 1.5-2m in height and lateral spread, back to, but not below, previous reduction points. Crownlift to 5.2m over the road, with 1m side margin over the kerb. Crownlift to 2.5m over the pavement.		
Conditions	BS3998		
Notes to applicant			
Parish comments	None.		
Public objection/ support	Support	Objection	Observation
	0	0	0
Objection/ support consideration	None received.		

