

Eastleigh Borough Council Tree Preservation Order and Conservation Area Assessment Form

Application Number	NC/26/101162				
Surveyor	AM				
Address	Glebe Meadow and skate park, Bishopstoke, SO50 6AL				
Proposed work	1no. Group of Conifers (G1) - Fell. The skate park area is to be renovated, and a current concern is that the trees act as a large screening area, making it a blind spot from most locations around it. One of the trees within the group has substantial decay in both stems, which poses a danger in a location with such high footfall. A number of snapped limbs have come out of a couple of the trees, as they have started to reach over maturity. There are also a number of included and weak unions within the group. If the tree with basal decay were to be removed, it will open up a very different wind pattern to the remaining trees, which may well lead to further failures within the group. It is for these reasons that the local council wish to remove the group of trees.				
Assessment Date	30 th April 2026				
Officer comments	Group of cypresses protected by the Bishopstoke Conservation Area. Clearly visible to the public as within a park so providing some visual amenity. Immediately adjacent to a skate park, undesirably screening it as per the proposal. Stem decay in at least one tree. The tree group is of low arboricultural merit and would not justify TPO intervention. The loss of these trees would not be harmful to the Conservation Area.				
Decision	Consent	Refuse	Part consent/ Part refuse	Withdrawn / Invalid	Conservation Area
					Raise no objection TPO
Decision notice					
Conditions					
Notes to applicant					
Parish comments	None.				
Public objection/ support	Support		Objection		Observation
	0		1		2
Objection/ support consideration	Public comment 1: Hello, This set of trees, I agree does pose a screen to the activities for the basketball court behind it, however, I have often seen many different types of birds in it foraging for insects amongst the leaves.				

	Conifers, and pines are specifically important for several species of native birds like the Goldcrest, Firecrests, and warblers. We need to ensure that there will be another cluster of pines to be planted to replace this set of trees, of suitable habitat (e.g. not just some new tree whips) of older age and height, to ensure this habitat and source of foraging is not lost. The tree opposite the cluster is a fine tree, and putting several more pines near it or adjacent to that tree would create a nice corridor for the birds. Additionally, because this is near the Itchen river, it is important to have a mixed woodland effect so near to the water that the birds and other wildlife may flit across from traveling from the banks to more inland. I agree that there needs to be more visibility for area if it is being remodeled. But perhaps can there be some research into moving the trees, which is now a technology that is available to utilise, as many botanical parks and other locales have done so to preserve the old mature trees are planted in places they will survive the oncoming effects of climate change, the need for shade, and to cool, blacktop areas which can be several degrees hotter on the surface if not provided with shade, in some cases causing burns from metallic surface, etc becoming too hot. These are all food for thought, on considering the removal of these trees, the effect of light on the material that is planned to be used in the remodeling of the skate park, and also the fact that its a high traffic area, that will get noisier, and be worn down faster from use, as well as will get hotter in the summers to come. Thank You. AM response: Noted and considered. We cannot require replacement planting in the circumstances. Public comment 2: Hello Again, I forgot to add an important comment on the time frames that are projected for the trees to be removed, which, as makes sense during the consultation phase, are not posted. At the risk of repeating information already known by the Forestry and Green Asset Management team, the removal of the trees should fall outside of the Goldcrest/Firecrest breeding season, which is during April- July. This would ensure that no damage is made to potential nests already in the trees this year, and that there is no disruption to the 2026 population numbers, which generally suffer substantial losses throughout harsh winters if there is no second clutch of eggs earlier in the year. Thank You. AM response: An informative will be added to this effect. Public comment 3: Given at this time time of renovation there is no skate park, just a square piece of rarely used concrete, we object to the location of the new skate park and also the removal of the trees. We do not believe the location on our boundary of the park is best for everyone when there is such a long arc of boundary without residential neighbours.
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	We say this as long standing Bishopstoke citizens who, when the skate park was previously adjacent, moved here after when the previous occupants moved after a fire was set inside the garden's wire fence and it took hold in the woodland. We have had multiple teen intrusions over our boundary over the years, and we have had cause to complain multiple times of drug use by minors at the previous skate park and have even had to call 999 when we were threatened with a gun by teens shouting from the park, which meant an armed team of officers were sent to the park and beyond and we were told it led to an arrest. If the plan is to rebuild the skate park in that area then we object. It is a noisy sport/play activity which is used into the evenings by groups of teenagers. If the entirety of Glebe meadow is to be replanned why build a skatepark in possibly the least suitable place, requiring the removal of trees: a) this area is closest to residential properties b) this area is hidden not just from the park by the trees but from the road by dense hedgerow as well as being adjacent to part of the park that houses an electrical sub-station c) it would surely be more logical to have a potentially noisy and busy skate park closer to Church Road, with the entrance and other actively used areas, where the behaviour of the users of this area could be overseen by passers by, closer to street lamps and potentially easier for CCTV placement. Any younger users could also be watched more easily by parents if it is closer to other amenities used by their other children who will be using the children's play area. d) Combining the proximity of the play park and skate park would then allow a larger grassed area for use by families for picnics, ball games, etc We enjoy using the park and having this green space amenity in Bishopstoke, but object to the skate park's location and the tree removal. AM response: Removal of the trees would increase visibility of the site so could reduce anti-social behaviour. We cannot consider the merits of the skatepark in this location, only the Conservation Area notice to fell these trees.
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