



Appeal Decision

Site visit made on 24 June 2026

by Simon Cox MSc PgDip FArborA CEnv

an Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State

Decision date: 20 July 2026

Appeal Ref: APP/TPO/W1715/10861

75 Hursley Road, Chandler's Ford, Hampshire, SO53 2FS

- The appeal is made under regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation) (England) Regulations 2012 against a refusal to grant consent to fell a tree protected by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO).
 - The appeal is made by Ms Vikki Barnard against the decision of Eastleigh Borough Council.
 - The application, Ref: T/25/99729, dated 6 June 2025, was refused on 8 September 2025.
 - The work proposed is to fell an oak tree.
 - The relevant TPO is Tree Preservation Order No. 58 – Chandlers Ford, Eastleigh, which was confirmed on 15 August 1955.
-

Decision

1. The appeal is dismissed.

Preliminary Matter

2. By the time of my site visit the tree had been subject to crown reduction work. As the circumstances of that work are separate to this appeal process, I have not considered them, and I base this decision on the tree as it was when I viewed it.

Main Issues

3. I consider the main issues to be:
 - i. The impact of proposed tree felling on the character and appearance of the area.
 - ii. Whether sufficient justification has been demonstrated for the proposed felling.

Reasons

The impact of proposed tree felling on the character and appearance of the area.

4. 75 Hursley Road is a residential, semi-detached property in Chandler's Ford, set along a well-used public highway. The wider area is well developed, with tall and mature trees contributing to the setting.
5. The tree proposed for felling, an oak, is located adjacent to the public highway at the frontage of the property. Whilst it has been subject to pruning work, which appears to have significantly altered its height and crown spread, it is a maturing tree and a feature on approach along the highway. The tree will also be visible from surrounding properties.
6. Although the extent of pruning has reduced the amenity that the tree currently offers, it is responding to the pruning with new foliage and makes a positive contribution to the character and appearance of the area. Thus, its removal would lead to unacceptable harm. Consequently, any reasons given to justify felling it need to be convincing. I now turn to those reasons.

Whether sufficient justification has been demonstrated for the proposed felling.

7. Additional information was submitted in the appeal statement. Whilst I appreciate the points raised, for such information to be considered it must be submitted as part of the application for works to a tree subject to a TPO. Therefore, I will only consider the original application and the findings from my site visit.
8. I accept concerns raised regarding sap falling from the tree. However, the extent of the pruning work will have greatly reduced the chances of this currently occurring and I did not notice any significant issues associated with sap during my visit. Likewise, I did not notice any significant issues with the aerial utility cables.
9. Regarding debris falling from the tree, this is not uncommon, and whilst it may create a maintenance inconvenience, it is a consequence of living with trees. Thus, I cannot agree that it presents a significant issue that is sufficient to justify the removal of the oak as opposed to other management options, e.g. tidying.
10. Issues regarding light and the shading of a bedroom window will have been improved by the pruning the tree has been subjected to, and I did not find the position or size of the tree to be overbearing in this regard.
11. Reference was made in the application to cracks in a wall; however, no additional evidence was provided to support the application or to indicate the location of the damage. At my site visit I did not notice any walls in close proximity to the tree, nor any cracking. Therefore, I cannot consider the matter further.
12. I must acknowledge the participation of those that responded to the consultation process and their willingness to spend time submitting comment. In response to those that live closest to the tree, whilst I recognise the concerns raised, as set out above, I do not consider them to have been substantiated.

13. Therefore, on the evidence currently before me, I find adequate justification for felling the tree has not been demonstrated.

Conclusion

14. With any application to fell a protected tree, a balancing exercise needs to be undertaken. The need for the work applied for must be weighed against the resultant loss to the amenity of the area. In this case, the felling of the oak tree would result in unacceptable harm to the character and appearance of the area and, in my judgement, insufficient justification has been demonstrated for the proposed felling.

15. Thus, having considered all matters raised, I conclude that the appeal should be dismissed.

Simon Cox

INSPECTOR