

Eastleigh Borough Council Tree Preservation Order and Conservation Area Assessment Form

Application Number	T/26/101546
Surveyor	AM
Address	97 WATKIN ROAD, HEDGE END, SOUTHAMPTON, SO30 2TB
Proposed work	1no. Hawthorn (T1) - Reduce height by 2 metres and re-shape. Reduce overhang from boundary by 2m back to 1ft from fence line. Reason - for more light into the garden and keep the tree in shape. Current height 12 metres , finished height 10 metres.
Assessment Date	23 rd July 2026
Officer comments	Area TPO A1 of 114-E (confirmed 4th February 1986) applies. The application hawthorn measures approx. 10-12m tall and has a stem diameter of approx. 20-25cm dbh, both measurements estimated by eye. It's a visually healthy tree with an naturally adopted, asymmetric crown due to its position on the woodland edge. Despite the asymmetry, it is of reasonable form. Ivy is growing up the stem and into the primary branch structure. The tree is located just beyond the rear boundary of 97 Watkin Road. It stands at the edge of the Bushy Copse North ancient semi-natural woodland SINC. The tree is a appropriate to this habitat. The woodland has recently been transferred to Hedge End Town Council. It is publicly accessible and there is a path running along its edge. The tree is clearly visible from the path. The proposal is to reduce the tree by 2m in height and spread, leaving the crown edge within 1 foot of the fenceline. This has been proposed to increase light to the garden and to keep the tree in shape. An additional email was received which stated that the tree encroaches on the Resident's shed and seating area. The tree stands to the south-west corner of the property therefore it is inevitable that it will cause shading for part of the day. As will the wider woodland. However, the tree has a light canopy which would cast only minimal shade therefore reduction of the tree both in height and spread will make little appreciable difference. It would be beneficial (subject to approval of HETC) for the ivy to be severed around the base. This would cause it to die off in the crown before it has the opportunity to fill it out and cast its own all year round shade.

	As above, the tree has an asymmetric crown due to competition for space and light with other woodland trees. However, this is the natural shape of a woodland edge tree therefore reduction will diminish its form and likely cause dense regrowth which would only compound issues with light. The lowest branch tips did not appear to be in contact with any structure and were above the height of the Resident's shrubs. Greater separation could be provided by crownlifting to provide 1-2m clearance over the shed. This would not compromise public views of the tree nor tree health. The tree would likely tolerate the proposed work as pruning wound size would be relatively small. However, the likely response will be dense, hedge-like regrowth which will compound all existing issues. There would be increased views between the public footpath and the houses. Whilst this would be confirmed to a short distance on foot, it is desirable to retain separation between property and the woodland. The work would remove a substantial amount of flower-bearing small branches therefore would remove a nectar source of invertebrates, at least until it recovers its canopy. This would have a local, short-term adverse impact on the woodland.					
Decision	Consent	Refuse	Part consent/ Part refuse	Withdrawn / Invalid	Conservation Area	
					Raise no objection	TPO
			X			
Decision notice	REFUSE CONSENT: 1no. Hawthorn (T1) - Reduce height by 2 metres and re-shape. Reduce overhang from boundary by 2m back to 1ft from fence line. REASON FOR REFUSAL: The application hawthorn stands on the woodland edge and has naturally adopted crown asymmetry predominantly over the garden of 97 Watkin Road. It is clearly visible from the publicly accessible Bushy Copse North ancient semi-natural woodland. It provides public benefit in terms of its appropriateness to its woodland setting and in terms of softening the views of buildings from the adjacent path. The proposed pruning would adversely impact on public views and woodland ecology. Given that the tree is small and has an airy canopy, it will not cast significant or unreasonable amount of shade to the garden. The lowest branch tips were clear of structures but the crown could be lifted by a modest amount to improve separation (see below). Subject to the approval of the tree owner, understood to be Hedge End Town					

	Council, the ivy could also be severed to improve daylight percolation through the crown. The Council GRANTS CONSENT for the following work: 1no. Hawthorn (T1) -Crownlift to 2.5m over the garden.		
Conditions	BS3998		
Notes to applicant			
Parish comments	HETC: Object - The requested works are excessive and would significantly harm the tree's health and amenity value, whereas a lighter reduction would reasonably manage the overhang while retaining the tree's contribution to the woodland edge. No objection – reduce overhanging branches by up to 2m. AM response: noted and considered.		
Public objection/ support	Support	Objection	Observation
	0	0	0
Objection/ support consideration	None received.		

