

Eastleigh Borough Council Tree Preservation Order and Conservation Area Assessment Form

Application Number	T/23/96523
Surveyor	SK
Address	Land opposite 29 Pomeroy Crescent, Hedge End, SO30 2LF
Proposed work	1no. Oak (T82) - Overall crown reduction of up to 3m, maintaining a natural shaped crown and limiting pruning wounds to 100mm. Reason: This a a very large and very valuable veteran Oak. The aim of our management is staged crown reductions gradually over the next 10-15 years, allowing suitable regrowth in between until the tree is at least half its original height but with a full lush crown that can then be retained safely for hundreds
Assessment Date	13/12/23
Officer comments	Veteran tree of significant girth and imposing in its location. Considered to be the largest tree in Hedge End. There is vegetation around the base so unable to assess the condition, but anecdotally it is good here. Tree has been retained through development, but there are parking spaces beneath the canopy. Reducing the tree by half is considered to be an excessive long-term aim for this veteran: it is beyond any guidance and veterans must have individual management plans focused on minimal intervention to achieve both structural stability and acceptable risk levels. A reduction of this extent would result in the loss of much potential energy and habitat, and this is not warranted. Much of the live canopy is peripheral so phased and a considered programme of retrenchment pruning is advised, reducing the lever arms to a greater extent and retaining those that pose less risk intact. This will allow management but minimise the expenditure the tree will have to make to respond to wounding. Failure of branches is not necessarily an indication of future failure, but the target is moderate, and the public path is in use. Worthy of careful management and planning over a long period of time. Careful reduction of selected branches over a prolonged period will allow for some risk reduction/retrenchment but must include time to assess the response over several years and must pause until conditions are appropriate for works.

Decision	Consent	Refuse	Part consent/ Part refuse	Withdrawn / Invalid	Conservation Area	
					Raise no objection	TPO
			X			
Decision notice	REFUSE: 1no. Oak (T82) - Overall crown reduction of up to 3m, maintaining a natural shaped crown and limiting pruning wounds to 100mm. CONSENT: Reduction in length of selected main scaffold branches, one at a time over a phased reduction. To be no more than one quarter of the current length of the existing branch (remaining height to be 15m+ and spread to be 7m+) and to be taken back to a growth point wherever possible. Stubs are acceptable for veterans if no good point are available. In total up to 5 scaffolds can be reduced over a 20-year period, prioritising the most extended and tallest, allowing time between each for the secondary canopy to further establish.					
Conditions	PROLENGED TIME PERIOD - 20yrs Arboricultural supervision for any works with reference to best practice for managing veteran trees. Assessment of response over several (3-4 minimum) to be made and confirmation that the tree is demonstrating good vitality before any further live material is removed. Notify LPA of each intervention.					
Notes to applicant	Consider non-standard pruning cuts to improve habitat and visual appearance.					
Parish comments	No Objection subject to the usual conditions of the tree officer.					
Public objection/ support	Support		Objection		Observation	
	0		0		1	
Objection/ support consideration	One public comment was received: <i>"We have a lot of wildlife living in and around that area, we know that the squirrels nest in that tree and they have babies every year as we watch them, I hope they will be considered when it is done."</i> The applicant and agent must consider wildlife during the operation. An informative has been added to the decision notice. The Parish comment has been noted.					