

Eastleigh Borough Council Tree Preservation Order and Conservation Area Assessment Form

Application Number	T/24/97231
Surveyor	Charlotte Holloway
Address	10 OAKFIELDS, EASTLEIGH, SO50 4RP
Proposed work	1no. Oak (T1) - Crown reduction to a final height of 14m with a horizontal radial canopy spread of 6m. Remove epicormic growth to within 1cm of the parent material on the lower stem from the base to 3m height. 2no. Oak (T2 & T3) - Crown reduction to a final height of 14m with a horizontal radial canopy spread of 6m. 1no. Oak (T4) - Tip reduction of lateral branches to a horizontal branch length of 11m. As a result of tree condition survey carried out following concerns relating to their condition, proximity to the highway and adjacent dwellings. Sapling Arboriculture Ltd (Mr Ben Abbatt)
Assessment Date	15/05/24
Officer comments	The trees are situated to the west of 10 Oakfields. The mature oaks form a group adjacent to the public highway and offer high levels of visual amenity. The trees all appear in good vitality. Some of the trees appear to have veteran features. Ancient and veteran trees take a significant time to reach the size and stature which enables them to offer the irreplaceable habitat they provide; therefore, proposed management should give this consideration. The trees would have been in their location when the properties were developed, therefore their proximity to dwellings and the highway would have been a consideration at planning stage. The street is a cul-de-sac and the verge beneath the trees is not trafficked, therefore the target should be deemed low. The applicant has proposed a reduction in the height and width of trees 1-3 and a reduction of lateral branches of tree 4. The provided report states <i>"tree work should be carried out in accordance with British Standard 3998:2012 Recommendations for Tree Work"</i> with particular reference to 7.2.4. This specifies the number and size of cuts that can be carried out in one operation, alongside stating <i>"a lesser proportion should generally be adopted when pruning large diameter veteran trees"</i>. Therefore, the applicants supplied report contradicts the recommended and requested work. Whilst 7.2.3.2 of BS3998:2010 Tree Work Recommendations is clear in that it states, <i>"mature and old trees generally have a reduced capacity to tolerate the potentially adverse effects of wounding"</i>, meaning, proposed

	work should be sensitive and in line with the management of aging trees, C.2 of the same document is also clear that retrenchment pruning of veterans should be the chosen option where mechanical failure is likely. The proposed reductions (up to 9m in height in the case of T3 and up to 5/6m for the lower laterals of T4) will remove considerable photosynthetic material, which is likely to give trees an unnatural appearance alongside instigating a decline in tree health. This should not be deemed acceptable as an intolerable risk has not been demonstrated. I would expect each tree to be managed as an individual. Where the applicant has fears the tree might break or fall, "<i>written arboricultural advice or other diagnostic information from an appropriate expert</i>", as outlined in Regulation 16(1) of The Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation)(England) Regulations 2012 should be provided. On this occasion, due to the amenity and likely ecological value of the trees I would expect sufficient information to support works to these trees due to the nature of their irreplaceable habitat.					
Decision	Consent	Refuse	Part consent/ Part refuse	Withdrawn / Invalid	Conservation Area	
					Raise no objection	TPO
		X				
Decision notice	REFUSE: 1no. Oak (T1) - Crown reduction to a final height of 14m with a horizontal radial canopy spread of 6m. Remove epicormic growth to within 1cm of the parent material on the lower stem from the base to 3m height. 2no. Oak (T2 & T3) - Crown reduction to a final height of 14m with a horizontal radial canopy spread of 6m. 1no. Oak (T4) - Tip reduction of lateral branches to a horizontal branch length of 11m.					
Conditions						
Notes to applicant						
Parish comments	Subject to the agreement of the Borough's Tree Officer.					
Public objection/ support	Support		Objection		Observation	
	1		0		0	
Objection/ support consideration	Support comment was considered during decision-making process, the final decision is explained in detail in the Officer Report available to view on EBC planning website.					