

Eastleigh Borough Council Tree Preservation Order and Conservation Area Assessment Form

Application Number	T/24/97656
Surveyor	Charlotte Holloway
Address	15 MIDHURST COURT, CHALVINGTON ROAD, CHANDLER'S FORD, EASTLEIGH, SO53 3LF
Proposed work	1no. Silver birch (T1) - Reduce in height by 3m from approx 13m to a finished height of 10m with the laterals reduced by 1-1.5m to shape the crown & clear lamp post. Complaint from neighbours that the tree is too large, reducing their light. 1no. Hawthorn (T2) - Reduce to a finished height of 1.5m-1.8m with the sides trimmed to a more formal hedge.
Assessment Date	18/07/24
Officer comments	An application was made to prune the silver birch in October 2024 under application T/23/96288. The tree is situated to the front of the property, adjacent the footway. It is clearly visible, therefore is considered to offer good levels of amenity. The birch is a young tree and appears in overall good health. It does not appear to have put on 2m in height as the applicant would suggest, therefore, previous comments still stand; The applicant has proposed to reduce the tree in height. Works described appear to equate to 'topping' which would expose heart wood and accelerate decay of established trees, negatively impacting their longevity. BS3998:2010 Tree Work Recommendations states <i>'topping should be used only as a last resort for retaining a valuable tree which would otherwise pose an unacceptable risk'</i>. The applicant has also proposed a lateral reduction of up to 1.5m. Given the limited lateral growth, this is likely to give the tree a very unnatural appearance, alongside removing a significant volume of photosynthetic material is likely to have negatively impact tree health, longevity and visual amenity. 7.2.2 of BS3998:2010 is clear in that it states, <i>'species of Betula, which generally have weak defences against development of decay, should be pruned as sparingly as possible, and without exposing heartwood or ripewood'</i>. Therefore, the proposed work is deemed unjustified. It is acknowledged that the tree is in proximity to both a lamp column and buildings, therefore, localised reductions to provide clearance would be deemed reasonable as granted under the previous application. The hawthorn grows in close proximity to the birch. The request to maintain it as a hedge is likely as it would have been intended when planted, therefore, the request is reasonable for the management of trees within their location.

Decision	Consent	Refuse	Part consent/ Part refuse	Withdrawn / Invalid	Conservation Area	
					Raise no objection	TPO
				X		
Decision notice	REFUSE: 1no. Silver birch (T1) - Reduce in height by 3m from approx. 13m to a finished height of 10m with the laterals reduced by 1-1.5m to shape the crown & clear lamp post. CONSENT: 1no. Silver birch (T1) - Reduce lateral growth to provide up to 1m clearance from the lamp column and up to 2m clearance from buildings. 1no. Hawthorn (T2) - Reduce to a finished height of 1.5m-1.8m with the sides trimmed to a more formal hedge					
Conditions	Standard quality and time					
Notes to applicant						
Parish comments	None.					
Public objection/ support	Support		Objection		Observation	
	0		0		0	
Objection/ support consideration						