

Eastleigh Borough Council Tree Preservation Order and Conservation Area Assessment Form

Application Number	T/24/97851
Surveyor	SK
Address	Communal Property 12-64, Mansbridge Road, Eastleigh, SO50 5PG
Proposed work	1no. English Oak (T4801) - Crown reduction by 3-4m all around. Height to be reduced to 10m & crown spread reduced to 5m. <i>Gymnopus fusipes</i> located in multiple locations around base. Tree works due to the poor residual sounding wood remaining within stem, a significant column of decay within central area of stem, this has likely impacted the rooting structure. Crown reduction will help reduce loading to lower basal area of stem & rooting structure.
Assessment Date	06/08/24
Officer comments	No site visit carried out; sufficient information supplied with the report to be able to determine the application from a desk study. The tree in a prominent location on a busy road opposite a college. It has high amenity value and has been previously reduced substantially. It has a hollowing stem, but the structural integrity of this is not of issue - many old trees are hollow and stable and, as this one appears to be in column, no concerns are raised around the hollowing. The presence of <i>Gymnopus fusipes</i> (formerly known as <i>Collybia fusipes</i>) round the base may indicate that the roots are compromised. The Arboricultural Association's field guide describes the impact /Effect/Significance off the fungi as follows "Uncertain. The decay affects viability of the roots to a degree, so that crown symptoms can become visible but there is little recorded evidence that decay can lead to tree failure". It is not cited as a principal decay fungus in either Schwartze or Mattheck. There are no indications in the crown that the roots are severely affected by advanced stages of decay. As the tree is already significantly reduced, and the roadside branches have been reduced to a greater extent biasing the remaining canopy to the low target area of the communal lawn, removing 3-4m all-round is deemed an excessive loss of foliar mass in one go – this would nearly pollard the tree and significantly reduce its ability to respond to wounding/weakness. A height-only reduction of a lower amount will disproportionately benefit safety but reducing leverage at the stem base while retaining most of the leaf-bearing structure. This will have a much lower impact on the tree's physiology and amenity.

Decision	Consent	Refuse	Part consent/ Part refuse	Withdrawn / Invalid	Conservation Area	
					Raise no objection	TPO
				X		
Decision notice	REFUSE: 1no. English Oak (T4801) - Crown reduction by 3-4m all around. Height to be reduced to 10m & crown spread reduced to 5m. CONSENT: 1no. English Oak (T4801) - reduction in height only of 1-2m from central section of canopy to reduce leverage on stem base. Retain as much of the live material as possible and leave the smallest wound size possible.					
Conditions	Standard					
Notes to applicant						
Parish comments	None.					
Public objection/ support	Support		Objection		Observation	
	0		0		0	
Objection/ support consideration						