

Eastleigh Borough Council Tree Preservation Order and Conservation Area Assessment Form

Application Number	T/24/98458
Surveyor	AM
Address	55A WINCHESTER STREET, BOTLEY, SOUTHAMPTON, SO30 2EB
Proposed work	1no. Oak (T1) - Crown reduction by up to 2m. Customer would like a reduction due to tree shedding limbs & to get the tree into a maintenance cycle to not be so overwhelming in her garden.
Assessment Date	Site visit 19 th November 2024
Officer comments	Application history: T/24/97153 Reduce by 1.3-1.8m - Refused permission T/24/96830 Reduce back to previous pruning points – Refused T/19/86527 1 no. Oak - Crown reduce branches o/h gdn of 51 Winchester Street by 2-2.5 metres – Granted permission T/12/71485 Oak – crown clean – Granted permission The application oak, T1 is protected by TPO ref: 700-E. It measures (estimated by eye) around 14-16m tall and has an outwardly healthy crown of reasonable form. There has been a small amount of selective pruning in the past with regrowth from these points. However, the crown has since regrown and has a natural appearance. The tree is visible above and between properties from Winchester Street, Alexandra Way and to a limited degree from Pern Drive. As a large, long-lived species it has the ability to contribute to visual amenity and the local environment over the long term. The proposal is to reduce the crown of the tree by up to 2m on the basis that it sheds limbs and a desire to get into a maintenance cycle. In terms of tree health, it would likely tolerate this degree of pruning and would regrow in a similar fashion to previous. However, the natural appearance of the tree would be compromised, and the works would need to be repeated on a regular basis. The applicant seems to acknowledge this within their application as they seek to “get the tree into a maintenance cycle.” However, this is not sufficient justification in itself. The applicant also advises of the tree shedding limbs but has not offered any evidence to support this; it would be unusual for a tree of this size/maturity to shed limbs with such regularity that the entire crown requires reduction; if individual branches were determined by an arboriculturist to be structurally defective/weakened, these could be pruned on a branch by branch basis either under an exception or further TPO application. The application also proposes the work so that the tree is not so overwhelming; no advice has been provided to describe how this is so.

	As with the previous two applications for this tree from 2024, the works have not been sufficiently justified. They would negatively impact on the visual appearance of the tree with consequential impact to visual amenity.					
Decision	Consent	Refuse	Part consent/ Part refuse	Withdrawn / Invalid	Conservation Area	
					Raise no objection	TPO
		X				
Decision notice	REFUSE PERMISSION: 1no. Oak (T1) - Crown reduction by up to 2m REASON FOR REFUSAL: Oak (T1) provides visual amenity in the local landscape. The proposed crown reduction would compromise its natural appearance and result in an unnecessary cycle of maintenance. No evidence has been supplied to demonstrate that the tree is at risk of shedding limbs to such an extent that the entire crown should be reduced nor to explain how the tree may be overwhelming.					
Conditions	N/A					
Notes to applicant						
Parish comments	None received					
Public objection/ support	Support		Objection		Observation	
	0		0		0	
Objection/ support consideration						