

Eastleigh Borough Council Tree Preservation Order and Conservation Area Assessment Form	
Application Number	T/25/98833
Surveyor	AM
Address	2 Kinsbourne Way, Thornhill, SO19 6HB
Proposed work	1no. Ash (T1) - Fell. Ash tree with confirmed ash dieback in a well used garden, would like to remove due to safety concerns.
Assessment Date	27 th February 2025
Officer comments	Tree viewed from driveway and from between houses on Holcroft Road and Kinsbourne Rise. The application did not advise of issues with the base of the tree which would require close inspection. Assessment of canopy condition in terms of ash dieback is acceptable from the above vantage points. The application ash is protected by TPO ref: 192A, specifically with area A1. This was made in 1989 therefore protects all trees within its marked boundary and which were present at that time. The tree measures approx. 18-20m tall, growing by the southern boundary of the property and overhanging several gardens. The tree is mature and its overall size is such that it would have been present at the time the TPO was made and is therefore protected. The proposal is to fell the tree on the basis that it has had ash dieback confirmed and due to safety concerns. No evidence has been supplied to confirm the presence of this disease. Such evidence would consist of blackened rachis/leaf-stalks with pinhead-sized fungal fruiting bodies and/or samples of lesions sent to the Food and Environment Research Agency and confirmed by lab analysis. More general ash dieback symptoms include dieback of the crown, black and wilting leaves, branch or stem lesions. Again, symptoms which have led to the diagnosis have not been stated. These symptoms are not exclusive of ash dieback disease; they can be also be indicative of poor growing conditions and/or other pathogens. The impacts of these may be short-term and reversible. At the time of my inspection, the tree was out of leaf so foliage quality was not able to be assessed. However, bud coverage appeared normal and there were no obvious dead sections. The extent of ash dieback is normally described by reference to how much live canopy remains as a percentage. There is more than 75% of the canopy remaining therefore it would sit within "Class 1" as per the "Suffolk County Council Ash Health Assessment System".

	When symptoms become more advanced, dead branches are shed and weakened trees may become exploited by other pathogens e.g. honey fungus. This means that where ash grows near people or property, that it would require more considered management. There is no trigger point for felling infected trees; each case is taken on its merits. There is certainly no consensus that trees showing <i>any</i> signs of ash dieback should be felled. The application is not supported by a suitable level of evidence which would confirm the presence and severity of ash dieback disease. No assessment has been made as to the risk that the tree poses. As such, the application should be refused permission.					
Decision	Consent	Refuse	Part consent/ Part refuse	Withdrawn / Invalid	Conservation Area	
					Raise no objection	TPO
		X				
Decision notice	REFUSE PERMISSION: 1no. Ash (T1) - Fell. Ash tree with confirmed ash dieback in a well-used garden, would like to remove due to safety concerns. REASON FOR REFUSAL: T1 is outwardly healthy, visible to the public from surrounding roads and offers benefit in terms of visual amenity. This would be lost if the tree were to be felled. The application is not supported by any evidence which would confirm the presence or severity of ash dieback disease. As such, there is no justification to fell the tree.					
Conditions	N/A					
Notes to applicant	N/A					
Parish comments	None.					
Public objection/ support	Support		Objection		Observation	
	0		0		0	
Objection/ support consideration	None received.					