

Eastleigh Borough Council Tree Preservation Order and Conservation Area Assessment Form

Application Number	T/25/98989
Surveyor	AM
Address	SWIFT COTTAGE, 11a FREEGROUNDS CLOSE, HEDGE END, SOUTHAMPTON, SO30 0HJ
Proposed work	1no. Oak (T1) - Total crown reduction of between 3 & 4m. The tree is situated on the edge of our garden & on the edge of two other neighbours' gardens. The tree is extremely large & we have had requests from these neighbours to reduce it.
Assessment Date	10 th March 2025
Officer comments	The application oak, T1, is protected by TPO ref: 595-E, confirmed 24th October 2007. T1 is outwardly healthy but has previously been reduced, with 3-5m of regrowth to around 120mm diameter (estimated by eye). The most recent reduction was permitted as the result of TPO application ref: T/13/73452. Despite the reduction, the tree has regrown to pleasing form and is an asset to the area. The oak is visible from Freegrounds Close and as background from Freegrounds Avenue and to a lesser extent from Freegrounds Road. The multiple public vantage points, the overall size and condition of the tree is such that it offers significant benefit in terms of public, visual amenity. The proposal is to reduce the tree by 3-4m, presumably both in height and spread. The reasons put forward to support this are because the tree is extremely large and due to requests from neighbours. The extent of pruning would be back to or near previous reduction points; the length of time since the previous reduction was carried out is such that the resulting wounds would be large, exposing heartwood and removing the majority of the foliage/buds/twigs. This would be detrimental to public views as its form would be diminished. The extent of this work in respect of the resulting harm to tree health and amenity has not been justified. For this reason, the proposed work should be refused permission. Although the reasons put forward in support of the application are vague, the previous history of permitted crown reduction is such that lesser works would in this instance be reasonable. An overall reduction in height and radial spread by up to 1.5m, limiting cut sizes to 50mm diameter would confine pruning wounds to sapwood and retain sufficient foliage/buds/twigs for it to respond favourably.

	Hedge End PC and neighbour comments have been considered.					
Decision	Consent	Refuse	Part consent/ Part refuse	Withdrawn / Invalid	Conservation Area	
					Raise no objection	TPO
			X			
Decision notice	REFUSE PERMISSION: 1no. Oak (T1) - Total crown reduction of between 3 & 4m REASON FOR REFUSAL: The reasons put forward to support the application are vague and do not justify crown reduction to this extent. Excessively large volume of foliage would be removed and final cut sizes would be large. This would adversely impact on tree health, its form and overall visual amenity. GRANT PERMISSION: 1no. Oak (T1) – Reduce height and radial spread by no more than 1.5m. Pruning wound size will be limited to 50mm diameter.					
Conditions	Works in accordance with BS3998.					
Notes to applicant	N/A					
Parish comments	Hedge End PC: Object due to lack of supporting evidence. Large high amenity value Oak, with views from the public realm and many residential properties. The application does not provide any supporting evidence or provide any level of detail or justification for the work. Without supporting evidence that justifies the benefit of the work against the negative impact to the tree I would refuse this application. The proposed tree work is excessive and will reduce the trees amenity value as well as impacting its health and longevity.					
Public objection/ support	Support		Objection		Observation	
	1		0		0	
Objection/ support consideration	We are supporting the application of the oak tree branch reduction. We are concerned that in high winds the tree or branches could fall on our house.					