

Eastleigh Borough Council Tree Preservation Order and Conservation Area Assessment Form

Application Number	T/25/99183				
Surveyor	AM				
Address	44 VALLEY ROAD, CHANDLER'S FORD, EASTLEIGH, SO53 1GP				
Proposed work	2no. Birch (T1 & T2) - Crown reduce & reshape by circa 1-1.5 m to suitable growth points, minimising pruning cuts to 50 mm in diameter. Prune for ongoing routine maintenance & management.				
Assessment Date	24 th April 2025				
Officer comments	The application birch are protected by TPO ref: 460-E, confirmed 17th December 2003. The trees are close-grown, mature specimens which form a mutual crown of reasonable form. There is a little physiological dysfunction apparent as although both were coming into leaf, the crown was less dense than I'd expect. The trees are clearly visible to the public from Valley Road and Neilson Close. Their size, acceptable condition and visibility is such that they offer benefit in terms of public, visual amenity. The proposal is to reduce both trees by 1-1.5m, confining pruning wounds to 50mm. There's no specific reasoning put forward for this; "<i>ongoing routine maintenance & management</i>" implies that there has been previous management to this effect. There is no history of significant pruning. Birch as a species does not tolerate pruning well; it lacks a durable heartwood and as a short-lived species, even brief periods of physiological stress (e.g. that caused by pruning or wind damage) can cause swift decline. Despite the proposed crown reduction being relatively minor, in the absence of any arboricultural reasoning to carry out the work, it should be refused permission.				
Decision	Consent	Refuse	Part consent/ Part refuse	Withdrawn / Invalid	Conservation Area
					Raise no objection TPO
		X			
Decision notice	REFUSE PERMISSION: 2no. Birch (T1 & T2) - Crown reduce & reshape by circa 1-1.5 m to suitable growth points, minimising pruning cuts to 50 mm in diameter.				

	REASON FOR REFUSAL: The silver birch trees referenced in the application were found to be in satisfactory condition during the site visit. These trees are clearly visible to the public from Valley Road and Neilson Close, contributing significantly to the visual amenity of the area. The proposed crown reductions, albeit relatively minor, have not been sufficiently justified within the application. The application states that the proposed work is for reasons of “ongoing routine maintenance & management”, however there is no history of works of this nature to these trees. Silver birch as a species is known to be intolerant of pruning and there is a foreseeable risk that both would deteriorate as a result. This would result in premature loss of amenity. In the absence of sound arboricultural reasoning, the application has been refused permission.		
Conditions	N/A		
Notes to applicant			
Parish comments	None.		
Public objection/ support	Support	Objection	Observation
	0	0	0
Objection/ support consideration	None received.		