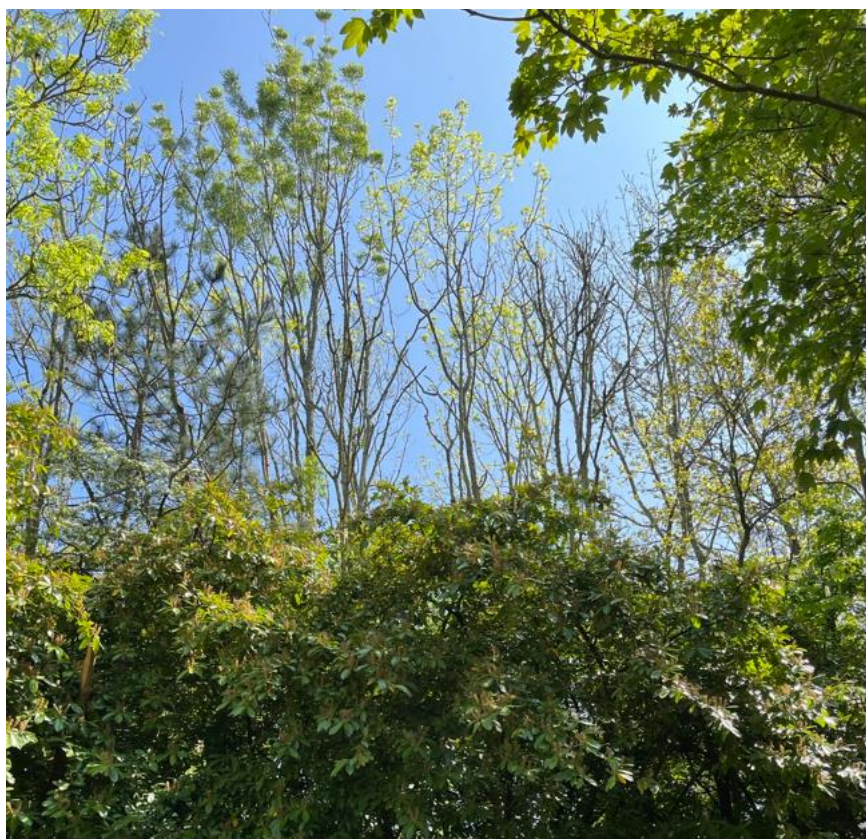


Eastleigh Borough Council Tree Preservation Order and Conservation Area Assessment Form

Application Number	T/25/99163
Surveyor	AM
Address	OSBORNE QUARTERS, ROYAL VICTORIA COUNTRY PARK, NETLEY ABBEY, SOUTHAMPTON, SO31 5HX
Proposed work	1no. Group of Ash (G1) - Remove all ash trees in woodland adjacent to 15 Osborne Quarters. Due to advanced ash die back. Recently the country park have removed all ash trees in park due to the disease. Tree department of the country park supports the removal of trees. One of the rangers also recently contacted the management company of the quarters & urged the management company to remove the ash trees in question.
Assessment Date	29 th April 2025
Officer comments	Trees at this site are protected by TPO ref: 824, confirmed 2nd February 2018. Relevant TPO application history: T/23/94469 – Fell approx. 30 ash – refused permission T/24/97787 – Fell 7 ash – granted permission Current app – Fell all ash – tbc. The location plan is a little misleading; the boundary of the TPO is to the east of the footpath leading into the park. Only trees within that area have been considered. The application is to fell all ash along the western edge of Osborne Quarters. These are early-mature trees with stem diameters of around 30cm dbh. They grow in a wider group of mixed species including black pine, aspen, horse chestnut and laurel. Spring is not an ideal time to survey for ash dieback as ash trees can be very late coming into leaf (sometimes as late as mid-May). At this time of year, one would expect to see infected trees as having dieback, dead branches, reduced bud density, clusters of epicormic growth amongst other symptoms. However, trees can appear healthy with apparently healthy buds but then fail to come into leaf as spring progresses. I've considered the application with this limitation in mind. At the time of my site visit, the trees were noted to be in mixed condition, occasional with advanced symptoms of ash dieback. Others seem to be coming into leaf with no obvious signs of dieback. An email from James Lovegrove, of Hampshire County Council's Trees and Woodland Senior Officer has been supplied stating that he confirms "<i>the</i>

	<i>trees are suffering from ash dieback and will need removing at some point to ensure safety for residents and the buildings</i>". He also advises that HCC recently instructed the felling of ash trees on their land that were at "class 4 dieback". Trees at this stage have lost in excess of 75% of their live crown and are typically stag-headed. This is not the case with the majority of trees within this application. I can't give the HCC email much weight as it provides very little detail beyond stating the presence of ash dieback and its own approach of felling only trees with class 4 dieback. There is a presumption against felling all ash regardless of infection status on a precautionary basis (<i>Ash dieback disease: a guide for tree owners</i>, 2020 and Forest Research Chalara Manual). In this instance, the complete felling of all ash will impact public views from the adjacent public footpath and from Osborne Quarters itself. The trees provide desirable separation between the two although the role of the dense understorey is noted. In favour of granting permission is that there is the potential to impose a restocking condition. This would enable the felling to be carried out in a single, short operation and replacements planted to ensure future amenity benefit. However, the number of trees badly affected by ADB here do not justify the wider felling of potentially healthy trees. The application should be refused permission. This is on the basis that not all trees appear to be infected. An application proposing to fell only those trees exhibiting advanced symptoms, and/or in conjunction with secondary pathogens (e.g. honey fungus) would be accepted. It may be worth waiting until June to confirm the extent of dieback in individual trees and for application trees to be marked in some way to ease with identification. If the Applicant considers that the felling of individual trees may be exempt from application, these can be considered separately within the normal timescales.					
Decision	Consent	Refuse	Part consent/ Part refuse	Withdrawn / Invalid	Conservation Area	
					Raise no objection	TPO
		X				
Decision notice	Refuse permission: 1no. Group of Ash (G1) - Remove all ash trees in woodland adjacent to 15 Osborne Quarters Reason for refusal: The proposal to fell all ash trees within this group has been made on the basis that they are infected by ash dieback disease. Whilst it is acknowledged that a small number show advanced symptoms, the wider group does not. Current industry guidance e.g. Forest Research Chalara Manual or the Tree Council <i>Ash dieback disease: a guide for tree</i>					

	<i>owners</i> does not endorse the felling of all ash irrespective of infection status. To do so would result in loss of public, visual amenity as well as losing potentially resistant ash trees.		
Conditions	n/a		
Notes to applicant	An application to selectively fell ash trees with advanced symptoms of ash dieback would be looked on favourably. Canopy symptoms should be clear by mid-June. It would be helpful for trees within such an application to be marked with paint to assist with identification. Trees that are dead or present an immediate risk of harm may justify immediate felling as an exception; these should be notified to the Council preferably by email.		
Parish comments	None.		
Public objection/ support	Support	Objection	Observation
	0	0	0
Objection/ support consideration	None received.		



Showing ash coming into leaf 29/4/25