

Eastleigh Borough Council Tree Preservation Order and Conservation Area Assessment Form

Application Number	T/25/99090
Surveyor	AM
Address	22 MERDON AVENUE, CHANDLER'S FORD, EASTLEIGH, SO53 1EJ
Proposed work	1no. Oak (T1) – Crown reduce by 2-3m to lessen spread. The adjacent tree fell during Storm Darragh, leaving the standing tree exposed. It leans toward the Junior School field & overlaps it leaving it as a safety concern.
Assessment Date	7 th May 2025
Officer comments	The application oak is protected within G22 of TPO ref: 290, confirmed at Northern Area Sub-Committee 1st August 1994. The tree is visible to the public at a distance from Merdon Avenue. It's also clearly visible from the school grounds itself. It offers reasonable benefit in terms of public, visual amenity. Mature oak estimated by eye to measure approx. 14-15m tall x 70cm dbh. Asymmetric crown due to past competition with recently failed oak. Slight reduction in vitality as shown by occasional dead twigs to the periphery of the crown, potentially attributable to dry spring and/or sudden release from shading by recent failure of companion tree. The proposal is to reduce the crown by 2-3m. This is on the basis that its immediate neighbour fell during Storm Darragh. A previous application (T/25/99003) was submitted to reduce by 5m but this was not supported by any arboricultural advice. The application was subsequently withdrawn. T/25/99090 (the current application) is for lesser works and although not supported by a report from an arboriculturist, has been submitted with/by a named Arborist agent. The adjacent tree had been removed from site apart from a small section of sawn off stump. That stump had signs of white rot and this may explain why that tree fell. No evidence has been supplied of that decay having crossed to T1. However, the failure of that tree has left T1 subject to altered wind exposure and it is possible that there has been disturbance to the root system itself. Crown reduction to the extent applied for will likely be tolerated by the tree in terms of ongoing health while reducing the effect of wind loading on the root system. Public comments have been submitted, both objecting to the amount of reduction applied for. Both request a large amount of reduction. We can only consider the application put before us and cannot add to a proposal.

	Should further works be requested, these should be evidenced by a suitably qualified arboriculturist as per the requirement of the TPO application process.					
Decision	Consent	Refuse	Part consent/ Part refuse	Withdrawn / Invalid	Conservation Area	
					Raise no objection	TPO
	X					
Decision notice	Grant: 1no. Oak (T1) – Crown reduce by 2-3m to lessen spread.					
Conditions	BS3998					
Notes to applicant	For the avoidance of doubt, crown reduction has been taken to include reduction in height of 2-3m.					
Parish comments	None.					
Public objection/ support	Support		Objection		Observation	
	0		2		0	
Objection/ support consideration	<i>This revised plan still seems insufficient given the location of the tree next to a school playing field and given that the neighbouring tree fell down onto the school playing field. The tree surgeon who tidied up the neighbouring tree deemed it unsafe and it is likely the school will be able to use its field fully during the summer if just a minimal amount is removed. If the tree leaned towards his house the owner would have had it removed long since!</i> AM comment – This objection is in relation to the amount of reduction applied for; it requests a reduction of larger proportions than that applied for. We can only determine the application put before us and cannot add to the proposal. <i>I would like to notify you of my objection to application reference T/25/99090 at 22 Merdon Avenue. The tree in question is leaning towards and overhangs a significant portion of the Merdon Junior School playing field. The school have fenced off this portion of the field and children are not allowed to play on it. I can only assume that this is down to safety concerns about the tree listed in the planning application. The fact the the tree next to this one came down in a storm in December shows that there is a risk of this one also coming down and if it did, the degree to which it leans massively increases the risk of it falling onto the school field. I don't believe that reducing the crown by 2-3m will decrease the chances of the tree falling enough to give the school enough confidence to allow the children back onto the field at play time. This is a huge loss, especially at this time of year when we should be encouraging the children to make use of the field as much as possible.</i>					

	AM comment - This objection is in relation to the amount of reduction applied for; it requests a reduction of larger proportions than that applied for. We can only determine the application put before us and cannot add to the proposal.
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