

Eastleigh Borough Council Tree Preservation Order and Conservation Area Assessment Form

Application Number	T/25/99290
Surveyor	AM
Address	BRIDEN HOUSE, LITTLEWOOD GARDENS, WEST END, SOUTHAMPTON, SO30 3DJ
Proposed work	1no. Oak (T1) - Canopy clean & canopy thin by 20%. Removal of branch epicormic growth. To allow more light & air into the canopy & garden. 2no. Leylandii Hedge (H1 & H2) - Fell. Showing signs of decline due to signs of conifer mite. To be replaced with pleached tree line to retain privacy.
Assessment Date	9 th June 2025
Officer comments	Oak protected by TPO ref: 331-E. The Leylandii and laurel hedge can only be protected by virtue of its siting within a woodland classification under TPO ref: 59-E but it would not have been the intention to protect these. Relevant planning history: T/16/79423 – Split decision: Thin oak by 25% - refused; Thin oak by 10% permitted T/24/97089 – Thin oak by 15% - refused. The application oak is sited in the rear garden of the property. It is clearly visible to the public from Ingersley Rise (from the north). The tree measures approx. 50cm dbh x 16-18m tall and with tip to tip crowns spread of approx. 10m. Although individual leaves/branches appear healthy, the crown is less dense than would be expected and light is percolating through. The bottom of the canopy is clear of the surrounding garden and parking area to the rear/north. Whilst the tree is large, it does not appear to be unreasonably imposing on its surroundings. The proposal is to canopy clean and thin the crown by 20%; this exceeds the application refused permission in 2024. Canopy clean is not a clearly defined operation but is generally referred to as the removal of dead, damaged, diseased, weakly attached branches. As the term is ill-defined, it is not possible to control the extent of any consented work, particularly when carried out (potentially) in addition to the proposed crown thin. The proposed work would allow more light to percolate through the crown but any benefit will be short-lived; the crown is likely to recover within a matter of 2-3 years, potentially denser than previous. This work is not necessary for the health of the tree either by virtue of increased light or

air within the canopy. A reduced specification will be permissible, in line with what was previously permitted in 2016.

As the Leylandii and laurel amounts to a hedge, it's not protected by the woodland TPO. As such, I have no objection to its removal/replacement.



Decision	Consent	Refuse	Part consent/ Part refuse	Withdrawn / Invalid	Conservation Area	
					Raise no objection	TPO
			X			
Decision notice	REFUSE PERMISSION: 1no. Oak (T1) - Canopy clean & canopy thin by 20%. Removal of branch epicormic growth REASON FOR REFUSAL: The application oak was found to be in good condition and is capable of making long term contribution to the visual amenity of the area. The proposed canopy clean, thin of 20% and removal of branch epicormics will not be of benefit to the tree but will leave a large number of wounds throughout the crown which may become colonised by decay organisms. Any benefit in terms of light to surrounding gardens will likely be short-lived as the tree recovers its foliage. A lesser specification, to allow for the reasonable removal of weakened, diseased or otherwise defective branches has been permitted (see below). GRANT PERMISSION: T1 Oak – Crown-thin by 10%, favouring the removal of damaged, diseased and weakly attached branches. 2no. Leylandii/laurel Hedge (H1 & H2) – Fell					

Conditions	Works in accordance with BS3998:2010.		
Notes to applicant			
Parish comments	None.		
Public objection/ support	Support	Objection	Observation
	1	0	0
Objection/ support consideration	We live next door to Briden House and the said Oak tree causes major blockage of sunlight, in our back and front garden, for most of the morning and causes obstruction of daylight into rooms on the back of our house. Furthermore, acorns, kernels and leaves fall into our pond from the extensive branches. We strongly support the application. AM comment: The above is noted and has been taken into consideration.		