

Eastleigh Borough Council Tree Preservation Order and Conservation Area Assessment Form

Application Number	T/25/99355
Surveyor	AM
Address	40 STRAWBERRY FIELDS, HEDGE END, SOUTHAMPTON
Proposed work	1no. Oak (T1, originates from HCC land) - Remove 2no. branches & partial crown reduction of 2-3m both as shown in red on photos. 1no. Oak (T2, originates from HCC land) - Remove 2no. branches & partial crown reduction of 2-3m both as shown in purple on photos. Reason: the two trees have become extremely dangerous therefore we are unable to use certain areas of our garden due to branches falling daily. The ends of the low lying canopy branches are extremely heavy at the ends pulling the branches down more.
Assessment Date	26 th June 2025
Officer comments	The application oaks are protected with area A1 of TPO no. 139-H. The trees are of an age where they will have been present at the time the TPO was made. The trees stand on the side of Netley Firs Road. This is in an elevated position above 40 Strawberry Fields, with distant views from the north. These views are such that the trees offer a high level of public, visual amenity. The ownership of the land the trees grow on is unclear; our highway mapping indicates that the land to the rear/south of the property is adopted highway. This does not mean that the trees are part of that; it is possible that they are part of the pre-development field boundary therefore unless adoption plans/dedications indicate otherwise, are excluded from the highway. Regardless, ownership/responsibility for these trees is not a consideration for this application. T1 – Oak – Visually estimated to be >100cm dbh and approx. 20m tall. The tree has been historically been crownlifted to leave a clear stem over the garden to approx. 6-7m then branches ascend with up to approx. 10m height clearance. The northern section of the crown overhangs the garden by approx. 8-10m. Beneath the crown are a range of garden features; benches, shrub beds, a greenhouse, play spaces etc. Vitality is slightly reduced and there are signs of retrenchment; there's a scattering of dead branches throughout the crown and bunched growth towards the branch tips. Epicormics are forming on the branches indicating increased light percolating through the outer canopy. The first primary branch north-west side has recent shed its end over the garden.

T2 – Oak – Visually estimated to be 90cm dbh. Visually healthy tree although suppressed by T1 and growing out symmetrically to the north. Lower branches arc over the edge of the garden and over a hedge.

The application has been made partially on the grounds of safety; no arboricultural advice was received in support. However, the concerns mainly relate to falling dead branches. These are clearly evident through the crowns of both trees. The removal of dead branches does not require an application and can be carried out at any time.

The application also refers to branches hanging extremely low over the garden; none of the branches appear particularly low or intrusive...



The proposed partial crown reductions have the potential to leave large wounds through the northern parts of the crowns. They would removal a large amount of foliage which the trees would need to expend resources on regrowing. It would likely leave that side of the trees bare and

	considerably reduce their amenity value. That said, a lesser reduction would be permissible as some of the outer branches are becoming a little lion-tailed and will become more prone to failure; offering a reduced specification will address this issue without overly impacting on tree health nor public views.					
Decision	Consent	Refuse	Part consent/ Part refuse	Withdrawn / Invalid	Conservation Area	
					Raise no objection	TPO
				X		
Decision notice	The Council has issued a SPLIT DECISION and REFUSES CONSENT for the following works: T1 Oak – Removal of 2 no. branches marked red on Applicant-supplied photographs Reason for refusal: The removal of primary branches will leave large wounds on the stem of the tree. The age/maturity of the tree is such that these would be particularly vulnerable to decay therefore there is a foreseeable risk that the lifespan of the tree will be reduced. As one looks towards the rear fence, the branch marked on the left/east side is stout and unlikely to fail completely. The end is dead and this can be removed back to live growth without application. As one looks towards the rear fence, the branch marked on the right/north-west side has recently failed at the end. This will have considerably reduced leverage on the remainder of the branch and its point of attachment. Failure of the remainder of this branch seems unlikely. T2 Oak – Removal of 2 no. branches marked purple on Applicant-supplied photographs Reason for refusal: The removal of primary branches will leave large wounds on the stem of the tree. The age/maturity of the tree is such that they would be particularly vulnerable to decay therefore there is a foreseeable risk that the lifespan of the tree will be reduced. Selective reduction of these branches will be permitted (see below for consented works). T1 Oak - Partial crown reduction of 2-3m as shown in red on photos; T2 Oak - Partial crown reduction of 2-3m as shown in purple on photos Reason for refusal: No arboricultural evidence has been supplied which would support reduction to this extent; reduction as indicated by the supplied images would potentially lead to large pruning wounds and					

	extensive loss of foliage/twigs. The works would leave the northern section of the trees bare and would be of adverse impact to public, visual amenity. The Council GRANTS CONSENT for the following works: T1 Oak – Selective crown reduction by up to 2m on the northern segment of the crown only, reducing this by up to 2m and blending this in to the upper crown. Pruning wound size must not exceed 75mm diameter. No height reduction is permitted. T2 Oak – Selective crown reduction by up to 2m on the northern segment of the crown only, reducing this by up to 2m and blending in to the upper crown. Pruning wound size must not exceed 75mm diameter. No height reduction is permitted. Please be advised that the removal of dead branches does not require an application or notice and may be carried out at any time.		
Conditions	BS3998		
Notes to applicant	Ownership		
Parish comments	HETC: Object due to excessive pruning, lack of supporting evidence potentially detrimental to the tree. No objection to a crown reduction on the property side up to 1.5m limiting pruning wounds to 75mm.		
Public objection/ support	Support	Objection	Observation
	0	0	0
Objection/ support consideration	None received.		