

Eastleigh Borough Council Tree Preservation Order and Conservation Area Assessment Form

Application Number	T/25/99522
Surveyor	AM
Address	MARINERS RETREAT, 1 COPSE LANE, HAMBLE-LE-RICE, SOUTHAMPTON, SO31 4QH
Proposed work	1no. Oak (T1) - 15-20% canopy crown thin which will incorporate the removing of damaged, weakly attached, chaffing or diseased branches contributing to the crown thinning. Stem diameter branch foliage no greater than 25- 30mm. Reason: Works in order to try & increase sunlight to the property/patio area.
Assessment Date	27 th February 2025
Officer comments	Oak protected as T9 of TPO ref: 531, confirmed 17th July 2006. Visible to public from Copse Lane and to lesser extent from School Lane. Attractive, large tree with branches extending out across part of house. TPO application ref: T/25/98768 recently permitted the following: <i>Remove the 1.5m regrowth back to the pre-cuts on the West and South side of the crown (25mm stem dia.). 1st Southern lateral to reduce back into the 2nd fork, branch length circa 2.5m, stem dia. cut 50mm.</i> The following work was refused as part of that application: <i>Crown-thin by 15-20%.</i> The thin was refused on the basis of: - the cumulative effect on the tree of that and the consented pruning; - no reason was put forward to justify the work. The difference between the current and the previous application is that the Applicant has advised the reason for the work. This is to try and increase light to the property and patio area. Crown thinning is an accepted way of increasing light levels. It does so by reducing the density of the crown by systematic, even removal of small diameter branches. This allows dappled light to percolate through the crown. The Applicant proposes to complete this work by first focusing their attention on damaged, weakly attached, chafing or diseased branches. This is a reasonable approach. Whilst the pruning of live branches inevitably causes harm to a tree, the tree has a crown density

	should tolerate a thin in line with the proposal. A species characteristics of oak is that it has an abundance of dormant buds within the branches and stem. An increase in light through the crown may stimulate these to sprout therefore these may later require thinning out themselves i.e. not a once only operation.					
	In light of a reason being put forward for the pruning, on balance, the works are acceptable and should be permitted.					
Decision	Consent	Refuse	Part consent/ Part refuse	Withdrawn / Invalid	Conservation Area	
					Raise no objection	TPO
Decision notice	GRANT PERMISSION: 1 No. oak (T1) – Crown-thin by 15-20%					
Conditions	In accordance with BS3998; 2 year time limit					
Notes to applicant	N/A					
Parish comments	Hamble PC: The Parish Council can see no difference between this application and application T/25/98768 which was refused in March of this year for the following reasons, crown thinning of 15-20% is considered unjustified and will be of detriment to the health and appearance of the tree. The works would thus result in an adverse impact upon the visual amenity, ecology and wildlife and screening of the surrounding area. This aspect of the application has not been justified and there appears to be no arboricultural reason to carry out the work. Should crown-thinning be permitted as well as the other items of work, this would result in substantial loss of foliage and cause undue stress to a mature tree. The impact of this work would therefore compromise its long-term contribution to public, visual amenity. Therefore, this application should also be refused and the Parish are unclear why this has been resubmitted. AM comment: This has been considered; the difference with this application is that the Applicant has given a reason for the work.					
Public objection/ support	Support		Objection		Observation	
	1		0		0	
Objection/ support consideration	Public comment: This seems sensible tree management and we are in support of this application					