

Eastleigh Borough Council Tree Preservation Order and Conservation Area Assessment Form

Application Number	T/25/99692
Surveyor	AM
Address	LAND TO THE EAST OF 21 BARBE BAKER AVENUE (HATCH GRANGE), WEST END, SO30 3RH
Proposed work	T1 Oak - Reduction of up to 3m on the southern aspect to a suitable growth point to lessen the likelihood of repeat failure.
Assessment Date	26 th August 2025
Officer comments	Oak tree protected as T40 of TPO ref: 92-E. Located on West End Parish Council land, within a park and by a well-used footpath and play equipment (balance beam?). The tree is a large, mature tree. It measures in excess of 20m tall and has a stem diameter (estimated by eye) in the region of 125cm dbh. Vitality is normal, although there are epicormics forming on the branches which suggest it is beginning to undergo retrenchment. It has recently shed a large, primary branch (@4-5m above ground level and measuring approx. 40cm diameter) on the south side (over the play equipment), revealing a pocket of decayed heartwood which no doubt contributed to the failure. There's also an old, very large wound to the north side at 5m above ground level. Taking into account the large size of the tree, signs of retrenchment and heartwood decay, it <i>may</i> be considered a <i>veteran</i> (subject to detailed assessment, not necessary to determine this application). The applicant proposes to reduce the southern segment of the crown by 3m. Branches to this side have radial spread of approx. 14m. The branch immediately adjacent to the failed branch is of similar size, has an old decaying stub and abnormal bulging and recesses. These suggest that decay may be present around its point of attachment. That branch will also have been subject to additional wind-loading since the loss of its immediate neighbour. These factors increase the likelihood of major branch failure. The proposal to reduce the southern side is entirely reasonable management. It will reduce the likelihood of major branch failure into a well-used public open space. Whilst all pruning causes harm to a tree, the physiological condition of T1 is such that the proposed works will be well-tolerated. Any loss of amenity (e.g. by degradation of natural form) is justified in the circumstances. As such, the work should be permitted.

Decision	Consent	Refuse	Part consent/ Part refuse	Withdrawn / Invalid	Conservation Area	
					Raise no objection	TPO
	X					
Decision notice	GRANT CONSENT: T1 Oak - Reduction of up to 3m on the southern aspect to a suitable growth point to lessen the likelihood of repeat failure.					
Conditions	BS3998					
Notes to applicant						
Parish comments	None.					
Public objection/ support	Support		Objection		Observation	
	0		0		0	
Objection/ support consideration	None received.					