

Eastleigh Borough Council Tree Preservation Order and Conservation Area Assessment Form

Application Number	T/25/100172
Surveyor	AM
Address	Land to north of 64 Thistle Road, Hedge End, Southampton, SO30 0TT.
Proposed work	1no. Oak (T1, originates in land behind gardens of no. 64) - Fell (sectional dismantlement) & clear, cutting the remaining stump as low as possible & cross hatching. Tree show signs of Hypoxylon canker around the base of trunk. Tree is close property boundary line. Replacement tree will be planted in a more suitable position. 1no. Oak tree (T2, originates in land behind gardens of no. 62) - Lateral reduction of 4-5m to limbs over property garden & public footpath. 3-4 meter crown reduction & removal of all dead wood. (T3) Oak tree "Quercus" located in land behind the gardens of number 62: To carry out a 4-5 meter crown reduction and removal of all dead wood. The trees have had no work carried out on them for a number of years. The work proposed is in the interests of good arboricultural management to maintain the trees health, to prevent damage to the property and in the interest of good tree husbandry and visual amenities in the area.
Assessment Date	10 th November 2025
Officer comments	The application oaks are protected as part of G1 of TPO ref: 851-E, confirmed 29th June 2020. Trees form part of (secondary) woodland edge in a publicly accessible nature reserve, offering a high level of visual amenity as well as providing ecosystem services one would associate with trees of this species. Historically, this line of trees appears to be the remnant of a field boundary relating to Wildern Farmhouse. T1 is a mature specimen with damage at the base which may relate to fire damage in the distant past. This has left a large section of missing or dead bark, with some occlusion at its margin. There's no indication that this is anything but superficial; no arboricultural, diagnostic evidence has been supplied. There's also an old basal wound, mostly occluded, presumably from historic removal of a secondary stem. There may be decay associated with this but there is no evidence as to whether this is anything but superficial; as ultimately long-lived trees, oaks has a durable heartwood and is a strong compartmentaliser of dysfunction. The crown was reported as being sparse but at the time of my inspection, appeared in reasonable condition, despite heading into autumn. As such, it has the ability to tolerate some stress and dysfunction.

The application form has been ticked “no” in answer to whether the Applicant has concerns that it may break or fall. In the absence of any evidence which would confirm that T1 is at risk of failure (by any mechanism) the felling of this tree should be refused permission.



T1 marked. Smaller tree in front shows dysfunction at periphery of crown



Base of T1, showing bark loss/dysfunction and old wound (left of stem)

The application oak, T2, is a mature specimen with a naturally adopted lean to the west, presumed due to previous competition for space with a recently removed, dominant oak. The crown is in reasonable physiological condition. Crown reduction (3-4m height and 4-5m lateral over garden and public footpath) has not been justified. There seems to be no arboricultural reason to carry out this work. It threatens to remove the majority of foliage-bearing branches and would leave it little more than a standing pole. The impact to tree health and loss of amenity do not seem justified.



T2 and T3 marked. T2 showing signs of crown asymmetry.

T3 is a mature oak seemingly in good health. No specific justification has been given to justify the proposed 4-5m crown reduction. This would remove the majority of foliage-bearing branches and leave large pruning wounds which the tree would struggle to occlude. It would be detrimental to the amenity of the tree and the woodland nature reserve. Consequently, this should be refused permission.

In all cases, the removal of dead branches is exempt from application and can be carried out at any time, without notice.

	Consent	Refuse		Conservation Area

Decision			Part consent/ Part refuse	Withdrawn / Invalid	Raise no objection	TPO
		X				
Decision notice	REFUSE PERMISSION: T1 - 1no. Oak - Fell (sectional dismantlement) & clear, cutting the remaining stump as low as possible & cross hatching. T2 - 1no. Oak tree - Lateral reduction of 4-5m to limbs over property garden & public footpath. 3-4 meter crown reduction. T3 - Oak tree - To carry out a 4-5 meter crown reduction. REASON FOR REFUSAL: The trees stand on the edge of a woodland nature reserve. The public have full access to this site and the trees offer significant benefit in terms of visual amenity. The proposed works are stated as being required for the following reasons: <i>“The trees have had no work carried out on them for a number of years. The work proposed is in the interests of good arboricultural management to maintain the trees health, to prevent damage to the property and in the interest of good tree husbandry and visual amenities in the area”.</i> This justification is generalised and does not relate to any specific tree. No tree survey information has been supplied. There is no evidence which explains why individual trees require work, nor any which would explain why such severe work would be in the interest of either good arboricultural management, tree good tree husbandry or maintenance of tree health. No evidence has been supplied which would explain how property is at risk of becoming damaged. The proposed work would remove the visual amenity and ecosystem services provided by T1 and severely impact the same benefits provided by T2 and T3. These impacts have not been justified. As such, the application has been refused permission.					
Conditions	N/A					
Notes to applicant						
Parish comments	None.					
Public objection/ support	Support		Objection		Observation	
	0		1		0	
Objection/ support consideration	Neighbour comment: Whilst I cannot claim to be an expert on tree management, my level of confidence in the report is minimal given the proposed works follow hot on the heels of a request for all the trees in the vicinity to be removed, and the fact that the report can't even get the					

	trees on the plan in the right place (trees referred to behind 62 & 64 Thistle wrong way round). In any event, I would expect the local authority to satisfy itself that the condition of the trees warrants the level of cut back/removal, especially given a mature Oak in this location has already been cut down to ground level. A professional, independent opinion is therefore appropriate if expertise isn't available in-house. Insofar as the works proceed, mindful of the need to consider the environment, the work should be carried out at a time of year that won't interfere with bird nesting, and rather than the cut wood being removed from the site (as was the case with the recently cut down mature Oak and associated work on neighbouring tree), either leave it in situ (but not in a way that could be an inconvenience to the residents in adjacent properties, i.e. children playing on it and/or able to climb onto it and see into the gardens), or moved to a suitable location nearby, either within the land owned by Heron Land Developments Ltd or to the adjacent nature reserve (if the local council is in agreement). We need to do everything we can to support wildlife locally, with the ONLY nature reserve across Hedge End being here. Wildern Local Nature Reserve is building a significant reputation for having numerous rare and nationally scarce species, some associated with ancient woodland, so preservation of its periphery is of the utmost importance. AM response: Noted and taken into consideration.
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