

Eastleigh Borough Council Tree Preservation Order and Conservation Area Assessment Form

Application Number	T/25/100520
Surveyor	AM
Address	OCTAVIA, SHOP LANE, BURSLEDON, SOUTHAMPTON, SO31 8BS
Proposed work	1no. Oak (T1) - Reduce North, East & Southern aspect of canopy, over adjacent field, by 2m back to suitable growth points. Reduce remaining Western aspect of canopy, over garden, by approx. 1-1.5m to suitable growth points. Reason - Reduce weighting on over extended limbs to North, East & Southern side. To create a balanced canopy over garden.
Assessment Date	
Officer comments	Oak protected as T1 of TPO ref: 766-E, confirmed 11th December 2013. Recently refused consent under T/24/96748 for: <i>1no. Oak (T1) - Reduce entire canopy by 2-3m to match garden side that has been previously reduced to leave a balanced crown. To balance the crown where previous pruning to clear power lines has left this uneven.</i> Previously consented under T/19/86278 for: <i>1 no. Oak - Reduce crown spread towards house by 2.5m and crown lift over field to 4.0m.</i> The application oak is a mature, twin-stemmed specimen sited in the rear garden of Octavia, with open fields beyond to the east. The top of the tree is visible to the public over the top of the property from Shop Lane and the profile of the tree visible from the public right of way 'Bursledon 701', which runs east-west to the south of property. The field is relatively flat/level with distant views possible from the east. As a large, long-lived, native tree with public views, it offers a good level of amenity.



View from Shop Lane (tree to left/over property)



View from PRow Bursledon 701

The tree has previously been reduced and excessively crownlifted on the property side to leave multiple wounds on the main stem and subtle pruning points at the edge of the crown. The crownlift appears to relate to utility pruning around 7-8 years ago. There's little in the way of regrowth

	to that side. There seems little justification to prune the property side of the crown although it is accepted that pruning wounds would be relatively small. The north, east and south segments of the crown are previously untouched save for a minor crownlift over the field. The application states that these parts of the crown should be reduced by 2m back to suitable growth points on the basis that they have become overextended. The only reason they might appear so is due to the previous major pruning to the west side, which has left the crown rather asymmetric. The unpruned branches are not overextended, they have normal taper and are visually healthy, with even-density branchlets. No evidence has been supplied to identify any branches in particular that might be likely to fail. If they did, the target is an arable field with no public access. The natural form of the tree to those segments would be adversely impacted and there would be adverse consequences in terms of tree health. Although this application is a lesser specification than the previous, the proposal has not been adequately justified. As such, it should be refused permission.					
Decision	Consent	Refuse	Part consent/ Part refuse	Withdrawn / Invalid	Conservation Area	
					Raise no objection	TPO
		X				
Decision notice	REFUSE CONSENT: 1no. Oak (T1) - Reduce North, East & Southern aspect of canopy, over adjacent field, by 2m back to suitable growth points. Reduce remaining Western aspect of canopy, over garden, by approx. 1-1.5m to suitable growth points. REASON FOR REFUSAL: The oak is a mature, twin-stemmed specimen located to the rear of Octavia. It is publicly visible above the property from Shop Lane, from the public right of way (Bursledon 701), and in more distant views from the east. The proposed reduction aims to address a perceived crown imbalance and several extended limbs. The tree appears to have been heavily crown-lifted in the past, presumably by a utility contractor, resulting in a raised crown on the property side and a more natural form elsewhere. Although the crown is asymmetric, the previously approved lateral					

	reduction on the property side has already mitigated any overextended growth in that area, and further pruning is not justified. The remainder of the crown extends over arable land and retains a natural, healthy form. Branches on that side exhibit normal taper and do not appear overextended. Reducing this section would detract from the tree's natural appearance and its contribution to public amenity. No evidence has been provided to indicate an elevated likelihood of limb or structural failure.		
Conditions			
Notes to applicant			
Parish comments	None.		
Public objection/ support	Support	Objection	Observation
	0	0	0
Objection/ support consideration	None received.		