

Eastleigh Borough Council Tree Preservation Order and Conservation Area Assessment Form

Application Number	T/26/100689
Surveyor	AM
Address	5 HAMBLE WOOD, BOTLEY, SOUTHAMPTON, SO30 2GX
Proposed work	1no. Ash (T6) - Crown reduction and topping by approx. 2-2.5m - as indicated in redline in sketch plan - to reduce shading and promote healthy growth. Maintenance.
Assessment Date	10 th February 2026
Officer comments	Ash protected as T1 of TPO 881-E, confirmed 24th March 2025. Early-mature tree, growing between wall and the kerb. Measures some 15m tall and has a stem diameter of approx. 30cm dbh (both measurements estimated by eye). Visually healthy, although small number of branch-tips discoloured and which might not flush come spring. Potentially early signs of ash dieback but equally could reflect recent hot, dry summers and associated water stress. The tree is clearly visible to the public from Hamble Wood. This is also within the Botley/Winchester Road Conservation Area. Its form and visibility are such that it is an asset to the Conservation Area. Other roadside trees provide similar benefit. The proposal is to reduce the tree by approximately 2-2.5m. An annotated photograph has been supplied with the application which assists with visualising the intended work: The red line shows that pruning wounds would be relatively small, maybe 50mm diameter and this level of pruning is generally tolerated by ash

	without significant adverse impact to health. However, the overall form of the tree would become compromised as it would lose its natural appearance. There would become a need to regularly prune the tree back to the established pruning points and this might be expected around once every 3-5 years, dependent on growing conditions each year. The reduction has been proposed to reduce shading and to promote healthy growth. There is no indication in the application where shading might be considered to be an issue. However, there are solar panels on the east-facing section of the roof, opposite the tree. The aspect of the tree is such that it will inevitably cause some shading to the solar panels, with the amount of shading differing through the year as the sun passes higher or lower. It will also cause shading to parts of the rear garden and rear-facing rooms. However, as an ash, this has a diffuse crown that allows dappled light to penetrate through so is a less intense shade than that cast by other tree species. The reduction will not promote healthy growth; growth is already healthy enough. Regrowth from the reduction would be dense, require cyclical pruning to contain and will likely cause more shade than already exists. Whilst the tree might tolerate the work, it will cause stress which could leave it susceptible to pests and disease. Lesser works, including crownlifting and/or selective pruning on the western aspect would be less of an impact to form and health, while providing some relief from shading.					
Decision	Consent	Refuse	Part consent/ Part refuse	Withdrawn / Invalid	Conservation Area	
					Raise no objection	TPO
		X				
Decision notice	REFUSE PERMISSION: 1no. Ash (T6) - Crown reduction and topping by approx. 2-2.5m - as indicated in redline in sketch plan REASON FOR REFUSAL: 1. The application ash, T6 is an early-mature tree in apparent good health. It provides benefit in terms of public, visual amenity and is an asset to the Botley/Winchester Road Conservation Area. As such, justification to substantially prune a tree should be strong and compelling. 2. In respect of pruning to relieve shading, no advice has been provided which would explain how shading would be an issue. However it is apparent that there are solar panels now installed to the east-facing roof which will no doubt become shaded by the tree for part of the day. Some shading to the garden and rear-					

	facing rooms is also inevitable. This can be relieved by less-severe pruning e.g. a combination of crownlifting and selective pruning to provide greater separation from the western aspect of the crown from the building. 3. In respect of the proposed pruning being intended to improve tree health, no advice has been provided which would explain why tree health needs to be improved or how pruning will achieve this. The removal of live parts of the tree will only cause it stress, leaving it more susceptible to pests, disease and other forms of environmental stress. 4. The current natural appearance of the tree will be diminished by crown reduction. This would adversely impact on tree health, visual amenity and the character of the Botley/Winchester Road Conservation Area. As such, the application has been refused consent.		
Conditions			
Notes to applicant	N/A		
Parish comments	BPC comment: Members of the Planning & Highways committee met on 27th January and voted to object to this application based on the lack of application form or supporting information. Also, the extent of cutting seems excessive to encourage healthy growth. AM response: Noted and considered.		
Public objection/ support	Support	Objection	Observation
	0	2	0
Objection/ support consideration	Public comment 1: I wish to objection the same grounds as the previous application. Reduction of the tree by 2.5 m is considered excessive, unnecessary, would unbalance the shape of the tree and significantly affect the street scene. The tree looks perfectly healthy and was in full leaf last season. Cutting such a lovely tree to reduce shade for solar panels is not considered a good reason to approve such an application, and in any event would have minimal benefit as there are several larger trees within a few meters on the other side of the road that would still shade the solar panels. The solar panels should have been installed on southern and western slopes of the roof as other neighbours have done and not on an eastern/north eastern slopes of the. Public comment 2: As this tree has a TPO and is an Ash tree which are suffering across the UK from Ash die-back infection it is critical not to risk the health of this tree by chopping its height. People who move into "Hamblewood" should be aware from the name that the nature of the site		

	concerns trees. These trees provide sound insulation from the extremely busy Botley road up Mill Hill and they provide protection for children and residents from all the emissions of lorries and cars struggling up Mill Hill. Furthermore they dampen the noise from Mill Hill which contributes to the well-being of all in Hamblewood. AM response: Both public comments have been noted and considered.
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