

Eastleigh Borough Council Tree Preservation Order and Conservation Area Assessment Form

Application Number	T/25/100679
Surveyor	AM
Address	3 RIPON COURT, NEWMARKET CLOSE, HORTON HEATH, EASTLEIGH, SO50 7LU
Proposed work	1no. Mixed Species Group - Prune back the overhanging trees to the edge of the path by 3m. Opposite 2,3 and 4 Ripon Court.
Assessment Date	10 th February 2026
Officer comments	Trees at this location are protected by G2 of TPO ref: 139, confirmed 23rd January 1987. This protects 5 ash and 19 oak, spread over a wider historic hedgerow which pre-dates this development. The application trees are on Eastleigh Borough Council-owned public open space, with a footpath running beneath the crowns, close to the trunks. Branches overhang a private shared access to 1-5 Ripon Court, with some branches extending to some degree over driveways. There is good separation between the trees and the houses themselves. Trees at this location are clearly visible to the public. They are large, long-lived and native trees. They stand on old field boundaries which continue into the open countryside to the east. This gives the area a semi-rural character which is important to maintain. These factors support that these trees offer significant benefit in terms of public, visual amenity. The proposal is to reduce the trees back to the edge of the path, by approximately 3m. Several branches project further than 3m past the edge of the path, nearer 7m (estimated by number of paces) in some cases therefore the extent of pruning will be greater for some trees and less for others. This work is proposed because branches overhang the Applicant's driveway and shed acorns, twigs and foliage. Pruning back to the edge of the path would leave large stubs which would be vulnerable to colonisation by decay organisms and pathogens. Such pruning would be contrary to good arboricultural practice, causing harm to the overall health of the trees and their aesthetic value. The fact that these trees naturally shed acorns, twigs and foliage is not a good reason to prune trees in this manner. Clearing seasonal detritus is part and parcel of living next to mature trees. The below images (taken 10th February 2026) illustrate the impact of the work; all branches to the right of the red line to be removed:



As well as leaving large stubs, taking the literal line of the path edge as the pruning line would remove a very large proportion of the crowns. Again, this would be harmful to tree health as well as public, visual amenity.

The proposal is excessive and should not be granted consent. Lesser works would be acceptable, i.e. a lateral reduction of 1-2m on the south side of

	the crowns. This would bring back the periphery of the crowns from over the main driveway areas. It could be completed without significantly impacting tree health or amenity. The works would not prevent all seed, leaf and other detritus landing on the access or parked cars, but should provide some relief.					
Decision	Consent	Refuse	Part consent/ Part refuse	Withdrawn / Invalid	Conservation Area	
			X		Raise no objection	TPO
Decision notice	REFUSE CONSENT: 1no. Mixed Species Group - Prune back the overhanging trees to the edge of the path by 3m. Opposite 2,3 and 4 Ripon Court. REASON FOR REFUSAL: The tree group opposite 2,3 and 4 Ripon Court comprises most of oak and ash. These are native, large and long-lived trees which make a positive contribution to the appearance and character of the area. The proposed pruning is contrary to good arboricultural practice as it would remove substantial proportions of individual tree crowns and would leave large stubs which would be likely to become colonised by decay organisms and pathogens. The reason put forward for the work is that the trees shed acorns, twigs and foliage. This does not justify work to this extent. Lesser works will be consented (see below). GRANT CONSENT: 1no. Mixed Species Group opposite 2,3 and 4 Ripon Court – Lateral reduction of 1-2m on south side of the crowns only to suitable growth points. Pruning wound size will be limited to 50mm diameter.					
Conditions	BS3998					
Notes to applicant						
Parish comments	None.					
Public objection/ support	Support		Objection		Observation	
	2		0		0	
Objection/ support consideration	Public comment 1: <i>I share concerns re impact on residential amenity. my recent contact with your service regarding unsafe branches confirms if the wind is in the right direction, big branches did fall. The damage is likely to be on our cars and maybe us on our drives. Please could they be pruned to</i>					

a safe height? So no need for me to barricade the footpath again (for safety of walkers) and have to contact all my neighbours that their cars or their children were at risk.

AM response: This comment refers to a tree which is not within the current application but which shed several branches last year. This does not imply all trees are dangerous and should be reduced as a matter of course.

Public comment 2: Would it be possible to add No.2 and Possibly No.1 to the application? I would argue that opposite my property (No.2) has a much larger overhang than No.4 or No.5 to the point where the branch ends are in line with the end of my lower roof. During windy and stormy weather debris and branches have been known to land on our cars. Overall this application is supported due to the large growth of the tree branches in the last 10+ years.

AM response: The proposal refers to trees to the front of 2-4 Ripon Court. The supplied site plan appears to show the application trees being all those to the front of these properties so all will be considered to be part of this application. Branch tips are several metres away from being in line with the end of the lower roof of this property.

