



Ref Specification of works, reasons for works based on arboricultural advice from Nathan Cantell

Specification

T.1 Oak (C)

Current dimensions

N. 8.5m

E. 6.5

S 10.5

W 9m

H.17.5m

Remove 3x low, selected smaller primary stems in the customer's garden

Remove 3x low, selected primary stems growing into the neighbouring garden

Remove 1 stem with serious inclusion/rubbing defect back to source - including the small stem that has caused the inclusion

Crown lift the remaining tree to approximately 4.5m by removing secondary growth only where possible

Reduce the Southern aspect of the upper canopy that extends from the crown by approximately 1.75-2m

Crown reduce the remaining tree by approximately 30% of leaf area (this equates to reducing the existing crown by up to approximately 1.5m of the radial crown spread and up to approximately 1.25-1.5m of the height), see photo for approx. crown outline after the reduction (pls note this image is only a rough guide), leaving tree with natural crown shape for species in line with BS3998. The trees dimensions after pruning will be approximately. Radial Crown spread to North 7m, East 5.75-6m, South 8.5-8.75m, West 7.5m Height 16m

Reasons for the proposed works are listed and numbered below

1. The proposed works will help to allow the owners and neighbours free and fair use of their garden. The canopy is low to the ground, dominates other plants/trees and shrubs and greatly limits light and rain penetration to ground level. The canopy extends near the full width of the neighbouring garden and even a small reduction, as applied for would significantly increase the



usability and biodiversity that ground flora and other species offer - not to mention the ability for the residences to gain safe and enjoyable use of their gardens.

2. The tree dominates the gardens and whilst the residents like and enjoy the positive aspects of the tree, they do not want it to become any larger and therefore want to manage it to contain the size and spread of the tree, to prevent future problems.

3. The pruning will be carried out in accordance with the guidelines in BS3998, is therefore an appropriate recognised pruning technique and should be allowed to be carried on to all trees to alleviate problems and conflicts

4. The crown reduction will be carried out by a highly skilled arborist in accordance with the guidelines in B.S 3998 and therefore a natural crown shape will be retained. When crown reduction are carried out in this way it is very hard for a lay person to be able to see that works have been carried out and therefore the visual amenity provided by this tree will not be affected.

5. The pruning will only remove an estimated 25-30% of the total leaf area of the tree and therefore the overall effect on the tree will be minimal.

6. The area has plenty of tree cover and therefore any loss of visual amenity will be minimal, in fact the positive nature of the tree will be enhanced.

7. The trees vitality is good and therefore the pruning will not have a significant detrimental effect to overall condition of the tree.

8. The pruning will improve the relationship between the tree and its location.

9. The effects of the pruning will have a positive long-term impact upon the sustainability and management of the tree growing forwards.

10. Some large coniferous species that were growing close to this tree have been removed. The tree has grown alongside these trees and, has put on leggy growth in areas where it had prior wind protection. The tree is more exposed to significant wind stresses which could lead to branch failure. The pruning will significantly reduce the risk of limb failure.

11. The target area should a portion of it fail is 2 residential gardens. The gardens are heavily used in the Spring, Summer and Autumn months, by families and children. Any failure has the potential to lead to significant damage to property and/or serious injuries.



12. Because of the location of the tree the branches removed will only be noticeable from one or two public places and you will have to look hard to see they are missing, therefore the loss of visual amenity for the local landscape will be minimal.

13. The tree has grown significantly since the TPO was placed on it and I don't not see it as unreasonable for the homeowners to request pruning to contain the size and spread of the tree.

14. There is a sizeable stem on the W side of the canopy that has been rubbed away poverty time, causing a weakness and this is highly likely to fail. The only option is to remove this limb, and this will create a gap in the canopy. The light reduction, as requested, will lessen the impact of this limb being removed and reduce the added wind stresses on the adjacent branches.

15. The lower limbs are very leggy and provide very little foliage cover, but what foliage they do provide is very low and causes a nuisance, removing these will make a huge difference to the impact that the tree is having on the hedging, plants, grass areas and use of their gardens. It is a longer-term option than continual heavy lifting or pruning away from other species, pruning to abate a nuisance. The cuts won't be very large at this time, and the impact on the tree will be minimal.

16. The Southern side of the canopy has become over extended and protrudes from the rest of the crown, the length of reduction requested is slightly more, however, there is more foliage area to work with. This will bring this side of the crown back to the main canopy line and reduce the significant leverage loading on the Southern stem. If left to develop, this stem will attempt to become a primary leader and due to its construction, I believe it would be prone to failure in the future. We can prevent this now by lightly reducing the tree.

Summary

There are clear safety and structural concerns that the proposed work addresses. A weakened limb on the western side poses a failure risk, and the overextended southern canopy is likely to develop into a structurally unsound leader. Reducing these elements will mitigate the risk of branch failure, especially in areas regularly used by families and children. The works will also improve the tree's balance and reduce wind loading on vulnerable limbs. Given the tree's continued growth since the original TPO designation, this proposal represents a proportionate and responsible approach to ongoing tree management, safety, and amenity.

The proposed pruning works aim to allow fair and safe enjoyment of the gardens by both the owners and neighbours. The tree's current canopy significantly restricts light and rainfall to the ground, dominating nearby planting areas and reducing the biodiversity and usability of the space. Reducing the crown, particularly on the southern, eastern and western sides, will relieve pressure on hedging



and garden plants, improve light penetration, and lessen the physical dominance of the tree, enabling more sustainable use of the garden - this will alleviate nuisance issues.

The pruning will be undertaken by a qualified arborist in accordance with BS3998 guidelines, ensuring minimal visual and physical impact on the tree. Only 25–30% of the leaf area will be removed, preserving the natural shape and visual amenity of the tree, which is further supported by the fact that the area has strong overall tree cover. The works are carefully considered to maintain the long-term health and structure of the tree, while addressing the over-extended and leggy growth that has developed, particularly since the removal of neighbouring coniferous trees.

The reasons 1.-16. are all credible reasons, to justify the works, in their own right and all far out way the any loss of any visual amenity.