

CONSERVATION AREA NOTIFICATION

ASSESSMENT SHEET

APPLICATION NO: CA/26/0022: Land adjacent to 17 High Street Storrington.

REPRESENTATION AND CONSULTATION RESPONSES:

Storrington and Sullington Parish Council as the tree owner has indicated a neutral response to this notification.

No additional representations have been received in respect of this notification.

ASSESSMENT:

The oak tree the subject of this notification is located within a high footfall area in the centre of Storrington. By virtue of its size, form, prominence within the street scene, it has a high level of public visibility and makes a positive contribution to the visual amenity and setting of the locality.

The proposed works include a crown reduction of approximately 4 metres in height, together with 3 metre lateral reductions. It is considered that a 4-metre height reduction is excessive given the tree's prominence and landscape value. A more appropriate specification would be to limit the reduction in height to no more than 3 metres, whilst retaining the proposed 3 metre all-round lateral reduction, which is acceptable in principle.

In addition, the timing of the proposed works is a significant consideration. Undertaking these works in early spring would not represent good arboricultural practice, as the tree will have already expended substantial stored energy in producing foliage. Removal of foliage-bearing and primary branches at this stage is likely to result in excessive reactive growth, potentially undermining both the long-term form of the tree and the intended management outcomes. It would therefore be more appropriate for the main body of works to be deferred until the tree is entering dormancy later in the year.

That said, it is acknowledged that there is a broken stem present within the upper crown. Given the high usage of the area beneath the tree, it would be prudent for this broken stem to be removed as a matter of priority on safety grounds. This element of the work is supported and should be undertaken without delay. All remaining reduction works should be held back until a more suitable time of year.

The tree is understood to fall under the ownership and management of Storrington and Sullington Parish Council. In this instance, and subject to the revision of the specification as outlined above (namely a reduced height reduction and appropriate timing of works), the proposed management is considered to be appropriate and proportionate to the tree's setting, condition and amenity value.

In this instances it is not considered necessary or appropriate to make a Tree Preservation Order to prevent the works proceeding, provided that the amended specification is followed.

RECOMMENDATION:

No objection to notification.

Authorising Officer sign.....ANBU..... **Arboricultural Officer (Strategic Planning)**

Date.....21 April 26.....