

Delegated Report

Planning Reference 26/00019/TPO
Applicant(s) Mr Cameron Elder
Ward Hinckley Clarendon



Hinckley & Bosworth
Borough Council

Application Site 65 Bosworth Close, Hinckley

Proposal T1 – Oak: Prune to gain 2 metres clearance from the property and remove dead branches.

Case Officer Jack Playle (Technical Planning Assistant)

1. Recommendations

1.1. **Grant consent** subject to conditions at the end of this report:

2. Planning Application Description

- 2.1. This application seeks consent to prune a protected Oak tree ('T1') to gain a 2m clearance from the adjacent property, 65 Bosworth Close, Hinckley, and the removal of dead branches. for the following works at 65 Bosworth Close, Hinckley.
- 2.2. Following concerns raised by the Council's Arboricultural Officer, the Applicant agreed to revise the description of the proposed works to prevent any proposed reduction of the crown of the protected tree.

3. Description of the Site and the Surrounding Area

- 3.1. The application site relates to an Oak tree that is situated to the front of No 65 Bosworth Close within the settlement boundary of Hinckley on the corner of Roston Drive and Bosworth Close. The tree affected by the proposed work is protected under T7 of The Borough Council of Hinckley and Bosworth Hinckley (Roston Drive) Tree Preservation Order 1974 75/00008/TPORD which protects a variety of trees.

4. Relevant Planning History

4.1 25/00468/TPO

- Oak (T1) – Fell to ground level due to significant decay at base of main stem, inonotus dryadus present. This leaves the tree a threat to people and property surrounding it.
- Refused
- 17.07.2025

4.2 22/00929/TPO

- T1 Oak – Crown to be lifted by removal of lower branches to provide 5.1m. clearance above the highway and 2.1., clearance over a footway and specific branches are shorted to provide 2m clearance from the dwelling.
- Permitted
- 23.12.2022

4.3 13/00010/TPO

- Works to Oak Tree
- Permitted
- 25.02.2013

5. Publicity

5.1 Sections 16 and 17 of the Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation) (England) Regulations 2012 does not include any requirement to consult third parties on applications for consent under a Tree Preservation Order. Nevertheless, the application has been publicised by sending out letters to local residents.

5.2 No responses have been received.

6. Consultation

6.1 The Council's Arboricultural Officer stated:

'I support targeted pruning only to gain 2m clearance from the affected property. I do not support a general crown reduction as this would unnecessarily reduce functional leaf area and impose additional physiological stress on a tree where a decay pathogen is already present.'

The stated association between crown dieback and Pseudoinonotus dryadeus should be treated with caution; this fungus is primarily linked to the stem base causing extensive buttressing 'bottle butt' from a selective white rot and crown symptoms are not a consistent diagnostic feature.

Deadwood removal does not, in itself, require a TPO application.

The submitted PICUS findings are noted and do confirm a small localised area of decay; on that basis, works should be confined to the minimum necessary building clearance and routine deadwood removal.

Long-term management should be by monitoring, with PICUS repeated in 24 months to assess progression and inform any future risk-based management.'

7. Policy

7.1 Core Strategy (2009):

- No relevant policies.

7.2 Site Allocations and Development Management Policies Development Plan Document (SADMP) (2016):

- Policy DM1: Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development
- Policy DM10: Development and Design

7.3 National Planning Policies and Guidance:

- National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2024)
- National Design Guide (2019)
- Planning Practice Guidance (PPG)

8. Appraisal

8.1 The key issues in respect of this application are the impact of the proposal upon the amenity of the area, and whether the proposed works are justified

8.2 Policy DM10(c) of the SADMP states that developments will be permitted where they complement or enhance the character of the surrounding area with regard to scale, layout, density, mass, design, materials and architectural features.

8.3 The affected tree is subject to a Tree Preservation Order and is therefore considered to have a high level of amenity value. The Oak tree (T1) is situated to the front of 65 Bosworth Close and due to the size and position of the Oak tree along Bosworth Close and Roston Drive, it is considered to play an important part for the character and the appearance of the local area and neighbouring properties.

8.4 The Council's Arboricultural Officer has assessed the application and supports the proposal to prune the Oak (T1) tree to gain 2m clearance from the property and remove dead branches as part of ongoing sustainable tree management. It is therefore considered that the proposed works would be suitable as long as they are carried out in accordance with BS 3998:2010. By virtue of the above it is considered that the work would not have a significant impact upon public amenity and is therefore acceptable in accordance with Policy DM10 of the SADMP.

9. Equality Implications

9.1 Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 created the public sector equality duty. Section 149 states: -

- (1) A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:
 - (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
 - (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
 - (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- 9.2 Officers have taken this into account and given due regard to this statutory duty, and the matters specified in Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 in the determination of this application.
- 9.3 There are no known equality implications arising directly from this development.
- 9.4 The decision has been taken having regard to all relevant planning legislation, regulations, guidance, circulars and Council policies, including General Data Protection Regulations (2018) and The Human Rights Act (1998) (HRA 1998) which makes it unlawful for the Council to act incompatibly with Convention rights, specifically Article 6 (right to a fair hearing); Article 8 (right to respect for private and family life); Article 1 of the First Protocol (protection of property) and Article 14 (prohibition of discrimination).

10. Conclusion

- 10.1 In conclusion, the proposed works would be considered to be acceptable and therefore in accordance with Policy DM10 of the adopted Site Allocations and Development Management Policies Development Plan Document (2016) and Paragraph 136 of the National Planning Policy Framework (2024), subject to the imposition of appropriate conditions.

11. Recommendation

- 11.1 **Grant consent** subject to conditions at the end of this report:

11.2 Conditions and Reasons

1. The works to which this consent relates shall be completed within two years from the date of this consent.

Reason: To ensure that works are appropriate to the condition of the tree(s) at the time they are undertaken in accordance with the provision of the Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation) Regulations 2012.

2. The approved works shall only be carried out in accordance with British Standards Recommendations for Tree work - BS 3998:2010.

Reason: To ensure that the works are carried out in a way that safeguards the health and amenity of the tree in accordance with Policy DM10 of the adopted Site Allocations and Development Management Policies Development Plan Document (2016) and Paragraph 136 of the National Planning Policy Framework (2024).

3. The proposed works to the Oak tree (T1) shall be restricted to pruning to gain 2 metres clearance from the property and remove dead branches only.

Reason: To ensure that the works are carried out in a way that safeguards the health and amenity of the trees in accordance with Policy DM10 of the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies Development Plan Document (2016) and Paragraph 136 of the National Planning Policy Framework (2024).

a. **Notes to Applicant(s)**

1. The Applicant is advised that the consent hereby granted is only valid for a period of two years commencing from the date permission is granted. The works for this consent may only be carried out once unless stated otherwise by condition.
2. This permission does not affect any private property rights and does not authorise the Applicant to carry out work on land outside of their control. The Applicant is therefore required to obtain the landowners consent prior to commencing any works.
3. It is a criminal offence to disturb or harm bats, or to damage, destroy, or obstruct a roost. Therefore, if the tree is mature and has hollow cavities, is covered with ivy, or has a suitable habitat in which bats may roost, the affected tree(s) should be surveyed for bats before any work is carried out.
4. The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 offers protection to wild birds, their eggs and nests. It is an offence for any person to intentionally take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or being built or to take or destroy the egg of any wild bird. All works to trees should therefore done outside the nesting season (i.e. between the end of August and beginning March), unless carefully checked beforehand by a suitably qualified person. If nesting birds are present, work must be postponed until the young have left the nest.
5. You are advised that if the a tree in a conservation area is removed, uprooted or destroyed without permission, in contravention of Section 211 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, the landowner is placed under a duty to plant another tree of an appropriate size and species in the same or similar position as soon as they reasonably can.