

Application for Tree Removal & Hedge works at 23, The Mead, Ashton Keynes, SN6 6PL



Photo 1: Western Red Cedar View from rear Garden

This application is submitted on behalf of Cavingham Limited who are the current owners of 23, The Mead, Ashton Keynes which lies within a conservation area. None of the trees identified in this application are covered by a tree protection order.

The primary reason for this application is the large and overbearing Western Red Cedar (please see photo 1) situated on the North Western Boundary of the property. The area immediately under the tree is brown. This is caused by fallen leaves prohibiting grass growth combined with the effect of the root system. These trees can reach 65m in height. The root system on a Western Red Cedar is fibrous and extends beyond its canopy soaking up water and nutrients to the detriment of other plants. Certainly, no

lawn survives under it. Approximately 30% of the lawned area to the rear of 23 the Mead is devoid of grass. This is the area underneath the tree and within its root system. On the footpath at the rear of the property no grass is growing underneath the tree canopy causing the footpath to be a muddy mess.

We are more concerned with the size of the tree and its potential to cause damage should it fall.

Our rear neighbour has been kind enough to share and annotate some photographs detailing how the tree is currently impacting his family and the local community. Photo 2 below details how the tree has killed the magnolia in his garden and is affecting his boundary hedge. Photo 3 below details how grass is prevented from growing under the tree and how its roots now protrude above the soil presenting a trip hazard on a path used by the public. The lack of grass growth will exacerbate soil erosion in this area. I am unaware as to who is responsible for the upkeep of this footpath but believe it to be owned by Green Square Accord.

We wish to remove this Western Red Cedar tree and stump grind its roots.

Once removed the back fence, which is currently a panel fence of some age will be replaced with either a stile and rail fence or composite panels held in place by concrete posts.

Photograph 4 is in fact not a tree, but an Ivy clad Scottish and Southern Electricity Network (SSEN) pole and is included here for completeness of record. This is located at the front of the property. Photograph 4 (viewed from front of property towards The Mead) shows the ivy covered SSEN pole that should have been removed back in 2014 as part of the works involved in planning application 13/05914/ful covering the new builds in The Mead. Unfortunately, the removal of this derelict pole was overlooked and SSEN are attending the property shortly to rectify this error. In the meantime, ivy has used the pole as a runway and overtaken it completely. This has also had the effect of removing the effectiveness of the streetlight that stands in front of the pole which is now surrounded by ivy significantly limiting its effectiveness. Photograph 10 shows the effect on the light at night.

Photograph 5 details a dead tree within the garden which we wish to fell and stump grind.

Photograph 6 details two small, intertwined trees that have grown within the front hedge on the Eastern Boundary. We wish to remove these to restore the uniformity of the hedge.

Photographs 7 through 9 details how far the boundary hedge has overreached and grown beyond the curtilage boundary, encroaching onto the footpath on the West boundary of the property. The gate in photograph 7 is situated on the boundary line,

evidencing the depth of overreach. I have observed pedestrians walking along the road on this western edge as they cannot easily walk down the footpath. Large sections of the hedge are dead and have been overtaken by ivy utilising the dead bushes for support.

On the Southern boundary at the entrance from the road the hedge has encroached onto the footpath. On the Eastern Boundary the hedge has again extended beyond the property's curtilage.

We seek permission to cut the hedge back so that it does not encroach upon the public footpath or extend beyond the property's curtilage. To remove all ivy and dead bushes from the hedge. Once the hedge has been cut back to within the property's boundary to shape and balance the hedge, replacing hedging as appropriate.



Photo 2 View from property at rear (photograph provided by neighbour)



Photo 3 view along pathway at rear of property (photograph provided by neighbour)



Photo 4 View of redundant electric pole at front



Photo 5 Dead tree within property grounds



Photo 6 Small trees within hedge on Eastern Boundary



Photo 7 Hedge encroaching footpath from gate



Photo 8 Hedge encroaching footpath at barrier end



Photo 9 view from barrier end toward The Mead



Photo 10: Electric pole at night, ivy obscuring the light