

Application to work on Trees protected by a Tree Preservation Order or Conservation Area Assessment and Recommendation

Conservation Area: Milton Abbot Conservation Area

Site Address: Elderberry Cottage The Parade Milton Abbot PL19 0NZ

Application Register No : 4105/19/TCA

Applicant: Anthony Savage (married to Jane Savage, an employee of West Devon Borough Council)

Proposed works: T1: Ash - Crown height reduction by approximately 4m, damaged limb removal at approximately 6m from ground level, deadwood removal (exempt). Tree is showing signs of ash dieback.

Date of Application : 20/12/2019

Representation Period ends: 13/01/2020

Target Decision Date : 31/01/2020

Reason item is being put before Planning Committee: The applicant is married to an employee of West Devon Borough Council

Site assessed by : L Marshall

Date : 02/01/2020



Figure 1: Site location plan

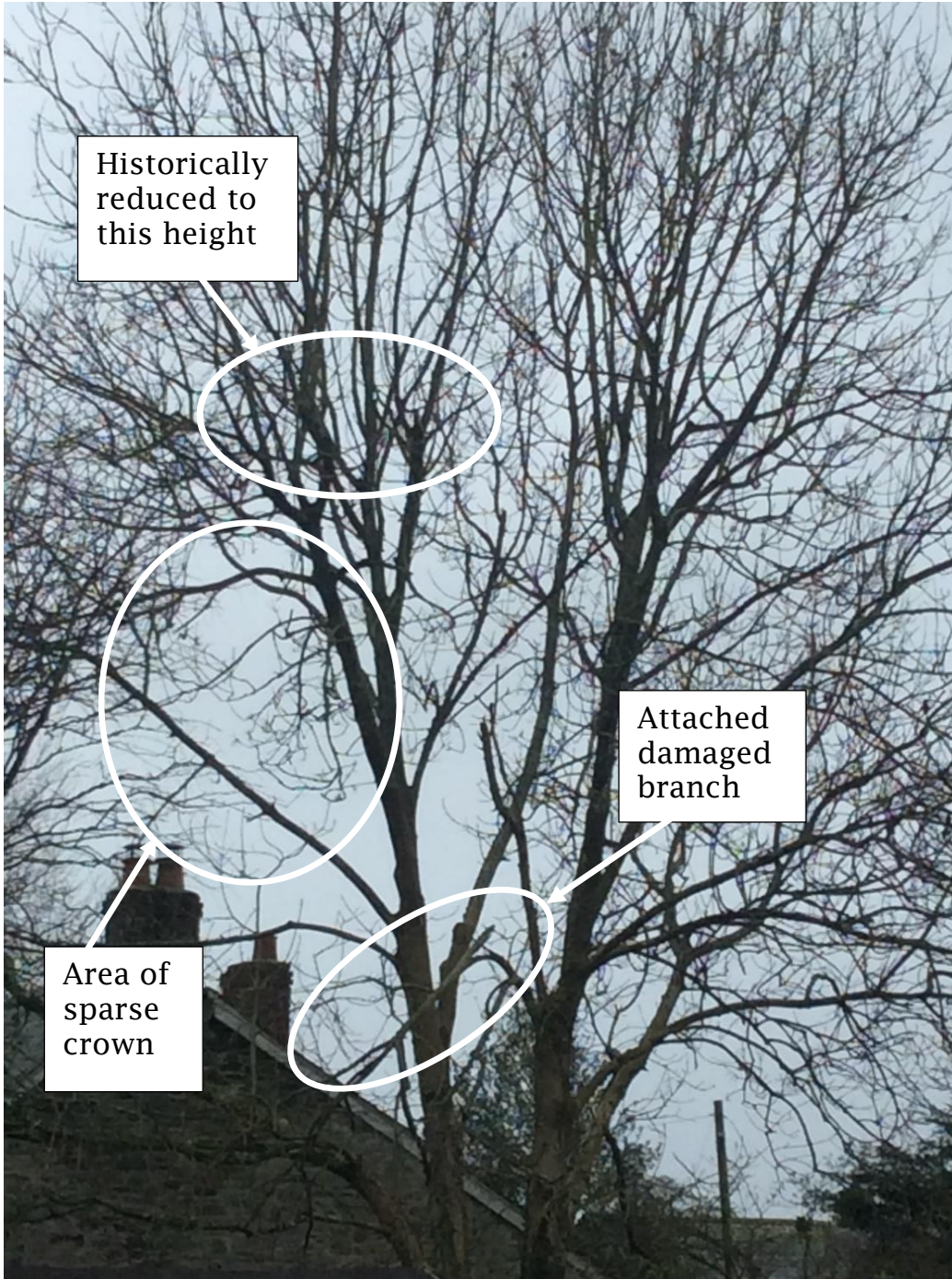


Figure 2: Noting previous reduction, damaged limb and area of dieback in crown

Recommendation: Approval

Suggested standard of works:

1). All approved pruning works are should be undertaken in accordance with B.S.3998 2010 Tree Work - Recommendations

Reason

To ensure all works are undertaken in accordance with current industry best practise as detailed within B.S.3998 2010 Tree Work - Recommendations and to ensure works do not deviate from attached conditions.

Key issues for consideration:

The impact on the contribution made to public visual amenity locally if No Objection is raised and a new Tree Preservation Order is not served to prevent or control the works.

The proposal:

The application makes notice to the Council of the intention to crown reduce the tree by 4m and remove a damaged branch.

Appraisal:

During the site visit it was noted that whilst the tree is out of leaf given its deciduous nature that areas of the crown were sparsely branched and areas of dieback were spreading (Fig 2)

The proposed works will have an immediate and medium term detrimental effect upon the character of the Conservation Area. However they do accord with guidance from the Forestry Commission where rather than felling trees affected by Ash Dieback, the option of retention by reduction works is used to retain as many ash trees in the landscape for visual, ecological and potential immunity from the disease of resistant trees.

Consultations:

- Parish Council

Consultation responses

None as of 17/01/2020

Conclusion

Due consideration has been given to the amenity value of T1 and the potential impact of the works upon this contribution to the Conservation Area. Officers are satisfied that whilst an adverse impact will be appreciable that the proven presence of the disease and the historic reduction works that have ensued combine to negate the requirement for the serving of any new TPO and that No Objections be raised to the proposed works.

Recommendation

No Objections Raised