

Tree Works Specification and Supporting Statement

Property Address:

20 Queens Road
Waterlooville
PO7 7SB

Tree Species:

Common Lime (*Tilia × europaea*)

Proposed Works:

Pollarding of the protected Common Lime tree in accordance with current arboricultural best practice and BS 3998: Tree Work – Recommendations.

Existing Condition

The Common Lime tree is a mature specimen that has developed a significantly one-sided crown structure. The canopy extends predominantly towards the adjacent highway and public pavement, creating an imbalance in the tree's overall form and increasing mechanical loading on one side of the crown.

The tree currently overhangs the road and pavement, and there have been occurrences of branch shedding within the pedestrian and vehicle access areas. This presents an ongoing risk to public safety, pedestrians, road users, and vehicles using the adjacent driveway.

In addition, the tree's root system is causing substantial damage to the tarmac driveway serving two residential properties. Root-related heave and displacement have resulted in cracking, lifting, and distortion of the driveway surface, creating trip hazards for pedestrians and increasing maintenance requirements. The continuing expansion of the root system is likely to exacerbate this damage if appropriate management measures are not undertaken.

Reasons for the Proposed Works

The proposed pollarding is sought for the following arboricultural and public safety reasons:

1. Public Safety

- Reduce the risk of branch failure over the public highway, pavement, and private vehicle access.
- Minimise hazards to pedestrians, motorists, and neighbouring properties.
- Address the excessive lateral weight distribution caused by the heavily one-sided crown.
- Reduce the risk associated with falling branches in areas of frequent pedestrian and vehicle movement.

2. Property and Infrastructure Protection

- Mitigate the ongoing impact of the tree on the shared tarmac driveway serving two properties.
- Assist in managing future root and crown growth pressures that contribute to surface damage.

- Reduce the likelihood of further deterioration to the driveway and associated access routes.

3. Disease and Tree Health Management

- Enable the removal of potentially weakened, damaged, or diseased growth.
- Improve the tree's ability to compartmentalise defects and manage future health issues.
- Facilitate ongoing inspection and monitoring of the tree's condition.

4. Structural Stability

- Rebalance the crown structure and reduce stress on major limbs and branch unions.
- Lower wind loading and the likelihood of storm-related branch failure.
- Encourage the development of a more compact and structurally resilient crown.

Environmental and Amenity Benefits

Enhancing Beauty and Visual Amenity

- Maintain the tree as a prominent landscape feature within Queens Road.
- Create a more balanced, attractive, and manageable crown structure.
- Preserve the tree's contribution to the character of the local streetscape.

Improving Longevity

- Extend the useful life expectancy of the tree by reducing structural stress.
- Promote sustainable long-term management of a mature protected specimen.
- Reduce the likelihood of future major limb failures that could otherwise necessitate more extensive works.

Encouraging Robust Health

- Stimulate vigorous new growth from established pollard points.
- Improve crown vitality and overall tree condition.
- Enable better management of deadwood and declining branches.

Boosting Biodiversity

- Retain the tree as an important habitat resource for birds, pollinating insects, and other wildlife.
- Encourage the development of varied canopy structure and associated ecological benefits.
- Continue the provision of nectar and pollen resources characteristic of lime trees.

Supporting Climate Resilience

- Maintain the tree's contribution to carbon sequestration, shade provision, and urban cooling.

- Improve the tree's resilience to increasingly frequent extreme weather events by reducing crown sail area and wind resistance.
- Support sustainable urban tree cover within the local environment.

Preserving Heritage Value

- Retain an established and valuable mature tree within the local landscape.
- Ensure the continued presence of a significant specimen that contributes to the historic and visual character of the area.
- Provide a long-term management approach that balances preservation with public safety and property protection.

Safety Measures

All works will be undertaken by suitably qualified and insured arboricultural contractors in accordance with BS 3998 and current industry best practice. Appropriate traffic and pedestrian management measures will be implemented where necessary to ensure public safety throughout the duration of the works.

Conclusion

The proposed pollarding of the protected Common Lime (*Tilia × europaea*) at 20 Queens Road, Waterloooville, PO7 7SB represents a proportionate and responsible arboricultural management intervention. The works are necessary to address public safety concerns arising from the tree's heavily one-sided crown, overhang of the highway and pavement, recurring branch drop, and the substantial damage being caused to the shared tarmac driveway serving two residential properties. The proposal will improve structural stability, support disease management, reduce risks to the public and nearby infrastructure, enhance the tree's appearance, promote long-term health and longevity, strengthen biodiversity benefits, improve climate resilience, and preserve the tree as an important landscape and heritage asset for future generations.