

PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER: P10/0374

Type of approval sought	Tree Preservation Order
Ward	KINGSWINFORD SOUTH
Applicant	Mr Michael Braddock
Location:	9, BEAUBROOK GARDENS, WORDSLEY, STOURBRIDGE, DY8 5QJ
Proposal	TO FELL 1 NO. SILVER BIRCH TREE.
Recommendation Summary:	APPROVE SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS

TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NO: D381 (1992) – A1

SITE AND SURROUNDINGS

1. The tree subject to this application is an early mature birch tree that is situated in the rear garden of 9 Beaubrook Gardens adjacent to the boundary with the Fairhaven School Site. The tree has limited public visibility from the eastern side due to the proximity of the surrounding buildings, although it is visible in the back ground from Stream Road. On the western side the tree is visible from the school playing field and forms part of a well covered corner of the site. Overall it is considered that the tree provides a Moderate to low amount of amenity to the surrounding area.

PROPOSAL

2. Summary of proposals for the works as written on application form is as follows:
 - Fell 1 Birch tree.
3. The tree has been marked on the attached plan.

HISTORY

4. There have been no previous Tree Preservation Order applications on this site.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

5. No representations have been received.

ASSESSMENT

Tree(s) Appraisal

<i>Tree Structure</i>	Tree I
TPO Number	AI
Species	Birch
Height (m)	9
Spread (m)	4
DBH (mm)	250
Canopy Architecture	Moderate
Overall Form	Poor – previous pruning on southern side
Age Class <i>Yng / EM / M / OM / V</i>	Early Mature

Structural Assessment

Trunk / Root Collar	Good	
Scaffold Limbs	Good	
Secondary Branches	Good	
% Deadwood	1%	
Root Defects	None evident	
Root Disturbance	None evident	
Other		
Failure Foreseeable <i>Imm / Likely / Possible / No</i>	Whole No	Part No

Vigour Assessment

Vascular Defects	None Evident
Foliage Defects	None Evident
Leaf Size	Good
Foliage Density	Good
Other	

Overall Assessment

Structure	Moderate – Decay likely in future due to past pruning
Vigour	Good
Overall Health	Good

Other Issues

Light Obstruction	Some
Physical Damage	None Evident
Surface Disruption	None Evident
Debris	Slight

Amenity Assessment

Visible	Moderate
Prominence	Slight
Part of Wider Feature?	No
Characteristic of Area	Yes
Amenity Value	Moderate / Low

Further Assessment

6. The applicant has proposed to remove and replace the tree to improve the appearance of the garden, as they consider the tree to provide little aesthetic quality following poor past pruning by the previous owner.
7. On inspection it was noted that some of the branches on the southern side of the tree and the leading shoot in the top of the tree had been pruned back. The work had not been done particularly well and has left the tree with poor form, as the majority of the foliage bearing branches are now on the northern side of the tree.
8. On inspection of the tree it was found to be in a good state of health with no major defects present. However it is considered that in future decay will colonise the stumps from the pruning and will result in the premature deterioration of the health of the tree.
9. Whilst a decline in future health is likely due to the poor pruning, there are no safety concerns about the tree in its current state.
10. It is accepted that the tree has a poor visual appearance when viewed from the applicant's garden, and that in the long term the removal and replacement of the tree would provide for a tree with a better form. However the side of the tree that has been pruned is not readily visible to the public and therefore the public appearance of the tree is not diminished by the previous works.
11. The removal of the tree would have a slightly detrimental impact on the amenity of the area as the tree is visible although not particularly prominent.
12. On balance it is considered that the removal of the tree, subject to an acceptable replacement is appropriate as this will allow a good quality replacement tree to be planted and become established.

CONCLUSION

13. The applicant has proposed to fell the tree as previous works to the tree have left it with poor visual form. They have stated that they will plant an acceptable replacement tree.
14. It is considered that the works undertaken by the previous owner of the property were undertaken poorly and will result in the shortening of the life expectancy of the tree.

15. Whilst the impaired form of the tree is not particularly publicly visible it is considered that the long term amenity of the area would be best served by the felling and replacement with an appropriate tree.
16. As such it is recommended that the application is approved.

RECOMMENDATION

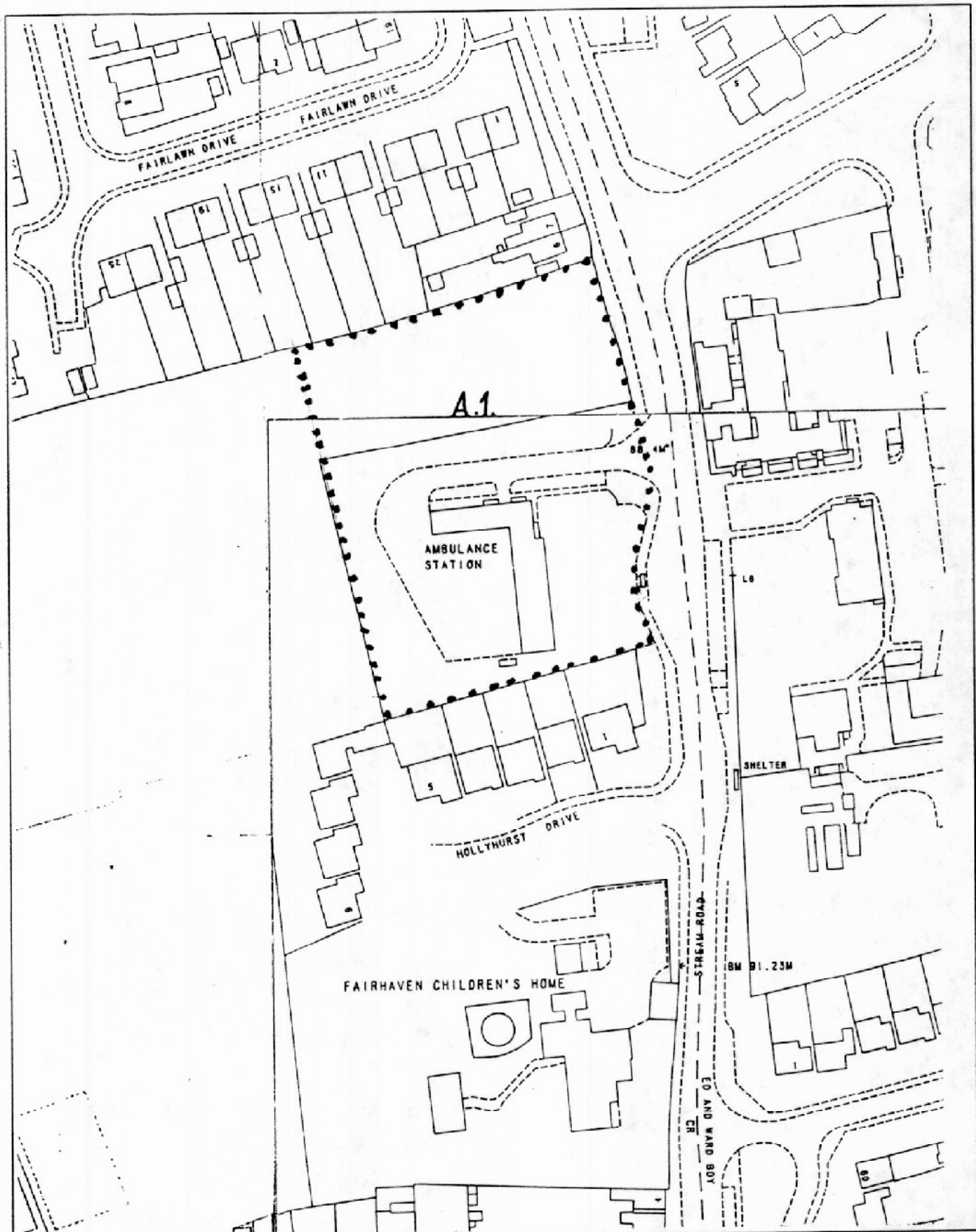
17. It is recommended that application is approved subject to the conditions set out below.

Conditions and/or reasons:

1. A replacement tree shall be planted between the beginning of November and the end of March, within 1 year of felling (and replanted if necessary) and maintained until satisfactorily established. The size, species and locations of the replacement tree(s) shall be agreed in writing with the Local Planning authority prior to the felling of the trees to which this application relates.
2. The tree works subject of this consent shall be carried out in accordance with British Standard BS 3998:1989 'Recommendations for Treework'.
3. The works hereby approved shall be carried out within 12 months of the date of this decision.



T1



DUDLEY
Metropolitan Borough
ORDNANCE SURVEY
MAPPING IS BASED UPON
THE ORDNANCE SURVEY
MAP WITH THE SANCTION
OF THE CONTROLLER OF
H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE.
LICENCE NUMBER LA
078171

*Map referred to in
the Borough Council of Dudley*
**Wordsley Ambulance Station,
Stream Road, Wordsley.**
Tree Preservation Order 1992

grid ref:
3891 2874
scale:
1:1250
drg no.:
A:2139

FIRST SCHEDULE

NO. ON MAP	TREES SPECIFIED BY REFERENCE TO AN AREA	LOCATION
A.1.	The several trees of whatever species standing in the area numbered A.1. on the map	Ambulance Station, Stream Road, Wordsley