



Dear Sir,

I have some concerns about this application.

On-line, only the application form has been entered: there is no tree report or map.

It is proposed that three oaks in the rear garden are crown lifted to 4 metres. According to the tree map of 2007 there are 3 oaks all in the garden fronting Oakhill Avenue and Bracknell Gardens, even if this is to the rear of the house 14 Oakhill Avenue.

Two of these trees, one in particular, are of quite some age, and are important features of **OAKhill** Avenue. If these two trees are indeed being recommended for crown lifting I wish to object. They are at the end of a row of ex-hedgerow trees running along this side of Oakhill Avenue. Even if only the tree on the corner is of that age (a range of around 250-300 years old in Oakhill Ave) they are nevertheless of importance to the future biodiversity of the area for invertebrates and bats associated with more mature and veteran oak trees. Bat flight paths have been recorded in the past running up Oakhill Avenue and into Oakhill Park by the north London Bat Group. (We are about to repeat this.)

These 2 trees are up on a bank, do not affect the house or garden, and I consider that although the risk to the trees is small, they should not be put at ANY risk by being crown lifted.

Part of the charm of Oakhill Avenue is its veteran oaks which naturally have wilder looking, less than 'perfect' shapes. They soften harsh straight lines. I think the treescape of this road should be preserved by refusing to allow these 2 mature oak trees - if indeed it is them - to be manicured and have their crowns raised to 4 metres. The canopies in leaf are magnificent, and as much canopy as possible should be retained.

I enclose pictures taken in 2007 and today where it can be seen that it is the laurel and holly that needs to be reduced, not the oak trees.

I apologise if I have mistaken the oak trees for others, but without the plans on-line it is hard to know, and I am anxious that these particular oaks are protected.

Best wishes

Vicki Harding

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Voluntary Tree Officer Heath & Hampstead Society







