

Veteran oak tree at 10 Oakhill Avenue 2019/5101/T
FRONT GARDEN: 1 x Oak (T1) - Crown thin by 30%.



April 2007



May 2008



Sept 2019



Nov 2019

I am writing to object to this Notice of Intent and ask you to refuse it, as I am very concerned about the proposed work to this important tree.

The tree was submitted to the Ancient Tree Inventory in September 2019 as it is clearly a veteran with many veteran tree characteristics and was a prominent and significant tree on the 1866 Ordnance Survey map. Verification is still been awaited, but it is expected to be verified as a veteran and placed permanently on the Ancient Tree Inventory.

Canopy thinning to an oak of these dimensions is firstly a nonsense. It will cause the tree to thicken up its leaf cover in future years, requiring the tree surgeons to come back and back. Looking at the current regrowth following past pruning, it can be seen that a large proportion of growth following further pruning and thinning is likely to have a significant and ugly epicormic component on the trunk and along branches, the tree growing in a less natural-looking way.

Secondly, it is a terrible thing to do to such a prominent veteran tree. The managers of the flats seem to put in an application to do work to the tree on a regular basis:

[2007/1656/T](#) 1 x Oak - 'Remove deadwood and tidy up epicormic on main stem's.

Remove Ivy and reduce largest branches by 30% from over the public highway';

[2011/1768/T](#) 1 x Oak - 'Reduce large branch over the road by 25%. Reduce branches back from the house by 20%. Remove dead wood';

[2012/0171/T](#) 1 x Oak - 'Reduce crown by 20%';

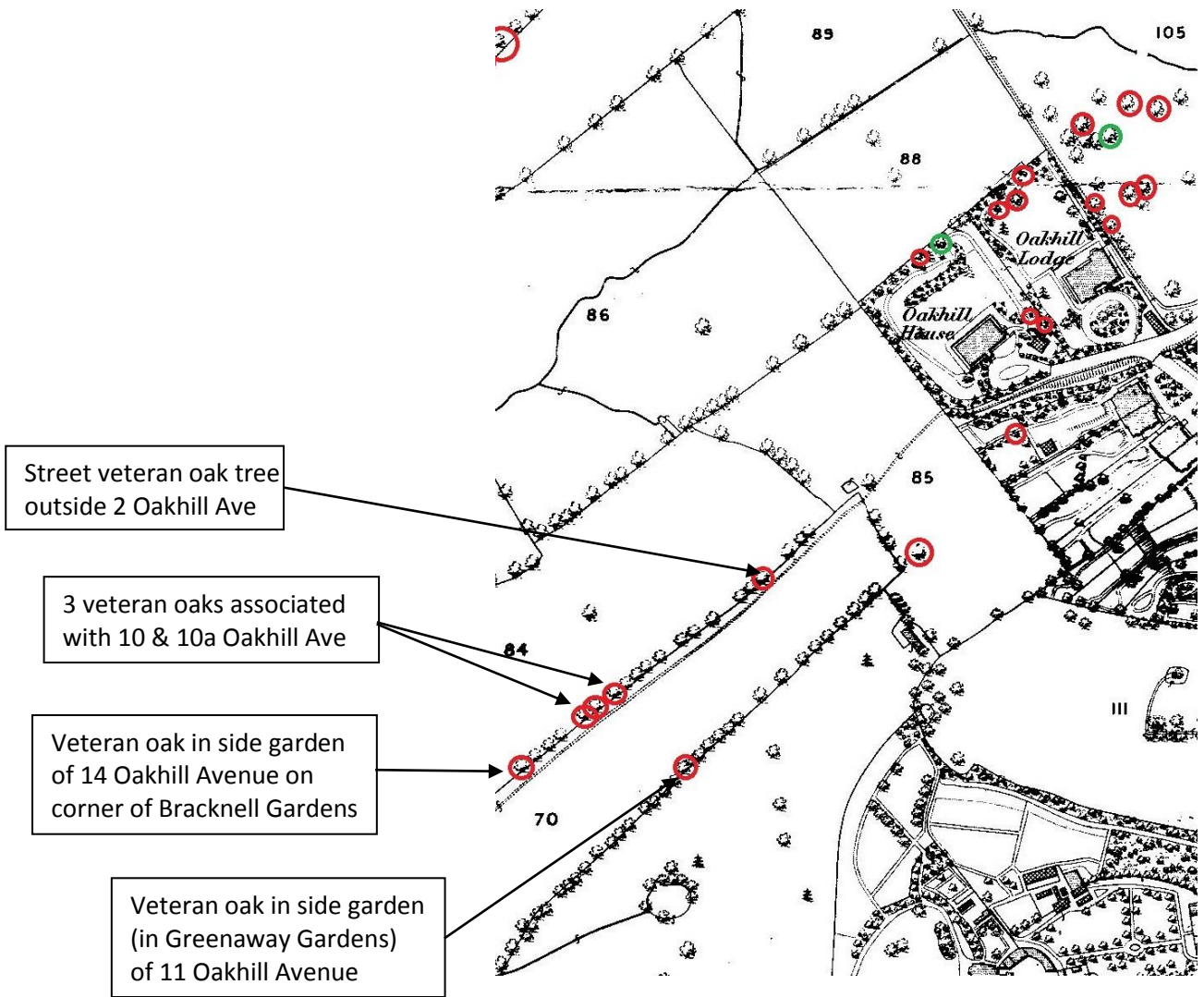
[2014/5613/T](#) 1 x Oak - 'Reduce crown back to previous reduction points.' [I would dispute this was what was actually done, the canopy looked considerably smaller than ever after this work];

and now - [2019/5101/T](#) 'Crown thin by 30% and remove major dead wood to allow more light'.

The tree's canopy has been getting smaller and smaller as it has been cut further from the road, the house, the neighbours etc.; now the managers want to 'thin' the canopy too and, it seems, they plan for the removal of *major* deadwood.

There is some deadwood in the canopy, but this should only be removed if it is considered to be a risk. Deadwood in an old oak can take many decades, even in the region of a century, to become detached. In addition, would there be any 'targets' walking under the tree canopy? I think its position means the tree is pretty target-free. A small amount of deadwood removal by an arboriculturalist with veteran tree training - VETcert - while probably unnecessary should not cause harm and does not require a Notice of Intent provided *ONLY* deadwood is removed. Maybe the tree owners would be prepared to donate the wood to one of the veteran tree stumperies/veteran deadwood piles being developed in the area? - or create one themselves in their rear garden where it would help support the invertebrates and other wildlife specific to veteran trees associated with the veteran tree in the rear of number 8 Oakhill Avenue?

Historic map evidence for oak trees associated with 10 & 10a Oak Hill Avenue being around 250 years old



1866 OS map: oak trees that still exist encircled in red