

Planning Officer's Report - LDCA APRIL 2023

APPLICATION	2023/10 – Proposed Removal of Tree Limbs
PERMISSION SOUGHT	Permission in Full
REGISTERED	23 rd February 2023
APPLICANT	Property Division
PARCEL	JT100040
ZONE	Intermediate Zone
CONSERVATION AREA	Jamestown Conservation Area
PUBLICITY	The application was advertised as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Sentinel Newspaper on 23rd February 2023▪ A site notice displayed in accordance with Regulations.
EXPIRY	9 th March 2023
REPRESENTATIONS	None Received
DECISION ROUTE	Delegated / LDCA / EXCO

A. CONSULTATION FEEDBACK

Water & Sewerage Division	No Objection
Energy Division	No Objection
St Helena Fire & Rescue	No Response
St Helena Roads Section	No Objection
EMD	No Response
Public Health	No Objection – Assumedly all safety measures are put in place both for people and traffic when limbs are removed.
ANRD	The Agent
Crown Estates	The Applicant
St Helena Police Services	Not Consulted
Aerodrome Safe Guarding	Not Consulted

Sustainable Development	No Objection
St Helena National Trust	No Objection
Sure SA Ltd	No Objection
Heritage Society	No Response
Maritime Authority	Not applicable

B. SITE WORK & RATIONALE (*information extracted from the Forestry Officers Assessment*)

The rationale for this request came from the Police Service advising that the tree canopy in particular one low hanging limb was disrupting the signal to the radio antenna located at Police Headquarters. As this was used in emergency situations a request to remove the limb along with lifting the low hanging smaller limbs that make contact with the top of the police vehicles (buses and land rover light bar), which is potentially causing damage to vehicle aerials and lights.

Current condition:

The tree is in reasonable condition, there is nothing to suggest that there are any structural problems, there is no lifting or soil disruption at the base of either tree, no wilting or discolouration of leaves or dieback, no visible signs of any physical damage and no visible signs of pest or diseases.

There is a significant amount of small dry limbs present in the canopy that could be problematic in periods of heavy winds that should be removed to reduce the risk of damage or injury to property or persons should they become dislodged.

There is also evidence of bark peeling away from the tree trunk that again should be removed to reduce the risk of property damage or personal injury to users of the area.

Identified Risks:

- Potential that emergency communications and calls are not actioned as required or expected due to interference from tree canopy with radio antenna signal.
- Potential damage to SHG or personal property from falling dry limbs and peeling tree bark.
- Potential injury to SHG personnel or general public from falling dry limbs and or peeling tree bark.

Recommendations:

- Removal of the limb identified by the Police as that obstruction radio signal to ensure all emergency and general communications are received and actioned as required as indicated in diagram 1.
- Remove all low hanging small limbs that currently hit police vehicles entering and exiting Police HQ as indicated in diagram 2.

Diagram 1: Limb to be removed



Diagram 2: Low hangings limbs to be removed



Diagram 3: Location of Tree



C. PLANNING OFFICER’S STATEMENT & RECOMMENDATION

The tree in question is protected under the tree preservation order. In considering the removal of the low hanging limbs and larger limb that is affecting the communications at the Police Station, these works will not adversely impact the appearance nor compromise the health of the tree. The works will eliminate the risks listed above and therefore can be supported.