



TREE OFFICER REPORT

Tree Works Application – P2026/0338

Address: Tesco, Neath Abbey Road, Neath. SA10 7FE

Planning Case Officer : Lowri Jones

Tree Officer: David Rees

Date of report: 16/7/2026

Comments

The application relates to T29, a Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*), located adjacent to the Tesco car park at Neath Abbey. A site inspection has been undertaken which confirmed the presence of an extended lateral branch forming part of a developing co-dominant crown structure. The branch exhibits a comparatively long lever arm and projects beyond the general crown profile.

The application form identifies "Massaria" as the reason for the proposed works. Massaria disease is associated with species within the genus *Platanus* and is not generally regarded as affecting Silver Birch. Notwithstanding this, the proposed works can be assessed on their arboricultural merits.

The application proposes the reduction of the identified branch by approximately 2m which is limited in extent and is considered unlikely to adversely affect the amenity value, health or long-term physiological condition of the tree. The works would serve to reduce end-weight and leverage acting upon the elongated lateral branch and assist in maintaining apical dominance within the principal stem structure. The proposal represents a minor and proportionate intervention which is consistent with the ongoing management of the tree.

Having regard to the limited extent of the proposed pruning and its potential contribution to the future management of the crown structure, no arboricultural objection is raised.



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Recommendations.

Approve subject to condition.

Conditions

Condition 1

The approved works shall be limited to the reduction of the identified lateral branch by a maximum of 2 metres. No additional pruning, crown reduction, crown lifting, branch removal or other tree works shall be undertaken without the prior written consent of the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: To ensure that the extent of works remains proportionate to those assessed by the Local Planning Authority and to safeguard the amenity value of the protected tree.

Condition 2

All pruning shall be undertaken in accordance with BS3998:2010 *Tree Work - Recommendations* using appropriate natural target pruning techniques and retaining a natural crown form. The final pruning points shall be selected on site to suitable secondary growth points in accordance with good arboricultural practice.

Reason: To ensure that the approved works are carried out to an appropriate arboricultural standard in the interests of the health, longevity and visual amenity of the protected tree.