

**Planning Officer:** Lynnyrd Wolfe  
**Planning Application Ref:** AB/61/20/T  
**Location:** 3 Penfolds Place, Arundel, BN18 9SA  
**Description of works:** Fell 1No. English oak tree  
**Reasons given:** Health and safety

**Comments on Application:**

**Pedunculate oak / *Quercus robur***      Height: 10-15m      Average (radial) spread: 0-5m      Age class: Early mature

- This tree appears to be in a fair physiological state and stable at this time. Crown density and shoot extension are moderate. Large areas of bark death around the stem base with associated stem bleeding is cause for concern.
- The crown (limb and branch framework) is asymmetric and weighted heavily toward the applicant's dwelling. It has been the subject of historic and recent reduction pruning including severe truncation of a subordinate stem.
- This tree is visible from surrounding properties and dominates the rear aspect of several gardens. Although not obviously unstable, I believe it is in a state of slow terminal decline – a probable and unintended consequence of intense development across its rooting zone and excessive accumulation of organic matter around its base.
- Although we have no evidence base to inform a 'hazard rating' for this tree by the recent catastrophic failure of an apparently healthy companion hornbeam (a tree-type also known for its durability), it nonetheless points to the possibility of an underlying shared issue for tree stability in the immediate locality – natural or otherwise. A newly planted young tree will be capable of adapting to the conditions it finds and its long-term establishment necessary to provide mitigation for such a loss of visual amenity.

**Conclusions:**

- The work proposed is justified on arboricultural grounds.
- A duty exists under the circumstances, to plant a suitable replacement tree at this location.

**Recommendations:**

- I recommend **CONSENT** for this application, subject to the following condition:

**Condition to Be Applied to Approved Work: -**

- Once the tree has been felled (and either grubbed or ground out) then a replacement tree is to be planted in the same place or nearby and to within 4metres.

This is to be of Standard Nursery Stock proportions (10-12cm girth & 2m to 3m overall height) supported on a 'short stake' system with appropriate securing ties and pads.

It is to be planted within 12 months of the removal of the oak tree.

The species shall be selected from the following:-

**Pedunculate oak** *Quercus robur*

**Field maple** *Acer campestre* (numerous upright cultivars are available, if preferred)

**Hornbeam** *Carpinus betulus*

**Reasons:** To accord with current industry guidelines and sound arboricultural practice in general.

Mark Warwick  
Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team