

Case Officer: Hannah Kersley

Reference: AW/16/22/T

Location: Windmill Cottage, 6 Windmill Close, Aldwick Bay, Bognor Regis, PO21 4ND

Proposal: 1no. silver birch (mature *Betula pendula*) (T1) - Crown thin by 20% and reduce crown to height 12m and spread 10m. 1no. oak (semi mature *Quercus* sp.) (T2) - Crown thin by 20% and reduce crown to height 11m and spread 10m. 1no. beech (semi mature *Fagus sylvatica*) (T3) - Crown thin by 20% and reduce crown to height 10m and spread 10m

Reasons given: In the interests of the trees' health, vitality and local amenity

Comments on Application:

- Outwardly and from a distance these trees appear to be in a fine physiological state. They have been regularly managed at reduced dimensions.
- The trees form an interesting linear group along the rear boundary of this property and can be seen from neighbouring dwellings but visibility is limited from surrounding roads.
- Repeat operations such as now being asked for will be necessary throughout the remaining lifespan of these trees, to achieve a reasonable degree of structural integrity appropriate for their location.

Conclusions:

- If the work is undertaken to a good standard and at the right time then it is unlikely to have an adverse effect on the trees' long-term vitality and visual amenity.
- The proposal to reduce overall height and spread and thin out their crowns is justified and consistent with previous works approved by the Local Planning Authority.

Recommendation:

- I recommend **CONSENT** is granted subject to the following condition:

Condition to Be Applied to Approved Work: -

Condition 1

Part a) Where whole branches are to be removed and final cuts made close to the trunk or branch union they are to be made as shown in Figure 2 of BS3998:2010

Part b) Where branches are to be shortened back the final cuts are to be made at the correct angle shown in BS3998:2010 and adjacent to a live bud or lateral.

Part c) The removal of crown material which has developed since the last operation must be done sympathetically and with respect to established 'knuckles' so as not to extend beyond the point of origin.

Reasons: In the interests of the trees' continued health and vitality and to accord with current industry guidelines and sound arboricultural practice.

- See also the standard pruning guidance notes issued with the consent letter

Advisory:

- Although beech and birch may respond with vigour to hard pruning, they typically have a poor tolerance of such work and long-term vitality can be severely affected. The optimum time to prune them is during the summer period (June to August). Oak will best tolerate pruning during late spring to summer.

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Greenspace

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

