

Case Officer: Hannah Kersley
Reference: AW/20/22/T
Location: Garden View Flat 3, Strange Garden House, Strange Garden, Aldwick, PO21 4AL
Proposal: 1no. holm oak tree (T1) - Crown lift to 4m. 1 No. Holm Oak tree (T2) - reduce all limbs at 3m to reduce by 1.5m to leave 1.5m
Reasons given: None provided

Comments on Application:

T1 Holm oak / <i>Quercus ilex</i>	Height: 5-10m	Radial spread: 0-5m	Age class: Early mature
T2 Holm oak / <i>Quercus ilex</i>	Height: 5-10m	Radial spread: 0-5m	Age class: Mature

- Outwardly both trees appear to be in a fine physiological state. T1 is located far east of the location marked on the sketch plan, beyond the gated garden boundary. It is the only holm oak in the immediate locality (rear garden areas) so is assumed to be a concern.
- There is one Tree Preservation Order affecting this garden plot and front of property, an area Order (Bognor No.2) made in 1958. I am satisfied that only T2 would have been established at that time. Consent from the local planning authority is not required for the work proposed to T1.
- T2 grows at the front of the property and is a prominent tree of character. It has been the subject of successive crown reduction work resulting in a dense and compact form.
- Repeat operations such as now being asked for by the applicant will be necessary throughout the remaining lifespan of this tree, to achieve a degree of structural integrity appropriate for its location.

Conclusions:

- The work specification is ambiguous but assumed to propose a repeat of past crown reduction. The extent of work can be controlled by condition (see below) to ensure the tree is not unduly harmed by excessive pruning.
- The proposal to reduce overall height and spread with a view to restricting its growth is consistent with previous work approved by the Local Planning Authority.
- While a temporary loss of aesthetic value is inevitable, satisfactory canopy renewal and recovery should occur if the work is undertaken to a high standard and at an appropriate time of year.

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 interest of the tree's 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 holm oak may respond with vigour to hard pruning (as proposed) they have a poor tolerance of such work and long-term vitality can be severely affected. The optimum time to prune is during the mid to late winter period (December to January).

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Greenspace

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

