

Planning Officer: Amber Willard

Planning Application Ref: AW/282/21/T

Location: 47 Fish Lane, Aldwick, PO21 3AB

Description of works: Crown reduction of 1 no. oak T1 currently 30 metres high, 15 meters wide, 1-2 metre reduction all around to an approximate finished height of 28m and 13m spread

Reasons given: Oversized, excessive shade, structural defects

Comments on Application:

Pedunculate oak / *Quercus robur* Height: 15-20m Radial spread: 5-10m Age class: Early mature

- Outwardly and from a distance (roadside) this tree appears to be in a fine physiological state and assumed to be so in the absence of any evidence provided to the contrary. It has previously been the subject of severe crown reduction pruning, with abrupt truncation of its many stems and upward tending scaffold limbs. Growth from those reduction points is between two and four metres.
- Despite crown reduction pruning it remains visually impressive; seen from surrounding properties and to users of the public highway (footway and carriageway). As such, it has amenity value.
- I disagree with the tree dimensions provided, although the principle of crown reduction pruning and to the extent proposed is acceptable. Quantity of material removed can be secured by a condition that demands no work to occur beyond the established knuckles (points of last reduction).

Conclusions:

- This tree requires careful management that respects its age and vulnerability to environmental changes and disease progression.
- The work proposed is justified on arboricultural grounds. 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** for this application, subject to the following condition:

Condition to Be Applied to Approved Work: -

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) Where pollarding or crown reduction pruning has occurred previously, then 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:

- The long-term vitality of the tree is best respected when significant pruning work such as proposed, is undertaken during the late spring to summer period (May to August). The work proposed should only be undertaken during this period.
- The applicant is aware of 3rd party ownership of this tree, nevertheless we are obliged to advise that any consent granted by the Local Planning Authority does not by association provide authority to undertake the proposed work without first seeking permission from the tree owner.

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

