

Planning Officer: Richard Sherman

Planning Application Ref: AW/287/21/T

Location: 1 The Drive, Aldwick, PO21 4DU

Description of works: Crown reduction of 4no. holm oak trees to height 17m spread 13m (T1), height 17m spread 12m (T2), height 17m spread 10m (T3) and height 17m spread 11m (T5). Crown reduction of 1no. beech tree to height 7m and spread 4m

Reasons given: Good husbandry and to preserve public safety

Comments on Application:

4x Holm oak / *Quercus ilex* Height: 15-20m Radial spread: 5-10m Age class: Mature

Beech / *Fagus sylvatica* Height: 10-15m Radial spread: 0-5m Age class: Early mature

- Outwardly and from a distance (roadside) these trees appear to be in a fine physiological state and assumed to be so in the absence of any evidence provided to the contrary.
- The four oak trees are principal constituents of a significant local arboricultural feature; a group of similar age and stature. They are prominent and highly visible from the public highway and neighbouring properties. Their high canopy dominates and helps define the character of the surrounding area.
- Appears to be some discrepancy in tree numbering. Having cross-referenced site plan, photos and works description, I confidently interpret as follows:
 - T1/2/3/5 holm oak
 - T4 beech
 - There is no T6

The application can be determined on this basis.

- The applicant has employed S&P Tree Specialists Ltd. as agent, to prepare and submit a tree survey and plan. This is comprehensive and includes detailed work specification with satisfactory reasons given for each item.

Conclusions:

- The work proposed is justified on arboricultural grounds. If undertaken to a high standard and at the right time; then it is unlikely to have an adverse effect on the trees' long-term vitality and visual amenity.

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 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:

- The long-term vitality of the oak trees is best respected when significant pruning work such as proposed, is undertaken during the mid to late-winter (January-February) period. Optimum time for pruning beech is late spring to summer (May to August).

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

