

Planning Officer: Charlotte Easton

Planning Application Ref: AW/303/18/TC

Location: 35 Kingsway & 70 The Drive, Aldwick PO21 4DH

Description of works: Crown reduction of 1.5m to 1No. Wingnut Tree. Crown reduction of 2m to 1 No. English Oak tree within the Craigweil House, Aldwick conservation area.

Reasons Given: Health and safety (Risk of branch failure, carriageway obstruction)

Comments on Application:

T1 Caucasian wingnut / <i>Pterocarya fraxinifolia</i>	Height: Approx.7m	Average spread: 3.5m	Age class: Early mature
T2 Pedunculate oak / <i>Quercus robur</i>	Height: Approx.10m	Average spread: 5m	Age class: Early mature

- Both trees appear to be generally healthy and stable with attractive crown profiles, despite significant past modification.
 - They are prominent roadside, as such highly visible from nearby dwellings and to traffic accessing/exiting the estate.
 - Following a desktop review, our records indicate that both trees are the subject of an Order and I make my recommendations on that basis.
 - T1 has effectively been pollarded and responded with vigour. Repeat work will become necessary throughout its lifespan to ensure it remains in a structural condition appropriate for its location.
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- T2 has also been the subject of severe crown reduction work, from which it appears to have 'grown-on' well and now supports an attractive crown profile.
 - Whilst appearing to be generally healthy, there are numerous large irregular mechanical wounds on the main stem and scaffold limbs. The most obviously significant of those are on the roadside limb that has borne the brunt of successive high-sided vehicle impact.

Conclusions:

- T1 - The work proposed is necessary to mitigate risk of structural failure and so 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.
- T2 - The work proposed is justified and if undertaken to a high standard will not incur a noteworthy loss of amenity value to the surrounding area.
- The removal of dead branches is an exception and does not require permission.

Recommendations:

- I recommend **CONSENT** for this application, subject to the following conditions:
Conditions To Be Applied to All Approved Works: -
- 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

- 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.
- 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.
- The long-term vitality of the trees is best respected when significant work such as proposed, is undertaken during either the mid-summer (mid-June to mid-September) or mid-winter (mid-December to mid-February) periods.

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.*

Mark Warwick

Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team