

Recommendation Report for Works to Tree(s) on trees subject to a Tree Preservation Order (**REF NO:** AW/327/14/T**LOCATION:** March Wind
Dark Lane
Aldwick**PROPOSAL:** Reduction to previous pruning points by no more than 3m to 1 no. Oak, Eucalyptus and Beech tree. Holm Oak tree reduce lateral spread by 2m to west side of the canopy. Reduction of no more than 1m to 1 no. Sweet Chestnut tree.**SITE AND SURROUNDINGS**

DESCRIPTION OF APPLICATION	As above
SITE AREA	N/A
RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT DENSITY (NET)	N/A
TOPOGRAPHY	Predominantly flat
TREES	The trees the subject of this application.
BOUNDARY TREATMENT	Boundaries have a mixture of walling with ornate black railings with tree screening and soft landscaping.
SITE CHARACTERISTICS	Detached two storey property with rear dormer. The property has white rendered walls, green tiled roof with white window frames.
CHARACTER OF LOCALITY	Residential comprising detached properties of various styles and designs.

RELEVANT SITE HISTORY

AW/209/99/T	Trim and reshape trees - 1 Eucalyptus, 1 Beech, 1 Lime, 1 Cherry, 1 American Oak, 1 Chestnut and 1 Sycamore	ApproveConditionally 07-01-2000
AW/61/07/T	Surgery to 1 x Horse Chestnut, 3 x Sycamore, 1 x Oak, 1 x Lime, 1 x Eucalyptus & 1 Beech.	ApproveConditionally 25-04-2007

REPRESENTATIONS**Representations received:**

Aldwick Parish Council

No objection

Members agreed that the Arun Arboriculturist is consulted regarding the application and that

report

his recommendations/decision is applied.

Comments on Representations received:

Comments noted

See recommendation from the Tree Officer.

CONSULTATIONS

Arboriculturist

Consultations responses received:

Tree Officer

T1 Species: Oak *Quercus* spp Height: 13 meters Average Branch Spread: 7 meters Crown Condition: good Form: good Age Class: semi mature Height to First branch: 4 meters Height of main union: 6 meters

T2 Species: Eucalyptus spp Height: 11 meters Average Branch Spread: 4 meters Crown Condition: fair Form: fair Age Class: semi mature Height to First branch: 2.5 meters Height of main union:

T3 Species: Beech *Fagus* spp Height: 10 meters Average Branch Spread: 5 meters Crown Condition: fair Form: fair Age Class: early mature Height to First branch: 3 meters Height of main union: 3.5 meters

T4 Species: Holm Oak *Quercus ilex* Height: 10 meters Average Branch Spread: 4 meters Crown Condition: good Form: fair Age Class: semi mature Height to First branch: 3 meters Height of main union: 4 meters

T5 Species: Sweet Chestnut *Castanea sativa* Height: 8 meters Average Branch Spread: 4.5 meters Crown Condition: fair Form: fair Age Class: early mature Height to First branch: 3 meters Height of main union: 3 meters

This tree is situated in the high amenity area of Aldwick. The surrounding landscape has a good mix established trees of varying age classes. The trees outlined in this application are standing in the front garden, and are therefore visible from the main highway outside.

T1 is located in the mid area of the rear garden of the outlined dwelling. It is also tree that has evidently had historic reduction/s. The applicant has expressed the desire to reduce this tree back to previous pruning points. This would mean a removal of 3 meters of regrowth.

T2 is a Eucalyptus that is situated on the western boundary, south of T3 and T4. T2 has clearly has a historic reduction/s (which have been quite poor), and the applicant has aspired to remove this regrowth back to the established pruning points. This would equate to the removal of 3 meters of regrowth.

T3 is a beech that is located on the western boundary, north of T2 and east of T4. Again is a tree that is evidently had historic reductions that would equate to the removal of 3 meters of regrowth, back to the previous pruning points.

T4 is a Holm Oak located abutting the western boundary with a neighbouring property. This tree appears to have not had any previous reductions and/or pruning. It is clear from a visual site inspection that T4 western crown spread is encroaching towards a neighbour's window. The applicant has requested a 2 meter lateral spread reduction to the west side of the canopy. It is also clear that this pruning activity is unlikely to upset the overall form and/or the aesthetical

value offered by T4.

T5 is a sweet chestnut that is situated near the eastern border that abuts 'Dark Lane'. This individual has been pollared previously at a height of 8 meters. Judging by the formation and development of the regrowth, this 'pollarding' was undertaken at a late time of this trees development (Normal practise would dictate the that pollarding should 'start soon after the tree has become established and is between 25 mm to 50 mm diameter at the selected height of pollarding (often 2 m to 3 m).' It is clear that that these recommendations have not been adhered to, as T5 has been 'pollared' at a height of 8 meters, and has a Dbh (diameter at breast height) that is over 500 mm. This level of wounding and therefore stress does increase the chance of a pathogen/s becoming established.

T1 - I would have no objection to the proposed pruning operation of the reduction of no more than 3 meters, as this individual has already had previous reductions that emulate the proposed operations.

T2 - I would have no objection to the proposed pruning operation of the reduction of no more than 3 meters, as this individual has already had previous reductions that emulate the proposed operations.

T3 - I would have no objection to the proposed pruning operation of the reduction of no more than 3 meters, as this individual has already had previous reductions that emulate the proposed operations.

T4 - I would have no objection to the proposed pruning operation of a reduction of no more than 2 meters of the western side of the crown. This activity is unlikely to have a last effect on the overall form and/or aesthetical value.

T5 - I would have no objection to the proposed pruning operation of a reduction of no more than 1 meter. This activity is unlikely to have a last effect on the overall form and/or aesthetical value.

As the fore mentioned trees are subject to an active TPO order, the following conditions should be adhered to;

Crown Reduction

All side branches to be retained should be at least 1/3rd in diameter of the removed branch. Pruning cuts must be flat and smooth, kept as small as possible by cutting at an optimum angle and should not exceed 100mm in diameter.

The Crown Clean should consist of deadwood and stub removal where all cuts should be made to the branch collar. Where crossing branches are encountered the weaker branch/branches should be reduced or removed to avoid contact between them. The remaining branch/branches should be shortened as appropriate to relieve 'end weight' and sudden exposure by reducing the leaf bearing branch tips by no more than 30%.

Crown Lift

Branches found within the clearance height having diameters greater than 100mm should be shortened and no more than 15% of the leaf bearing growth of that branch should be removed to facilitate the unobstructed free passage of vehicles and pedestrians.

Comments on Consultation responses:

Tree Officer comments noted

The applicant has been consulted and is happy to accept the recommendation and the application has been amended accordingly.

POLICY CONTEXT

Designation applicable to site:

Built Up Area Boundary
Tree Preservation Order

DEVELOPMENT PLAN POLICIES

Arun District Local Plan 2003:

PLANNING POLICY GUIDANCE

POLICY COMMENTARY

The above policies are general and, other than online Planning Policy Guidance under references ID 36-090-20140306 and ID 36-091-20140306, are not specific to trees.

DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND/OR LEGISLATIVE BACKGROUND

Section 198 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 states:

"If it appears to a Local Planning authority that it is expedient in the interest of amenity to make provision for the preservation of trees.... they may for that purpose make an order"

The works to the trees are to be judged having regard to amenity.

OTHER MATERIAL CONSIDERATIONS

It is considered that there are no other material considerations to warrant a decision otherwise than in accordance with the Development Plan and/or legislative background.

CONCLUSIONS

The property is sited in a corner location and the trees are sited in various locations within the garden and are readily visible to the rear in Strange Garden being of public visual amenity.

Work to the Horse Chestnut, Oak, Eucalyptus and Beech tree was carried out under application AW/61/07/T. The Tree officer has inspected the trees and has advised that a 6m reduction to the Oak, Eucalyptus and Beech is excessive and he has recommended a 3m reduction with a 2m reduction of the western side of the crown of the Holm Oak and a reduction of no more than 1m to the Sweet Chestnut tree. The applicant has been consulted and is happy to accept this recommendation and the application has been amended accordingly.

The works are not considered excessive and accord with current industry guidelines and sound arboricultural practice.

It is therefore recommended to approve the application, subject to conditions.

RECOMMENDATION

APPROVE CONDITIONALLY

- 1 The works hereby approved shall involve:

T1 Oak - Reduce tree back to previous pruning points by no more than 3m.

T2 Eucalyptus - Remove regrowth back to the established pruning points by no more than 3m.

T3 Beech - Removal of 3m of regrowth back to the previous pruning points.

T4 Holm Oak - 2m lateral spread reduction to the west side of the canopy.

T5 Sweet Chestnut - Reduction of no more than 1m.

Crown Reduction

All side branches to be retained should be at least 1/3rd in diameter of the removed branch. Pruning cuts must be flat and smooth, kept as small as possible by cutting at an optimum angle and should not exceed 100mm in diameter.

Crown Clean

The Crown Clean should consist of deadwood and stub removal where all cuts should be made to the branch collar. Where crossing branches are encountered the weaker branch/branches should be reduced or removed to avoid contact between them. The remaining branch/branches should be shortened as appropriate to relieve 'end weight' and sudden exposure by reducing the leaf bearing branch tips by no more than 30%.

Crown Lift

Branches found within the clearance height having diameters greater than 100mm should be shortened and no more than 15% of the leaf bearing growth of that branch should be removed to facilitate the unobstructed free passage of vehicles and pedestrians.

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

- 2 The work hereby approved shall be undertaken under the supervision of the Local Planning Authority who shall be notified in writing, not less than 7 days before the work commences.

Reason: In order to ensure a satisfactory standard of tree surgery in the interests of amenity.

- 3 The burning of materials obtained by site clearance or from any other source shall not take place within 6 metres of the furthest extent of the canopy of any tree or group of trees to be retained on the site or on land adjoining.

Reason: To protect trees and vegetation from fire damage in the interests of the visual amenities of the locality.

- 4 **INFORMATIVE:** The applicant should note that under Part 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, with only a few exceptions, it is an offence for any person to intentionally take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild birds while the nest is in use or being built. Birds nest between March and September and therefore removal of dense bushes, ivy or trees or parts of trees etc. during this period could lead to an offence under the act.

- 5 **INFORMATIVE:** This notice does not give authority to destroy or damage a bat roost or disturb a bat. Bat species are protected under Section 39 of the 1994 Conservation (Natural Habitats etc) Regulations (as amended), the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act (as amended) and the 2000 Countryside and Rights of Way Act. It is illegal to damage or destroy any bat roost, whether occupied or not, or disturb or harm a bat. If you are aware that bats roost in a tree(s) for which work is planned, you should take further advice from Natural England (via the Bat Conservation Trust on 0845 1300228) or an ecological consultant before you start. If bats are discovered during the work, you must stop immediately and contact Natural England before continuing.