

Case Officer: Hannah Kersley
Reference: AW/3/22/TC
Location: 70 The Drive, Aldwick, PO21 4DS
Proposal: 2no. oak trees - Crown thin by 20% and remove deadwood within the Craigweil House, Aldwick Conservation area
Reasons given: Deadwood falling constantly over driveway. To make the trees look neater

Comments on Application:

T1 Pedunculate oak / <i>Quercus robur</i>	Height: 10-15m	Radial spread: 5-10m	Age class: Mature
T2 Pedunculate oak / <i>Quercus robur</i>	Height: 5-10m	Radial spread: 0-5m	Age class: Mature

- Whilst both trees are within a Conservation Area they are also subjects of Tree Preservation Order (Bognor No.2). The TPO takes precedence and my report is written on that basis.
- Historic crown reduction pruning (abrupt truncation of scaffold limbs) has left T2 especially with erratic form although both appear generally stable, free from obvious structural defect and in fair physiological condition at this time.
- They are prominent at the front of the property and can be clearly seen from numerous residential dwellings and to users of the estate roads. As such, they have public amenity value.

Conclusions:

- Although well-intentioned, I find the proposal for crown thinning work has not been justified on arboricultural grounds. These are important trees of character which tolerate hostile conditions and must be carefully managed to sustain good health and vitality.
- *Crown thinning* may lead to altered wind loading on the tree which can be damaging, so must only be undertaken where a clear health or safety benefit has been established.
- The removal of dead branches is an exception and does not require consent from the local planning authority.

Recommendation:

- I recommend **REFUSAL** for this application.

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Greenspace