

Case Officer: Hannah Kersley
Reference: AW/410/21/T
Location: 49 Old Place, Aldwick, PO21 3AX
Proposal: 1no. oak tree (T1) - crown reduction of approx. 3m. to height 17m and width 20m. 1no. *Leylandii* (T2) - fell
Reasons given: General maintenance and to allow more light into garden

Comments on Application:

T1 Pedunculate oak / *Quercus robur* Height: 15-20m, Radial spread: 5-10m, Age class: Mature

T2 Leyland cypress / *X Cuprocyparis leylandii* Height: 5-10m, Radial spread: 0-5m, Age class: Early mature

- T1 Oak is the subject of TPO Bognor No2 and TPO/AW/151/10.
 - T2 Cypress is not the subject of any TPO or of such merit to meet criteria for the making of a new Order and is not considered further in this report.
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T1 Pedunculate oak / *Quercus robur*

- Outwardly 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 is a large and imposing presence over the garden.
- There is evidence of past crown reduction pruning with 2-3metres growth. This is not entirely consistent with the last recorded operation (c2006).
- Repeat operations such as now being asked for by the applicant will be necessary throughout the remaining lifespan of this tree, to achieve a reasonable degree of structural integrity appropriate for its location.
- It grows at the rear of the property and can be seen from neighbouring dwellings but has only limited visibility from publicly accessible land. Nonetheless it is an important constituent of an established collection of mature oak which help define the character of the area and represent a significant public amenity.

Conclusions:

- The proposal to reduce overall height and spread with a view to restricting its growth is justified and consistent with previous works approved by the Local Planning Authority.
- If undertaken to a high standard and at the right time, it is unlikely to have an adverse effect on the tree's long-term vitality and visual amenity.

Recommendation:

- I recommend **CONSENT** is granted subject to the following condition:

Condition to Be Applied to Approved Work: -

Condition 1

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) 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 oak tree is best respected when significant pruning work such as proposed is undertaken during the late spring to summer period (May to August).
- In respect of T1 Oak, 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 permit the applicant to undertake the approved work without first gaining permission from the tree owner.

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Greenspace

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

