

Case Officer: Hannah Kersley
Reference: AW/43/22/T
Location: 210 Manor Way, Aldwick, PO21 4HW
Proposal: Reduce 1no. *macrocarpa* tree by 1.5m to final height 18m and spread 18m
Reasons given: To maintain a dense habit

Comments on Application:

Monterey cypress / *Cupressus macrocarpa* Approx. height: 18m, Radial spread: 9m, Age class: Late mature

- Outwardly and from roadside 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 one of the largest trees on the estate, prominent and with a visually impressive crown. This is unusual for a tree of this type and age. It is a tree of high amenity value.
- There is evidence of past crown reduction pruning, with 1-2metres of extension growth in most places. The applicant/agent states an intention to repeat the last operation, so removing only that growth which has occurred since 2014.
- Repeat operations such as now being asked for by the applicant will be necessary throughout the remaining lifespan of this tree, to achieve a degree of structural integrity appropriate for its location.

Conclusions:

- This tree requires careful management that respects its age and vulnerability to environmental changes and disease progression.
- 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 tree's long-term vitality and visual amenity.
- 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.
- Due to the relatively small amount of branch length reduction permitted, it will be very challenging for a climbing arborist (tree surgeon) to complete this work satisfactorily from a rope and harness. To properly respect the 'knuckles' established when first initiated, the appointed contractor may need to utilise a mobile elevating work platform (MEWP).

Recommendation:

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

Conditions 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***

Condition 2

The work hereby approved shall be undertaken under the supervision of the Local Planning Authority who shall be notified 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 in accordance with Policy ENV DM4 of the Arun Local Plan.

Advisory:

- Although Cypress may recover from hard pruning (as proposed) they have a poor tolerance of such work and long-term vitality can be severely affected. The optimum time to prune is during the late spring to early summer period (May to June).

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Greenspace

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

