

Case Officer: Hannah Kersley
Reference: AW/6/22/T
Location: 3 Gossamer Lane, Aldwick, PO21 3AT
Proposal: 1no. holm oak tree (Tree A) - Crown reduction by 5m to leave height 7m and spread 7m. 1no. holm oak tree (Tree B) - Crown reduction by 3m to leave height 6m and spread 6m
Reason given: Tree A – Encroachment onto side of property

Comments on Application:

2x Holm oak / *Quercus ilex* Height: 10-15m Radial spread: 5-10m Age class: Mature

- I have considered this application by means of a desktop review, using the information and plans submitted as well as online resources. Previous consideration from site and familiarity with surrounding areas provides further insight to the proposal.
- Tree A grows alongside the dwelling and is visible in part from the public highway and clearly from adjacent properties. Tree B is discreetly located on the rear garden boundary with properties in Barrack Lane.
- Repeat operations such as now being asked for by the applicant will be necessary throughout the remaining lifespan of these trees, to achieve a reasonable degree of structural integrity appropriate for their location.

Conclusions:

- The proposal to reduce overall height and spread with a view to restricting growth is justified and consistent with previous works approved by the Local Planning Authority.
- 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.

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) Where pollarding or crown reduction pruning has occurred previously, then 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 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***

Advisory:

- Although holm oak may respond with vigour to 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 mid to late winter period (January-February).

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Greenspace

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

