

Planning Officer: Miss Z Toppin
Planning Application Ref: A/100/21/T
Location: Land to North of New Road, Angmering
Description of works: Fell 12no. Monterey pine trees
Reasons given: To restore mobile communications network coverage (EE)
Comments on Application:
12x Monterey pine / *Pinus radiata* Height: 15-20m Ave. radial spread: 5-10m

- The age class of trees within the group is variable, but dominant pine is early-/mature. Outwardly and from distance they appear to be in a fine physiological state (and assumed to be so in the absence of any information/evidence provided to the contrary).
- These trees are important constituents of a long-established and prominent landscape feature. This broad belt of evergreen trees provides 230metres of continuous high canopy, which provides great visual amenity.
- Pine trees are intolerant of hard pruning and the extent of height reduction required to restore coverage to EE's existing mobile communications infrastructure would effectively destroy them. Subsequently we are dealing with an application to fell those trees to ground level.
- The essential provision of infrastructure by EE will be achieved through a combination of, upgrading its existing network, deploying more masts and building new sites.

Conclusions:

- The work proposal has not been justified on arboricultural grounds. These are high profile trees of significant landscape and visual amenity; whose value extends beyond their own individual worth; contributing to and benefiting from root and crown cohesion with the rest of the group.
- Beyond the obvious and immediate impact to the landscape, suddenly exposing such aged trees to the full force of prevailing winds is likely to wreak havoc in their crowns from which they cannot recover and potentially resulting in further erosion of the group.
- On balance, it seems reasonable to expect the provision of full network coverage be achieved by enhancing existing infrastructure rather than negatively impacting such an important landscape feature.

Recommendation:

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

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team



Fig.1. Looking west from east of group.



Fig.2. Looking NE towards section of trees proposed for removal, from west of group.