

Planning Officer: Mr F Gardner

Planning Application Ref: A/112/19/T

Location: Acorns, Arundel Road, Angmering, BN16 4ET

Description of works: Remove large lower bough on southern aspect by approx. 4m to 1no. oak tree

Reasons Given: Health and safety concern

Comments on Application:

Pedunculate oak / *Quercus robur* Approx. height: 12m Average spread: 5m Age class: Early mature

- This tree appears to be outwardly in a fine physiological state and stable. It is a woodland fringe tree but nonetheless presents an attractive crown profile.
- Evidence of recent and past large limb failures suggest this tree has a propensity for/is vulnerable to – shedding large parts on its south-facing aspect. There is no obvious sign of decay causing organisms around the fracture points.
- The work description is open to interpretation, as it talks about removal as well as specifying an extent in meterage, the latter normally being associated with reduction.
- To clarify, I consider the work proposal describes a reduction of the obvious low south-tending scaffold limb by a maximum of 4metres in length.
- The removal of dead branches and stubs is an exception and does not require permission, although there is ecological value in the retention of old fractured limb stubs and deadwood where safe to do so.
- The applicant has expressed concern about the ongoing risk of harm presented by this tree, following advice from a local tree surgeon. I understand this concern, as the historically unpredictable nature of large limb failures in close proximity to a dwelling is clearly intolerable.

Conclusions:

- The work proposed has been justified on arboricultural grounds and will not incur a loss of public amenity.

Recommendations:

- I recommend **CONSENT** for this application, subject to the following conditions:

Conditions To Be Applied to Approved Work: -

- 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
- 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.

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

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

