

Planning Officer: Miss Z Toppin

Planning Application Ref: A/14/21/T

Location: Arundel Acre, Wilmington, Arundel Road, Angmering, BN16 4ET

Description of works: Reduce the crowns to 2no. oak trees. T1, closest to buildings, remove lateral branch to north back to trunk. T2, reduce lateral branches to 10m on north face

Reasons given: 1. Low and excessive encroachment over buildings 2. Rotten/broken branches

Comments on Application:

T1 Pedunculate oak / <i>Quercus robur</i>	Height: 10-15m	Average radial spread: 5-10m	Age class: Early mature
T2 Pedunculate oak / <i>Quercus robur</i>	Height: 20-25m	Radial spread: 10-15m	Age class: Mature

- The copies of documents available online are of such poor resolution, as to make my determination of the application difficult despite benefiting from site assessment. That said, T1 (the oak growing out between the outbuildings) is of such unique form that there is sufficient understanding from which to be able to determine the sketch plan's other subject (T2). The photographs lend weight to the following interpretation:
- T1 – Outwardly this tree appears to be in a fine physiological state and stable. Nonetheless, it is heavily suppressed by its companions and its single stem arches dramatically out over the applicant's plot. Although trees are inherently adept at supporting their own weight under severe environmental conditions such as this, I have some sympathy with the perception of such trees being hazardous, especially where 'target areas' invite the presence of people. There is no obvious, distinctly problematic lateral branch – I assume the whole tree (stem) is being considered.
- T2 - Outwardly and from distance this tree appears to be in a fine physiological state (and assumed to be so in the absence of any information/evidence provided to the contrary). Although a woodland fringe tree, it has emerged dominant over its companions and presents a visually impressive crown from the north. Substantial boundary overhang is long-established and not of itself obviously problematic for the applicant. What dead and broken material exists within the crown can be removed without requiring consent from the local planning authority.
- The removal of dead branches is an exception and does not require consent from the local planning authority.
- The frequent discarding of small dead branches and retention of larger dead branches over time is; entirely foreseeable, desirable from an ecological perspective and typical of woodland trees. This material is not obviously associated with an underlying health condition.

Conclusions:

- The work proposed for T1 is severe and far exceeds the requirements of British Standard (BS3998:2010) Tree work – Recommendations. That said, the tree is not a major constituent of the woodland, is of low public amenity value and of such compromised form that it seems reasonable given its location and presence over the applicant's outbuildings – to permit enough work to achieve a long-lasting outcome. Its retention as a live 'stump' will continue to provide some screening and undoubted ecological benefit.
- T2 appears to be a high value, major constituent of the woodland and as such ought to be subject to only the minimum amount of pruning necessary to accommodate adjacent land use. There is no obvious arboricultural justification for any crown reduction at this time.

Recommendations:

- As it stands, I recommend **REFUSAL** for this application.

- **I would like the applicant to be invited to agree to a revised proposal for lesser works** (as described below) as part of the current application so as not to incur further delay. Such work would go some way to addressing their concerns in respect of T1 and without having to operate beyond their plot boundary, whilst preventing a diminution of T2's landscape and public amenity value:

T1 oak (only)

- Reduce radial spread of whole tree, leaving a minimum of 1m extension over the boundary and into the applicant's plot.

T2 oak – no work proposed as part of this application.

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- If the applicant is prepared to re-submit in line with this advice, then I would be able to recommend APPROVAL subject to the following condition:

Condition to Be Applied to All Approved Works: -

- 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.

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:

- The long-term vitality of tree (**T1**) is best respected when significant pruning work such as proposed, is undertaken during the late spring to summer period (May to August). The work proposed should only be undertaken during this period.
- We are obliged to advise that where trees are situated on land not owned by the applicant the granting of consent by this authority does not by association give permission to undertake such works that require access onto/from that land. Nor does it permit any work to take place beyond the boundary of the applicant's property. Additional permission must first be obtained from the land/tree owner.

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

