

Planning Officer: Miss Z Toppin

Planning Application Ref: A/150/20/T

Location: Angmering Manor High Street Angmering BN16 4AG

Description of works: Lateral reduction of South-Eastern corner to approx. 9m 1 No. Holm Oak (T1).

Reasons given: Risk management (dwelling introduced beneath heavy limbs)

Comments on Application:

Holm oak / *Quercus ilex* Height: 15-20m Spread: 5-10m Age class: Over mature

- This is a large and aged example of its type, with a correspondingly complex crown and management history.
- It appears to be outwardly sound and stable with an attractive crown profile. It is prominent within the ornamental grounds of the hotel and can be seen from surrounding properties. Large scaffold limbs on the south aspect have been subject to extensive limb and branch removals in the past.
- The applicant has proposed to cut back heavy limbs growing over a residential dwelling, to such an extent that minimal leaf-bearing twig structure could remain and numerous wounds may be created. If the work is not undertaken to a high standard then the long-term survival of those limbs may be jeopardised as they may not be able to produce enough new growth to sustain themselves nor be able to resist the ingress of decay-causing organisms. As such, the extent of meterage proposed to remain on completion is an absolute minimum requirement and I strongly advise the applicant/contractor to seek out strong branch junctions beyond that for the position of final pruning cuts.

Conclusions:

- This tree requires careful management that respects its age and vulnerability to environmental changes and disease progression.
- The applicant proposes an approximate 2-3metre reduction in lateral spread of limbs/branches on the south-east aspect only. If the work is undertaken to a high standard and at the right time; then it should not have an adverse effect on the tree's long-term vitality and visual amenity.
- The work proposed is justified on arboricultural grounds as it seeks to strike a balance between the tree's influence and potential impact on surrounding residential property and the need to retain trees with dignity by having respect for natural tree form.

Recommendations:

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

Condition to Be Applied to Approved Work: -

- 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 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

Advisory:

- The removal of dead branches is an exception and does not require permission.
- The long-term vitality of this tree is best respected when significant pruning work such as proposed, is undertaken during the mid to late winter (January to February) period. The work should only be undertaken during this period.

Mark Warwick

Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

