

Planning Officer: Zac Denton

Planning Application Ref: A/19/18/T

Location: The Dower House, West Drive, Angmering

Description of works: 1x Holm Oak – Remove 1x 10m bough

Reasons Given: Low amenity value, unbalanced crown profile, risk of failure and subsequent damage to persons or property

Comments on Application:

Holm oak	<i>Quercus ilex</i>	Height: Approx. 15m	Average Spread: 7m	Age: Mature
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- A large tree with a full and spreading crown. It appears to be in a generally fine physiological state and structurally sound. It is approaching (if not having already arrived at) over-mature phase.
- It is discreetly located within the expansive gardens of the property, although by virtue of its size and evergreen foliage has significant presence when viewed from its southern aspect. It is visible from neighbouring properties and traffic accessing/exiting this part of the estate. As such, it has public amenity value.
- An established fungal bracket (*Ganoderma* sp.) is present at the stem base on its Northern side. This is not unusual for a holm oak of this age and while not investigated I suspect it is of limited significance at this time.
- Recent pruning has occurred, to reduce back smaller branches arising from the end of this limb. Consequently there is a relatively small quantity of foliage bearing twigs and branches remaining along its length. It does not display any obvious indicators of bio-mechanical weakness when viewed from ground level.

Conclusions:

- This tree requires careful management that respects its age and vulnerability to environmental changes and disease progression.
- I am unable to consider the amenity value of individual limbs and branches; rather an evaluation must consider the whole tree. There is potential for the limb to produce new growth from dormant buds and remain a viable long-term component of the tree.
- Limb removal would ultimately create a large wound at the main stem with potentially serious implications for the tree's long-term health and vitality and would not comply with British Standard 3998:2010 Tree Work-Recommendations.
- I am unable to concur with the reasons stated as being sufficient to justify the work now proposed.

Recommendations:

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

Mark Warwick

Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team