

Planning Officer: Richard Sherman

Planning Application Ref: BN/103/21/T

Location: 8 Holmdale, Eastergate, PO20 3AA

Description of works: Fell 1no. maple tree (T1) and reduce 2no. oak trees (T2,T3) on garden side back to boundary by 1-2m back to previous pruning points leaving growth points

Reasons given: T1 – Minimal life left T2 & T3 – Excessive shading

Comments on Application:

T1 Field maple / *Acer campestre* Height: 5-10m Radial spread: 0-5m Age class: Early mature

T2 Pedunculate oak / *Quercus robur* Height: 15-20m Radial spread: 5-10m Age class: Mature

T3 Pedunculate oak / *Quercus robur* Height: 10-15m Radial spread: 5-10m Age class: Mature

- T1 – Multi-stemmed tree in obvious stage of decline. It is no longer viable for safe retention and without a remedial pruning option to retain it as a tree of public amenity. Having once made a notable contribution to the rural character of the lane; unfortunately there is limited scope for adequate replacement planting at that location due to the dominant presence of companion oak (T2).
- T2 & T3 - Outwardly and from a distance (roadside) these trees appear to be in a fine physiological state and assumed to be so in the absence of any evidence provided to the contrary. View of stem bases restricted by established ivy and understorey vegetation. Both make a significant contribution to the rural character of the lane; visible from nearby properties and to users of the public highway.
- All trees on elevated ground and casting shade from South and East aspects onto property. Past pruning work has achieved greater harmony between both. Repeat pruning of low branches affecting the reasonable enjoyment and use of adjacent residential property will be necessary throughout the remaining lifespan of these trees.
- The work proposal for the two oak is contradictory.
 - i) Pruning back to the boundary is unacceptable and would involve removing far more than 1-2metres of western crown spread.
 - ii) Mention is also made of pruning back to previous points, which would involve removing nearer 1-2m of growth and that I could support.I consider this application as requesting the latter (ii) and recommend a condition be applied to ensure a satisfactory and unambiguous work specification can be upheld.

Conclusions:

- If the work is undertaken to a high standard and at the right time; then it is unlikely to have an adverse effect on the trees' long-term vitality and visual amenity.
- The proposal to reduce selected branches on a specific aspect to improve conditions over the property has been justified and is consistent with previous works.

Recommendation:

- 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.

Part c) The removal of any crown material which has developed since the last operation must be done sympathetically and with respect to established 'knuckles' so as not to extend beyond the point of origin.

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