

Planning Officer: Richard Sherman

Planning Application Ref: BN/115/21/T

Location: Field Place, Eastergate Lane, Eastergate, PO20 3SL

Description of works: 1no. ash tree (T1) - Reduction of western crown by approx. 2-3m to balance with rest of crown to leave approx. height of 20m and spread of 12m

Reasons given: To balance crown and improve satellite television signal

Comments on Application:

T1 Ash / *Fraxinus excelsior* Height: 15-20m Radial spread: 5-10m Age class: Mature

- Outwardly and from a distance (field side) this tree appears to be in a fine physiological state and assumed to be so in the absence of any evidence provided to the contrary. It is a large tree with visually impressive crown profile, seen from across the fields to the east. It has landscape value.
- The crown profile did not appear asymmetric to a problematic extent in respect of its structural integrity, nor has that been evidenced. Large ash in apparent good health should be valued highly and considered vulnerable given the prevalence of Chalara dieback which is set to destroy a large majority of the ash population. As such, substantive (stress inducing) pruning work should be avoided wherever possible.
- This long-established field boundary tree ought to be preserved with natural form for as long as it is safe to do so. If satellite reception is not possible or has become obstructed, then an engineer can usually advise on alternative position or apparatus to provide that utility.

Conclusions:

- This tree requires careful management that respects its age and vulnerability to environmental changes and disease progression.
- *Crown reduction* work has not been justified on arboricultural grounds.

Recommendation:

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

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team