

Planning Officer: Mr F Gardner

Planning Application Ref: BR/94/19/T

Location: Mead Lane Car Park, University of Chichester, Bognor Regis

Description of works: Remove lowest south easterly limb to 1 No. holm oak tree

Reasons Given: Dead and diseased material

Comments on Application:

Holm oak / *Quercus ilex*

Approx. height: 16m

Average spread: 7m

Age class: Mature

- This is a large and prominent tree, highly visible from adjacent properties and the public highway (footway and carriageway). Outwardly and from a distance it appears to be in a fine physiological state
- It has a relatively unmodified and attractive crown profile, albeit asymmetric and suggesting the historic loss of a companion tree. On closer inspection an established fungal decay event is apparent in the main stem, betrayed by the presence of a large perennial bracket (*Phellinus* sp.?) – worthy of further investigation by an experienced tree assessor if not already undertaken.
- The limb proposed for removal is in decline, having died back from its tip almost to the point where numerous wounds are evident, those appearing to have been caused by successive impacts from high-sided vehicles. For the sake of clarity I include my own photograph with arrow pointing to the subject limb.



Fig.1. Photograph with arrow pointing to limb the subject of this application.

Conclusions:

- The work proposed is justified on arboricultural grounds as it seeks to remove hazardous material which presents an unacceptable level of risk for its location.
- There will be no loss of public amenity on completion of the proposed works.
- Wholesale 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. As such, the work will be conditioned in such a way so as to leave what will still be a large wound but at a more sympathetic position on the limb framework.

Recommendations:

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

Condition To Be Applied to Approved Work: -

- The final cut shall be located no less than 3metres from the parent stem and not exceeding a diameter of 200mm. In any event, the final cut must be made at the correct angle shown in BS3998:2010 and adjacent to a live lateral branch.

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

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

