

Planning Officer: Amber Willard
Planning Application Ref: EG/94/17/T
Location: 98 Orchard Way, Barnham
Description of works: Fell 1No. Field maple tree
Reasons Given: Tree is in a hazardous condition
Comments on Application:

Field maple *Acer campestre* Height: 9m Average Spread: 3.5m Age: Early mature

- Visible from several neighbouring properties and road providing 'no through' access to residential dwellings.
- Large void in main stem at approx. 4m has significant implications for the tree's structural integrity.
- The fine twig and small branch network across the upper crown displays moderate-weak shoot extension, suggesting the tree has been undergoing a marked slowdown in growth rate and has only moderate vitality for its age. There is no obvious association with the open cavity, the steady decline most likely attributable to previously raised soil level all around the tree.

Conclusions:

- The risk of catastrophic stem failure which exists is probably unacceptable for this location, likely to increase, and cannot be satisfactorily ameliorated with remedial pruning.

Recommendation:

- I recommend **APPROVAL** for the felling of this tree subject to the planting of a replacement tree.

Conditions:

- Once the tree has been felled (and either grubbed or ground out) then a replacement tree is to be planted in the same place or nearby and to within 4metres.

This is to be of Standard Nursery Stock proportions (10-12cm girth & 2m to 3m overall height) supported on a 'short stake' system with appropriate securing ties and pads.

It is to be planted within 12 months of the removal of the field maple tree.

The species shall be selected from the following:-

Field maple *Acer campestre*

Hornbeam *Carpinus betulus*

Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*

Reasons: To accord with current industry guidelines and sound arboricultural practice in general.

Mark Warwick

Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team