

Case Officer: Hannah Kersley

Reference: FP/67/22/T

Location: The Ridings, 4A Wedgwood Road, Felpham, PO22 7JF

Proposal: Various works to various trees

Reasons given: To manage regrowth from historic heavy pruning in a sympathetic way

Comments on Application:

T1, T3 & T4 Pedunculate oak / *Quercus robur* Height: 10-15m, Radial spread: 5-10m, Age class: Mature

There is one Tree Preservation Order affecting this site (TPO/2/82/BR). Of the trees listed in the proposal only T1, T3 & T4 are protected by the Order. G1 and T2 do not merit preservation so need not be considered further.

The applicant has employed Beechdown Arboriculture Ltd. as agent, to prepare and submit a tree survey and plan. This is comprehensive and includes a detailed work specification with satisfactory reason given for each item.

Outwardly and from distance 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. They are important constituents of an established line of trees which help define the character of the area and are a significant amenity.

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.

Conclusions:

These are high profile trees of significant amenity value, to be carefully pruned to mitigate risk of structural failure within the crown and having respect for tree health and vitality.

Repeat operations such as now being sought by the applicant will be necessary throughout the remaining lifespan of these trees, to achieve a degree of structural integrity appropriate for their location.

The proposal to reduce overall height and spread with a view to restricting their growth is justified and consistent with previous works approved by the Local Planning Authority.

Recommendations:

I recommend **CONSENT** is granted subject to the following condition:

Condition to Be Applied to Approved Work: -

Condition 1

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) Where pollarding or crown reduction pruning has occurred previously, then the removal of 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***

Advisory:

The long-term health and vitality of oak trees can be adversely affected by significant pruning such as proposed. The optimum time for this work is during the late spring to summer period (May to August).

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer
Neighbourhood Services

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

