

Arun District Council

Date Inspected: 16/07/2014

Inspector: Dafydd Lloyd

Planning Officer: David Easton

Planning Application Ref: R/142/14/TC

Location: The Tilled Barn, Station Road, Rustlington

Description of works: To fell 1 No. Oak within the Station Road, East Preston Conservation Area.

Applicants Reasons:

- Tree is dying and will become unsafe, close proximity to busy highway

Visual tree assessment: **species:** *Quercus spp*, **age class:** Early mature,

Height: 14 meters, **Average crown spread:** 7 meters, **Crown Form:** Good

Crown condition: fair, **Description of form:** single stem to 2.5 meters, splits into a multi-stem of six limbs. Good height to crown spread ratio.

Comments on Application:

- Tree is highly visible from main highway, and has a definitive presence in the landscape.
- Unfortunately this tree has been clearly ring barked (removal of vascular system all the way around the main stem, which is the only live part of the stem) at 1 meter. This is a technique that is not recognised by any major uk Arb + forestry societies/agencies. This technique should only be used in extreme circumstances (e.g. to prevent the spread of pathogens), and should be avoided prior to any climbing operations.
- The end result of the demise of the vascular band around the host tree is a starving of the roots of glucose, and a starving of water and other important nutrients to the crown. This always results in death for the host tree.
- Also NO application was made to undertake this technique, nor would it be approved.
- As outlined on the application this tree has a large portion of its eastern and southern crown protruding the public footpath and the public highway.
- I did speak to the arborist who wrote the application and has assured me that the tree was ring barked prior to surveying it, and was shocked to see this practise used on this tree.

Recommendation

- **Due to the location and presence of high numbers of targets it would be my recommendation to fell and remove this tree.** It should be noted the practise of 'ring barking', is not recognised as a current Arboricultural technique and in my opinion a inappropriate action to use in this instance. it is also troubling that this action (which has clearly been done but someone with chainsaw experience), was not applied for (tree works in a conservation area). If an initial application for the ring barking works was made, this tree would have been probably TPO'ed (because of the immediate threat to its presence).
- **It should also made clear to the applicant the action of ring barking is a normally a unacceptable way to deal with Healthy trees and also an application has to be made for the practise of this technique in a conservation area.**

Dafydd Lloyd

Tree officer

Condition To Be Applied to All Approved Works: -

Where whole branches are to be removed final cuts close to the trunk or branch union are to be made as shown in Figure 2 of BS3998:2010 and all shortened branches are to be cut at the correct angle (see also BS3998:2010) and adjacent to a live bud or lateral.

Reasons : In the interests of the trees continued health and vitality and to accord with current industry guidelines and sound arboricultural practice.