TREE WORKS APPLICATION – JUSTIFICATION STATEMENT

Applicant: ArbAware Tree Care Ltd

Tree Reference: T1

Species: Holm Oak (*Quercus ilex*)

Work Type: Selective Crown Reduction

Overview

This application seeks consent to undertake a selective crown reduction to T1 Holm Oak. The proposed works are moderate, targeted, and in line with good tree management, aimed at maintaining the tree in a safe and sustainable condition while preserving its amenity value.

The works have been specified in accordance with BS3998:2010 – Tree Work Recommendations and reflect good arboricultural practice.

Reason for Works

The proposed works are required to:

- Maintain appropriate clearance from adjacent built structures, preventing direct contact and future conflict
- Reduce end weight on extended lateral limbs, particularly where crown bias is present
- Improve overall crown balance and structural integrity
- Manage regrowth from previous pruning operations, ensuring it does not become elongated or weakly attached
- Prevent future excessive works by implementing a controlled, cyclical pruning approach

The works are therefore considered preventative maintenance, rather than reactive or excessive intervention.

Tree Condition and Observations

A visual inspection of T1 identified the following characteristics:

- The tree has been historically pruned, with visible previous reduction points
- There is evidence of secondary regrowth and branch works extending beyond previous pruning points, particularly on the northern and western aspects
- The crown exhibits slight asymmetry (bias), with increased lateral spread toward the southern aspect

- The tree is located in close proximity to built structures, resulting in:
    - Encroachment toward buildings
    - Potential for contact under wind loading conditions
- No significant structural defects were observed at the time of inspection; however, extended lateral growth increases lever arm forces on unions

Defects and Arboricultural Considerations

While the tree is not in immediate decline, the following arboricultural considerations justify the proposed works:

- Extended lateral growth creating increased mechanical loading on branch/stem unions
- Regrowth from historic pruning points, which can be:
    - Weakly attached
    - More prone to failure if left unmanaged
- Crown bias, contributing to uneven weight distribution
- Proximity to structures, increasing risk of:
    - Physical damage to property
    - Nuisance and future reactive pruning

If left unmanaged, these factors may lead to increased likelihood of branch failure or the need for more severe intervention in the future.

Targets (Risk and Nuisance Considerations)

The tree directly influences the following targets:

- Residential / built structures adjacent to the western and southern aspects
- Occupied areas including gardens / amenity spaces
- Parked vehicles and access areas

The proposed pruning will reduce the likelihood of branch failure impacting these targets and maintain appropriate separation distances.

Proposed Works (Summary)

- Selective crown reduction of 1.0–1.5 metres, back to suitable pruning points
- Maximum pruning cuts not exceeding 60mm (general works)
- Directional reductions to:
    - Reduce extended lateral growth
    - Address crown bias
    - Maintain 2.0m clearance from structures
- Western upper canopy reduction limited to secondary growth (cuts <60mm)

All works will retain a natural crown form and avoid over-pruning.

Arboricultural Justification

The proposed works are justified on the following arboricultural grounds:

- They represent good practice cyclical maintenance, consistent with the tree's management history
- They will reduce mechanical stress on branch unions by shortening lever arms
- They will improve crown balance, reducing asymmetric loading
- They will maintain safe clearance from built structures without the need for more invasive works
- They will promote a sustainable crown structure, reducing the likelihood of future defects

Importantly, the works are proportionate and minimal, ensuring the tree's:

- Long-term health
- Structural integrity
- Visual amenity contribution

are all preserved.

Impact on Amenity

The proposed works will have a low visual impact and will:

- Retain the tree's overall size, shape, and character
- Maintain its screening and landscape value
- Be largely unnoticeable once regrowth occurs

Holm Oak is a vigorous species, and the tree is expected to respond positively to the proposed pruning regime.

Compliance and Standards

All works will be carried out in accordance with:

- BS3998:2010 – Tree Work Recommendations
- Arboricultural Association guidance
- Industry best practice

Works will be undertaken by qualified and competent arborists.

Conclusion

The proposed selective crown reduction of T1 Holm Oak is:

- Reasonable and necessary
- Proportionate to the identified issues
- Beneficial for long-term tree management

Sketch Plan – 59 Hollybank Lane, Emsworth

The works will reduce risk, improve structural balance, and maintain appropriate clearance, while fully retaining the tree's amenity value.
Consent is therefore respectfully requested.

Main union

Northern aspect

Sketch Plan – 59 Hollybank Lane, Emsworth

Eastern

Southern

Western