

TPO application DC/21/1460/TPO

High River View, Cliff Road, Waldringfield

This refers to trees T7 oak and T8 sweet chestnut, granted tpo status under the order no.191,2005

Oak tree T7

Application says it is to raise the crown to 3-4m. The tree has a clear bole already and there are no lower branches to remove. It is quite a well shaped tree but has quite a lot of dead wood. I do not think 'raising the crown' is applicable. The applicant's photo shows the clear bole and high branching network with most of the branches ascending.

Removal of the dead wood and crossing branches would make the tree a better shape, and as they mention possible storm damage, the most likely thing is dead wood falling down – although most of it is not very large.

A 30% reduction seems unnecessary.

Sweet Chestnut Tree T8 (Veteran tree)

This is a very grand tree with a massive bole. It also has no low branches from the trunk although some of the lower ones are quite long and sweep down giving the tree an interesting shape.



In conversation with the owner she did not appear to want the lower branches removed except where they are dead. Removal of dead wood would tidy the tree

up and possible shortening of the very longest branches one of which stretches towards the house.

There are a lot of vertical water shoots which are a sign of stress – they might be 2-3 years old. The owner tells me that these are to be removed although this is not mentioned in the application.

Again reduction by 30% seems unnecessary once the dead wood and any rubbing or crossing branches are removed the tree is a good shape.

Reasons given

The reasons given here are to prevent shading to the property and to prevent the trees being damaged in a storm. Neither tree can be said to cast an excessive amount of shade however. With such large trees, which obviously pre-date the house considerably, it is not possible to have no shading. Shading also helps the microclimate in the surroundings of the house not to become too hot in the summer. 10% reduction done well would perhaps be acceptable. This would mean removing crossing or weak branches if congested but not reducing their overall length haircut style by 30% which has been the case unfortunately with some of the top trees in this area, which subsequently died. These old established trees need to be treated with especial care.

To summarise I would only support removal of dead wood and water shoots on T8 and up to 10% removal of weak or crossing branches. On T7 the oak I would say remove dead wood and crossing branches with restraint and definitely not a reduction of branch length all over.

Aerial view from Google



T7 oak

T8 Sweet Chestnut

This work should be done in the appropriate season i.e. not the nesting season, and by a competent fully qualified arborist.

Christine Fisher Kay, tree warden 13/04/2021