

DELEGATED APPLICATIONS

ASSESSMENT SHEET

APPLICATION NO: **DC/26/0354: Valewood, Valewood Lane Barns Green.**

REPRESENTATION AND CONSULTATION RESPONSES:

No representations have been received in respect of this application.

ASSESSMENT:

1. The trees subject to this application are located within a large area of designated Ancient Woodland known as Vale Wood, from which the applicant's property takes its name. The relevant constraint is TPO/0733, a Woodland Order served on 10/08/1989.

2. In respect of the trees situated along the periphery of the woodland, it is accepted that the proposed pruning works to the Hazel and additional deadwood removal works are prudent due to their proximity to the adjacent lane. Similarly, the removal of the moribund oak identified in this area is considered appropriate on highway safety grounds.

3. Furthermore, during the site visit, it was noted that near the gated entrance to the property, adjacent to the public right of way that passes through the woodland, there is a mature *Prunus avium* (wild cherry). This tree is leaning over the entrance and contains several woodpecker cavities.

4. It was observed that, near one of these cavities, the stem has recently split. This, combined with the presence of multiple woodpecker holes, suggests that the structural integrity of the stem at approximately 2–3 metres above ground level may be compromised.

5. In addition, a fungal fruiting body, likely of the genus *Ganoderma*, was identified at the base of the tree on the driveway side. The surrounding area exhibited a distinct hollow tone when struck, indicating the presence of internal decay.

6. Although this tree was not included within the original application, it is accepted that its removal is unavoidable. Therefore, its removal should be authorised under the current consent.

7. Accordingly, it is considered that the proposed works are reasonable and justified and will not harm the character or amenities of the locality. Given the wooded nature of the site, together with the additional trees already planted by the applicant, it is not considered necessary or appropriate to require replacement planting for the trees indicated for removal.

RECOMMENDATION:

Grant consent subject to the conditions below.

CONDITIONS TO BE APPLIED:

1. TR2 *Time limit, 2 years*

2. TR3 *Treeworks limit (standard)*

2. TR3a *Treeworks limit (bespoke)*

The tree work to which this consent relates shall be limited to:

- The felling of 2 × Oak (*Quercus* spp.) trees position show on the supporting plan
- The felling of 1 × Cherry (*Prunus* spp.) tree, adjacent to the man gated access to Valewood house.
- The removal of deadwood from all remaining trees included within the application.

Reason: for the avoidance of doubt

3. TR4 *Surgery standards*

TINF1 *Note to applicant.*

TINF2 *Wildlife protection.*

DELEGATED

Authorising Officer sign.....ANBU..... **Arboricultural Officer (Strategic Planning).**

Date.....17 Jun 26.....