

CONSULTEE RESPONSE (Council's Arboriculturist)

Date of inspection: 23rd October 2025

Case Officer: Silvie Steiningerova
Reference: AW/194/25/T
Location: Land to the rear of 54 Pinehurst Park, Aldwick, PO21 3DX
Proposal: 1no. Western balsam poplar (T2) to fell.
Reason: To mitigate risks associated with root growth around dwellings.

Comments on Application:

T2 Lombardy poplar / *Populus nigra Italica* Height: 10-15m Radial spread: 0-5m Age class: Mature

The tree is a subject of TPO/P/1/78 (Group 9). From the south and at distance, it appears to be in a fine physiological state. It had previously been the subject of reduction pruning, involving stem truncation at around 9m height (c.2014).

Consent was granted in 2023 for a repeat of that reduction pruning but has not been implemented and is now expired.

There is a proliferation of sucker growth across the applicant's property, and anecdotally in those neighbouring. Much of this would be a predictable response to the removal of T2's companion in the opposite corner of the garden; consent having been granted in 2024. A condition remains in place for a replacement tree to be planted nearby.

The control of sucker growth may be successful if a suitable herbicide is diligently applied, and in time reduce it to a tolerable level. Whilst understandably a concern for the tree owner and affected neighbours, it may not cause any significant harm or damage to property if a regime of chemical treatment is followed.

Conclusions:

I am sympathetic to the concerns of the applicant in respect of this tree's (and likely its previous companion's) influence on their property and neighbour's. This type of poplar is fast growing, and adept at suckering from roots, especially when disturbed or felled without prompt treatment of the residual stump and root system.

There is an effective method of control which is seemingly being applied and the option remains open to third parties to do the same. Whilst that remains, and in the absence of any proven structural defect or physiological impairment to qualify the tree's removal, I find on balance that the proposal is not justified on arboricultural grounds.

The tree is a notable feature in the local landscape and appears to be in adequately sound and healthy condition. Its removal would have a landscape impact and be unduly detrimental to the visual amenities of the locality.

Recommendation:

I recommend we refuse this application.

Mark Warwick

Tree Officer

Environment and Climate Change

Tree Officers response

Arun District Council, Civic Centre, Maltravers Rd
Littlehampton, West Sussex, BN17 5LF

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From: Mark Warwick <Mark.Warwick@arun.gov.uk>
Sent: 24 October 2025 16:54
To: Planning.Responses <Planning.Responses@arun.gov.uk>
Cc: Silvie Steiningerova <Silvie.Steiningerova@arun.gov.uk>
Subject: AW/194/25/T

Please find attached my report for your consideration.

Regards,

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer, Environment and Climate Change

Arun District Council, Civic Centre, Maltravers Rd
Littlehampton, West Sussex, BN17 5LF
www.arun.gov.uk