

Recommendation Report for Works to Tree(s) on trees subject to a Tree Preservation Order (**REF NO:** AW/207/14/T**LOCATION:** 5 Little Babbsham
Aldwick**PROPOSAL:** Reduce crowns of 34 No Beech trees to 3.75m and reduce spread by 0.7 metres.**SITE AND SURROUNDINGS**

DESCRIPTION OF APPLICATION	As above
SITE AREA	N/A
RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT DENSITY (NET)	N/A
TOPOGRAPHY	Predominantly flat
TREES	Screen of beech trees to southern boundary.
BOUNDARY TREATMENT	Front boundary is open to the highway, beech trees on southern boundary, close boarded fencing 1.8m in height to western boundary, hedging to eastern boundary approximately 2m in height.
SITE CHARACTERISTICS	Detached bungalow with attached double garage and tarmac driveway. The property has brown brickwork with a grey tiled roof.
CHARACTER OF LOCALITY	Residential comprising detached bungalows in residential cul-de-sac, two storey detached and semi-detached properties in immediate vicinity.

RELEVANT SITE HISTORY

AW/17/90/T	Trim and cut back one Beech Hedge	ApproveConditionally 05-03-1990
AW/195/01/T	Reduce height and spread of a line of Beech trees on the southern boundary	ApproveConditionally 09-11-2001
AW/250/05/T	Trim sides & reduce 34 Beech trees to 3.75m (minimum height).	ApproveConditionally 16-11-2005
AW/105/10/T	Crown reduction of 34 Beech trees (forming a hedge) to reduce height to 3.75m	ApproveConditionally 10-06-2010

AW/48/85/T

Lopping and topping of boundary hedge

ApproveConditionally

19-06-1985

REPRESENTATIONS

Representations received:

Aldwick Parish Council

Members agreed that the Arun Arboriculturist is consulted regarding the application and that his recommendations/decision is applied.

Comments on Representations received:

None

CONSULTATIONS

Arboriculturist

Consultations responses received:

Tree Officer

Species: 34 x Beech *Fagus* spp Height: 5 meters Average Crown Spread: 2 meters Crown Condition: good Form: good Age Class: maturing

Outlined tree lies in the conservation area of Aldwick Bay, high amenity landscape with young, semi mature, mature, and over mature trees specimens present. It is quite evident from a visual tree inspection, that these are maturing beech pollards that have been kept in a constant cycle of pruning. This is resulted in sizable main stems, with small diameter regrowth from the top and sides of the given stems (beech are a little trickier to keep in this format, as they do not respond to a heavily pruning as say a willow, poplar.)

These outlined trees appear to be responding to the historic pollarding operations well, and are showing plenty signs of vigour and longevity. It should be noted that if this cycle is kept to, the lifecycle of these individuals should be increased in time. According to section 7.10 of the British Standards 3998:2005 'Once initiated, a pollard should be maintained by cutting new branches on a cyclical basis'

I would therefore like to recommend that this operation should be allowed to take place, as it recognised as the best industry practise for this particular scenario of established pruning

The Crown Reduction should not exceed the removal of single branch lengths which are greater than 1m from the periphery of the original crown diameter. The branch removals should leave healthy substantial leaf bearing side branches. All side branches to be retained should be at least 1/3rd in diameter of the removed branch. Pruning cuts must be flat and smooth, kept as small as possible by cutting at an optimum angle and should not exceed 100mm in diameter.

Condition (BS3998:2010 Section 7.10) Re-Pollarding

The pollarding cut should be made above a height to retain existing foliage/budding growth. The individual pollard branch must be shortened above a suitable lateral branch or by retaining a 300mm-600mm length live stub. The final pruning cut must be clean, smooth and perpendicular to the direction of the pollard branch.

Comments on Consultation responses:

Tree Officer comments noted

POLICY CONTEXT

Designation applicable to site:

Built Up Area Boundary
Tree Preservation Order
PD Restriction
No Public Sewer

DEVELOPMENT PLAN POLICIES

Arun District Local Plan 2003:

PLANNING POLICY GUIDANCE

POLICY COMMENTARY

The above policies are general and, other than online Planning Policy Guidance under References ID 36-090-20140306 and ID 36-091-20140306, are not specific to trees.

DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND/OR LEGISLATIVE BACKGROUND

Section 198 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 states:

"If it appears to a Local Planning authority that it is expedient in the interest of amenity to make provision for the preservation of trees.... they may for that purpose make an order"

The works to the trees are to be judged having regard to amenity.

OTHER MATERIAL CONSIDERATIONS

It is considered that there are no other material considerations to warrant a decision otherwise than in accordance with the Development Plan and/or legislative background.

CONCLUSIONS

The Beech trees form a hedge on the southern boundary of the site. Surgery to the trees has been carried out on a regular basis the last application for a crown reduction submitted and approved under AW/105/10/T.

The submitted application is for a crown reduction and crown spread. The Tree officer has inspected the trees which are responding to the regular pruning and are showing signs of vigour and longevity. He has raised no objection to the work subject to conditions.

It is therefore recommended to approve the application subject to conditions.

RECOMMENDATION

APPROVE CONDITIONALLY

1 The works hereby approved to the Beech trees shall involve:

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retained should be at least 1/3rd in diameter of the removed branch. Pruning cuts must be flat and smooth, kept as small as possible by cutting at an optimum angle and should not exceed 100mm in diameter.

Re-Pollarding (BS3998:2010 Section 7.10)

The pollarding cut should be made above a height to retain existing foliage/budding growth. The individual pollard branch must be shortened above a suitable lateral branch or by retaining a 300mm-600mm length live stub. The final pruning cut must be clean, smooth and perpendicular to the direction of the pollard branch.

Reason: In order to ensure a satisfactory standard of tree surgery in the interests of retaining good health and amenity.

- 2 The work hereby approved shall be undertaken under the supervision of the Local Planning Authority who shall be notified in writing, not less than 7 days before the work commences.

Reason: In order to ensure a satisfactory standard of tree surgery in the interests of amenity.

- 3 The burning of materials obtained by site clearance or from any other source shall not take place within 6 metres of the furthest extent of the canopy of any tree or group of trees to be retained on the site or on land adjoining.

Reason: To protect trees and vegetation from fire damage in the interests of the visual amenities of the locality.

- 4 INFORMATIVE: The applicant should note that under Part 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, with only a few exceptions, it is an offence for any person to intentionally take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild birds while the nest is in use or being built. Birds nest between March and September and therefore removal of dense bushes, ivy or trees or parts of trees etc. during this period could lead to an offence under the act.

- 5 INFORMATIVE: This notice does not give authority to destroy or damage a bat roost or disturb a bat. Bat species are protected under Section 39 of the 1994 Conservation (Natural Habitats etc) Regulations (as amended), the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act (as amended) and the 2000 Countryside and Rights of Way Act. It is illegal to damage or destroy any bat roost, whether occupied or not, or disturb or harm a bat. If you are aware that bats roost in a tree(s) for which work is planned, you should take further advice from Natural England (via the Bat Conservation Trust on 0845 1300228) or an ecological consultant before you start. If bats are discovered during the work, you must stop immediately and contact Natural England before continuing.