

CONSULTEE RESPONSE (Council's Arboriculturist)

Date of inspection: 11th December 2025

Case Officer: Silvie Steiningerova
Reference: AW/235/25/T
Location: Thalassa Lodge, 31 The Drive, Aldwick, PO21 4DU
Proposal: Crown reduction to 1no. red oak to leave a height of 12m and spread of 7m
Reason: To stimulate growth

Comments on Application:

Red oak / <i>Quercus rubra</i>	Height: 10-15m	Radial spread: 5-10m	Age class: Early mature
---------------------------------------	----------------	----------------------	-------------------------

Outwardly and from roadside this tree appears to be in a fair physiological state. It is centrally located to the front of the dwelling and visible in large part from the estate road.

The local planning authority gave consent in October 23 to reduce the crown, leaving the tree at 11m height and 10m diameter spread. There is less than 1metre of new growth from beyond the established knuckles.

Urban trees that have been hard pruned such as this will usually need to have repeat operations to maintain an acceptable level of structural integrity. With so little shoot extension displayed, it is too early in the pruning cycle to repeat that work. Pruning of live material imposes a physiological stress on any tree and if underlying health is not good then it is likely to be harmful. It is important not to conflate vigour with vitality.

Ordinarily there would have to be a significant structural defect requiring risk mitigation, for such early work to be acceptable. No evidence of such has been provided.

The removal of deadwood is an exception. Prior notice to or consent from the local planning authority is not required.

Conclusions:

The tree is a significant feature in the local landscape and appears to be in adequately sound and healthy condition. The tree surgery proposed in the application would result in excessive reduction of the tree's landscape impact and undue detriment to the visual amenities of the locality.

Recommendation:

We refuse consent for this application.

Mark Warwick

Tree Officer / Environment and Climate Change

From: Nicola Spencer on behalf of Planning.Responses
Sent: 11 December 2025 16:48
To: Planning Scanning
Subject: FW: AW/235/25/T
Attachments: AW.235.25.T.pdf

Pl- Consultation- Tree Officer response

Nicola Spencer
Technical Support Manager
Planning Services

T: 01903 737945
E: nicola.spencer@arun.gov.uk

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

To register to receive notification of planning applications in your area please go to <https://www1.arun.gov.uk/planning-application-finder>



Our priorities...



Improving the wellbeing of Arun



Delivering the right homes in the right places



Supporting our environment to support us



Fulfilling Arun's economic potential




From: Mark Warwick <Mark.Warwick@arun.gov.uk>
Sent: 11 December 2025 16:07
To: Planning.Responses <Planning.Responses@arun.gov.uk>
Cc: Silvie Steiningerova <Silvie.Steiningerova@arun.gov.uk>; Freya Clewley <Freya.Clewley@arun.gov.uk>
Subject: AW/235/25/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