

CONSULTEE RESPONSE (Council's Arboriculturist)

Date of inspection: 11th November 2025

Case Officer: Silvie Steiningerova
Reference: AW/237/25/T
Location: 1 Craigweil Manor, Aldwick, PO21 4AP
Proposal: Fell 1no. horse chestnut (T1).
Reason: Risk management (diseased tree)

Comments on Application:

T1 Sycamore / *Acer pseudoplatanus* Height: 10-15m Radial spread: 5-10m Age class: Mature

For the record, T1 is a sycamore, as are group companion trees of similar age, size and pruning history. That said, it is clear from the sketch plan and photos provided, the tree which is subject of this application. The group is long-established and contributes to the verdant character of the area, although individuals are unremarkable.

There is a clear difference between T1 and its companions in terms of shoot extension, indicative of physiological stress unique to the subject tree. Close inspection reveals a large historic wound at the base of its SW stem, colonised by the pathogenic brittle cinder fungus (*K. deusta*). There is a solitary, active fungal bracket midway between the stems, low on their north side, either *Ganoderma applanatum* or *australe*. The latter is likely, which has significant implications for tree health and structural integrity. There are outbreaks of sooty bark disease, a fungal infection usually initiated after drought induced stress. Again, this is more notable on the SW tending stem.

Conclusions:

The proposed work has been justified on arboricultural grounds.

There appears to be ample room to accommodate a replacement tree, which will be necessary given the loss of mature canopy and likely deterioration of remaining trees in the group.

Recommendation:

We grant consent for this application subject to the following condition:

Condition 1

Once the tree has been felled, then a replacement tree is to be planted in the same place or nearby and to within ten metres, free from the interference of established tree canopy so that it may develop an upright and uniform crown.

This is to be of Selected Standard Nursery Stock proportions (10-12cm girth & 2m to 3m overall height) supported on a 'short stake' system with appropriate securing ties and pads.

It is to be planted within 12 months of the removal of the sycamore tree.

The species shall be selected from the following:-

Lime, small-leaved *Tilia cordata*

Field maple *Acer campestre*

Swedish whitebeam *Sorbus intermedia*

The selected tree must be viable for long-term retention in the landscape after a period of five years from the date of this decision notice. If found to be dead, dying or considered unviable for long-term retention by the council's tree officer, it will need to be replaced to the satisfaction of the local planning authority within 12 months of that determination.

Reasons: To accord with current industry guidelines and sound arboricultural practice in general.

Mark Warwick

Tree Officer

Environment and Climate Change

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