

## CONSULTEE RESPONSE (Council's Arboriculturist)

Date of inspection: 11<sup>th</sup> December 2025

**Case Officer:** Jonny Cooper

**Reference:** AW/244/25/T

**Location:** 80 Barrack Lane, Aldwick, PO21 4DE

**Proposal:** Crown reduction to 1no. sycamore (T1) to leave a height of 10m, northerly spread of 3.5m, easterly spread of 2.5m, southernly spread of 4m and westerly spread of 2.5m

**Reasons:** Continuation of cyclical pruning regime and to create a more balanced shape

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### Comments on Application:

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

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Outwardly and from a distance (roadside) this tree appears to be in a fine physiological state and assumed to be so in the absence of any evidence provided to the contrary.

Despite a heavily modified crown it presents an attractive profile, with several metres of branch growth extending beyond the established pruning knuckles. It is highly visible from numerous properties and in part from publicly accessible land (footway and carriageway).

Hard pruning, even where undertaken previously and within the normal cycle of operations, carries a risk of harm to tree health.

### Conclusions:

The tree is a significant feature in the local landscape and appears to be in adequately sound and healthy condition.

This latest proposal seeks to go beyond what has previously been granted consent by the local planning authority. Whilst the majority of work can be seen as necessary to mitigate risk of branch failure, pruning beyond the established knuckles is not best practice and could incur harm to tree health and loss of amenity.

There is sufficient extension of new growth since the last operation was undertaken, to justify a repeat of previous work (see planning application ref. AW/35/17/T).

### Recommendation:

As it stands, I am unable to support this application. I **would like the applicant invited to agree to an alternative proposal for lesser works (as described below) as part of the current application so as not**

**to incur further delay.** Such work would go some way to addressing the applicant's concerns whilst ensuring no undue detriment to tree health or loss of amenity:

- *Repeat pollard, i.e. reduction of all branches back to established knuckles, effectively removing between 3 and 5metres of material on all aspects and top-height.*
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If the applicant agrees to the above revision, then I would be able to recommend we grant consent, subject to the following condition:

Condition 1

Part a) Where whole branches are to be removed and final cuts made close to the trunk or branch union they are to be made as shown in Figure 2 of BS3998:2010

Part b) Where branches are to be shortened back the final cuts are to be made at the correct angle shown in BS3998:2010 and adjacent to a live bud or lateral.

Part c) Where crown reduction work has occurred previously, the removal of subsequent growth (shoots and branches) and position of final cuts must ensure retention of all established knuckles.

**Reasons:** In the interest of the tree's continued health and vitality and to accord with current industry guidelines and sound arboricultural practice.

- ***See also the standard pruning guidance notes issued with the consent letter***

**Informative:**

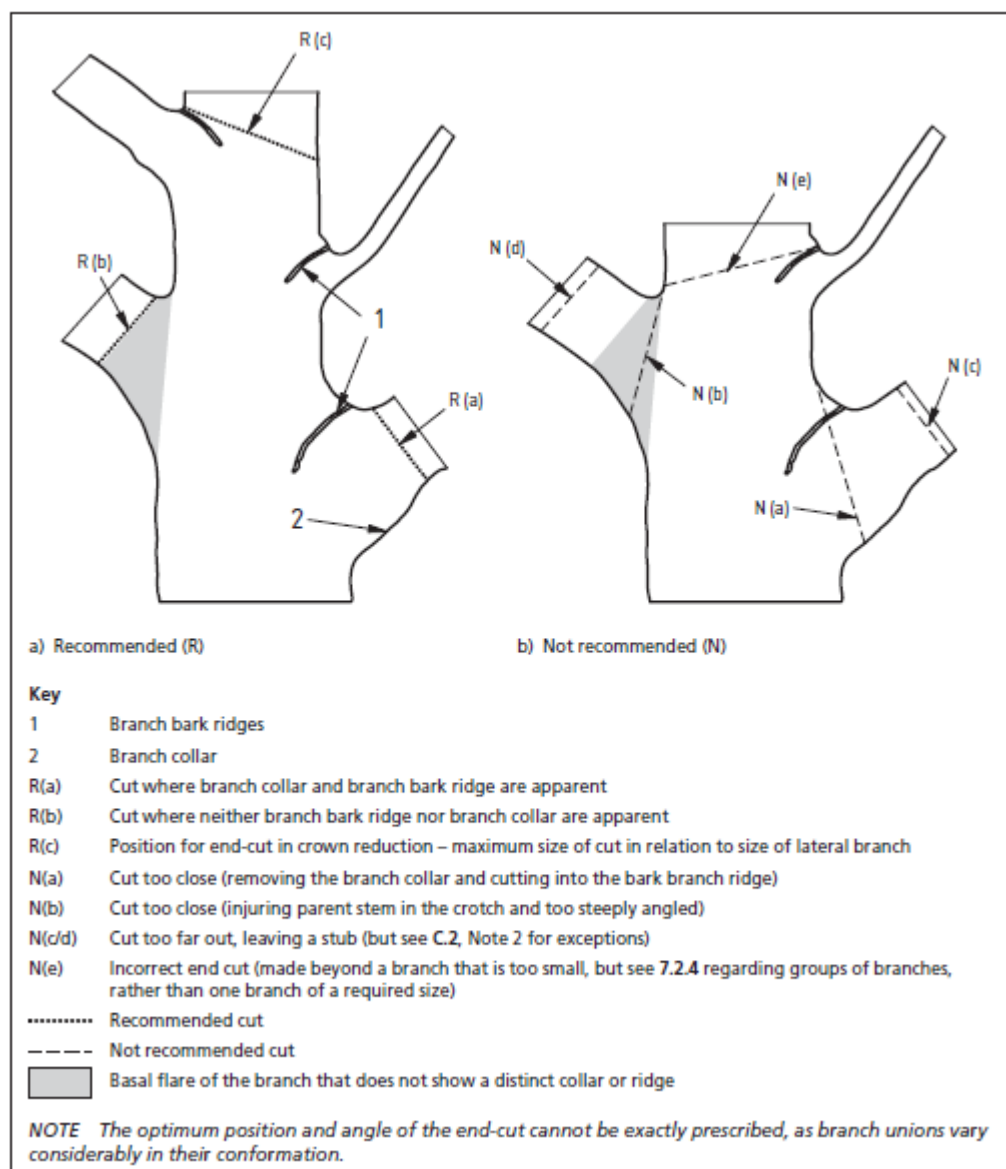
Hard pruning creates numerous and/or large wounds, incurring a physiological stress which may affect long-term health and vitality. The optimum time for pruning maples (including sycamore) is summer or midwinter, as prone to bleeding.

Mark Warwick

Tree Officer

Environment and Climate Change

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts



**From:** Nicola Spencer on behalf of Planning.Responses  
**Sent:** 12 December 2025 16:46  
**To:** Planning Scanning  
**Subject:** FW: AW/244/25/T  
**Attachments:** BS3998.2010.Figure 2.Final cuts.pdf; AW.244.25.T.pdf

PL- Consultation – Tree officer response

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**From:** Mark Warwick <Mark.Warwick@arun.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 12 December 2025 11:43  
**To:** Planning.Responses <Planning.Responses@arun.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** Jonny Cooper <Jonny.Cooper@arun.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** AW/244/25/T

Please find attached my report for your consideration.

Regards,

**Mark Warwick**  
**Tree Officer,** Environment and Climate Change

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