

Planning Officer: Charlotte Easton

Planning Application Ref: AW/256/18/T

Location: 35 Colts Bay Aldwick PO21 4EH

Description of works: Reduce 3 No. Field Maple trees to previous pruning points & reduce side growth of 1 No. Field Maple by 1.5m on east side.

Reasons Given: To improve light to property

Comments on Application:

T1-T3 Field maple / *Acer campestre* Height: Approx. 7m Average spread: 1m Age class: Early mature

- Outwardly and from restricted roadside view, this cluster of three trees appear to retain sufficient vitality despite their severely truncated form. Main stems have been 'topped' at approx. 5.5m height. There is an absence of low growth and so they are entirely dependent on crown renewal/recovery to sustain them and remain viable for safe retention.
- These trees will have to be managed in a cycle of crown reduction, to ensure they remain in a structural state appropriate for their position.
- They occupy a prominent position to the south of the dwelling and are visible from the highway and neighbouring properties.

T4 Field maple / *Acer campestre* Height: Approx. 12m Average spread: 6m Age class: Early mature

- Outwardly and from a distance this tree appears to be in a fine physiological state with an attractive crown profile. There is evidence of past upper crown modification on the east aspect.
- It occupies a more discreet position than the aforementioned companion trees but is a prominent at the end of a linear group of higher quality trees, by virtue of their more natural crown form.

Conclusions:

- T1-T3 Reducing the crowns of these trees to previous pruning points (at this time) is not justified on arboricultural grounds and will have a detrimental effect on their ongoing health and vitality.
- T4 Building clearance and garden overhang is more than adequate and there is no justification at this time to undertake the works as described.

Recommendations:

- I recommend **REFUSAL** for this application.

Mark Warwick

Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team