

Recommendation Report for Works to Tree(s) on trees subject to a Tree Preservation Order (TPO)

REF NO: AW/264/25/T

LOCATION: 31 Countisbury Close
Aldwick
PO21 3QW

PROPOSAL: Re-pollarding of 1 No. Willow (T1) to leave a height of 14m and spread of 10m.

SITE AND SURROUNDINGS

DESCRIPTION OF APPLICATION	As above.
TREES	The tree is in the corner of the rear garden at 31 Countisbury Close.
SITE CHARACTERISTICS	Dwelling.
CHARACTER OF LOCALITY	Residential.

RELEVANT SITE HISTORY

AW/294/22/T	1 No. Weeping Willow (T1) pollard back to previous pollard points.	ApproveConditionally 03-01-23
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Relevant planning history noted.

REPRESENTATIONS

Aldwick Parish Council - No objection.

No representation received from nearby occupiers.

COMMENTS ON REPRESENTATIONS RECEIVED:

Comments noted.

CONSULTATIONS

CONSULTATION RESPONSES RECEIVED:

Tree Officer - I have considered this application by means of a desktop review, using the information submitted as well as online resources. Previous consideration from site and familiarity with surrounding areas provides further insight to the proposal.

T1 is prominent in the street scene and can be clearly seen from numerous residential dwellings and to highway users.

The proposal to reduce overall height and spread back to established knuckles is consistent with previous works approved by the Local Planning Authority. Repeat operations will be necessary throughout the remaining lifespan of this tree, to achieve a degree of structural integrity appropriate for its location.

There is sufficient extension of new growth since the last operation was undertaken, so the proposal is justified on arboricultural grounds. While a temporary loss of aesthetic value is inevitable, satisfactory canopy renewal and recovery should occur if the work is undertaken to a high standard and at an appropriate time of year.

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

COMMENTS ON CONSULTATION RESPONSES:

Comments noted.

POLICY CONTEXT

Tree Preservation Order.

DEVELOPMENT PLAN POLICIES

PLANNING POLICY GUIDANCE:

NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NPPG	National Planning Practice 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

There are no other material considerations to be weighed in the balance with the Development Plan.

CONCLUSIONS

Following the comments from the tree officer, it is recommended consent be approved, subject to the following condition and informatives.

HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

The Council in making a decision should be aware of and take into account any implications that may arise from the Human Rights Act 1998. Under the Act, it is unlawful for a public authority such as Arun District Council to act in a manner, which is incompatible with the European Convention on Human Rights.

Consideration has been specifically given to Article 8 (right to respect private and family life) and Article 1 of the First Protocol (protection of property). It is not considered that the recommendation for approval of the grant of permission in this case interferes unreasonably with any local residents' right to respect for their private and family life and home, except insofar as it is necessary to protect the rights and freedoms of others (in this case, the rights of the applicant). The Council is also permitted to control the use of property in accordance with the general interest and the recommendation for approval is considered to be a proportionate response to the submitted application based on the considerations set out in this report.

DUTY UNDER THE EQUALITIES ACT 2010

In assessing this proposal the following impacts have been identified upon those people with the following protected characteristics (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation).

The proposal would have a neutral impact on the protected characteristics.

RECOMMENDATION

APPROVE CONDITIONALLY

- 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 BS3998:20102

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.
- 2 **INFORMATIVE:** The applicant should note that under Part 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), 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.
- 3 **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 0345 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.

- 4 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 willow trees is late spring to summer (May to August).