

Recommendation Report for Prior Notification of Work to Tree(s) in a Conservation Area

REF NO: AW/76/26/TC

LOCATION: 31 The Drive
Aldwick
PO21 4DT

PROPOSAL: Crown lift to 6 no. Leylandii trees forming a hedge (T1-6) to 3m above ground level. Crown reduction to 1 no. Laurel tree (T7) to leave a height of 5m and 1 no. Chilean Myrtle (T9) to leave a height of 5m. Fell 1 No. Olive tree (T8), and 2 no. Portuguese Laurels (T10-T11).

SITE AND SURROUNDINGS

DESCRIPTION OF APPLICATION	As above.
TREES	Aside from the trees the subject of this application, no others of significance are affected.
SITE CHARACTERISTICS	Various trees located within the curtilage of 31 The Drive.
CHARACTER OF LOCALITY	Residential.

RELEVANT SITE HISTORY

AW/286/25/TC	Crown reduction to 1 No. Holm Oak (T1) to leave a spread of 2.5m. Fell 1 No. Cordyline (T2). Fell 2 No. Cordyline and 1 No. Camelia (G1). These trees are located in the Craigweil House, Aldwick Conservation Area.	No Objection 29-01-26
AW/230/23/TC	1 No. Laurel (T2) and 1 No. Portuguese Laurel (T3) height reduction to 4m and spread reduction to 3.5m. These trees are in the Craigweil House, Aldwick conservation area.	No Objection 30-10-23
AW/229/23/T	1 No. Oak (T1) crown reduction to a height of 11m and spread of 10m, removal of dead wood.	ApproveConditionally 30-10-23
AW/42/12/T	Reduce crown of 1 no. Red Oak by 1.5m & remove deadwood. Reduce 1 no. Port Laurel by 2-2.5m & fell 1no. Holm Oak & remove stump	ApproveConditionally 24-04-12

Relevant planning history noted.

REPRESENTATIONS

Aldwick Parish Council - Objection on the grounds that there has been no reason provided to support the felling of the Olive Tree.

No representations received from nearby occupiers.

COMMENTS ON REPRESENTATIONS RECEIVED:

Comments noted.

CONSULTATIONS

CONSULTATION RESPONSES RECEIVED:

TREE OFFICER

I visited this location on 28th May 2026. I was able to undertake a close inspection of the trees and hedgerow, subjects of this application.

I have undertaken a desktop review of Tree Preservation Orders (TPO) which may affect this plot. My understanding is that only Bognor No2 (Area Order) could apply. I am confident that no subject tree would have been established at the time that Order was made (1958).

As the trees have a stem diameter >75mm at 1.5m height and grow within a Conservation Area, this application should be considered as a Town & Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) s211 Notice.

The hedgerow (T1-T6) is clearly maintained as such, a formal feature and therefore not protected by any TPO or by virtue of its location within the Craigweil House Conservation Area.

I am satisfied the work will not result in harm to the character or appearance of the conservation area.

I raise No Objection and see no reason to make a Tree Preservation Order.

COMMENTS ON CONSULTATION RESPONSES:

Comments noted.

POLICY CONTEXT

- Within the Craigweil House, Aldwick Conservation Area.

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 reference ID: 36-119-20140306, are not specific to trees.

DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND/OR LEGISLATIVE BACKGROUND

Section 211(1) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 states:-

'Subject to the provision of this section and Section 212, any person who, in relation to a tree to which this section applies, does any act which might by virtue of Section 198(3)(a) be prohibited by a Tree Preservation Order shall be guilty of an offence.'

It is a defence to have provided notification to the Local Planning Authority 6 weeks in advance of any works. This is to enable the Local Planning Authority time to consider making a Tree Preservation Order.

OTHER MATERIAL CONSIDERATIONS

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

CONCLUSIONS

Following comments from the Tree Officer, it is recommended there be no objection to the works proposed. Special attention has been given to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of the Conservation Area. This proposal would preserve the character and appearance of the Conservation Area. The concerns of the Parish Council are acknowledged but the advice of the Tree Officer takes precedence in this case.

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

NO OBJECTION

- 1 **INFORMATIVE:** As per section 17, paragraph 4 (a) and (b) of the Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation) (England) Regulations 2012, this consent is only valid for 2 years and may only be carried out once.
- 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.