

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

REF NO: WA/14/25/TC

LOCATION: The Dower House
Church Lane
Walberton
BN18 0UD

PROPOSAL: 5 No. Lime trees crown reduction to previously pruned points. Crown reduction to leave a height of 18m and spread of 12m (T1/T2/T3), to leave a height of 18m and spread of 10m (T4) and to leave a height of 18m and spread of 9m (T5). These trees are within the Walberton Village Conservation Area.

SITE AND SURROUNDINGS

DESCRIPTION OF APPLICATION	As above.
TREES	The trees stand in the grounds of The Dower House.
SITE CHARACTERISTICS	Dwelling.
CHARACTER OF LOCALITY	Residential.

RELEVANT SITE HISTORY

WA/40/13/TC	Fell a Eucalyptus Tree - Within the Walberton Village & Walberton Green Conservation Areas	No Objection 28-10-13
WA/20/12/TC	Fell 8 no. Leylandii trees within the Walberton Village Conservation Area	No Objection 01-05-12

Relevant planning history noted.

REPRESENTATIONS

Walberton Parish Council - No Objection

No representation received from nearby occupiers.

COMMENTS ON REPRESENTATIONS RECEIVED:

Noted.

CONSULTATIONS

CONSULTATION RESPONSES RECEIVED:

TREE OFFICER - I visited the above location on 8th April 2025 to determine this Town & Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) s211 Notice.

I am satisfied that the proposed work, if undertaken to a high standard and at the right time - will not result in character of the surrounding area being diminished or undue loss of amenity.

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

COMMENTS ON CONSULTATION RESPONSES:

Comments noted.

POLICY CONTEXT

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 is 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.

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:** 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 lime is spring (late) to summer.
- 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.