

## CONSULTEE RESPONSE (Council's Arboriculturist)

Date of inspection: 28<sup>th</sup> August 2026

**Reference:** WA/73/26/T

**Proposal:** Re-pollard 1no. weeping willow (T1) to leave a height of 7m, crown reduction to 1no. beech (T2) to leave a height of 9m.

**Location:** Willow Tree Cottage, The Street, Walberton, BN18 0PH

**Case Officer:** Susan Haley

**Reasons:** Continuation of cyclical pruning regime, risk management (public highway)

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### Comments on Application:

#### **T1 Golden weeping willow / *Salix x sepulcralis Chrysocoma***

Height: 5-10m      Radial spread: 0-5m      Age class: Mature

#### **T2 Beech / *Fagus sylvatica***

Height: 5-10m      Radial spread: 0-5m      Age class: Mature

From roadside both trees appear to be generally sound and stable (and assumed to be so in the absence of any evidence provided or statement made to the contrary). They grow at the front of the property and can be clearly seen from numerous dwellings and by users of the public highway clearly. They make a valuable if limited contribution to the street-scene. Both have undergone significant crown modification, having been the subject of regular reduction/re-pollarding work resulting in a dense, compact form, last undertaken 2024/5.

### Conclusions:

**T1** Repeat operations will be necessary throughout the 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 and 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.

**T2** There is insufficient extension of new growth since the last operation. Crown renewal is essential for the tree to maintain vitality and visual appeal. The last operation was evidently hard on the tree, with multiple branches ending at no obvious junction or node and likely to die back. This has temporarily diminished its visual appeal and invites disease. Long-established leading stems/limbs at the top of crown are showing signs of dieback (bark death and detachment).

A period of crown renewal and recovery is necessary and so the extension of established pruning cycle is appropriate. There is adequate clearance of the public highway and any branches that become problematic

in that regard before the next permitted whole crown reduction can be dealt with under exception. I encourage the applicant/agent to contact us in advance of any exempt work, to clarify the extent of pruning allowed under that circumstance.

### **Recommendation:**

As it stands, I am unable to support this application. I **would like the applicant invited to agree to a revised 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:

- *Re-pollard 1no. weeping willow (T1), retaining all established knuckles formed at limb/branch ends, leaving height of approximately 7m.*

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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.

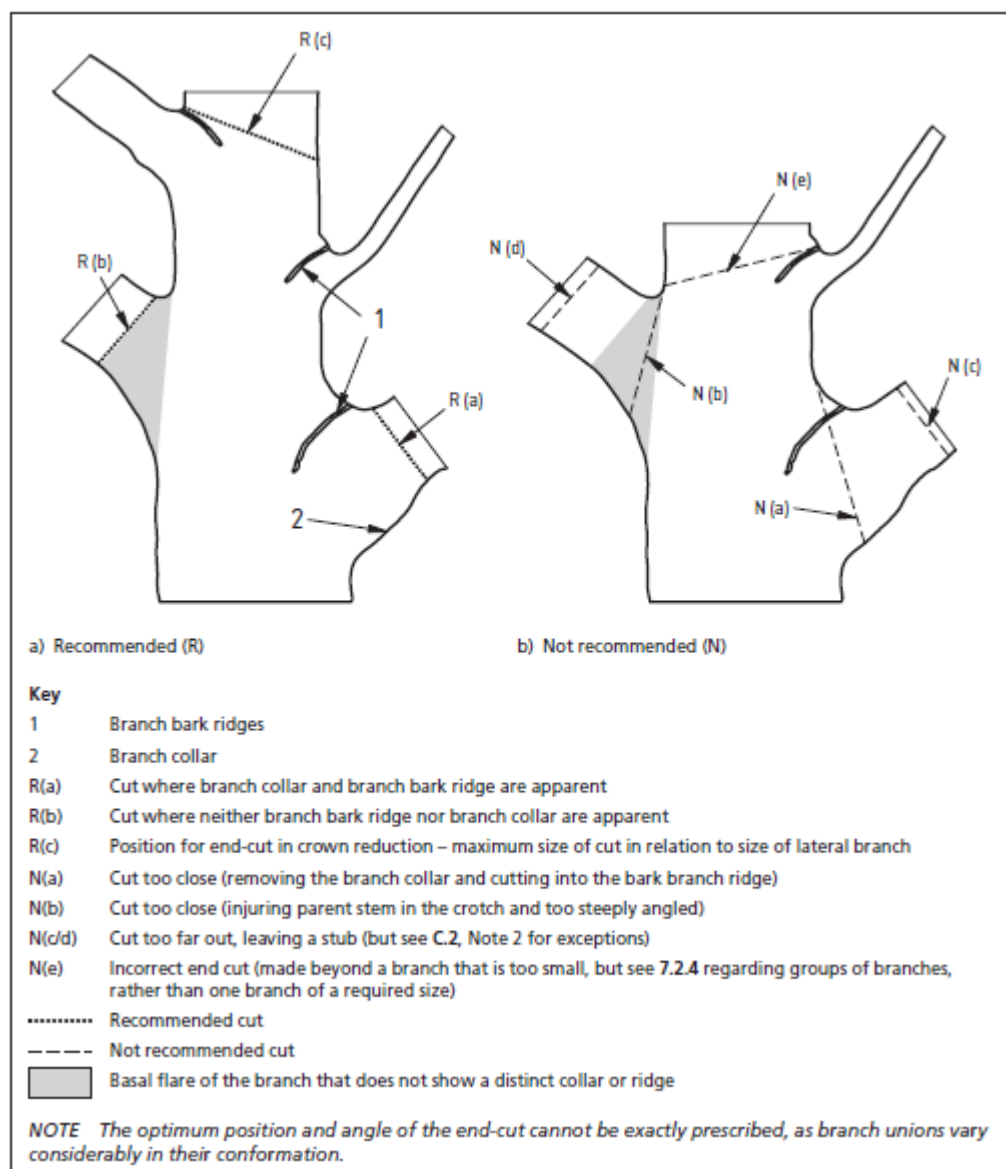
- ***See also the standard pruning guidance notes issued with the consent letter***

### **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 willow trees is late spring to summer (May to August). Winter months when the trees are dormant is the traditional season for such work and certainly much less harmful than undertaking during spring or autumn, which should be avoided.

Mark Warwick  
Principal Tree Officer  
Environment and Climate Change

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts



[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Arun District Council, Civic Centre, Maltravers Rd  
Littlehampton, West Sussex, BN17 5LF  
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**From:** Mark Warwick [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 03 September 2026 15:23  
**To:** Planning.Responses <Planning.Responses@arun.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** Susan Haley <Susan.Haley@arun.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** WA/73/26/T

Please find attached my report for your consideration.

Kind regards

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

Arun District Council, Civic Centre, Maltravers Rd

Littlehampton, West Sussex, BN17 5LF

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