Development Management – Delegated Officer Report **Date; 22/01/2025**

Application Number	**AWDM/1360/24**
Address	**Airedale Court Heene Road Worthing West Sussex BN11 4LH**
Proposal	**Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.5 of 2003 to reduce radial spread by up to 2.5 metres, crown lift up to 4 metres, crown thin 10% and remove deadwood Acer trees of group G1 and Norway Maple T1.**

Date of site visit: 08/01/25

Neighbours checked: Y
Additional neighbour notifications: N
Site notice: (wider publicity / conservation area): Y

Proposal, Site and Surroundings

The application refers to a group of medium sized Sycamore and Maple trees that line the East and South boundaries of Airedale Court, along Heene Road and Boundary Road. The trees are all visible from the road and help to break up the view of Airedale Court from the public highway.

Consent is sought to reduce radial spread, crown lift, crown thin and remove deadwood Sycamore and Norway Maple trees of group G1.

The reasons for the works are primarily in the interests of safety, light issues and amenity value..

Consultations: None.

Representations: None received.

Relevant Planning History

2003: Worthing Tree Preservation order Number 5 of 2003 confirmed on 29/04/2003.

2003: Application for selective crown lifting (2 - 3 metres above ground level); light crown thinning 15%- 20%); formative pruning and clean out crowns to 7 Sycamore and 2 Norway Maple (Group G1) and 1 Norway Maple (T1).

2013: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 5 of 2003 to crown lift up to 4 metres, remove deadwood and crown thin by up to 10% all Acer trees of group G1.

2017: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 5 of 2003 to crown lift up to 4 metres, reduce radial spread by up to 2.5 metres, crown thin 10% and remove deadwood on one Norway Maple T1, and all Acer trees of group G1.

Planning Assessment

The trees are medium sized trees that line the Eastern boundary along Heene Road and the Southern boundary adjacent to Boundary Road. The trees vary in height from 12 – 14 metres tall. The taller trees have wider spreading crowns compared to the more upright habit of the smaller trees.

The trees are;

Norway Maple T1
This tree is single stemmed to 2.25 metres, where it then divides into three main stems, with the northern stem having been lost through damage. The main crown has minimal foliage, and is mostly compact and high.

Group G1 (trees from Southwest to Northeast)

T1: this is located at the Southwest end of the group, adjacent to vehicular entrance from Boundary Road. The tree is single stemmed to 1.5 metres, where a large secondary stem emerges on the southwest side. The central stem divides at 3 metres and several more times to the top of the crown. The main crown is dense and slightly wider.

T2: the next tree is single to 2.25 metres, where several smaller stems emerge. The main crown is moderately dense, with a high crown.

T3: This tree has a larger diameter single stem that extends to 2 metres, where it then divides into two large stems that each persist to the top of the tree. The main crown is also moderately dense and wide.

T4: This tree is located in the southeast corner of the grounds adjacent to the junction of Heene Road and Manor Road. The tree has a leaning single stem to 2 metres, where it becomes twin and two large secondary stems emerging from 1.5 metres. The main stems all persist to the top of the dense wide crown.

T5: This is the first tree on the eastern boundary of the grounds fronting onto Heene Road. The tree also has a slight lean to the east with the crown breaking at 2 metres.

T6: T6 is a slightly smaller tree with a slender stem that divides at 2.5 metres. The stem divides into 2 to 3 main upright stems, forming a compact dense high crown.

T7: This is the tallest and widest tree of the group. It has a single stem to 2.5 metres, with laterals from 1.25 metres. The central stem divides into 3 at 2.5 metres, each stem mostly persisting to the top of the crown. The main crown is dense and wide spread.

T8: This tree is single to 1 metre where it then divides into two. Each stem divides at 1.8 to 2 metres, and divide several more times to the top of the crown. The main crown is dense and wide with some lower limbs to the east.

T9: T9 is the last tree to the northern end of the group alongside Heene Road. The tree has a single stem that is clear to 2 metres and first divides at 4 metres with each stem dividing several more times to the top of the crown. The main crown is dense with some wider spread laterals.

The proposed works for all ten trees are to reduce radial spread by up to 2.5 metres, crown lift up to 4 metres, crown thin 10% and remove deadwood. The works are to contain the spread of the trees, allow access beneath and allow more light and air to pass through the crowns.

These works in my opinion would be relatively minor in relation to the overall size, spread and crown form of the trees and would not significantly or adversely affect their appearance, amenity value, or contribution to the character of the area.

Recommendation

APPROVE

Grant Consent, subject to the following Conditions:

1. Approved plans

2. The proposed works, hereby permitted, shall be restricted to those specified in the application only unless otherwise agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority and carried out within two years from the date of consent and in accordance with the British Standard BS 3998: 2010 Tree Work.

   Reason: *In the interest of visual amenity.*

Is recommendation contrary to letter(s) of representation?

No

Case Officer: JDS Date:22/01/2025

Authorised by: Jo Morin Date: 22.01.2025