

Application Number **AWDM/0398/26**

Address **Our Lady of Sion Junior School 16 Westbrooke Worthing West
Sussex BN11 1RE**

Proposal **Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.47 of 1995 to reduce radial spread to allow a clearance of 1.5 metres to building, prune to allow clearance to Streetlight of up to 1.5 metres, and crown lift up to 6 metres, three Holm Oak trees of group G1.**

Date of site visit: 14/04/26

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 large mature Holm Oak trees located toward the northwest corner of the frontage of Our Lady of Sion Junior School 16 Westbrooke Worthing near the junction with Richmond Road. The trees are a prominent part of the street scene and make a significant contribution to the character and visual amenities of the area.

Consent is sought to crown lift and prune to clear streetlight three Holm Oak 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

1995: Worthing Tree Preservation order Number 47 of 1995 confirmed on 09/01/96.

1997: The property is within the Richmond Road Conservation Area XV designated by the council on 29th April 1997.

1999: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 47 of 1995 to crown lift by 3 metres and crown thin remainder of crown by 30%, one Sycamore (T1)

2006: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 47 of 1995 to remove low primary limb overhanging path back to source of one Yew (T4) in the grounds of St. Mary's Residential Home; and remove low secondary limb encroaching telephone wire over garage back to source of one Sycamore (T1) in ground of Our Lady Of Sion Junior School.

2008: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 48/1995 to fell one Hawthorn (T1), to crown lift to 2.5 metres one Cherry (Part of Group G1), to crown lift two Horse Chestnuts (Part of Group G3) and to crown lift one Bay (T4). **Split Decision - Approved

with Conditions** **Split Decision - REFUSED** Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 48/1995 to crown reduce two Lime trees, to crown thin one Sweet Chestnut (Group G2) and to crown reduce two Horse Chestnut (part of Group G3).

- 2008: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 49/1995 to crown reduce group of 3 Holm Oak (G1) by up to 25% adjacent to the highway and crown reduce one Sycamore (T1) by 20%.
- 2013: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No. 47 of 1995 to crown reduce height and radial spread by 2 metres on one Sycamore tree (T1) along southern boundary.
- 2015: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.48 of 1995 to reduce radial spread by 1.5 metres, and to crown lift up to 4 metres one Cherry tree of group G1.
- 2018: Application under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No 47 of 1995 to reduce radial crown by 2m to East of Holm Oak (G1).
- 2021: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.47 of 1995 to crown lift over street by 6 metres and prune to allow clearance of up to 1.5 metres from streetlight three Holm Oak trees of Group G1.
- 2021: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.47 of 1995 to reduce crown height and radial spread by up to 1 to 1.5 metres and crown lift up to 3 metres one Sycamore tree T1.

Planning Assessment

The trees are a group of large Holm Oaks growing in the front grounds to the northeast of the main reception / office building of the school. The trees are prominent to the area, and can be seen from many views. The trees are:

Holm Oak T1 of G1

The Holm Oak T1 of G1 is the closest to the main building, and located toward the northeast. This tree has a large diameter single stem to 1.5 - 2 metres, with several smaller stems from ground level. The main stem divides into 3 to 4 stems that each persist to the top. The outer stems also persist with some arching over.

Holm Oak T2 of G1

This is the middle of the three trees, it has a single stem to 1.2 metres, where it then divides into two main stem and one smaller secondary. The northern stem extends to 2 metres where it then divides into two, the central and smaller southern stem both persist.

Holm Oak T3

The Holm Oak tree T3 is to the south of the group. The tree has a large diameter single stem to 2 metres where it then divides into four main stems. The Northwest stem divides at 6 metres, the southern stem arches outward, with the two other stems mostly persisting to 10 to 12 metres.

The combined main crown is dense and wide spread with some lower hanging branches to the north, northwest and western aspects.

The proposed works for all three trees are to reduce radial spread to allow a clearance of 1.5 metres to building, prune to allow clearance to Streetlight of up to 1.5 metres, and crown lift up to 6 metres.

The works are to allow access beneath the trees to West Sussex Highways Standards and to allow clearance to the adjacent street light.

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 Richmond Road Conservation 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: 28/05/2026

Authorised by: LPrew Date: 28/05/2026