

Application Number **AWDM/0523/26**

Address **Whitebeam Woods Whitebeam Road Worthing West Sussex**

Proposal **Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.4 of 2021 to re-pollard lowest southern limb and reduce radial spread by up to 1.5 metres Oak tree T3, reduce radial spread to south up to 2 metres Oak tree T4, and to fell two Elm trees of group G1, all within Woodland W1.**

Date of site visit: 14/05/26

Neighbours checked: Y

Additional neighbour notifications: N

Site notice: (wider publicity / conservation area): N

Proposal, Site and Surroundings

The application refers to two large mature Oak trees located north of the garage compound and parking area accessed from Cypress Avenue, and a pair of small mostly dead Elm trees to the rear of 15 Alder Close (the applicants). 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 re-pollard lowest southern limb and reduce radial spread Oak tree T3, reduce radial spread to south Oak tree T4, and to fell two Elm trees.

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

Consultations: Letter sent to Parks and Foreshore who did not respond.

Representations: None received.

Relevant Planning History

2021: Worthing Tree Preservation order Number 4 of 2021 confirmed on 10/11/2021.

2018: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.4 of 2021 to reduce radial spread by up to 2.1 metres, one Willow tree T1 of Woodland W1.

2023: Application for consent under Worthing Tree Preservation Order No.4 of 2021 to reduce radial spread back to boundary line, group of Elm trees of Woodland G1.

Planning Assessment

The trees are two large, tall mature Oaks growing close to the boundary of the development of Alder Close and Cypress Avenue, adjacent to the garage compound, and two small immature Elms close to the rear garden fence of 15 Alder Close. The trees are prominent to the area and can be seen from many views.

Oak tree T3

This tree is located to the southwest of the garage block, adjacent to the marked parking bays. The tree has a large diameter single stem to 8 metres, where it then divides into several mostly upright smaller stems. Two very large laterals emerge from 4 metres to the North and South, the northern lateral terminates at approximately 4 metres from the main bole, the southern lateral has been previously reduced at 4.5 metres. The main crown is dense and wide spread with some over extended laterals.

The proposed works are to re-pollard the lowest southern limb and reduce radial spread to the south by up to 1.5 metres. The works are to contain the spread of the tree and allow access and allow more light and air to pass beneath the crown.

Oak tree T4

The tree T4 is further east than T3, closer to the block of garages. The tree has a large diameter straight single stem that persists to within 2 to 3 metres of the top, reducing in size from 8 metres. There is a very large lateral that emerges from 5 metres to the south that supports many tertiary branches, some low hanging and close to the roof of the garage building. The main crown is dense and wide spread with some slightly over extended laterals.

The proposed works are to reduce radial spread to south up to 2 metres. The works are to contain the spread of the tree and allow clearance to the adjacent building.

Elm trees of group G1

Group G1 is a group of two small regenerated Elm trees growing on the edge of a small embankment to the rear of 15 Alder Close. The tree to the west is completely dead and has falling bark with the tree to the east beginning to decline. Both trees have been affected by Dutch Elm Disease. The main crowns are sparse on the eastern tree and defoliated on the other tree.

The proposed works are to fell both trees of group G1, as they are terminally deceased. The trees have grown from root stock of a much larger Elm tree that was lost several years ago. If removed now it is likely that more trees will emerge in the future, therefore no requirement to replace is being made.

The works to the Oak trees T3 and T4, 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.

The works to the Elm trees of group G1, will be large in relation to the overall number of trees and an amount of change will take place. However if the trees are removed now there is an improved likelihood of new trees emerging therefore the provision of replacement trees is not recommended.

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: 25/06/2026

Authorised by: Jo Morin Date: 30.06.2026