

DELEGATED APPLICATIONS

ASSESSMENT SHEET

APPLICATION NO: **DC/26/1247: Development At Rusper Road Horsham West Sussex RH12 4QR**

REPRESENTATION AND CONSULTATION RESPONSES:

North Horsham Parish Council has stated No objection to the surgery of the Oak and Ash trees, and to the felling of the Silver Birch Ash, and Elder trees, subject to the comments of HDC's Tree Officer. The Committee would like to see that the felled trees are replaced with an appropriate native species, in a suitable nearby location.

No additional representations have been received in respect of this application.

ASSESSMENT:

1. The application relates to a number of trees situated adjacent to the public bridleway running alongside Channells Brook, North Horsham. The trees form part of woodland protected by a Woodland Tree Preservation Order No. TPO/1476 served on 07/10/2015

2. The application is supported by an arboricultural report prepared by Sarah Duckworth of Duckworths Arboriculture Limited following an inspection undertaken on 16 July 2026. The report notes that the bridleway experiences regular public use and that inspections were undertaken from ground level using visual assessment techniques supplemented, where required, by the use of a mallet and probe.

3. The survey identifies a number of instances of deadwood and isolated defects within the woodland canopy. The proposed works are generally limited to the removal of dead branches and, where necessary, management of individual dead or declining trees which could reasonably be expected to affect users of the adjacent bridleway.

4. The proposed works are relatively minor in nature and are directed towards managing risk associated with trees immediately adjacent to a public route. The works do not seek extensive crown reduction or wider woodland management beyond that necessary to address identified hazards.

6. Having regard to the arboricultural information submitted, and on-site observations, it is considered that the proposed works represent a proportionate response to the safety concerns identified within the survey. In particular, the Ash trees are reported to exhibit significant decline associated with Ash Dieback, whilst the Silver Birch and Elder display structural defects and deterioration that materially affect their suitability for long-term retention in a location immediately adjoining a public route. The retention of deadwood habitat wherever practicable also demonstrates an appropriate balance between public safety, amenity and ecological considerations.

7. Whilst the trees collectively make a valuable contribution to local amenity, the limited removal and associated safety works are not considered likely to adversely affect the wider character of the woodland or the contribution it makes to the surrounding landscape.

8. Whilst the comments submitted by North Horsham Parish Council regarding replacement planting are noted, in this instance, given the woodland character of the area, coupled with the presence of additional self-set saplings within the woodland, means that replacement planting for the trees to be removed is not considered to be necessary nor appropriate.

RECOMMENDATION:

Grant consent subject to the conditions below.

CONDITIONS TO BE APPLIED:

- | | |
|--------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. TR2 | <i>Time limit, 2 years</i> |
| 2. TR3 | <i>Treeworks limit (standard)</i> |
| 3. TR4 | <i>Surgery standards</i> |
| TINF1 | <i>Note to applicant.</i> |
| TINF2 | <i>Wildlife protection.</i> |

DELEGATED

Authorising Officer sign.....ANBU.....**Arboricultural Officer (Strategic Planning).**

Date.....29 Sep 26.....