



Reasons for the proposed works are listed and numbered below

1. The location of the trees means it is exposed to significant wind stresses which are likely to lead to branch failure. The pruning will have a positive long-term impact upon the sustainability of the trees.
2. The belt is currently overcrowded, with multiple stems competing for light and space. This has resulted in suppressed growth, poor form, and increased lean toward the road as trees compete for canopy space. The proposed works, including selective felling of structurally poor or high-risk trees and pollarding of suitable Elms will thin the belt, reduce sail area, and significantly lower the risk of failure. Thinning will also improve growing conditions for the remaining trees, allowing healthier specimens to flourish with improved light, airflow, and space for future canopy development.
3. The pruning will be carried out in accordance with the guidelines in BS3998, is therefore an appropriate recognised pruning technique and should be allowed to be carried on to all trees to alleviate problems and conflicts
4. Additional works, including crown lifting, removal of dead or squirrel-damaged limbs, and clearance pruning, are required to achieve safe statutory highway clearance and to remove defective material that poses an immediate risk.
5. The area has plenty of tree cover and therefore any loss of visual amenity will be minimal.
6. The roadside position of the tree belt means that any branch or stem failure would fall directly into a high target area: Wargrave Road, a fast A road used continuously by cars, vans, HGVs and buses. The combination of vehicle speed and traffic volume significantly increases the consequences of failure. Several trees already lean toward the carriageway or have branches extending over it, and some are being struck by passing high sided vehicles.
7. Because the road is a high target zone, any failure has the potential to cause serious injury to road users, damage vehicles, obstruct the highway, and require emergency intervention. The works are necessary to reduce foreseeable risk and maintain safe clearance above a heavily trafficked route.

Summary

The proposed works are necessary to manage an exposed roadside tree belt growing on a steep bank beside Wargrave Road. The trees experience significant wind loading, and several stems lean toward the carriageway, increasing the likelihood of branch or stem failure. The belt is overcrowded, with multiple trees competing for light and space, resulting in suppressed growth, poor form, and increased lean toward the road. Thinning through selective felling and pollarding will reduce sail area, lower the risk of failure, and improve growing conditions for the remaining trees.

All pruning will be carried out in accordance with BS3998:2010, using recognised arboricultural techniques that promote sustainable regrowth and reduce future conflict. Additional works, including crown lifting, removal of dead or squirrel-damaged limbs, and clearance pruning, are required to maintain statutory highway clearance and remove defective material that poses an immediate risk.



Wargrave Road is a high-target area with fast, continuous traffic including cars, vans, buses and HGVs. Several trees already extend over the carriageway or are being struck by passing vehicles. Any failure in this location has the potential to cause serious injury, damage vehicles, obstruct the highway, and require emergency intervention. The proposed works will significantly reduce foreseeable risk and improve safety for road users.

The wider area retains substantial tree cover, so any loss of visual amenity will be minimal. The works will be undertaken sensitively, and the resulting appearance will remain in keeping with the surrounding landscape. Overall, the operations represent responsible, proportionate and sustainable management of a mixed-species roadside tree belt.