

# Decision Notice

## Duty to Consult on Street Tree Felling

Consultation Number: CHE013620

Notice was given under S115 of the Environment Act 2021 and 96A of the Highways Act 1980 that this tree is proposed to be felled.

The 16 objections received in relation to T4 Norway Maple have been considered, but having reviewed all reasonable alternative solutions, we find that felling is necessary for the scheme to be delivered.

The objections raised the following issues:

- **Loss of amenity value** - The tree is not showing expected signs of recovery following previous pruning works. Fungal fruiting bodies are present from ground level up to 1m, with the fungal bracket observed at approximately 2m height. A mallet sound test revealed trunk hollowing approximately 40cm wide by 2m tall, suggesting a significant column of decay. The tree has a limited safe life expectancy and would likely require removal in the near future.
- **Too many trees have already been removed** - Previous removals were carried out following safety related arboricultural assessments and were deemed necessary for safety reasons.
- **Environmental and Ecological Value** - The felling of this tree will have a limited negative effect. However, a new tree is to be planted in replacement of this tree on the adjacent verge.

Replacement planting will be carried out in the next available planting season after the scheme has been completed (November to March inclusive) and will be maintained to aid establishment.

Date of decision notice: 16 October 2025

The Arboricultural Team at Essex County Council.

