

**Planning Officer:** Amber Willard

**Planning Application Ref:** WA/71/17/T

**Location:** 'Two Ways', Avisford Park Road, Walberton

**Description of works:** Crown reduction (lateral extent only): N aspect-8m, E aspect-6m, S aspect-2m, W aspect-4m

**Reasons Given:** Branches damaging garage roof and guttering. Excessive shading

**Comments on Application:**

**Beech**     *Fagus sylvatica*     Height: 20-25m     Average Spread: 7m     Age: Mature

- In its recent history has received only minor intervention pruning work and at low-level. Upper crown profile intact and overall displays good form typical of species.
- Prominent tree locally, visible from the main road and surrounding properties.
- Outwardly and from a distance this tree appears to be of good health and structure.

**Conclusions:**

- Proposed works are excessive and exceed British Standard 3998:2010 'Tree Work – Recommendations' and would greatly undermine the tree's amenity value.
- The term 'crown reduction' is partly defined by the above standard as an '*operation that results in an overall reduction in the height and/or spread*'. There is a general awareness however that such tree work specification assumes some extent of height reduction as a matter of course. The applicant makes no specific reference to height reduction and whether or not this is their intention, it is a welcome omission. I have determined no such work is being asked for. For possible further reference, I would resist that were it to be applied for, on the grounds that it would have a detrimental effect on the tree's landscape value.
- There is a valid reason for pruning back some of the low branches on the tree's NE aspect to achieve satisfactory clearance of built structure and property frontage.

**Recommendations:**

- I recommend **REFUSAL** for this application.

**Advisory:**

- I suggest the applicant re-submits with the following work specification:
  - Crown lift on North aspect to achieve 2metres clearance above garage roof.
  - Reduce back lateral extent of branches on North and East aspects by 1.5 – 2metres.
  - Selected small branch reduction/removal on South aspect, as necessary to achieve 1m clearance of overhead cables.
  - Selected small branch reduction/removal on West aspect, as necessary to clear adjacent oak by 1metre.

Mark Warwick

Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team