

CONSULTEE RESPONSE (Council's Arboriculturist)

Date of inspection: 23rd October 2025

Case Officer: Freya Clewley

Reference: A/138/25/T

Location: The Firs, Roundstone Lane, Angmering, BN16 4AT

Proposal: Reduce 3no. beech trees (G1) to heights of 9m and spreads of 6m. Reduce 2no. cedar trees (T1 & T2) to heights of 10.5m and spreads of 8.5m. Reduce 1no. cherry (T3) to a height of 8.5m and spread of 7m.

Reasons: To maintain the trees at a reasonable size due to the proximity of surrounding properties.

Comments on Application:

G1 - 3x beech / <i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Height: 10-15m	Radial spread: 0-5m	Age class: Early mature
T1 Himalayan cedar / <i>Cedrus deodara</i>	Height: 15-20m	Radial spread: 5-10m	Age class: Mature
T2 Himalayan cedar / <i>Cedrus deodara</i>	Height: 20-25m	Radial spread: 5-10m	Age class: Mature
T3 Wild cherry / <i>Prunus avium</i>	Height: 5-10m	Radial spread: 5-10m	Age class: Mature

There are three distinct groups of beech, growing equidistant along the front boundary. It is assumed from past applications and recent correspondence between agent and LPA, that all are to receive the same operation. That work will be consistent with their shared pruning history for which we have granted consent. Roadside they are highly visible from numerous properties and to users of the public highway (footway and carriageway).

The two large cedar trees are visible from surrounding properties and in part from the public highway. Whilst relatively large for the plot, they are mostly accommodated within garden space and no reason for the proposed work has been given other than they are considered oversized.

Cedar trees have a poor tolerance of hard pruning. The extent proposed would be especially harmful to their ongoing health and vitality, in addition to effectively destroying them as a public amenity. Their aesthetic appeal is much derived from the pendulous tips of leading shoots and distal branches, which would be lost entirely if this proposal were to proceed.

The cherry has been reduced in height and spread previously but appears to display minimal growth response to the most recent operation. There is localised dieback of small branches in the upper crown, indicative of disease. There is an active fungal bracket north side of the stem base (*Ganoderma* spp.), although no report of that decay having been confirmed as extensive. Limited public view of tree, retains some ornamental value.

Conclusions:

Work proposed for G1 and T3 is justified and/or acceptable. If undertaken to a high standard and at the right time it ought not to incur undue harm and only a temporary loss of visual amenity.

Work proposed for T1 and T2 has not been justified on arboricultural grounds and would result in excessive reduction of the trees' landscape impact and undue detriment to the visual amenities of the locality.

Recommendation:

As it stands, I am unable to support this application. I **would like the applicant to be invited to agree to a revision, by removing items T1 & T2 from the proposal, as part of the current application so as not to incur further delay.** Such work would go some way to addressing the applicant's concerns whilst ensuring no detriment to tree health or loss of amenity.

If the applicant agrees to the above revision then I would be able to recommend we grant consent, subject to the following condition:

Condition 1

Part a) Where whole branches are to be removed and final cuts made close to the trunk or branch union they are to be made as shown in Figure 2 of BS3998:2010

Part b) Where branches are to be shortened back the final cuts are to be made at the correct angle shown in BS3998:2010 and adjacent to a live bud or lateral.

Part c) Where crown reduction work has occurred previously, the removal of subsequent growth (shoots and branches) and position of final cuts must ensure retention of all established knuckles.

Reasons: In the interests of the trees' continued health and vitality and to accord with current industry guidelines and sound arboricultural practice.

- See also the standard pruning guidance notes issued with the consent letter

Informative:

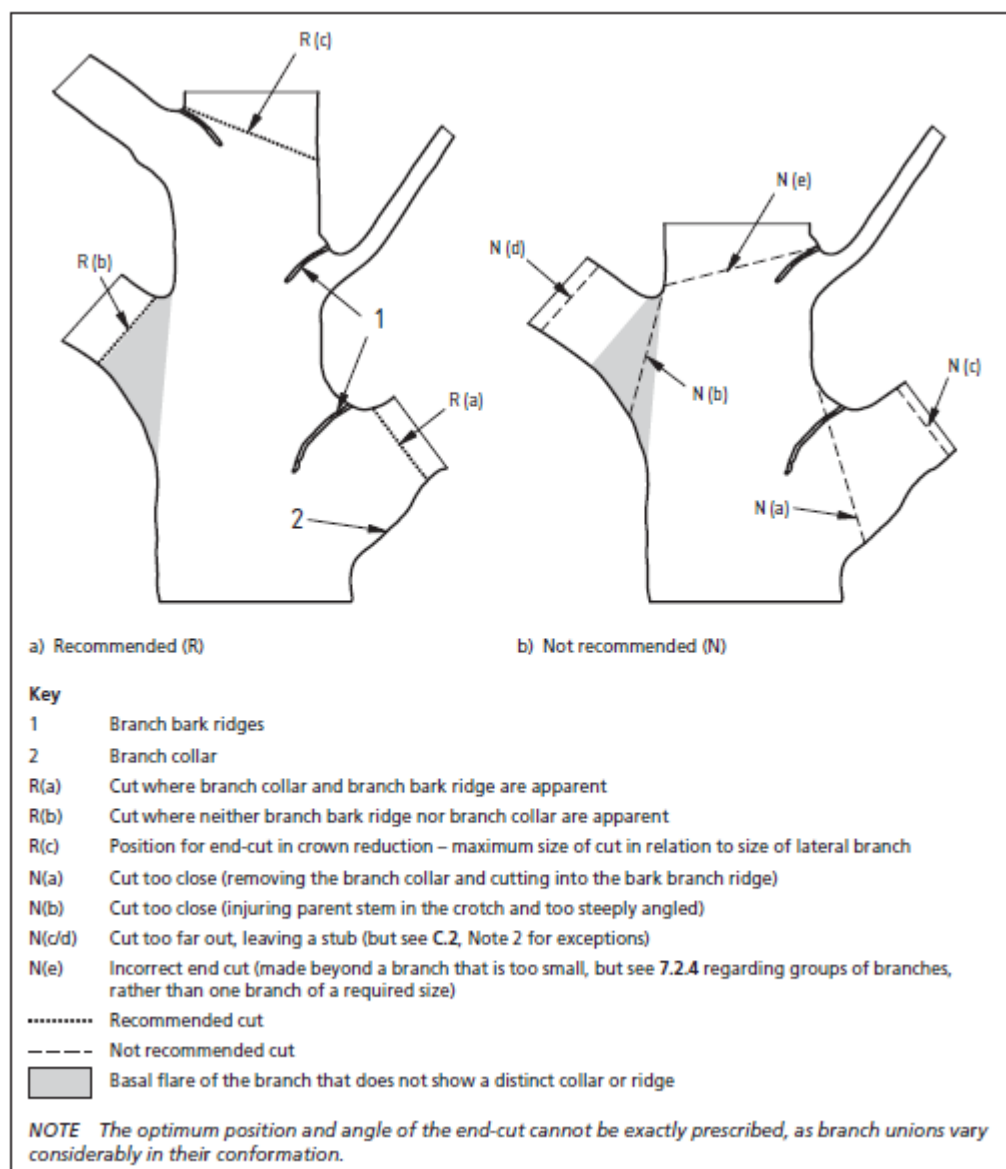
Although they may respond with vigour, beech have a poor tolerance of hard pruning and long-term vitality can be severely affected. The optimum time for pruning beech is late spring to summer (May to August). The optimum time for pruning a cherry tree is during summer months (June to August).

Mark Warwick

Tree Officer

Environment and Climate Change

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts



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