

CONSULTEE RESPONSE (Council's Arboriculturist)

Date of inspection: 17th December 2025

Case Officer: Silvie Steiningerova

Reference: FG/128/25/T

Location: 3 Grange Park, Ferring, BN12 5LS

Proposal: 1no. beech tree (T1) removal of dead wood, crown lift to 8m from ground level and crown reduction to leave a height of 20m and spread of 20m

Reasons: To provide clearance from adjacent buildings

Comments on Application:

Beech / <i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Height: 20-25m	Radial spread: 10-15m	Age class: Mature
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Tree condition and setting

This is a large and apparently healthy example of its type. The crown is largely unmodified and so overall presents an attractive profile. Although bound on two aspects by residential buildings, it is visible in part from numerous properties and its impressive upper canopy can be seen from many places in the surrounding road network.

Historic lower branch removal and spread reduction on its west aspect has been necessary to provide adequate clearance of dwellings and reasonable use of garden space.

Several perishing but stubbornly persistent fungal growths were observed several metres east of the tree. These may be of significance and ought to be identified if re-emergent, as part of the tree's ongoing record of inspection and hazard evaluation.

The rear garden of 3 Grange Park has been the subject of recent hard landscape works under permitted development rights, within the crown spread and likely rooting zone of the tree. This has increased the influence of the tree, particularly in respect of shade bearing, over the use of paved and decked areas.

Canopy height is not obviously problematic. Lateral crown spread over garden aspects is significant and proportionate for a beech tree of this size and age. Beech inherently possesses a dense crown and so are known to be particularly shade bearing. A custodian of such a tree is bound to accommodate this influence, and the local planning authority should apply the reasonable test when considering any associated nuisance or impacts.

Work proposal

The removal of deadwood is an exception. Prior notice to or consent from the local planning authority is not required.

The treatment of branches necessary to achieve 8metres of overhead clearance on all aspects is on the margin of what is recommended to meet the requirements of British Standard 3998:2010 Tree work.

Conclusions:

This is an important tree in the landscape and of an age which demands careful management. Any pruning of live material needs to be justified on arboricultural grounds. The unmodified upper crown profile is particularly appealing and widely viewed, responsible for much of the tree's amenity value.

T1 is a significant feature in the local landscape and appears to be in adequately sound and healthy condition. The tree surgery proposed in the application would result in excessive reduction of the tree's 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 invited to agree to an alternative proposal for lesser works (as described below) 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 undue detriment to tree health or loss of amenity:

- *Reduce crown spread on; north aspect to leave a minimum of 7metres, east aspect to leave a minimum of 8metres, south aspect to leave a minimum of 9metres, west aspect to leave a minimum of 7metres, all when measured from the bark of T1 main stem.*
- *Prune small diameter branches (<50mm) as necessary to achieve a maximum of two metres clearance of adjacent dwelling (5b Cedar Close) and fixtures.*

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) All pruning cuts shall not exceed 75mm in diameter.

Reasons: In the interest of the tree's 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:

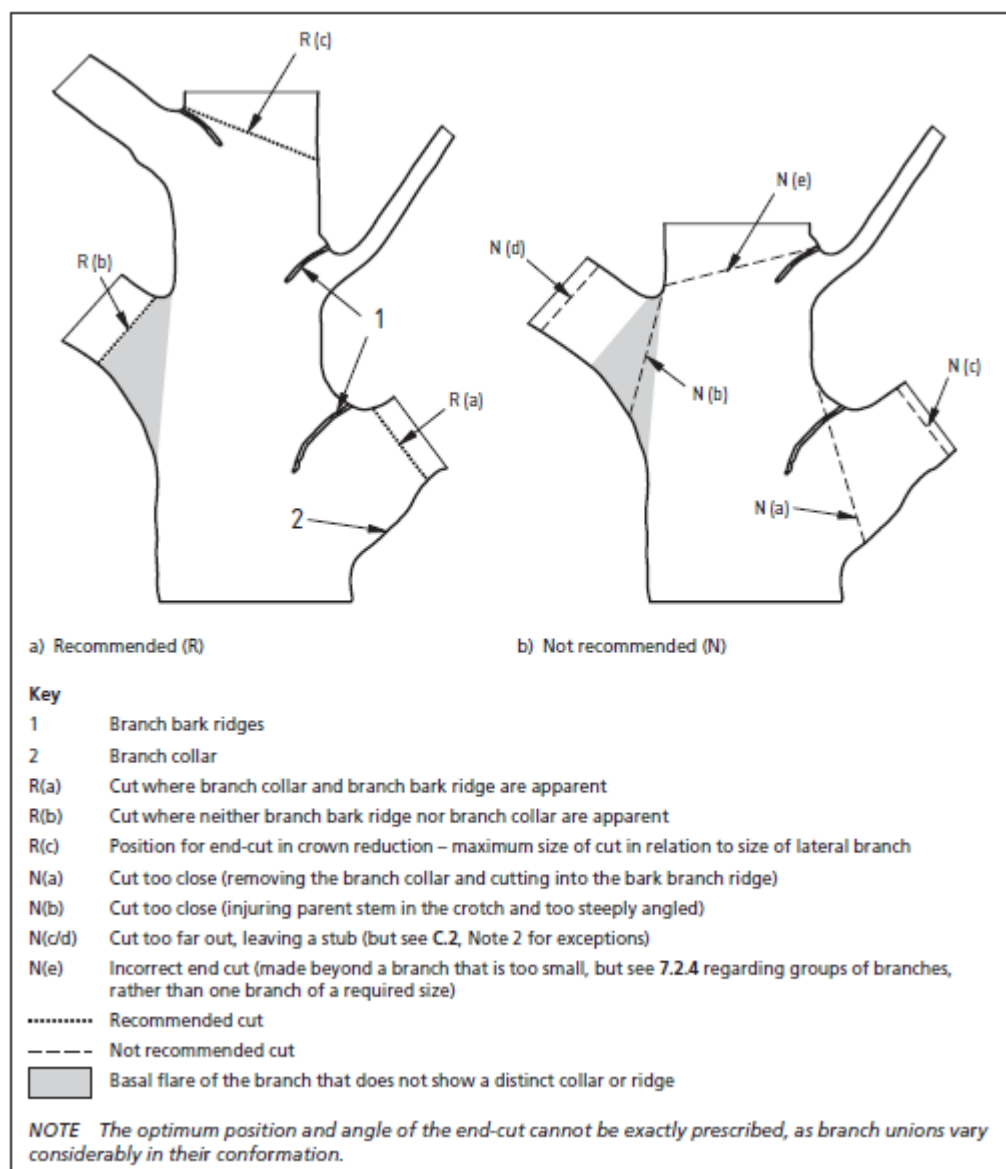
Although they may respond with vigour, beech have a poor tolerance of hard pruning and long-term vitality can be severely affected. The optimum time for pruning beech is late spring to summer (May to August).

Mark Warwick

Tree Officer

Environment and Climate Change

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts



From: Nicola Spencer on behalf of Planning.Responses
Sent: 18 December 2025 18:39
To: Planning Scanning
Subject: FW: FG/128/25/T
Attachments: FG.128.25.T.pdf, BS3998.2010.Figure 2.Final cuts.pdf

Pl- Consultation- Tree officer response

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From: Mark Warwick <Mark.Warwick@arun.gov.uk>
Sent: 18 December 2025 11:54
To: Planning.Responses <Planning.Responses@arun.gov.uk>
Cc: Freya Clewley <Freya.Clewley@arun.gov.uk>; Silvie Steiningerova <Silvie.Steiningerova@arun.gov.uk>
Subject: FG/128/25/T

Please find attached my report for your consideration.

Regards,

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer, Environment and Climate Change

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