

CONSULTEE RESPONSE (Council's Arboriculturist)

Date of inspection: 26th February 2026

Case Officer: Jonny Cooper

Reference: FG/5/26/T

Location: 43 Ferringham Lane, Ferring, BN12 5NB

Proposal: Crown reduction to 1no. Monterey pine (T1) to leave a southerly spread of 8.25-8.5m and a south westerly spread of 7.5-8m. Removal of 1no. 'hazard beam' at 6m on west side and 1no. branch at 8m on South side.

Reason: Risk management

Comments on Application:

T1 Monterey pine / *Pinus radiata* Height: 15-20m Radial spread: 5-10m Age class: Mature
TPO ref. FG/4/58, G1

Background

T1 is a large, long-established tree of apparent good health. It is visible in large part from the public realm and is a dominant feature to the front of neighbouring properties. It is accompanied on its east flank by evergreen holm oak of lesser form and stature.

Historically there has been extensive low branch removal. Following removal of the low split limb, the overhead crown clearance above properties will be five to six metres. The crown is within ten to fifteen metres from the front elevation of applicant's dwelling.

This proposal seeks to address the inherent risk of harm occurring from the shedding of pinecones.

The size, weight and quantity of cones (of this species) at height represent a hazard, although the risk of harm or damage occurring can be very low if persons and vulnerable items of property do not remain static beneath the tree's canopy.

As recently as summer 2023 the applicant's property was served with a garage and driveway, parallel and adjacent the north boundary. Subsequent restoration of the dwelling and landscaping to the front, have forced vehicle storage to the front of the plot and beneath the canopy of T1 and other trees, all subject of the preservation order ref. TPO/FG/4/58. This has invited conflict between the tree(s) and items of considerable value.

Tree work proposed

Removal of the low split limb ('hazard beam') is necessary and will not incur a loss of amenity.

Removal of the mid-height single branch (est. 100mm diameter) is similarly uncontroversial and may provide some benefit in terms of risk mitigation without risk of harm to the tree or loss of amenity.

The reduction in length of high branches across the crown carries a risk of harm to the tree's long-term vitality and loss of visual appeal.

Conclusions:

The Arboricultural Association provides the following advice: *Pine trees have a poor tolerance of hard pruning. Any pruning should be avoided if possible as buds form only at shoot tips. Newest growth can be removed during the spring.*

The tree is a significant feature in the local landscape and appears to be in adequately sound and healthy condition. A majority of the tree surgery proposed in the application would likely result in undue harm to vitality and undue detriment to the visual amenities of the locality.

The risks presented by this tree can be managed to a reasonable level by regular inspection, pinecone removal as an alternative to upper crown branch reduction pruning and a precautionary approach to use of land beneath the canopy.

Recommendations:

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 detriment to tree health or loss of amenity:

- Removal of 1no. 'hazard beam' at 6m on west side, 1no. branch at 8m on south side and removal of pinecones, to 1no. Monterey pine (T1)

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) Cones must be carefully removed from their parent branch or shoot with sharp hand-tools (e.g. secateurs, pruning saw, loppers) only. Needle-bearing branches and shoots must remain intact.

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

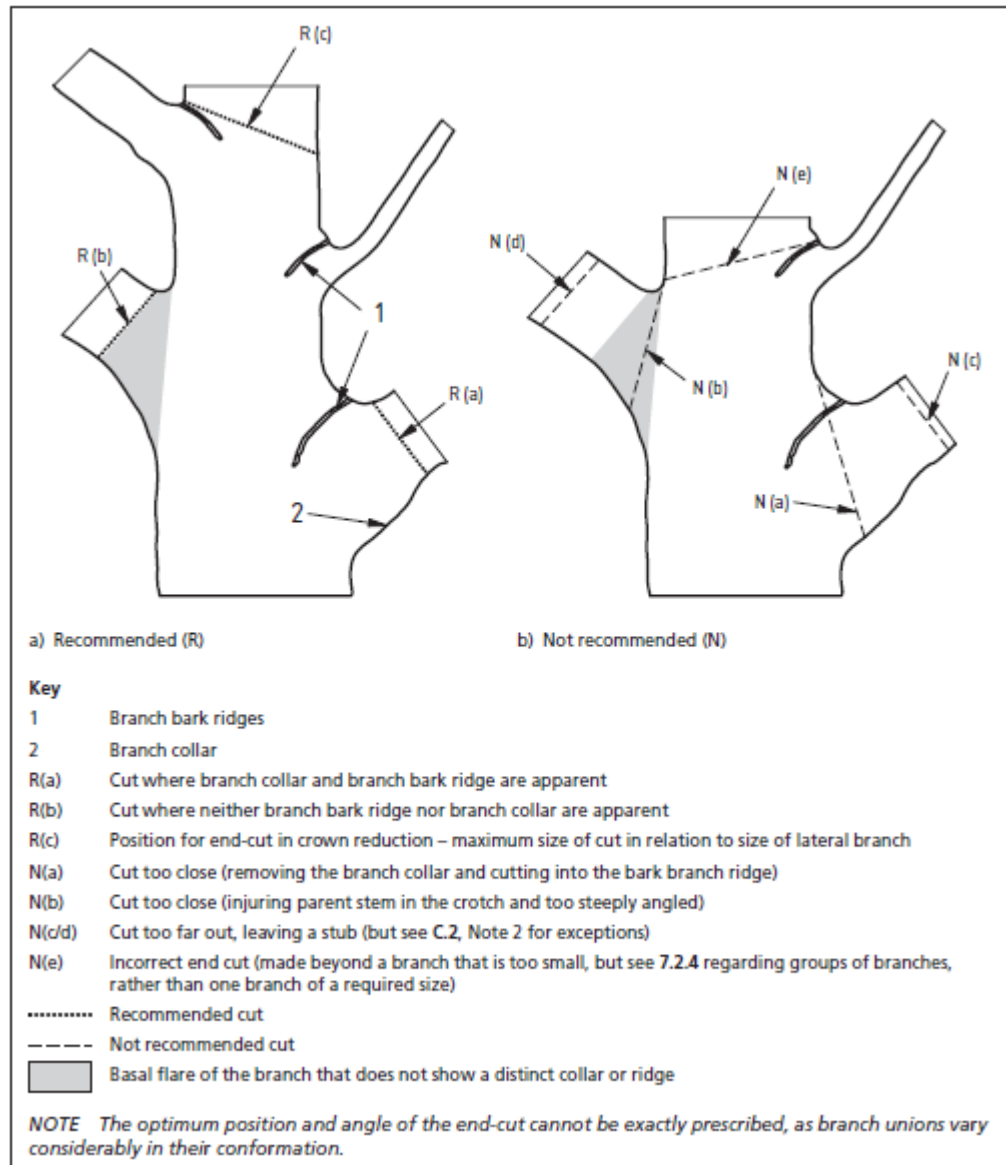
- See also the standard pruning guidance notes issued with the consent letter

Informative:

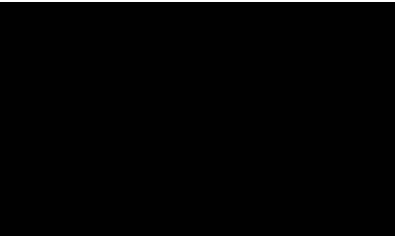
Where an applicant is not the stated owner of the tree(s), permission must first be obtained from the appropriate landowner before operating beyond the boundary of their own property. Consent from the local planning authority does not override such a requirement.

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer
Environment and Climate Change

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts



PL- Consultation- Tree Officers response



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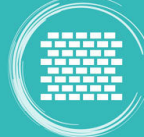
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From: Mark Warwick <Mark.Warwick@arun.gov.uk>
Sent: 19 March 2026 11:16
To: Planning.Responses <Planning.Responses@arun.gov.uk>
Cc: Jonny Cooper <Jonny.Cooper@arun.gov.uk>
Subject: FG/5/26/T

Please find attached my report for your consideration.

Regards,

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer, Environment and Climate Change

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www.arun.gov.uk

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