

CONSULTEE RESPONSE (Council's Arboriculturist)

Date of inspection: 3rd December 2025

Case Officer: Susan Haley

Reference: FP/154/25/T

Location: 9 Innerwyke Close, Felpham, PO22 8PY

Proposal: Reduce height to leave 9m, reduce north side to leave 2.5m and reduce west side to leave 2.5m to 1no. copper beech.

Reason: None given.

Comments on Application:

Beech, purple-leaved / *Fagus sylvatica Purpurea*

Height: 10-15m Radial spread: 0-5m Age class: Mature

This tree appears to be in a fair physiological state. Whilst no obvious disease persists, it displays stunted growth. Growing conditions are hostile for a tree of this size and age.

There is a history of crown reduction pruning although I can find no record in the planning application history to confirm when last undertaken. No more than a metre of growth has advanced above an earlier topping point. Small diameter low branches are becoming problematic for those accessing properties.

No reason was given for the proposal but is assumed to primarily address spread of branches, extending into the applicant's property and overhead (BT) cables.

Conclusions:

There is no obvious arboricultural justification for a reduction in crown height or radial spread to the extent proposed, which would create new and unnecessarily large wounds across the crown. This significantly increases the risk of harm to long-term health and a loss of visual amenity.

A more sympathetic proposal is achievable, that would probably address any concerns for its above-ground influence, and preserve amenity.

Recommendation:

As it stands, I am unable to support this application. I **would like the applicant to be 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.**

- Crown lift to provide a maximum overhead clearance of 3.5metres on all aspects.

- *Reduce crown spread to leave a minimum of 3metres branch extension on all aspects, measured from the bark of main stem.*
-

If the applicant agrees to making the above changes to their proposal, 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.

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

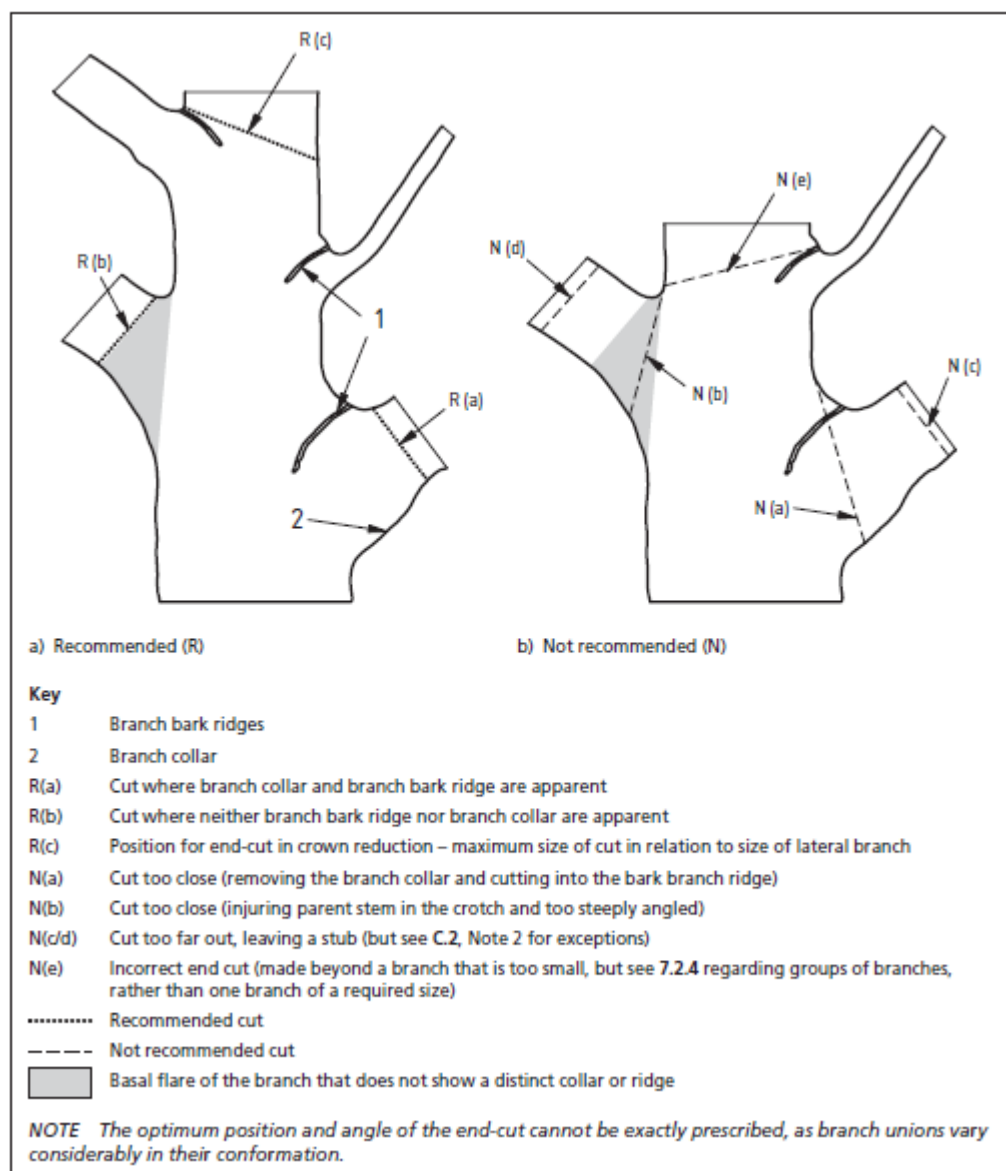
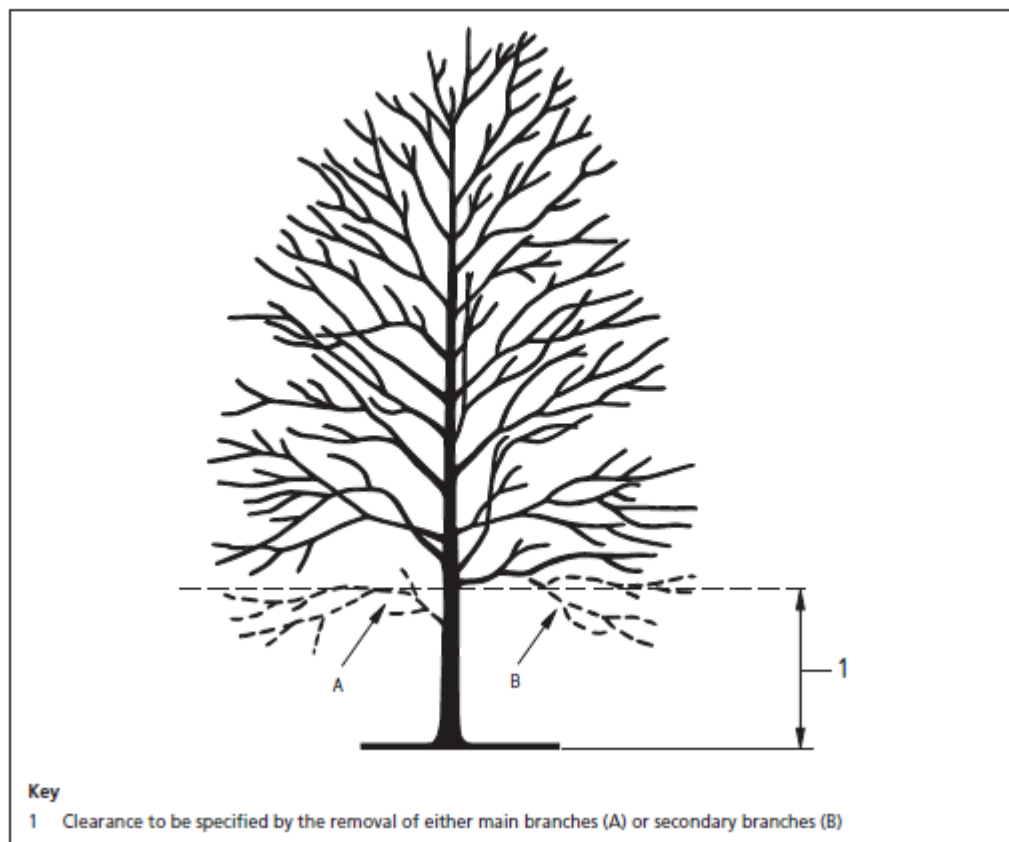


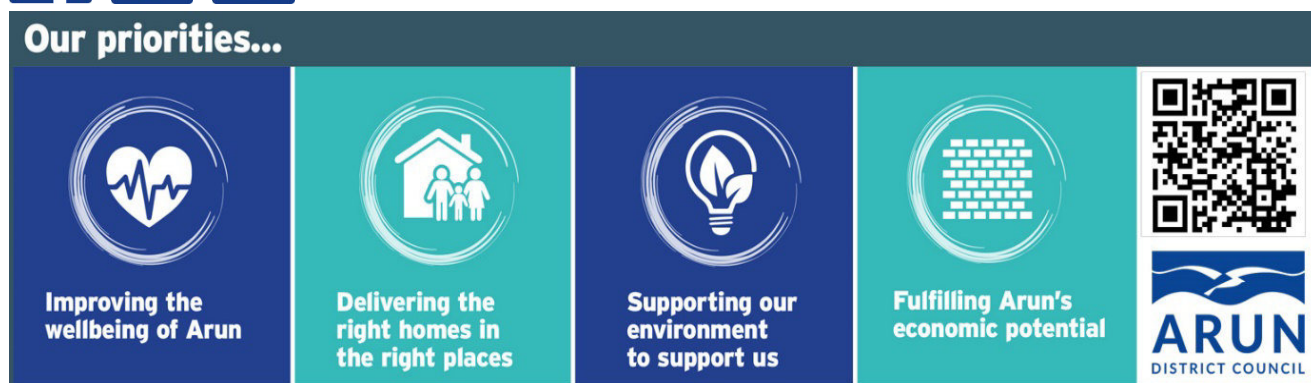
Figure 3 Crown lifting



FP/154/25/T
PL- consultation- tree officer response

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From: Mark Warwick <Mark.Warwick@arun.gov.uk>
Sent: 08 December 2025 10:40
To: Planning.Responses <Planning.Responses@arun.gov.uk>
Cc: Susan Haley <Susan.Haley@arun.gov.uk>
Subject: FP/154/25/T

Please find attached my report for your consideration.

Regards,

Mark Warwick

Tree Officer, Environment and Climate Change

Arun District Council, Civic Centre, Maltravers Rd
Littlehampton, West Sussex, BN17 5LF

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