

## CONSULTEE RESPONSE (Council's Arboriculturist)

Date of inspection: 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2026

**Reference:** FP/96/26/T

**Proposal:** Crown reduction to 1no. beech (T1) to leave a height of 16-17m and spread of 12m, and crown lift to 4m from ground level.

**Location:** 28 New Barn Lane, Felpham, PO22 8LN

**Case Officer:** Silvie Steiningerova

**Reasons:** Perceived requirement for trimming to tidy appearance. Low growth obstructing pedestrian access around tree.

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### Comments on Application:

#### **Beech, purple-leaved / *Fagus sylvatica Purpurea***

Height: 15-20m     Radial spread: 5-10m     Age class: Mature

This tree has excellent form, displaying a full, balanced and unmodified looking upper crown. An application made by neighbour in 2004 was granted consent for some reduction and thinning of the crown but is not obvious from appearance that work was undertaken.

Until recently it would likely have been assessed as being in excellent physiological condition also, a beautiful specimen largely contained within the owner's garden, but sadly was the victim of deliberate vandalism in 2025. In my three decades of observing trees professionally, I have not witnessed a more egregious act of harm involving a high value tree. Despite the loss of so much bark and exposure of underlying sapwood all around the main stem (ringbarking with a power tool), foliage was evident across the branch network, although markedly smaller leaves and lower density in the upper canopy. Also, much evidence of premature defoliation across the ground.

I had expected to find the tree in a more stressed state than is apparent, although I suspect there may be a delayed reaction to the deliberate damage. Evidently there is enough live vascular tissue behind the wounds to support some growth, although is important to distinguish between vigour and vitality. The potential for fungal colonisation and/or bacterial infection will remain high for many years, should the tree survive.

**Important note:** The damage was initially reported to us by the applicant (owner/occupier) and investigated by me and a planning compliance officer. We believe the damage occurred when the property was neither owned or occupied by the applicant and undertaken by a party as yet unknown.

Low branches clearly impede access through and maintenance of the garden. The crown lifting element of the proposal is of an extent compatible with recommendations in the British Standard 3998:2010 Tree work and will only affect small diameter branches.

## Conclusions:

This is an important tree in the landscape and of an age which demands careful management.

Crown lifting work to the extent proposed is justified on arboricultural grounds and will not incur harm to the tree or loss of visual amenity.

Crown work to reduce height and spread on all aspects would place considerable stress on the tree at a time when it is highly vulnerable and likely 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 a revised 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:

- *Crown lift to 1no. beech (T1), to achieve a maximum of 4metres overhead clearance on all aspects.*
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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 50mm 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***

Mark Warwick  
Principal Tree Officer  
Environment and Climate Change

Figure 3 Crown lifting

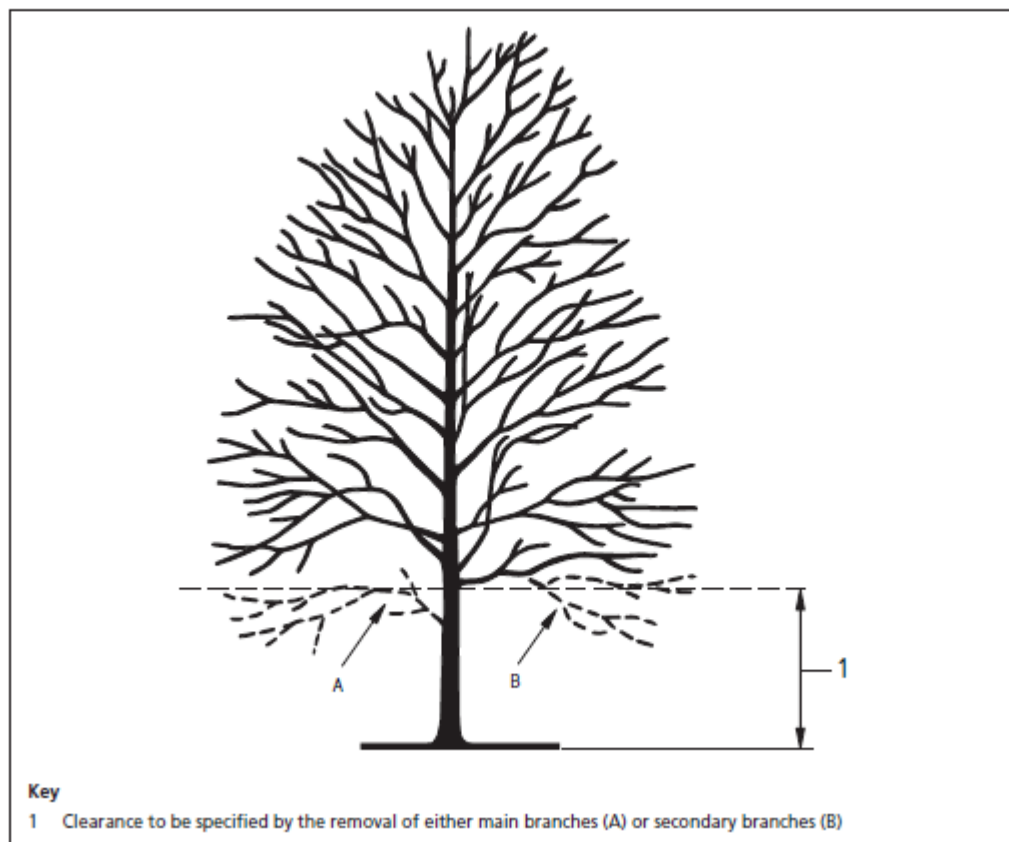
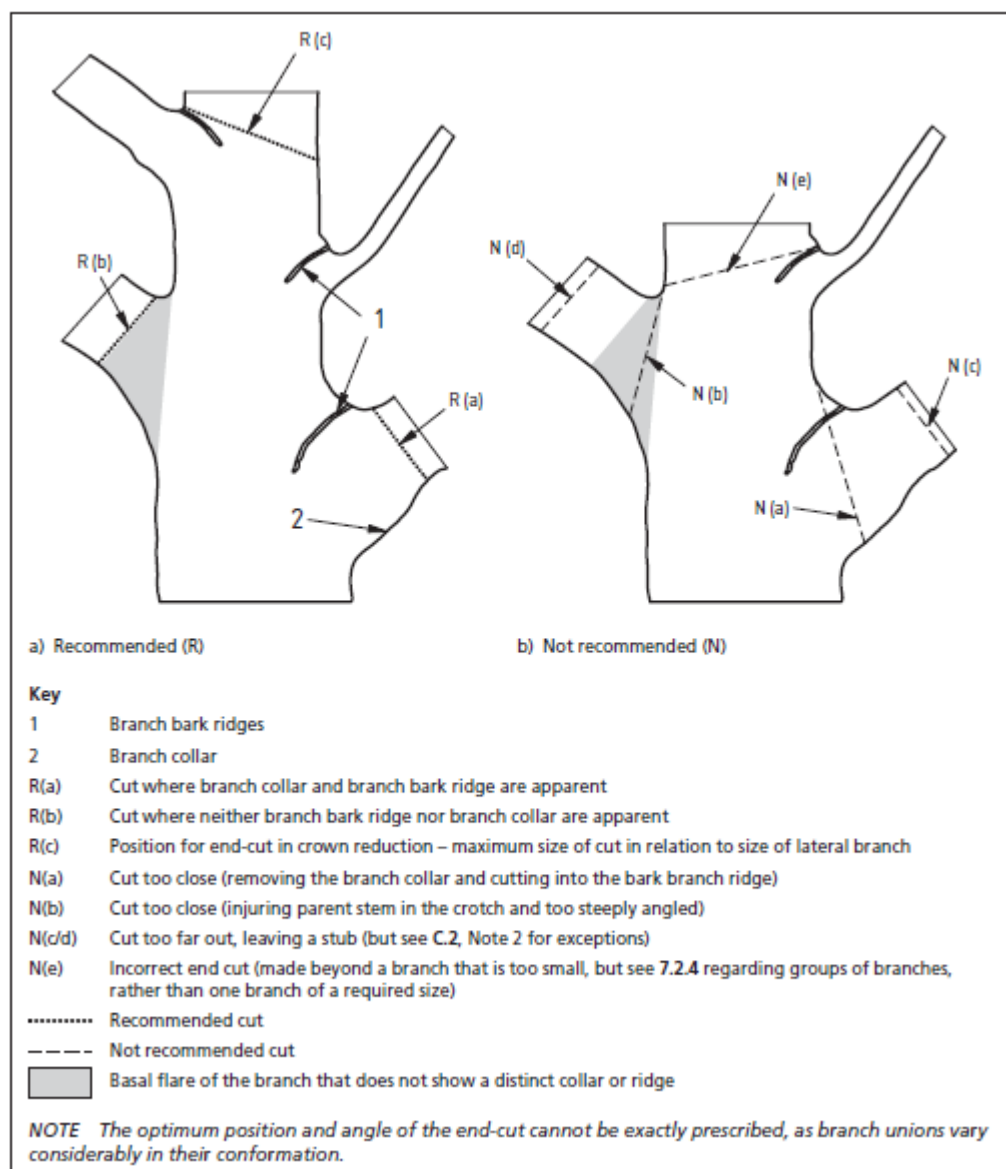


Figure 2 Positions of final cuts



[REDACTED]

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**From:** Nicola Spencer on behalf of Planning.Responses  
**Sent:** 04 September 2026 12:11  
**To:** Planning Scanning  
**Subject:** FW: FP/96/26/T  
**Attachments:** FP.96.26.T.pdf; BS3998.2010.Figure 2.Final cuts.pdf; BS3998.2010.Figure 3.Crown lifting.pdf

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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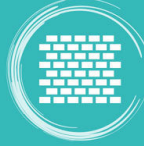
[REDACTED]

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**From:** Mark Warwick <Mark.Warwick@arun.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 03 September 2026 16:42  
**To:** Planning.Responses <Planning.Responses@arun.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** Silvie Steiningerova <Silvie.Steiningerova@arun.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** FP/96/26/T

Please find attached my report for your consideration.

Kind regards

**Mark Warwick**  
Principal Tree Officer, Environment and Climate Change

Arun District Council, Civic Centre, Maltravers Rd  
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**[www.arun.gov.uk](http://www.arun.gov.uk)**