

CONSULTEE RESPONSE (Council's Arboriculturist)

Date of inspection: 6th January 2026

Case Officer: Jonny Cooper

Reference: R/211/25/T

Location: Rustington House, Worthing Road, Rustington, BN16 3PS

Proposal: Crown reduction to 1no. beech (T1) to leave a height of 16m, southerly spread of 7m and easterly spread of 10m.

Reason: Risk management

Comments on Application:

T1 is the subject of a preservation order – TPO/R/1/21, ref.T9

Beech / <i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Height: 15-20m	Radial spread: 5-10m	Age class: Mature
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For absolute clarity, T1 is to the west of where it is illustrated on the sketch plan, actually opposite 137 Worthing Road.

The applicant proposes a sympathetic and pro-active approach to the management of what is evidently a long-established and prominent tree, in slow decline. The latter evidenced by upper crown dieback and poor shoot extension, features that have become more obvious since my last visit in 2021.

Beech has a poor tolerance of hard pruning. Height reduction of 2metres effectively removes dead or declining branches, and crown spread reduction on two most extensive aspects will leave a balanced profile and should preserve sufficient quantity of small branch network, both of which are necessary or prudent to manage risk.

Conclusions:

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

The proposed work is justified on arboricultural grounds.

Recommendation:

We grant consent for this application 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:

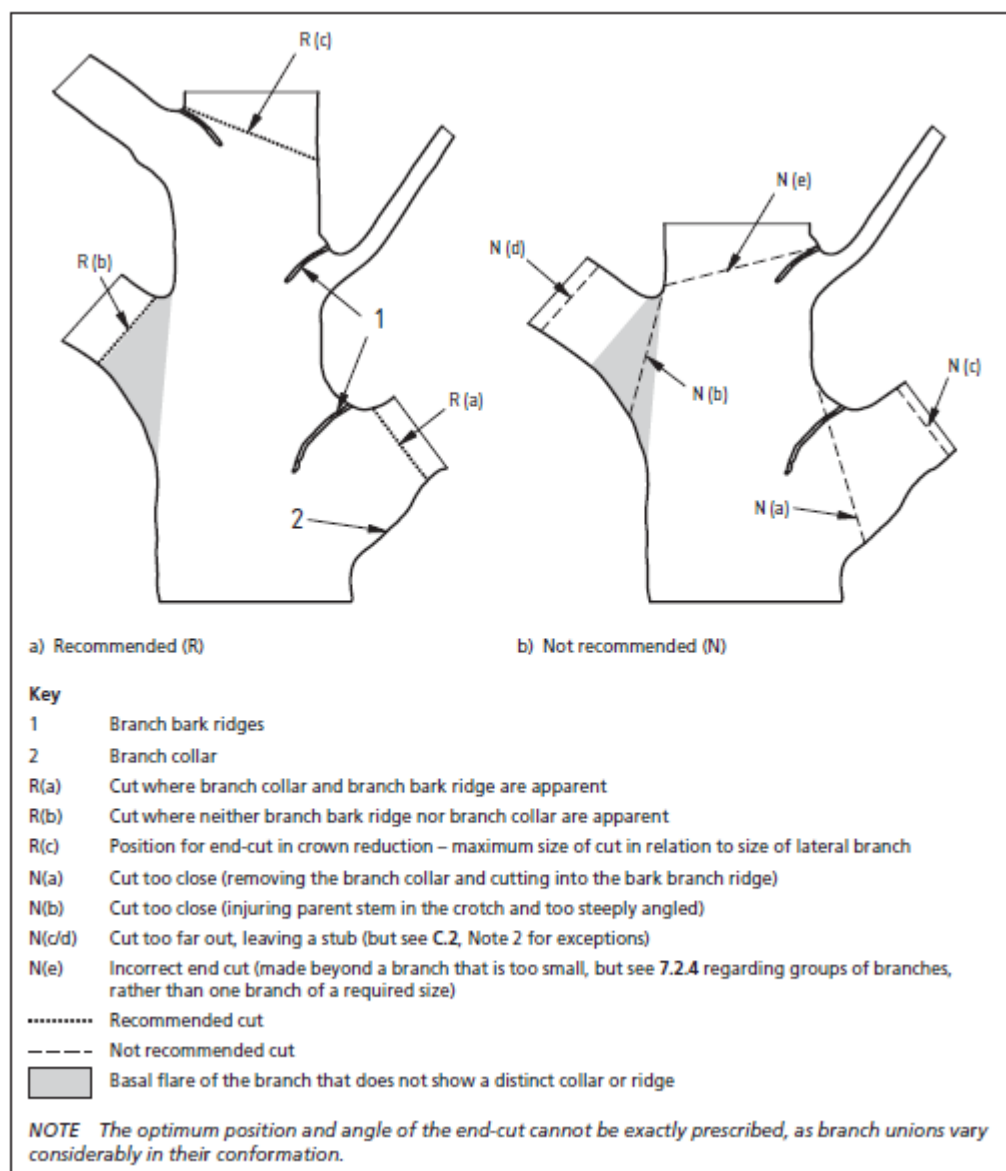
Although they may respond with vigour, beech have a poor tolerance of hard pruning and long-term vitality can be severely affected. The optimum time for pruning beech is late spring to summer (May to August). Winter months when the trees are dormant is the traditional season for such work and certainly much less harmful than undertaking during spring or autumn, which should be avoided.

Mark Warwick

Tree Officer

Environment and Climate Change

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

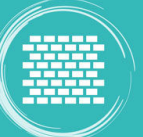


PL-Consultation- Tree officer response

Arun District Council, Civic Centre, Maltravers Rd
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From: Mark Warwick <Mark.Warwick@arun.gov.uk>
Sent: 07 January 2026 11:11
To: Planning.Responses <Planning.Responses@arun.gov.uk>
Cc: Jonny Cooper <Jonny.Cooper@arun.gov.uk>
Subject: R/211/25/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
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www.arun.gov.uk

