

CONSULTEE RESPONSE (Council's Arboriculturist)

Date of report: 8th October 2026

Reference: WA/77/26/T

Proposal: Crown reduction to 1no. silver birch tree (T4) to leave a height of 12m and spread of 9m. This application may affect the character and appearance of the Walberton Village Conservation Area.

Location: Gable House, The Street, Walberton, BN18 0PH

Case Officer: Silvie Steiningerova

Reasons: Tree contributes to garden overcrowding and has become too tall and leggy.

Comments on Application:

Silver birch / *Betula pendula* Height: 10-15m Radial spread: 5-10m Age class: Mature

I have considered this application by means of a desktop review, using the information submitted as well as online resources.

No photographs were available to me and I have been unable to assess from site in good time. That said, the tree was made subject of a preservation order in response to a notice of intent to fell back in 2021, at which time I noted its excellent form.

Silver birch trees are typically leggy and open crowned, which along with pendulous small branches and shoots contribute to their visual appeal. To initiate whole crown reduction pruning would irrevocably spoil this effect, significantly reducing its amenity value. They have a poor tolerance of hard pruning and are quick to form cavities at the site of pruning wounds.

Conclusions:

The tree is seemingly in adequately sound and healthy condition. The tree surgery proposed in the application has not been justified on arboricultural grounds and would be unduly detriment to the visual amenities of the locality.

Recommendation:

We refuse consent for this application.

Mark Warwick
Principal Tree Officer
Environment and Climate Change

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Sent: 08 October 2026 17:19

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Cc: Silvie Steingerova <Silvie.Steingerova@arun.gov.uk>; Freya Clewley <Freya.Clewley@arun.gov.uk>

Subject: WA/77/26/T

Please find attached my report for your consideration.

Kind regards

Mark Warwick

Principal Tree Officer, Environment and Climate Change

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