# TREE WORKS | SUPPORTING STATEMENT

Proposed removal of T1 mature Beech | Flat 1, 8 Winchester Road, Worthing, BN11 4DJ

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| **Tree reference** | T1 - Mature Beech (Fagus sylvatica) |
| **Location** | Driveway / frontage at the above property |
| **Proposal** | Dismantle and remove to near ground level, subject to required statutory clearance |
| **Reported condition** | Presence of Meripilus giganteus (giant polypore), as recorded in the original quotation |

## 1 Proposed works

Apply for consent to carefully dismantle and remove T1, a large mature Beech situated within the driveway/frontage of Flat 1, 8 Winchester Road. Works would be undertaken using suitable sectional dismantling, rigging and exclusion-zone arrangements to protect people, vehicles and neighbouring property. All arisings would be removed and the site left tidy. Stump grinding is not part of the quoted works.

## 2 Reason for application

The original contractor quotation dated 14 October 2026 records the presence of *Meripilus giganteus* (giant polypore) and recommends removal because this fungus can cause root and lower-stem decay, potentially reducing tree stability. The tree is located in a driveway and built-up residential setting where any loss of structural integrity could have serious consequences. The request is therefore made as a precautionary response to a potentially significant basal/root decay organism.

## 3 Why this fungus is of concern

*Meripilus giganteus* is a wood-decay fungus associated particularly with the roots and root-buttress region of broadleaved trees, notably Beech. It causes a white rot: fungal enzymes degrade lignin and other wood components, reducing the mechanical properties of affected wood. In advanced cases, decay of major structural roots may compromise anchorage even where the crown still appears vigorous.

Its fruiting bodies can emerge around the stem base or from roots beneath surrounding ground. Visible brackets indicate fungal activity but do **not** alone establish the extent of internal decay, the remaining load-bearing root structure, or the likelihood and timing of failure. A tree can sometimes retain an apparently healthy canopy despite significant concealed root deterioration.

## 4 Urgency and risk management

Given the reported fungal presence and the tree’s position close to occupied buildings, parked vehicles and pedestrian activity, this application requests **prompt assessment and determination**. A site-specific arboricultural inspection should establish the presence and extent of decay, assess stability and identify appropriate interim precautions. Pending assessment, restricting access beneath the tree or avoiding parking within the potential fall zone may be prudent where feasible.

An assertion that the tree is in imminent danger of falling, or that emergency removal is legally justified, cannot be made from the quotation and aerial image alone. If inspection confirms an immediate danger, the applicant should follow the relevant statutory urgent-works procedure and retain supporting evidence.

# ARBORICULTURAL JUSTIFICATION

Technical explanation and supporting considerations

## 5 Potential effects on tree structure

**Root strength and anchorage.** As decay progresses through structural roots, the resistance of the root plate to overturning loads may diminish. Loss of effective anchorage can be especially important during strong winds, when the canopy transfers substantial bending and overturning forces to the root system.

**Basal wood degradation.** Where decay extends into the buttresses or lower stem, the capacity of wood to resist bending, compression and shear may be reduced. The precise severity depends on the location, volume and distribution of affected tissues, which require inspection rather than assumption.

**Detection challenges.** Root decay may remain concealed below ground. External fungal fruiting bodies are important diagnostic indicators, but further investigation (for example, careful root-collar examination and specialist decay assessment where appropriate) may be needed to judge the residual structural capacity.

**Progression and management.** The fungus may persist in infected wood and roots. Crown reduction can sometimes reduce wind loading, but it does not restore decayed roots; whether retention, reduction, monitoring or removal is appropriate depends on the tree-specific assessment and exposure of nearby targets.

## 6 Site context and justification for removal

The tree stands within the driveway area of a residential property. Because of the potential consequences of root-related instability in a regularly used location, the applicant seeks permission to remove it rather than rely on pruning as a long-term solution. This is a risk-management proposal, not a claim that failure is certain or imminent.

The contractor’s original quotation records prior discussion with the council and an understanding that officers were supportive, while expressly confirming that works would not proceed before the required formal consent or statutory clearance. That discussion is not itself evidence of permission.

## 7 Recommended evidence to accompany the application

To support an urgent removal decision, provide clear dated photographs of the fungal fruiting bodies and their position at the base/root zone; a ground-level image showing the full tree and surrounding targets; and, where obtainable, a written tree-risk assessment recording basal condition, visible defects, any decay testing, the inspection date and recommended timescale. No fungal close-up or formal decay investigation was supplied for this document.

## 8 Work standards and permissions

The removal would be undertaken by suitably competent personnel using a site-specific risk assessment and appropriate access, dismantling and rigging techniques. Relevant operations should follow BS 3998:2010, *Tree work - Recommendations*, where applicable. The applicant will obtain the appropriate Tree Preservation Order consent or follow the relevant conservation-area notice procedure before work, unless a valid statutory exception is established.

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# SITE LOCATION PLAN

T1 Beech | Flat 1, 8 Winchester Road, Worthing, BN11 4DJ




**T1** identifies the yellow-highlighted tree location shown on the supplied aerial screenshot. The red marker has been added for clarity. This image is an indicative tree-location plan, not a measured survey or statutory Ordnance Survey location plan.

# APPENDIX A | PHOTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

Flat 1, 8 Winchester Road, Worthing, BN11 4DJ | T1 Mature Beech

Photographs supplied in support of the application. Fruiting bodies at the base are consistent with the previously reported giant polypore (Meripilus giganteus); photographic appearance alone does not establish the extent of root decay or immediate failure risk.



*Photograph 1 — General view of the mature Beech and its position alongside the driveway and parked vehicles.*



*Photograph 2 — Fungal fruiting bodies adjacent to the basal stem and surrounding vegetation.*



*Photograph 3 — Closer view of multiple bracket-like fungal fruiting bodies at the tree base.*