Beech Trees to South-East Sector of Avebury Henge adjacent to B4003 – Both defects on branches on East side of Clump

Poor Branch Union 1



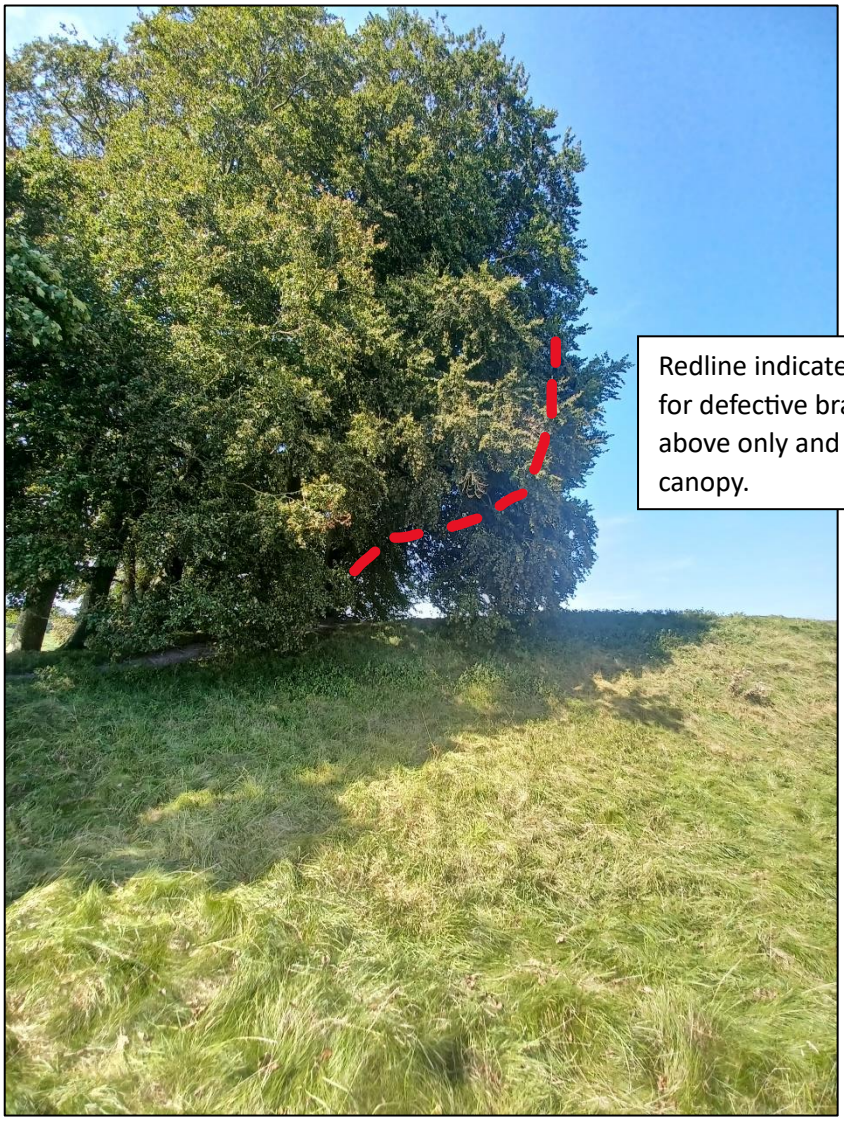
Branch Viewed from Side



Poor Branch Union 1

- Viewed from underside. Showing unions with poor joint connectivity.

Proposal - The concern is that these poor branch unions will fail as the branch canopy increases and the weight is increased on the union. To reduce the risk of failure at this branch union we propose to reduce branch canopy ends by approximately 15-20% on the affected branches only back to the red dotted line to good growth points. This will be a light/modest reduction and we do not intend to cut the branch right back to the poor union – just reduce the weight on the branch ends.



Redline indicates reduction point for defective branches outlined above only and not the whole canopy.

Poor branch condition No. 2 – These two limbs are growing together (first picture) and created a weakness with branch damage and cavities to both branches as shown in the second and third picture.



View from base of tree showing two limbs intersecting with trunk and a good branch union.

View from further up limbs showing where they have closed together to create damage and cavities.

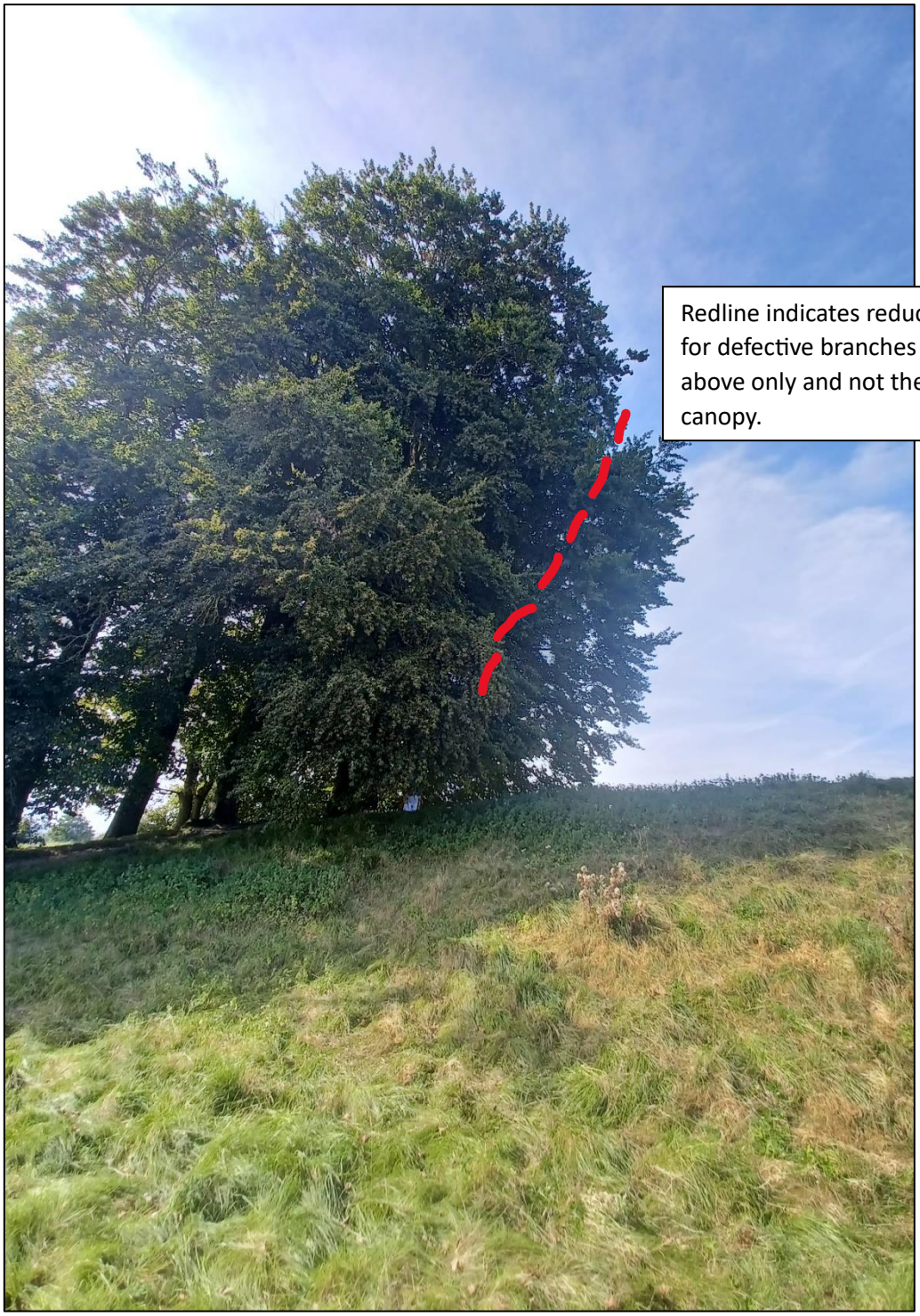




Closer view from further up limbs showing where they have closed together to create damage and cavities. What you are looking at is the upper and lower limb where they have grown together and are touching but haven't fused.

Proposal - The concern is that these defects on both branches will fail as both the branch canopies increase in size and the weight is increased at the point where the two branches have become defective as pictures above. To reduce the risk of failure at this point we propose to reduce branch canopy ends by approximately 15-25% on the two affected branches only back to the red dotted line to good growth points. This will be a light/modest reduction and we do not intend to cut the branch right back to the defect – just reduce the weight on the branch ends.

The picture below indicates a modest reduction on the east side only. This reduction will not appear significant when viewing the beech clump (eight trees) as a whole and both this and poor branch union 1. above will only involve a modest reduction to the affected branches only and we will not be generally reducing canopies to either individual trees or the canopy block as a whole.



Redline indicates reduction point for defective branches outlined above only and not the whole canopy.

Peter Oliver – Countryside Manager – National Trust

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