

CONSULTEE RESPONSE (Council's Arboriculturist)

Date of inspection: 24th March 2026

Case Officer: Jonny Cooper

Reference: AB/5/26/T

Location: 37 Torton Hill Road, Arundel, BN18 9HF

Proposal: Crown reduction to 1no. oak (T1) to leave a height of 19m, northerly and southerly spreads of 9m, easterly spread of 11m, westerly spread of 12m.
Crown reduction to 1no. oak (T2) to leave a height of 19m, northerly spread of 8m, southerly and easterly spreads of 11m and westerly spread of 9m.

Reason: Risk management

Comments on Application:

2x Pedunculate oak / *Quercus robur*

Height: 20-25m Ave. radial spread: 10-15m Age class: Mature

Both trees are large and visible to the public. Upper crown profiles are not obviously modified and so provide considerable visual amenity. The open and expansive front garden showcases both trees which have been allowed to develop broad crowns.

The applicant has employed a qualified arborist to undertake a condition survey, supplemented with an aerial inspection of T2 to better understand the nature of a notable structural defect in one of its stems. This has justified the work proposed although it is important to clarify the minimum finished extent of pruning must be as described in the proposal above and not as may be interpreted differently from the application form and initial condition survey (i.e. 3m height reduction of a 20m tree = 17m finished height).

The report is comprehensive and broadly sympathetic to such high value trees, although in respect of T1 I am not convinced whole crown reduction pruning is necessary at this time. No justification is provided in the arborist's report, so I can only assume it is a precautionary measure to mitigate risk of upper crown damage as left exposed following works to T2 and/or perhaps to achieve some uniformity across these companion trees.

Conclusions:

These are important trees in the landscape with high visual amenity and of an age which demand careful management.

T1 - The proposed work has not been justified on arboricultural grounds. The tree is a significant feature in the local landscape and appears to be in adequately sound and healthy condition. The tree surgery

proposed in the application would result in reduction of the tree's landscape impact and undue detriment to the visual amenities of the locality.

T2 - The proposed work has been justified on arboricultural grounds. Satisfactory canopy renewal and recovery should occur if the work is undertaken to a high standard and at an appropriate time of year.

Recommendations:

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** (*by removing T1 from the proposal*) **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:

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.

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:

Hard pruning creates numerous and/or large wounds, incurring a physiological stress which may affect long-term health and vitality. The optimum time for pruning a deciduous oak tree 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 4 Diagrammatic illustration of crown reduction

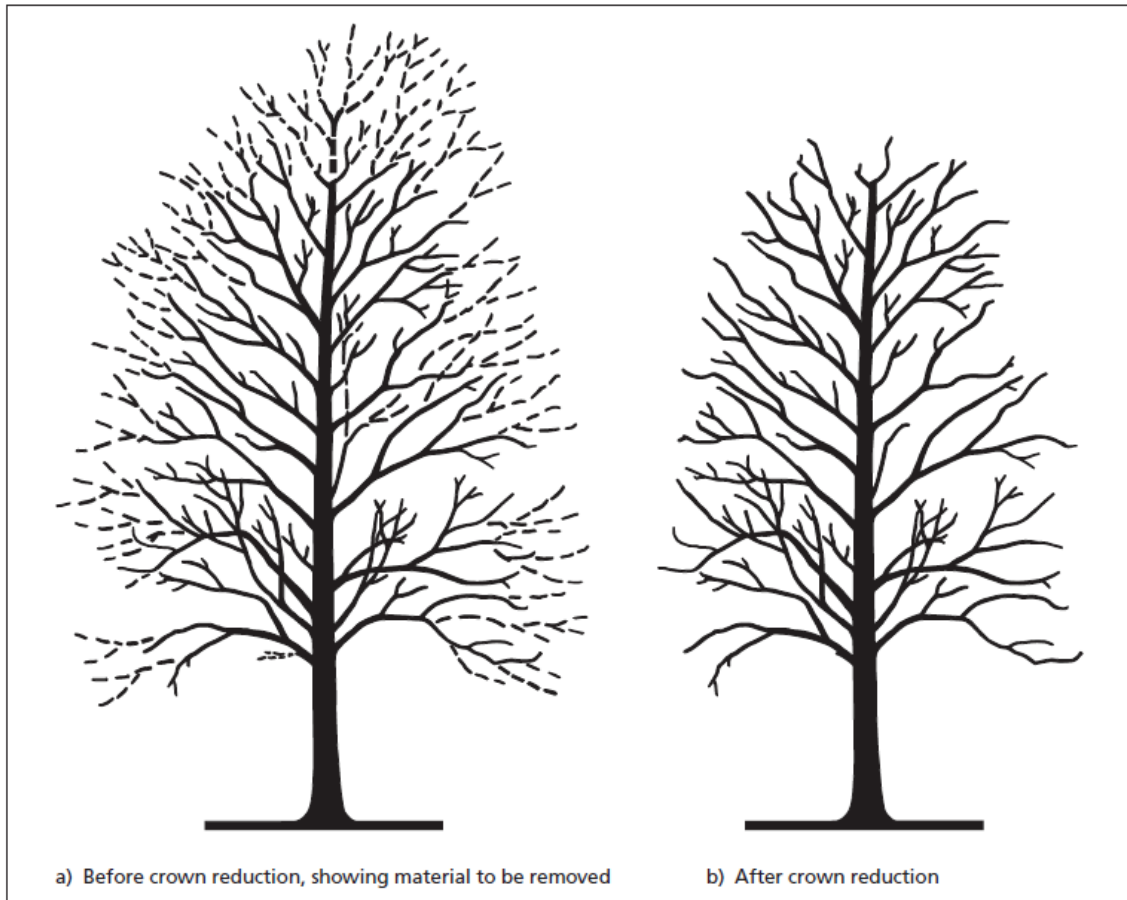
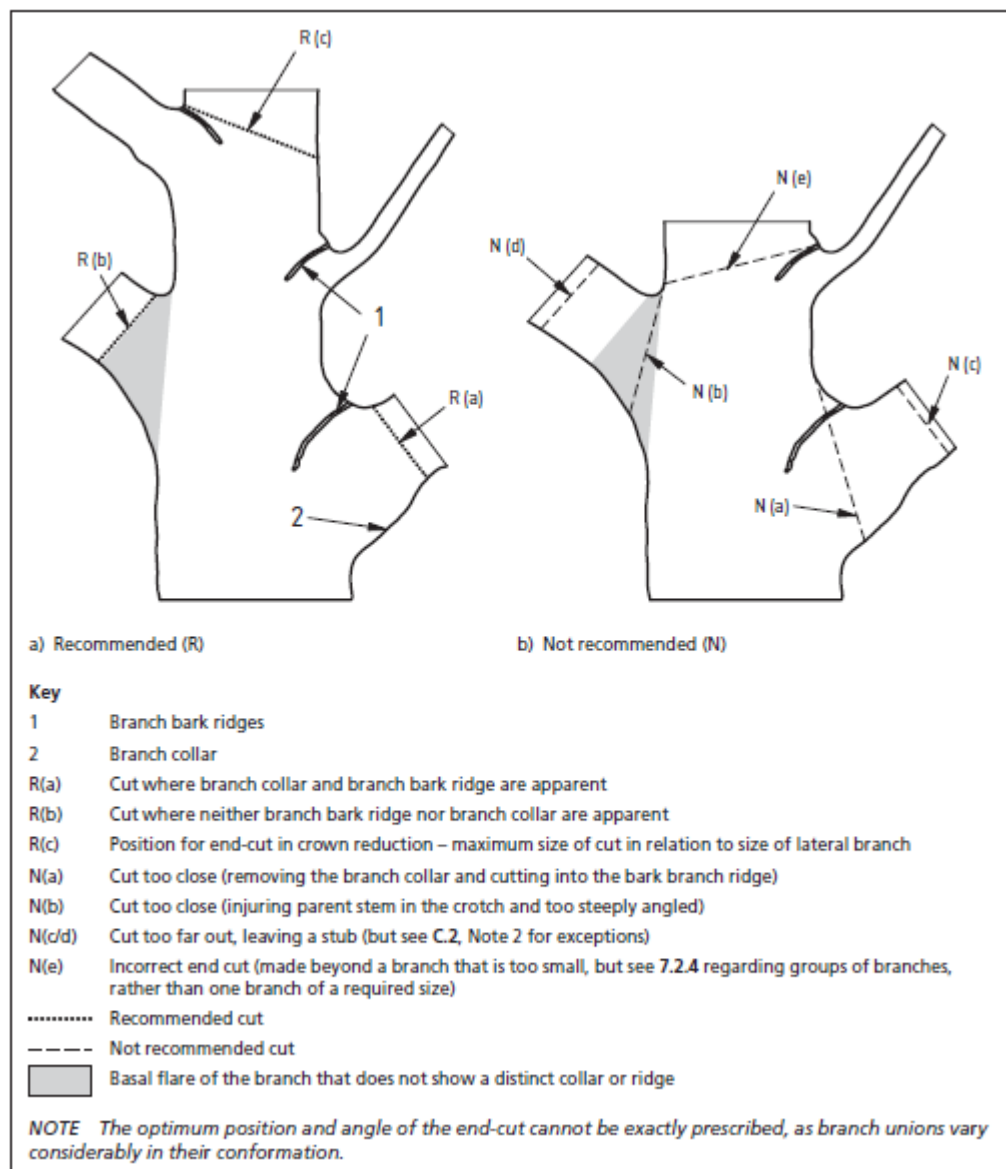


Figure 2 Positions of final cuts





From: Elaine Walby on behalf of Planning.Responses
Sent: 02 April 2026 12:26
To: Planning Scanning
Subject: FW: AB/5/26/T
Attachments: BS3998.2010.Figure 2.Final cuts.pdf; BS3998.2010.Figure 4.Crown reduction.pdf; AB.5.26.T.pdf

PL- Consultation- Tree Officers response

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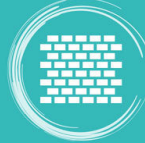
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From: Mark Warwick <Mark.Warwick@arun.gov.uk>
Sent: 02 April 2026 10:55
To: Planning.Responses <Planning.Responses@arun.gov.uk>
Cc: Jonny Cooper <Jonny.Cooper@arun.gov.uk>
Subject: AB/5/26/T

Please find attached my report for your consideration.

Regards,

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer, Environment and Climate Change

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