

CONSULTEE RESPONSE (Council's Arboriculturist)

Date of inspection: 5th January 2026

Case Officer: Susan Haley

Reference: AW/260/25/T

Location: 35 Willowhale Avenue, Aldwick, PO21 4BG

Proposal: Crown reduction to 3no. field maple (G1) to leave a height of 4m and spread of 3m. Reduction of lowest limb on 1no. oak (T1) to leave a length of 6m.

Reasons: None given

Comments on Application:

T1 Pedunculate oak / <i>Quercus robur</i>	Height: 20-25m	Radial spread: 5-10m	Age class: Mature
G1 4x Field maple / <i>Acer campestre</i>	Height: 10-15m	Radial spread: 0-5m	Age class: Mature

No reason or arboricultural justification has been provided for any work, nor in respect of G1 is it clear from site observation. From roadside, both oak and field maples appear to be in a fine physiological state and assumed to be so in the absence of any evidence provided or statement made to the contrary. All contribute to the verdant character of the locality.

T1 oak - is a particularly fine specimen, being tall and with an attractive crown profile. It is relatively narrow for its type and unmodified at height, prominent in the landscape. A tree of high amenity value.

T1 possesses a main stem devoid of established branches to approximately ¼ of top height and this provides more than adequate overhead clearance. Reduction of lowest branch length is presumably desired to provide long-term clearance from over the ground floor extension (annexe), although the tree will continue to deposit material from higher up. There is unlikely to be any appreciable difference following completion of that work. That said, it would be consistent with work approved previously by the local planning authority.

A lapsed planning consent for the reduction of crown spread on its north aspect (over applicant's property) would be supported once more but would have to be proposed in a new application, as it represents greater work. The preferred specification read as follows: '*Reduce lateral crown spread on north aspect only (by approximately 2m) to clear annexe building line by a maximum of 1metre.*' Such work would address any immediate concern of seasonal deposition of light material (i.e. leaves, catkins, acorns) and retain enough small branch network to ensure supporting limbs and branches are sustained.

G1 maple - comprises four distinct stems, one of which grows from the neighbouring property 'Sheerwaters'. Previously lopped/pollarded at around 6metres and recently reduced much higher (around 10m height), showing less than 1m of growth from pruning points. Only the fourth stem growing from

Sheerwaters could be regarded as problematic but is not an obvious subject of the proposal despite being marked on the applicant's sketch plan.

Conclusions:

T1 oak - The work proposed is consistent with previous work granted consent by the LPA and if undertaken to a high standard will not incur a loss of visual amenity or be detrimental to long-term health.

G1 maple - The tree group 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 excessive reduction of the trees' landscape impact and undue detriment to the visual amenities of the locality.

Recommendation:

As it stands, I am unable to support this application. I **would like the applicant invited to agree to an alternative proposal for lesser works by removing *crown reduction to 3no. field maple (G1)*, as part of the current application so as not to incur further delay.**

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

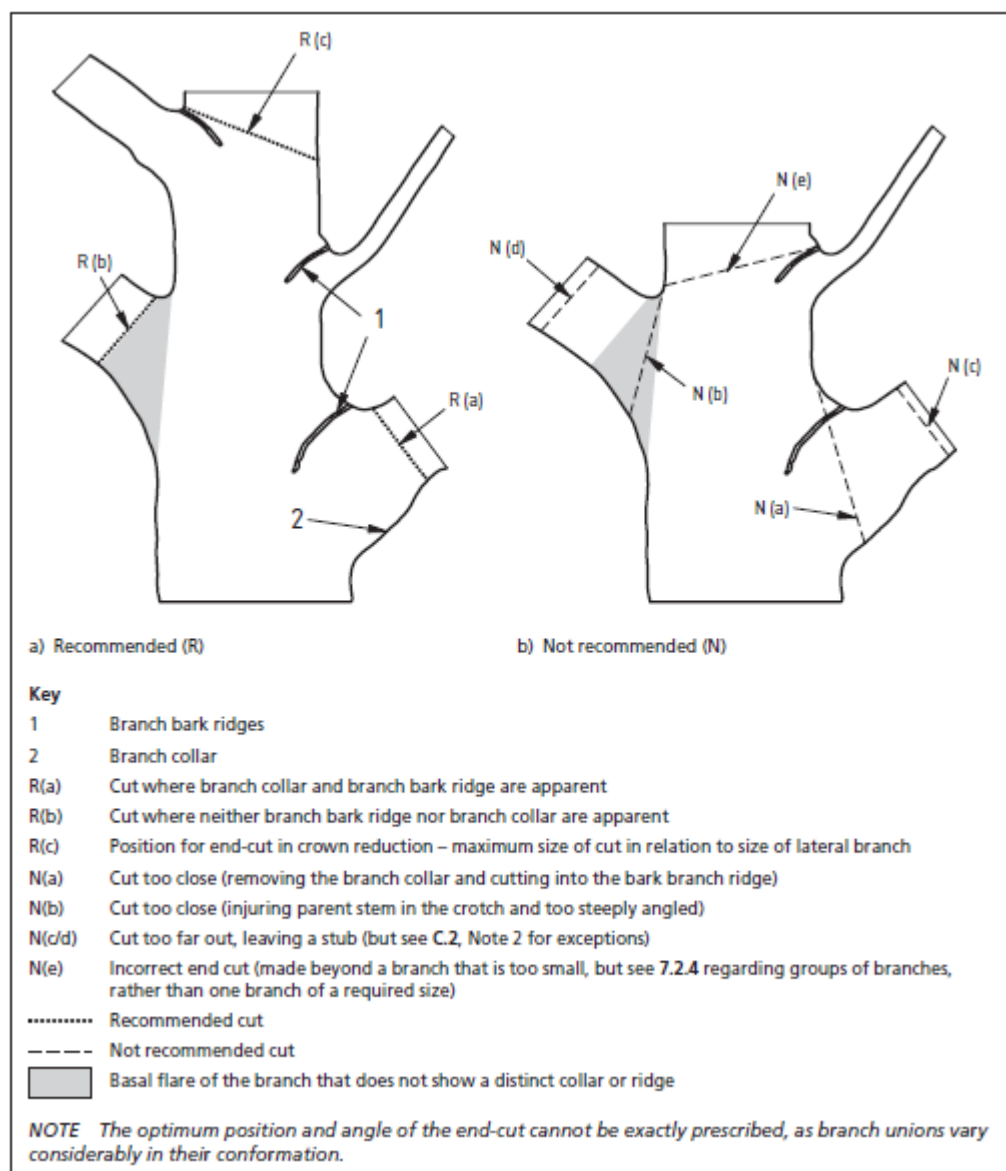
Where branches are to be shortened back the final cuts are to be made at the correct angle shown in BS3998:2010 and adjacent to a live bud or lateral.

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

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer
Environment and Climate Change

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts



[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Arun District Council, Civic Centre, Maltravers Rd
Littlehampton, West Sussex, BN17 5LF
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From: Mark Warwick [REDACTED]
Sent: 05 January 2026 15:33
To: Planning.Responses <Planning.Responses@arun.gov.uk>
Cc: Susan Haley <Susan.Haley@arun.gov.uk>
Subject: AW/260/25/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
Littlehampton, West Sussex, BN17 5LF
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