

CONSULTEE RESPONSE (Council's Arboriculturist)

Date of report: 29th January 2026

Case Officer: Silvie Steiningerova

Reference: AW/281/25/T

Location: 25 Kingsway, Aldwick, PO21 4DH

Proposal: Crown reduction to 2no. English oaks to leave a height of 14.4m (T1,T2), northerly spread of 5.6m, easterly spread of 4m, southerly and westerly spreads of 6.4m (T1). Reduction of southerly limb on 1no. English oak (T3) to leave a southerly spread of 4.2m. These trees are located in the Craigweil House, Aldwick Conservation Area.

Reason: To increase light levels to garden

Comments on Application:

I have considered this application by means of a desktop review, using the information submitted as well as online resources. Previous consideration from site and familiarity with surrounding areas provide further insight to the proposal.

The application history for this property reveals more about the quality of T1 as the outstanding tree in this group of three and it should be managed as such. The adjacent trees seem to have been suppressed in ways that render them perpetually subordinate and unlikely to become notable in terms of amenity.

The accompanying tree survey appears to support this interpretation, whilst the sketch plan is largely indicative. It is unfortunate that I have not been able to assess the trees with a site visit, but on balance must conclude that T1 is too important in the context of its surroundings to be the subject of whole crown reduction pruning in the absence of compelling reasons, and if approved for such might set a harmful precedent.

Conclusions:

T1 is seemingly a tree of high amenity with an attractive crown profile, unmodified by hard pruning. The tree surgery proposed in the application would result in excessive reduction of the tree's landscape impact and undue detriment to the visual amenities of the locality.

Companion trees (T2 & T3) are inferior and offer little visual amenity as individuals. The work proposed will not be harmful to amenity or appearance and character of the conservation area.

Recommendation:

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. If supported by the applicant, this outcome would go some way to addressing their 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 interests of the trees' 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 deciduous oak trees 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 2 Positions of final cuts

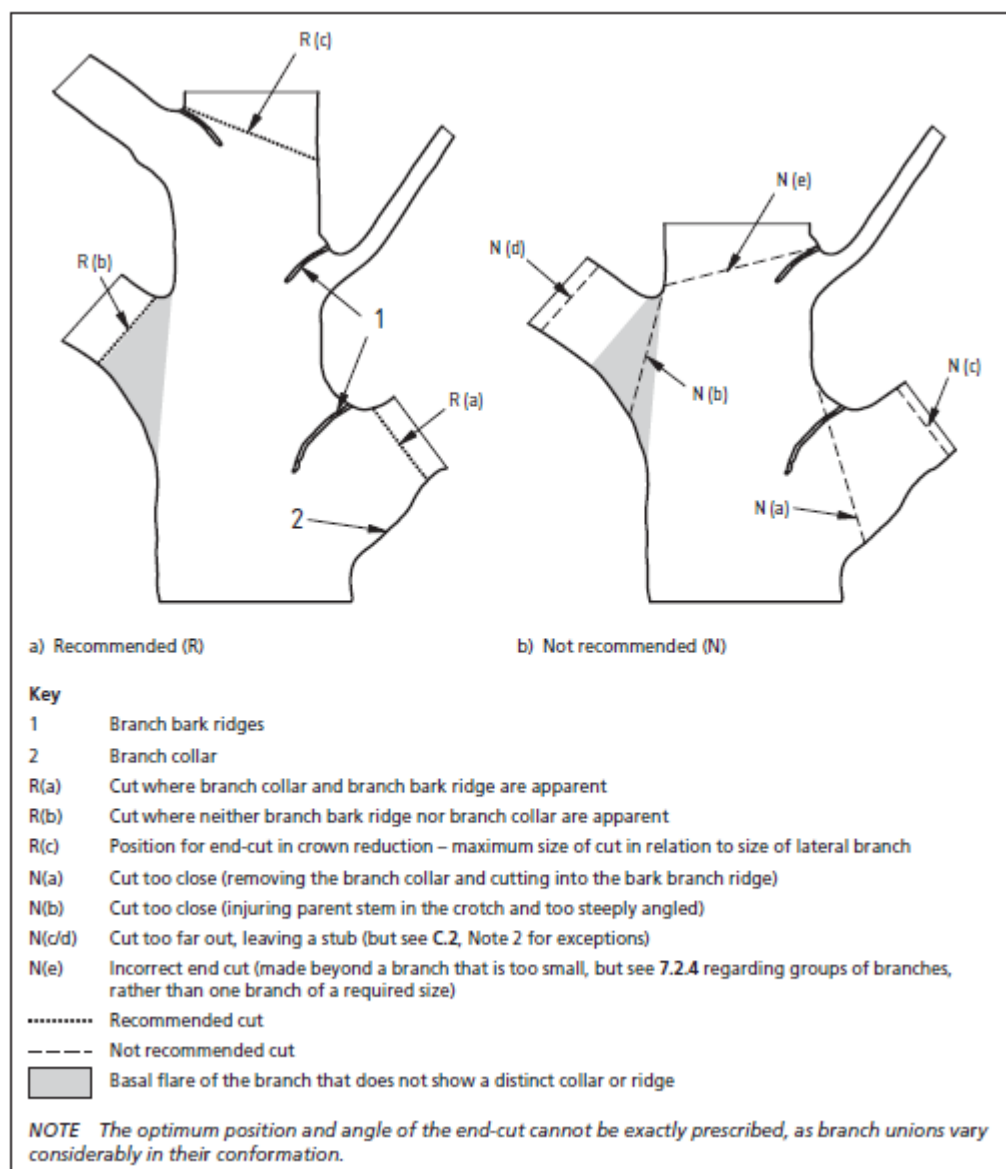
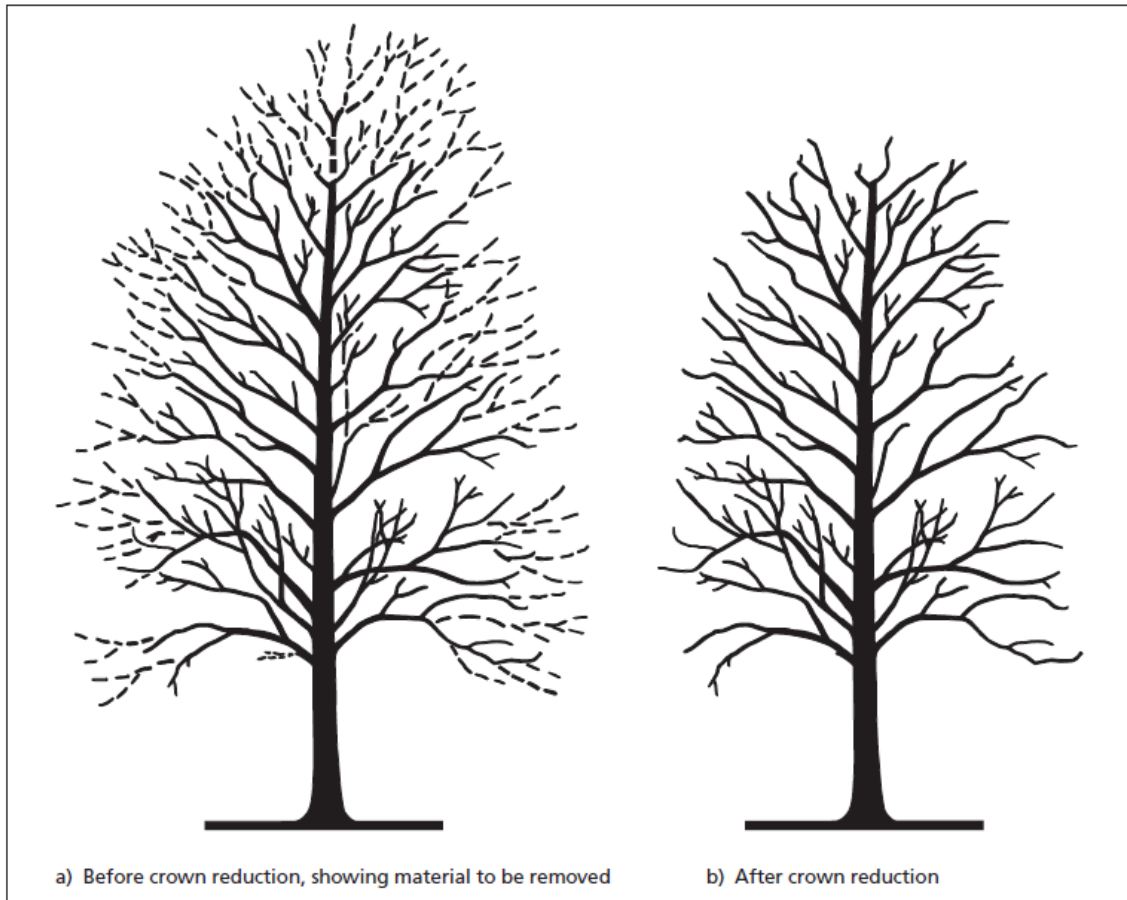


Figure 4 Diagrammatic illustration of crown reduction



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From: Mark Warwick [REDACTED]
Sent: 29 January 2026 15:58
To: Planning.Responses <Planning.Responses@arun.gov.uk>
Cc: Silvie Steiningerova <Silvie.Steiningerova@arun.gov.uk>; Daniel Vick <Daniel.Vick@arun.gov.uk>; Jonny Cooper <Jonny.Cooper@arun.gov.uk>
Subject: AW/281/25/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

