

Planning Officer: Miss Z Toppin

Planning Application Ref: **AW/310/20/T**

Location: **5 Kingsway, Bognor Regis, PO21 4DQ**

Description of works: **Reduction of 1no. oak tree (T15) to 16m in height and 10m north-south spread**

Reasons given: Garden encroachment

Comments on Application:

Pedunculate oak / *Quercus robur* Height: 15-20m Radial spread: 5-10m Age class: Mature

- Outwardly this tree appears to be in a fair physiological state, although only observed from its southern aspects and with restricted view of its main stem and immediate surroundings (dense vegetation/limited access).
- Weak shoot extension and branch tip dieback suggest underlying disease, most likely associated with ground conditions and/or root dysfunction – worthy of detailed investigation if not already undertaken.
- The absence of any accelerated growth at lower levels or other strong indicator of ‘crown retrenchment’ suggest this tree is under significant physiological distress.

Conclusions:

- The work proposed is justified on arboricultural grounds, if only by virtue of it removing a risk of falling deadwood.
- This tree requires careful management that respects its age and vulnerability to environmental changes and disease progression. If the work is undertaken to a high standard and at the right time, then the tree stands a chance of remaining a visually interesting feature in the local landscape.

Recommendation:

- I recommend **CONSENT** for this application, subject to the following condition:

Condition to Be Applied to Approved Work: -

- 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 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:

- The optimum time for such significant pruning of this tree is the late spring to summer period (May to August). The work proposed should only be undertaken during this period.

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team

Figure 4 Diagrammatic illustration of crown reduction

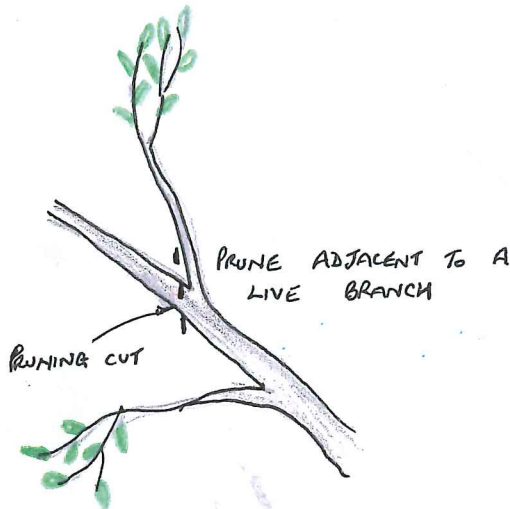
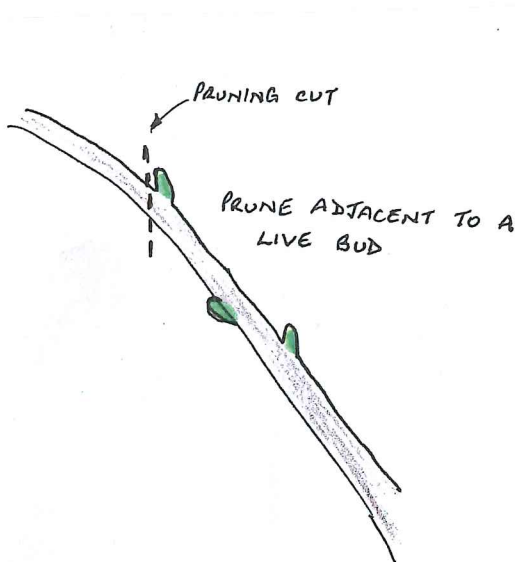
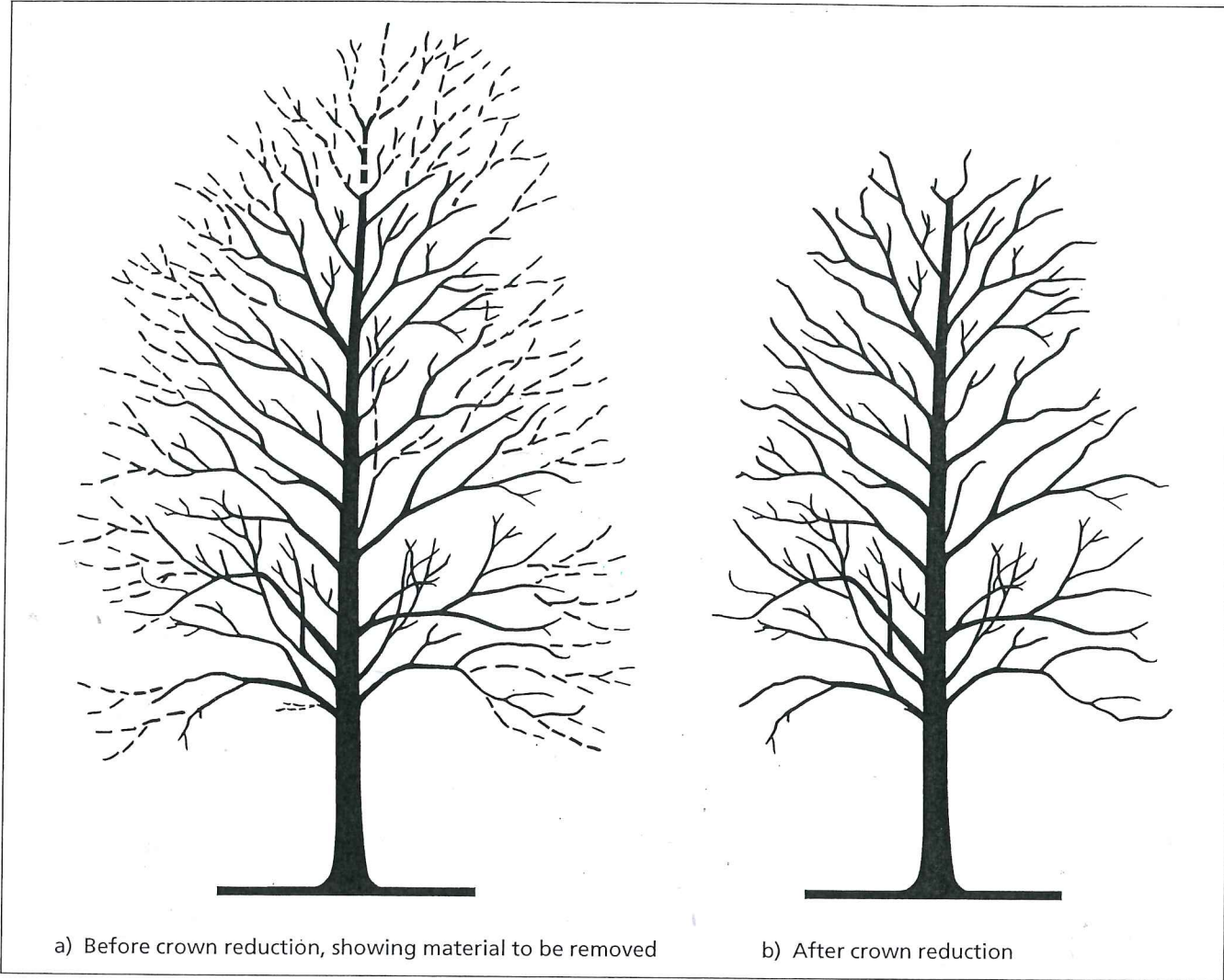


Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

