

CONSULTEE RESPONSE (Council's Arboriculturist)

Date of inspection: 30th April 2026

Case Officer: Rhiannon Lloyd

Reference: AW/38/26/T

Location: 1 West Drive, Aldwick, PO21 4LZ

Proposal: Crown lift to 1no. red oak Tree to 5m from ground level, crown reduction to leave a height of 15m and spread of 8-10m . Removal of 1 lowest southerly branch, 2 lowest northerly branches, and limbs overhanging neighbour's driveway.

Reason: None given

Comments on Application:

Red oak / <i>Quercus rubra</i>	Height: 15-20m	Radial spread: 5-10m	Age class: Mature
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From roadside this tree appears generally healthy, although two localised areas of upper crown dieback will be of concern. It is seemingly stable and has an attractive crown profile. It grows at the front of the property and visible to users of an arterial estate road. As such, it has amenity value.

There is a notable absence of low-level branches, achieving a minimum overhead clearance of 4metres on all aspects, which seems tolerable and proportionate to the height and spread of the tree. The crown is slightly weighted over neighbouring property (Hurstwood), a response to environmental conditions and not having previously been subject to such hard pruning as elsewhere.

Previous whole crown reduction work was given consent in 2019.

It is not clear which branches/limbs are proposed for removal on south and north aspects or overhanging the neighbour's driveway. The lowest crown features are large limbs which must remain intact to sustain the tree and prevent stem decay.

The tree is large and whilst healthy possesses considerable growth potential, therefore a desire for ongoing regime of containment pruning is understandable. This work must be balanced against the need to retain the tree with dignity and sufficient vitality, by minimising the loss of crown volume and wound size/quantity.

Conclusions:

The tree is a significant feature in the local landscape and appears to be in adequately sound and healthy condition. Although well-intentioned, the tree surgery proposed in the application could result in excessive reduction of the tree's 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 a revised proposal for lesser works (as described below) 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:

- *Reduce branches to leave a minimum height of c15m and radial spread of minimum 4metres on all aspects when measured from bark of the main stem.*
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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.

Part c) Where crown reduction work has occurred previously, the removal of subsequent growth (shoots and branches) and position of final cuts must ensure retention of all established knuckles.

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 most 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

From: Elaine Walby on behalf of Planning.Responses
Sent: 01 May 2026 15:29
To: Planning Scanning
Subject: FW: AW/38/26/T
Attachments: AW.38.26.T.pdf; BS3998.2010.Figure 2.Final cuts.pdf

PL- Consultation- Tree Officers response

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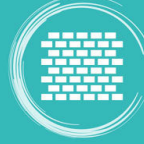
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From: Mark Warwick <Mark.Warwick@arun.gov.uk>
Sent: 01 May 2026 12:25
To: Planning.Responses <Planning.Responses@arun.gov.uk>
Cc: Rhiannon Lloyd <Rhiannon.Lloyd@arun.gov.uk>
Subject: AW/38/26/T

Please find attached my report for your consideration.

Regards,

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer, Environment and Climate Change

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Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

