Date inspected: 13th April 2022

Case Officer:	Hannah Kersley
Reference:	**AW/51/22/T**
Location:	**Oak Tree Cottage, Acorn End, Aldwick, PO21 4JA**
Proposal:	**1no. oak tree - Crown reduction to leave height 12m and spread 11-12m**
Reasons given:	Poor condition (high deadwood content), becoming too big for location

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Comments on Application:

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

- Outwardly and from roadside this tree appears to be in a fair-poor physiological state. The rooting zone has been encroached upon and impacted by development which may explain the early onset of crown retrenchment.

- Small dead branches are found throughout the crown. Historic 'topping' of main stem around 7metres height from which it has grown on to establish a uniform crown profile. Excessive past pruning has left lower half of stem devoid of branches.

- The tree is prominent within the cul-de-sac and so highly visible to residents and visitors. As such, it has public amenity value.

- The removal of dead branches is an exception and does not require notification to or prior consent from the local planning authority.

Conclusions:

- This tree requires careful management that respects its age and vulnerability to environmental changes and disease progression.

- The work has been justified on arboricultural grounds. Deadwood content is high and indicative of physiological stress. It is important for the tree's prospects that reduction work is confined to the outer reaches of its small branch network, so as to remove the majority of dead/dying material whilst minimising stress from pruning into live material.

- If the work is undertaken to a high standard and at the right time then the tree should be able to remain a long-term visually interesting feature in the local landscape.

Recommendation:

- I recommend **CONSENT** is granted subject to the following condition:

  Condition to Be Applied to Approved Work: -

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) The oak tree should be uniformly reduced in height and spread to leave a balanced structure on completion as shown in Figure 4 of BS3998:2010. Final dimensions of the tree should be a minimum of: Height 12metres, Radial spread 5.5m.

Reasons: In the interest of the tree's continued health and vitality and to accord with current industry guidelines and sound arboricultural practice.

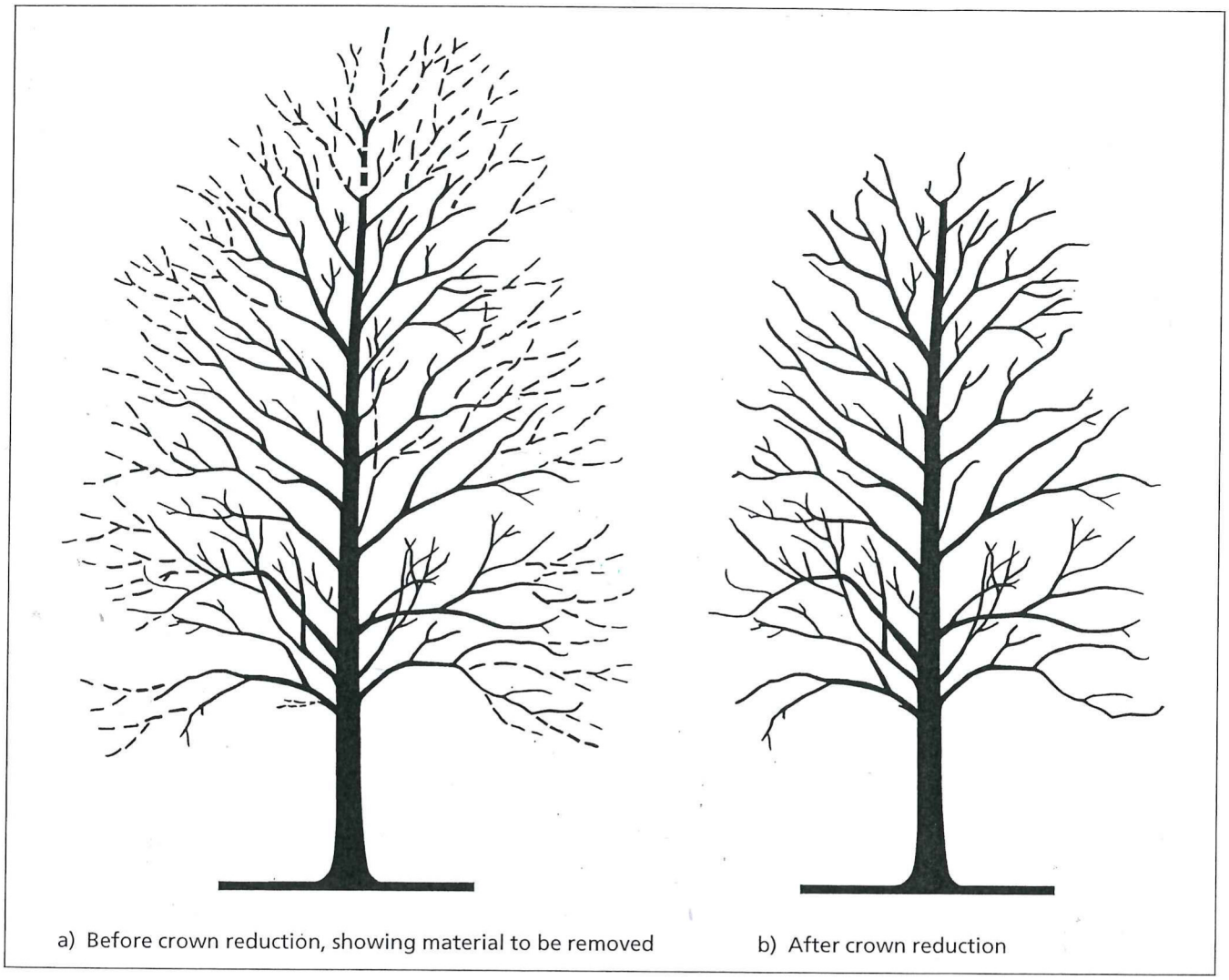
- ***See also the standard pruning guidance notes issued with the consent letter***

Advisory:

- The long-term vitality of this tree is best respected when significant pruning work (such as proposed) is undertaken during the late spring to summer period (May to August).

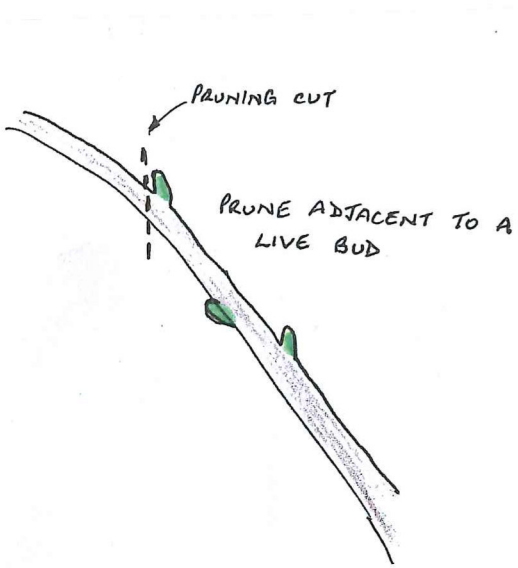
Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Greenspace

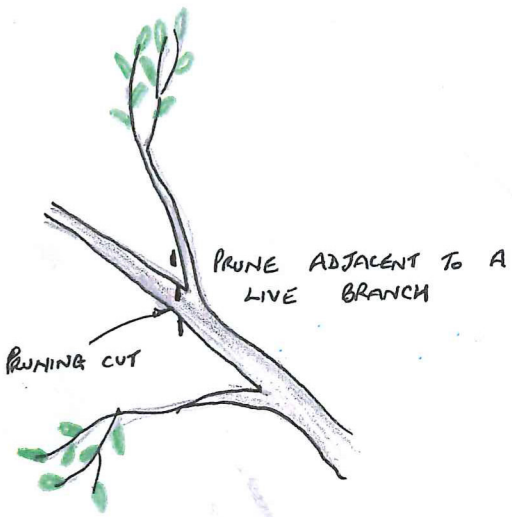
Figure 4 **Diagrammatic illustration of crown reduction**



a) Before crown reduction, showing material to be removed

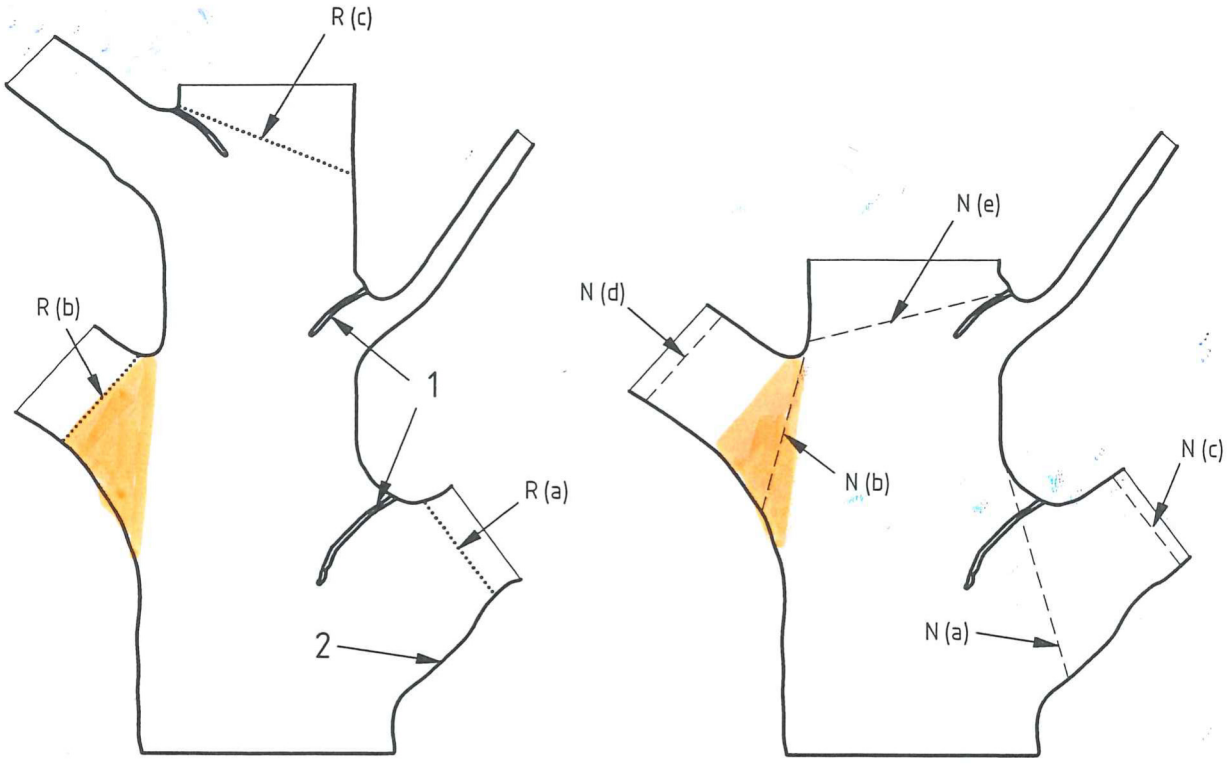
b) After crown reduction





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Figure 2 **Positions of final cuts**



a) Recommended (R)

b) Not recommended (N)

Key

1	Branch bark ridges
2	Branch collar
R(a)	Cut where branch collar and branch bark ridge are apparent
R(b)	Cut where neither branch bark ridge nor branch collar are apparent
R(c)	Position for end-cut in crown reduction – maximum size of cut in relation to size of lateral branch
N(a)	Cut too close (removing the branch collar and cutting into the bark branch ridge)
N(b)	Cut too close (injuring parent stem in the crotch and too steeply angled)
N(c/d)	Cut too far out, leaving a stub (but see **C.2**, Note 2 for exceptions)
N(e)	Incorrect end cut (made beyond a branch that is too small, but see **7.2.4** regarding groups of branches, rather than one branch of a required size)
·····	Recommended cut
– – – –	Not recommended cut
	Basal flare of the branch that does not show a distinct collar or ridge

NOTE The optimum position and angle of the end-cut cannot be exactly prescribed, as branch unions vary considerably in their conformation.

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