

CONSULTEE RESPONSE (Council's Arboriculturist)

Date of inspection: 4th November 2025

Case Officer: Susan Haley

Reference: BN/101/25/T

Location: 6 Nursery Close, Barnham, PO22 0JY

Proposal: Removal of rotting branch on 1no. oak tree (T1) and crown reduction to leave a spread of 6.8m.

Reasons: Risk management

Comments on Application:

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

This is a notable tree with features likely to justify 'veteran status'. It has large cavities and substantial areas of decaying wood. Although deep into the autumn season, the crown appears mostly full and suggests a fine physiological state. It may be an old coppice stool from which three distinct stems have endured; one of which now presents an obvious hazard and described as the rotting branch.

The low central void and a large part of the north tending stem have been filled with concrete. Whilst the main stem unions appear sound, the north stem is extensively decayed and there is relatively little sound wood remaining in the structurally important lower region. The high branch network associated with this decaying stem appears in decline, a likely result of impaired sapwood function. Dieback and structural failure of this stem are foreseeable, which presents an unacceptable level of risk.

Treatment of the north stem is likely to leave it redundant in terms of canopy provision, although the remaining portion will have considerable ecological benefit. The extent of decaying parts retained will ultimately be determined by the effects of concrete extraction and subsequent assessment for safety given anticipated use of the area. I have annotated the photo at foot of this report (Fig.1.) to show the preferred (green line) and maximum (red line) extent of cutting back permitted in any event.

The remaining two stems support a previously reduced branch network which appears sound overall. No obvious pathogens or major structural defects were observed in this majority part of the tree. Reduction of these parts will be back to the obvious knuckles, established following past operations, affecting top height and radial spread on all aspects.

Despite being wholly captured within private residential property, the tree remains an important asset to the local area by virtue of its age, character, ecological value and visual amenity offer.

Conclusions:

This is an important tree in the landscape and of an age which demands careful management.

The proposed work has been justified on arboricultural grounds.

Recommendation:

We grant consent for this application subject to the following condition:

Condition 1

The following instruction does not and cannot apply to the proposed treatment of north stem.

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:

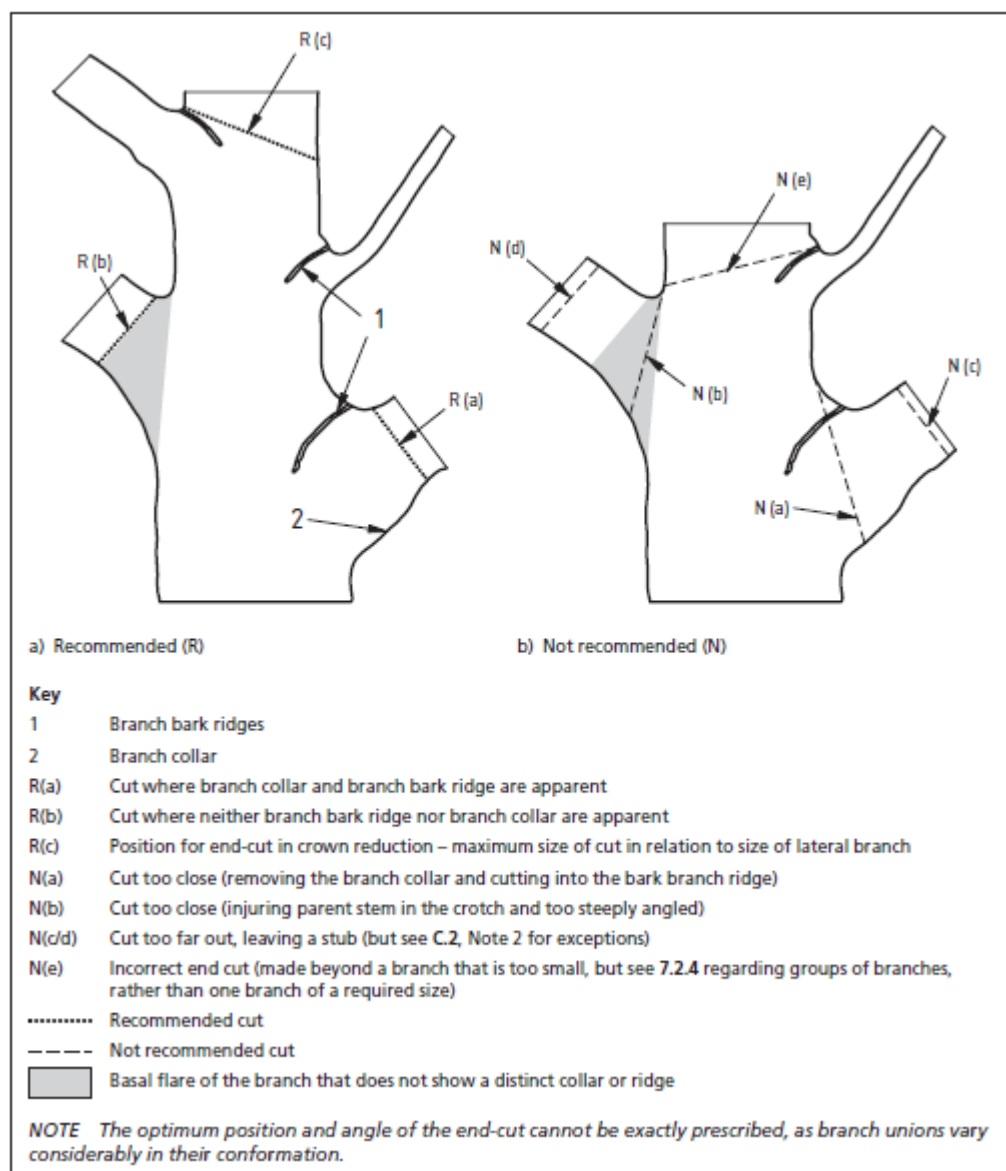
Hard pruning creates numerous and/or large wounds, incurring a physiological stress which may affect long-term health and vitality. The optimum time for pruning deciduous trees is late spring to summer (May to August).



Fig.1. Looking west at north tending stem, showing preferred and maximum extent of pruning.

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer
Environment and Climate Change

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts



Tree Officers response

Arun District Council, Civic Centre, Maltravers Rd
Littlehampton, West Sussex, BN17 5LF

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From: Mark Warwick <Mark.Warwick@arun.gov.uk>

Sent: 10 November 2025 12:00

To: Planning.Responses <Planning.Responses@arun.gov.uk>

Cc: Susan Haley <Susan.Haley@arun.gov.uk>; Freya Clewley <Freya.Clewley@arun.gov.uk>

Subject: BN/101/25/T

Please find attached my report for your consideration.

This amended version supercedes that which I sent to you on 6th Nov.

Thank you.

Regards,

Mark Warwick

Tree Officer, Environment and Climate Change

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