

## CONSULTEE RESPONSE (Council's Arboriculturist)

Date of inspection: 4<sup>th</sup> November 2025

**Case Officer:** Susan Haley

**Reference:** FP/138/25/T

**Location:** Grass verge opposite 6 New Barn Lane, Felpham, PO22 8LP

**Proposal:** Crown reduction to 1no. oak (T1,000,003) leaving a height of 12m and spread of 10m.

**Reason:** To recover greater symmetry in the crown profile.

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### Comments on Application:

|                                               |                |                      |                   |
|-----------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Pedunculate oak / <i>Quercus robur</i></b> | Height: 15-20m | Radial spread: 5-10m | Age class: Mature |
|-----------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------------|-------------------|

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The tree is a large, long-established feature in the landscape. One of several mature oak that define the character of the lane at its western extent. From a distance it appears to be in good health.

Historic unauthorised pruning to the west side of the crown, has left the tree with an asymmetric profile. This is unfortunate but the tree has high potential to recover crown on that aspect and should be encouraged to do so.

A recent limb failure in the upper crown has left an obvious wound but there is no suggestion that demands remedial pruning to the extent proposed.

### Conclusions:

A reduction of radial crown spread on the north, east and south aspects as described, will involve the removal of 2-3metres of growth from each. This will remove any problematic branch ends and can be achieved without loss of visual amenity or excessive harm to the tree. Crown spread on the diminished west aspect is substantially less than 10metres, so will remain untouched.

There is no obvious justification for a reduction in height. Such work if undertaken would incur additional stress upon the tree and diminish its visual contribution.

### Recommendation:

As it stands, I am unable to support this application. I **would like the applicant to be invited to agree to a revision, by removing height reduction from the proposal, as part of the current application so as not to incur further delay.** Such work would ensure 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 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:**

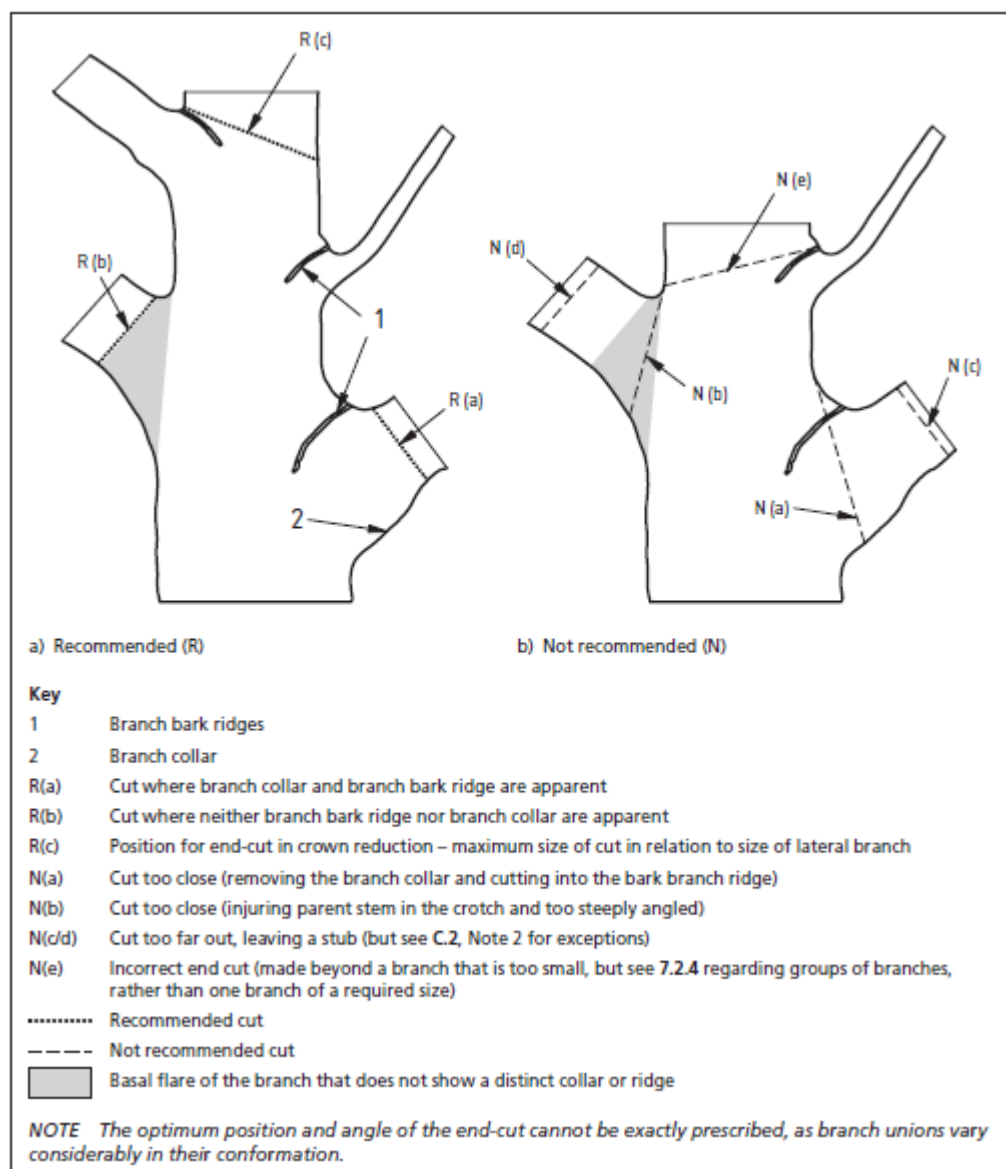
Hard pruning creates numerous and/or large wounds, incurring a physiological stress which may affect long-term health and vitality. The optimum time for pruning deciduous oak trees is late spring to summer (May to August).

Mark Warwick

Tree Officer

Environment and Climate Change

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts





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