

CONSULTEE RESPONSE (Council's Arboriculturist)

Date of inspection: 12th May 2026

Case Officer: Jonny Cooper
Reference: FP/43/26/T
Location: 29 The Hartings, Felpham, PO22 6QF
Proposal: Crown reduction to 1no. oak tree (T1) to leave a spread of 2m.
Reason: None given

Comments on Application:

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

My inspection was undertaken from the garden of 29 The Hartings, with the applicant in attendance. Previous consideration from the tree owner's property (2023) provides further insight to the proposal.

Viewed from northern aspects this tree appears to be in a fine physiological state. It displays a visually impressive broad crown formed upon co-dominant stems, highly visible from surrounding properties and in large part from public highway. It is a long-established feature of the local landscape.

The extent of branch overhang affecting the applicant's property is potentially problematic although not excessive at this time. Several metres of overhang must be retained at reasonable height, if the crown profile is to remain visually appealing and proportionate with other aspects.

The proposal taken literally would involve attending to branches on the north and south sides. Speaking with the applicant, that is clearly not the intention. They wish to reduce branches overhanging their property only (north aspect). The agent's description of work in their Tree Report is to reduce from 5m to 2m by removing 3m. That statement reinforces the applicant's assurance that work is intended only for the north side. That said, the description of work is sufficiently ambiguous to be interpreted as to cause harm to tree health and amenity. As such, it will need to be revised for lesser work and to provide clarity, or the application should be refused.

Conclusions:

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

The proposal is seemingly not representative of the applicant's intention for the tree and if granted consent could lead to 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:

T1 oak – Reduce length of branches on north aspect of tree only, to leave a minimum of 3metres spread when measured perpendicularly from the established garden boundary fenceline. This equates approximately to a finished northern crown spread for the tree of 7metres.

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) All pruning cuts shall not exceed 75mm in diameter.

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

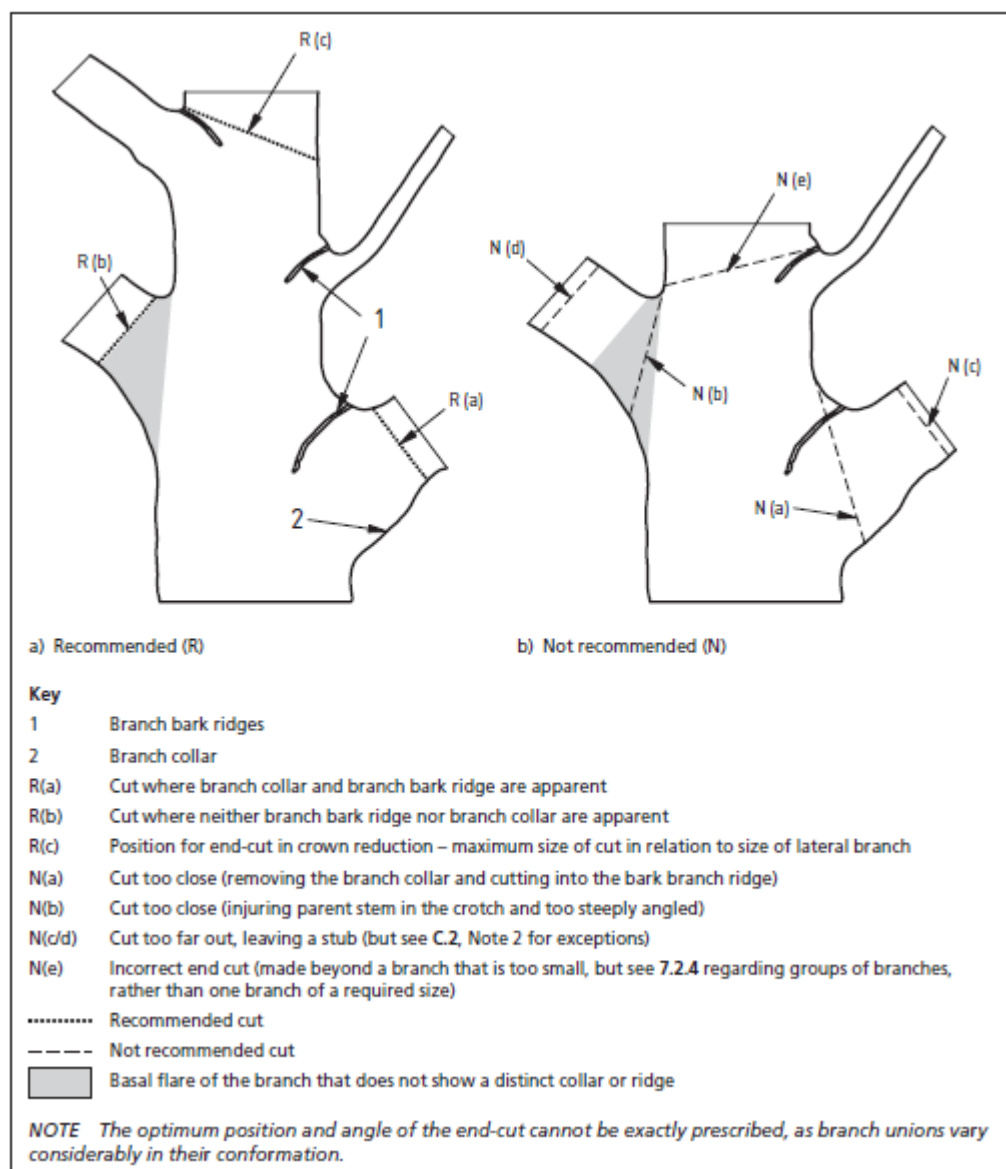
- See also the standard pruning guidance note issued with the consent letter

Informative:

Where an applicant is not the stated owner of the tree(s), permission must first be obtained from the appropriate landowner before operating beyond the boundary of their own property. Consent from the local planning authority does not override such a requirement.

Mark Warwick
Principal Tree Officer
Environment and Climate Change

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts



[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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From: Mark Warwick [REDACTED]
Sent: 22 May 2026 13:02
To: Planning.Responses <Planning.Responses@arun.gov.uk>
Cc: Jonny Cooper <Jonny.Cooper@arun.gov.uk>
Subject: FP/43/26/T

Please find attached my report for your consideration.

Regards,

Mark Warwick
Principal Tree Officer, Environment and Climate Change

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Littlehampton, West Sussex, BN17 5LF
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