

CONSULTEE RESPONSE (Council's Arboriculturist)

Date of inspection: 27th February 2026

Case Officer: Silvie Steiningerova

Reference: FP/4/26/T

Location: 9 Normans Drive, Felpham, PO22 8LW

Proposal: Crown reduction to 1no. English oak (T1) to leave a height of 10m and spread of 8-10m.

Reason: Tree is overpowering the property

Comments on Application:

T1 is the subject of a preservation order – TPO/FP/1/07.

It grows on land owned by Arun District Council and managed on behalf of the public by their Parks Department. It is known as Meadows Keep Public Open Space.

T1 Pedunculate oak / *Quercus robur* Height: 15-20m Radial spread: 5-10m Age class: Mature

This tree appears to be in a fine physiological state and presents an attractive crown profile, unmodified by hard pruning. It is large, prominent in the landscape and therefore of high amenity value.

There must be a compelling reason to justify a significant reduction in crown volume. None has been provided, only a subjective assessment of its influence over the applicant's property.

It is usual for trees to overhang properties and whilst seasonal impacts may be experienced, those do not appear to be excessive in this situation. That said, there is potential for further encroachment which could affect the reasonable use of garden space and so pruning of branch spread to limit at an extent not unduly harmful to the tree would be appropriate.

Conclusions:

The tree is a significant feature in the local landscape and appears to be in adequately sound and healthy condition. The tree surgery proposed in the application would result in excessive reduction of the tree's landscape impact and undue detriment to the visual amenities of the locality.

It is reasonable to set a limit for the extent of branch overhang to maintain reasonable use of garden space.

Recommendation:

As it stands, I am unable to support this application. I **would like the applicant invited to agree to an alternative 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:

- *Crown lift on east aspect only, to achieve a maximum of four metres overhead clearance above the rear gardens of 9 and 11 Normans Drive.*
 - *Reduce back branches overhanging gardens of 9 and 11 Normans Drive, to leave a minimum of 7m radial spread when measured from the bark of T1 main stem. This effectively leaves a minimum of 2.5m crown overhanging the plot when measured from the rear garden boundary fenceline.*
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If the applicant agrees to the above, 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***

Reason: To ensure a satisfactory standard of tree surgery in the interests of amenity in accordance with Policy ENV DM4 of the Arun Local Plan.

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). 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.

INFORMATIVE

Where an applicant is not the stated owner of the tree(s) and proposed works are not in response to an emergency situation, permission must first be obtained from the landowner before operating beyond the boundary of their own property. Consent from the local planning authority does not by association permit approved works to be undertaken without such permission.

In this instance, the applicant or their agent will need written permission from Arun District Council's Parks and Greenspace Team, if intending to operate over or from land owned by the local authority. A method statement detailing when and how the work will be carried out, from access/setting up to post-pruning tidying up of site and departure, appropriate certificates of competency in the relevant tree work operations and evidence of 3rd party/public liability insurance to the necessary level of cover, will first need to be submitted for our consideration.

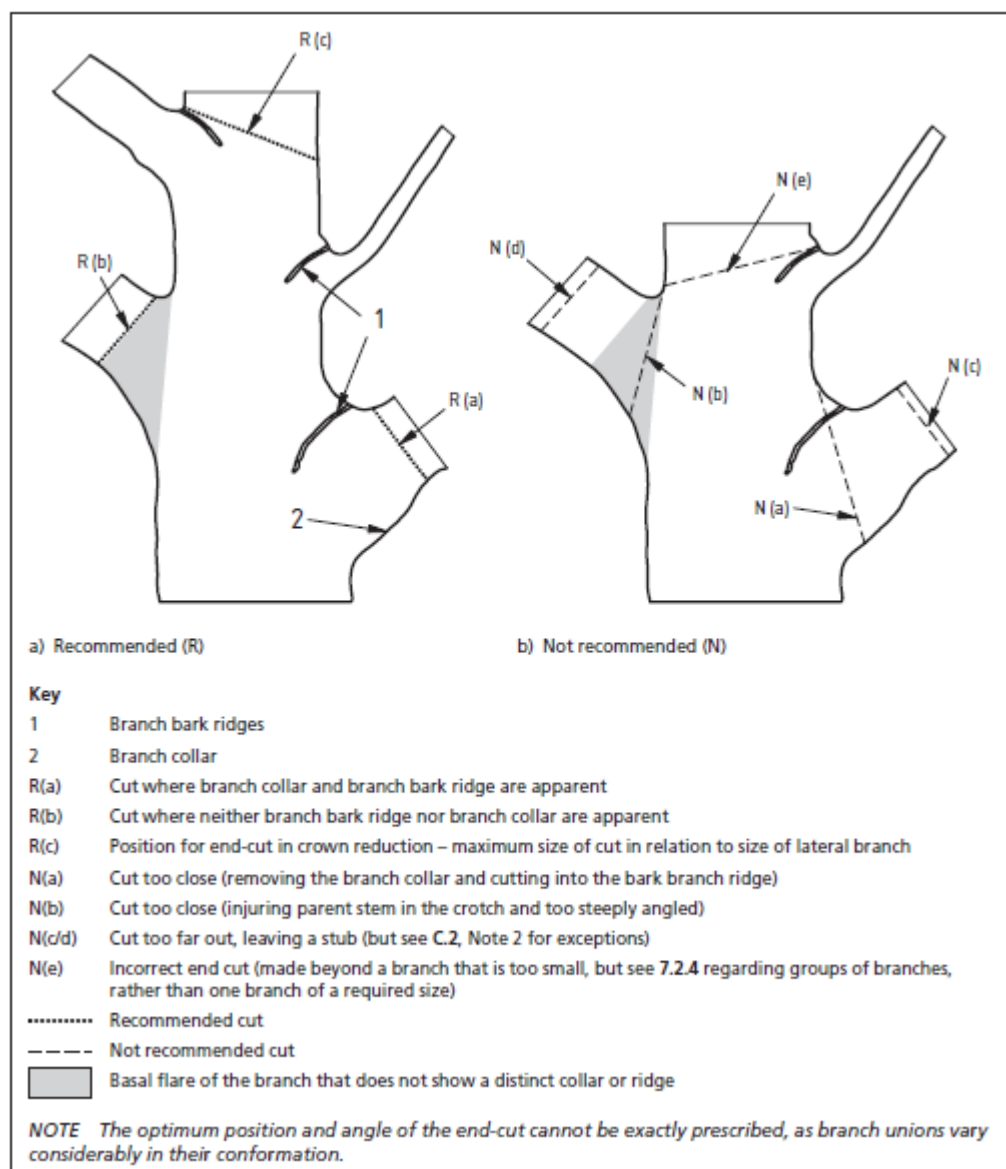
Contact details

Arun District Council
Parks and Greenspace Team
Town Hall
Clarence Road
Bognor Regis
West Sussex
PO21 1LD

Email: parks@arun.gov.uk Tel: 01903 737951

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer
Environment and Climate Change

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts



[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Arun District Council, Civic Centre, Maltravers Rd
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From: Mark Warwick [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 March 2026 13:30
To: Planning.Responses <Planning.Responses@arun.gov.uk>
Cc: Silvie Steiningerova <Silvie.Steiningerova@arun.gov.uk>
Subject: FP/4/26/T

Please find attached my report for your consideration.

Regards,

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer, Environment and Climate Change

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