

The following FOI requests relate to the process of TPO 1957/2024 being issued by Mr C Hannington on 1st March 2024 ("the TPO") and WBC's subsequent management of the TPO.

1. In issuing the TPO Mr Hannington justified his action by asserting that the arboreal work carried out on the Tree was not carried out in accordance with Best Practise which he later clarified was BS3998.

This is contrary to my view and the paperwork from the Tree Surgeon who carried out the work.

Please disclose the specific reasons for Mr Hannington's assertion, referencing both the actual work carried out and the specific relevant paragraph(s) of BS3998. If Mr Hannington cannot reference best practise breaches of BS3998 without referencing the document, please disclose this.

In the opinion of the Tree Officers considering TPO 1957/2024, an excessive amount of branches were removed and pruning cuts were not made at the appropriate points. It is evident from site visits carried out after the crown reduction took place that pruning cuts were all made at a certain distance from the main stem without considering the position of final cuts according to BS 3998, leaving numerous stubs in the crown. A site photo is attached.



The below relevant sections of BS3998 were applicable when considering the work that was carried out:

BS3998:2010 Tree work – Recommendations

7.2.4: For most forms of crown management, pruning cuts should normally be made at branch or stem unions so as to avoid the retention of stubs, which can die back and inhibit wound occlusion, or give rise to an undesirable proliferation of new shoots, e.g. in *Tilia* spp.

7.2.5: When shortening a stem or branch, the final cut should be just beyond and parallel to the distal end of the bark ridge (if apparent) of a branch chosen for retention as indicated in Figure 2, R(c). (relevant sections highlighted in yellow)

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

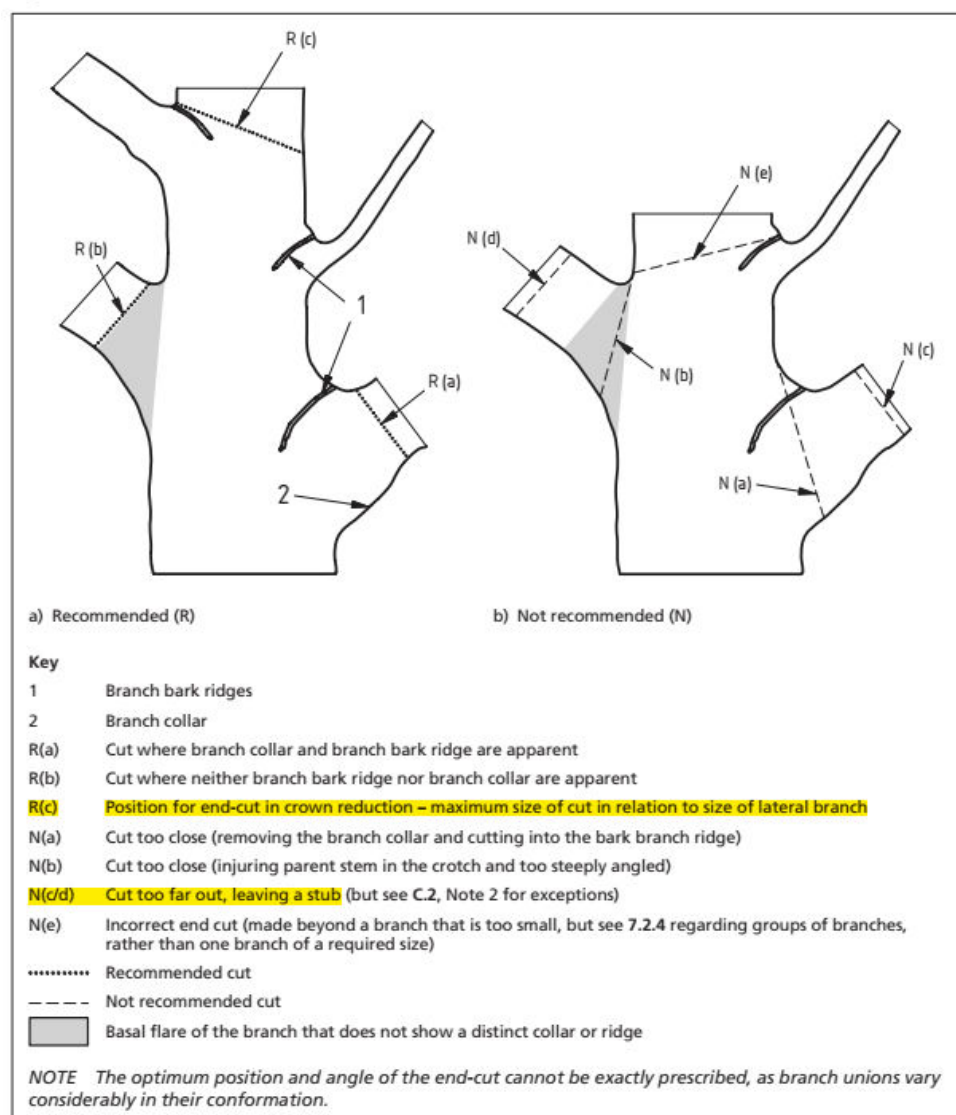
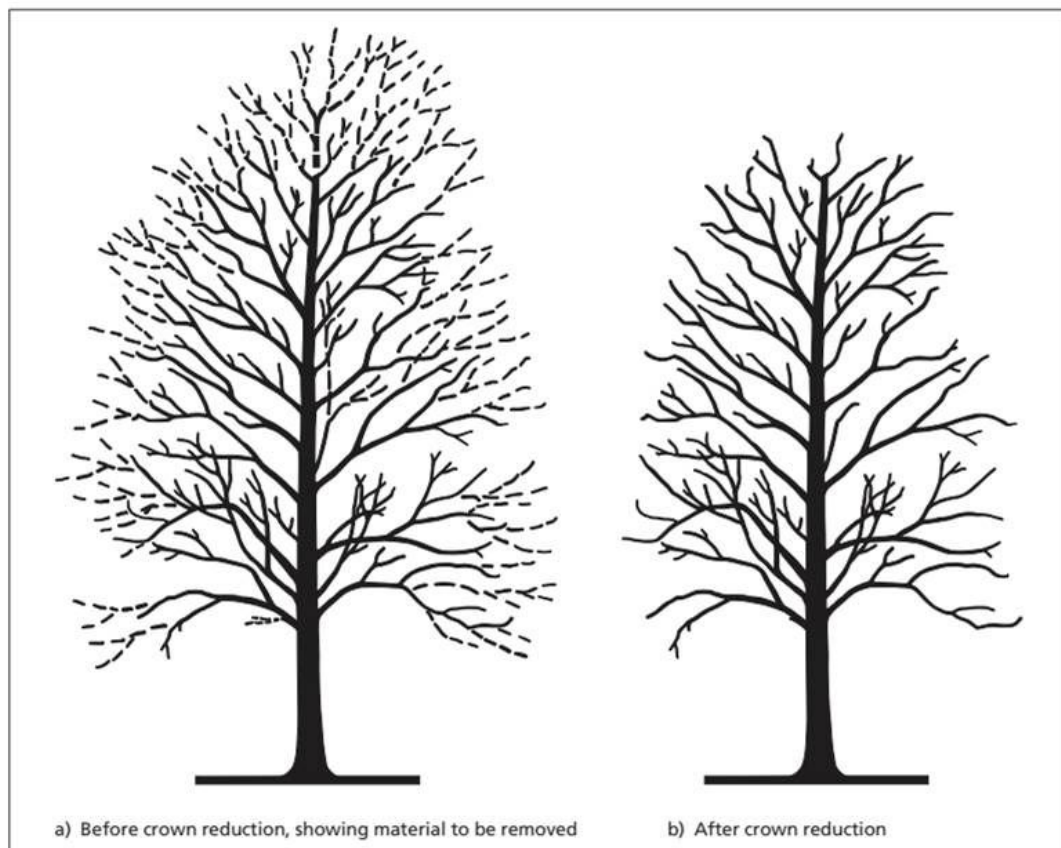


Figure 4 shows a diagrammatic illustration of a tree before and after crown reduction, with the peripheral branches shortened or removed in a uniform and systematic manner, whilst preserving as natural a shape as possible.

Figure 4 Diagrammatic illustration of crown reduction



We must reiterate that the appropriate place to challenge the making of a TPO would have been through an appeal process by an application to the High Court.

2. In Mr Hannington’s email to me of 28th August 2024 he stated “I am not aware of any contact by either of the Cllrs on this matter”. It appears that one of the councillors may have been involved in initiating the TPO request in September 2023.

Please supply an explanation for this apparent inconsistency.

This is not a Freedom of Information Act question. This would involve the creation of data/information to answer the question posed. The appropriate channel for these types of explanation requests or clarifications would be through the corporate complaints process for which a Stage 1 complaint response was provided by the service in relation to TPO 1957/2024 in March 2025. This was subsequently followed up by a Stage 2 response through the Customer Relations team. You are then able to escalate the complaint response to the Ombudsman if dissatisfied.

3. On 4th March 2024 I emailed the Tree Officer requesting a copy of the relevant Application to include Trees under a Tree Preservation Order (“Request Form”) to enable me to understand the reason the Applicant had given to request the TPO and therefore appeal effectively.

In FOI 19095 1 I again requested that the Request Form be disclosed.

On both occasions the Tree Department did not disclose the Request Form and claimed that I had requested information on the identity of the Applicant (which was incorrect as I had requested the Request Form) and doing so would disclose personal data which

they claim is exempt under Section 40 of the Freedom of Information Act (2000) even though they could have redacted personal information and supplied non personal information such as the reason.

It now transpires that the Tree Department did not actually have a Request Form in this case.

Please disclose why the Tree Department was not candid about the absence of the Request Form earlier both in responding to my 4th March 2024 email and responding to FOI 19095.

This is not a Freedom of Information Act question. This would involve the creation of data/information to answer the question posed. The appropriate channel for these types of explanation requests or clarifications would be through the corporate complaints process for which a Stage 1 complaint response was provided by the service in relation to TPO 1957/2024 in March 2025. This was subsequently followed up by a Stage 2 response through the Customer Relations team. You are then able to escalate the complaint response to the Ombudsman if dissatisfied.