

From: Mark Warwick
Sent: 29 January 2019 15:11
To: Charlotte Easton
Cc: Planning.Responses
Subject: AL/109/18/T

Charlotte

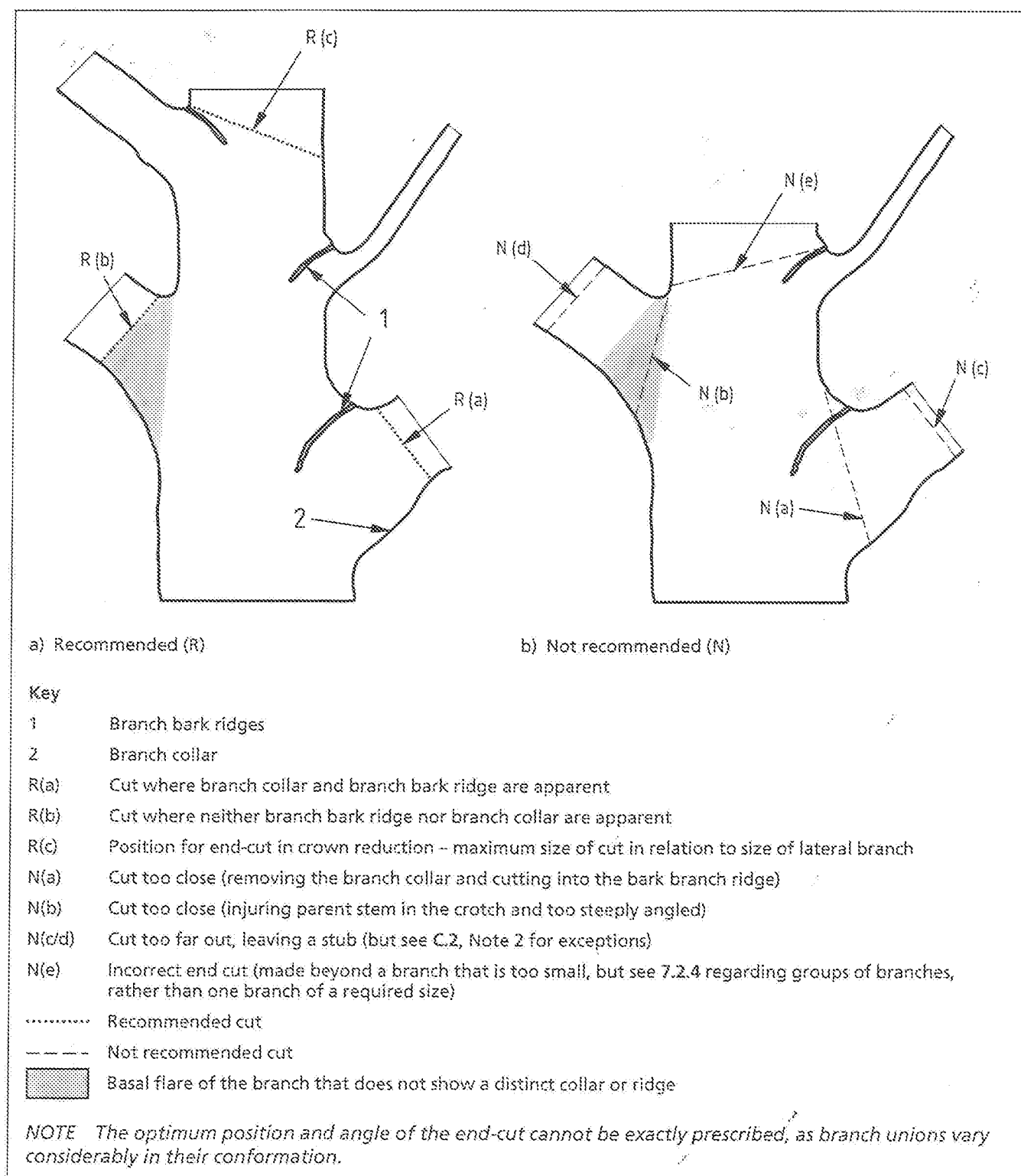
Please find attached my comments/observations for your consideration.

Regards,

Mark

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Figure 2 Positions of final cuts



Planning Officer: Charlotte Easton

Planning Application Ref: AL/109/18/T

Location: 16 Woodgate Road, Woodgate, Aldingbourne, PO20 3SX

Description of works: Reduce or remove branches as necessary to achieve a maximum of 2m building clearance and 4m overhead clearance above side of property (driveway and garden areas) to 2No. oak trees. Reduce or remove branches as necessary to achieve a maximum of 3m overhead clearance above driveway to 1No. hawthorn.

Reasons Given: To achieve reasonable extent of building and driveway clearance

Comments on Application:

2x Pedunculate oak	<i>Quercus robur</i>	Height: Approx. 16m	Average spread: 7m	Age: Mature
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Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Height: Approx. 7m	Average spread: 3m	Age: Mature
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- These are fine examples of their type and visible from the adjacent public highway and neighbouring properties; thereby providing a notable visual amenity.
- In respect of the oak, they have good form arising from a lack of significant crown modification and with an open field aspect permitting the establishment of low branches. Although not comprehensively assessed, they appear to be in a fine physiological state and free of significant structural defect. As old field boundary trees they possess considerable landscape value.
- The oak are closely spaced to one another with a shared crown profile. Their relatively short distance to the main building has inevitably caused an intensely shade-bearing and oppressive effect with large branches travelling across and in close proximity to the roof and east flank wall.
- This application is a re-submission of AL/16/18/T with a revised work specification, reflecting the advisory comments. It should be noted that the two annotated substitute photos submitted with the current application – show a proposed pruning exercise far in excess of that described and should be disregarded. To avoid any confusion, it is important to understand the distinction between *building clearance* and *property clearance*. What is being sought here must be assumed to be the former and any consent would only allow for 2m clearance of built structure, not a wholesale cutting back of limbs/branches overhanging the property.

Conclusion:

- If the work is undertaken to a good standard and at the right time; then it is unlikely to have an adverse effect on the tree's long-term vitality and visual amenity.
- The work proposed is justified on arboricultural grounds as it seeks to ensure adequate clearance from residential dwelling and reasonable use of the property with respect to natural tree form.

Recommendations:

- I recommend **CONSENT** for this application, subject to the following conditions:

Conditions To Be Applied to Approved Work: -

- 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
- 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.

- The long-term vitality of these trees are best respected when significant pruning work such as proposed, is undertaken during either the late spring/summer (May to August) or winter (December to February) periods. The work proposed must only be undertaken during these periods.
- The work hereby approved shall be undertaken under the supervision of the Local Planning Authority who shall be notified in writing, not less than 7days before the work commences.

Reasons: In the interests of the trees 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.

Mark Warwick

Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team