

Planning Officer: Miss Z Toppin

Planning Application Ref: AL/92/21/T

Location: 17 Ivy Close, Westergate, Aldingbourne, PO20 3RF

Description of works: Oak (T1) - crown reduction and crown lift. It is recommended to complete a 30% crown reduction (2.5-3.5m) and crown lift to keep the branches off the footpath and away from the road (5m). This will leave a span of 14-16m and height of 18-20m

Reasons given: 1. To address structural defects in upper crown 2. To achieve adequate clearance of public highway

Comments on Application:

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

- Outwardly and from distance (roadside) this tree appears to be in a fine physiological state. It has a complex crown formed upon twin stems and presents an attractive profile. There is some obvious evidence of historic stem/limb fracture but oak of this species is typically resilient and able to respond well to a sudden disruption in crown dynamics, especially when in early stages of maturity.
- It is a prominent tree with obvious landscape value, being highly visible to users of the busy public highway and from numerous residential properties.
- Low growth exists over the footway and carriageway, which the applicant proposes to remove for obvious safety reasons.

Conclusions:

- The quantity of crown material proposed for removal is substantial and will irrevocably diminish the tree's natural form and size potential. Such work is usually reserved for those trees which have significant structural defects or undue influence over their surroundings. The application is not supported with a sufficiently detailed tree hazard assessment to justify that work.
- 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.

Recommendations:

- As it stands, I recommend **REFUSAL** for this application.
- **I would like the applicant to be invited to agree to a revised proposal for lesser works** (such as described below) as part of the current application so as not to incur further delay. Such work would go some way to addressing their concerns whilst preventing a diminution of the tree's landscape and public amenity value:
 - *Remove or reduce back branches low on the tree's west side, as necessary, to achieve the following maximum overhead clearance:*
Footway – 2.5metres
Carriageway (including lay-by) – 6metres

- If the applicant is prepared to re-submit in line with this advice, then I would be able to recommend APPROVAL subject to the following condition:

Condition to Be Applied to Approved Work: -

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 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

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

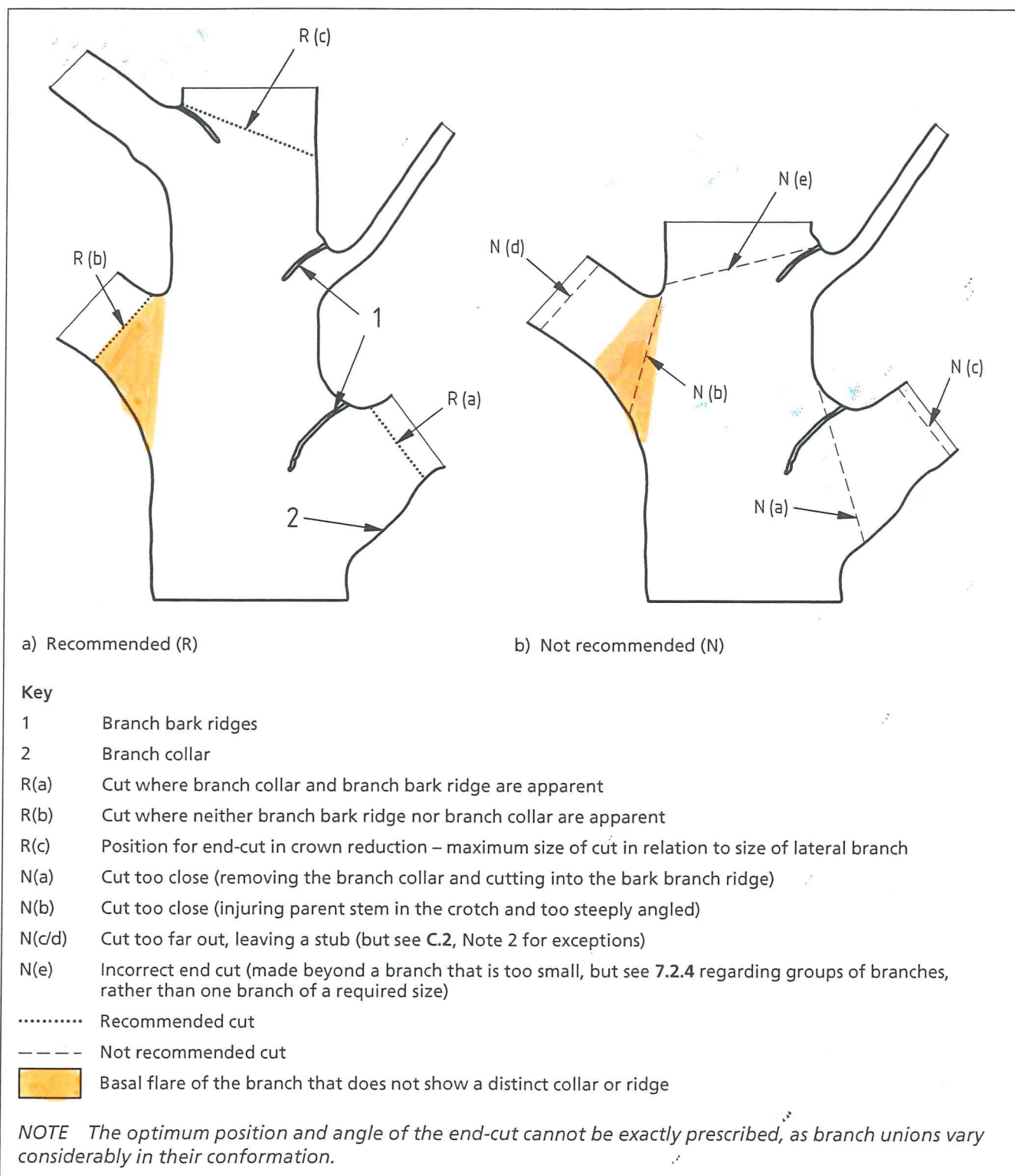


Figure 3 Crown lifting

