

CONSULTEE RESPONSE (Council's Arboriculturist)

Date inspected: 16 June 2022

Case Officer: Hannah Kersley

Reference: AW/138/22/T

Location: 20 The Oaks, Aldwick, PO21 3AE

Proposal: 1 no. oak tree (T1) crown lift to 5 metres, remove epicormic growth from the trunk and thin out the canopy by 20%, remove deadwood

Reasons given: None provided

Comments on Application:

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

Outwardly and from applicant's rear garden/roadside only, this tree appears to be in a fine physiological state and assumed to be so in the absence of any evidence provided to the contrary.

It grows at the rear of the property but can be seen from numerous local dwellings and publicly accessible land. As such it has amenity value.

This large tree has suffered great intrusion from recent development to the south and east and consequently has a dominant presence over adjacent dwellings and gardens.

Past unsympathetic pruning has left several low limbs/branches truncated and sporting erratic regrowth in recovery. Nonetheless, this tree remains an important feature in the local landscape.

The removal of dead branches is an exception and does not require prior consent from the local planning authority.

Conclusions:

This tree requires careful management that respects its age and vulnerability to environmental changes and disease progression.

The removal of low branches to achieve 5m clearance above ground level (crown lifting) is not justified on arboricultural grounds and by volume exceeds that which is recommended in the British Standard (BS3998:2010) Tree work.

Crown thinning work has not been justified on arboricultural grounds. Such work rarely provides a benefit to the tree and often only a short-term increase in light levels.

Recommendation:

As it stands, I am unable to support this application. I **would like the applicant to be invited to agree to a revised proposal for lesser works** (*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 amenity value:

'Remove epicormic growth from main stem and about the crown-break (the height on the main stem at which the main limbs arise)

Crown lift by removing small diameter branches (<50mm) only to provide a maximum of four metres overhead clearance on all aspects.'

If the applicant agrees to the above proposal, then I would be able to recommend APPROVAL subject to the following condition:

Condition to Be Applied to Approved Work: -

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

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer
Neighbourhood Services

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

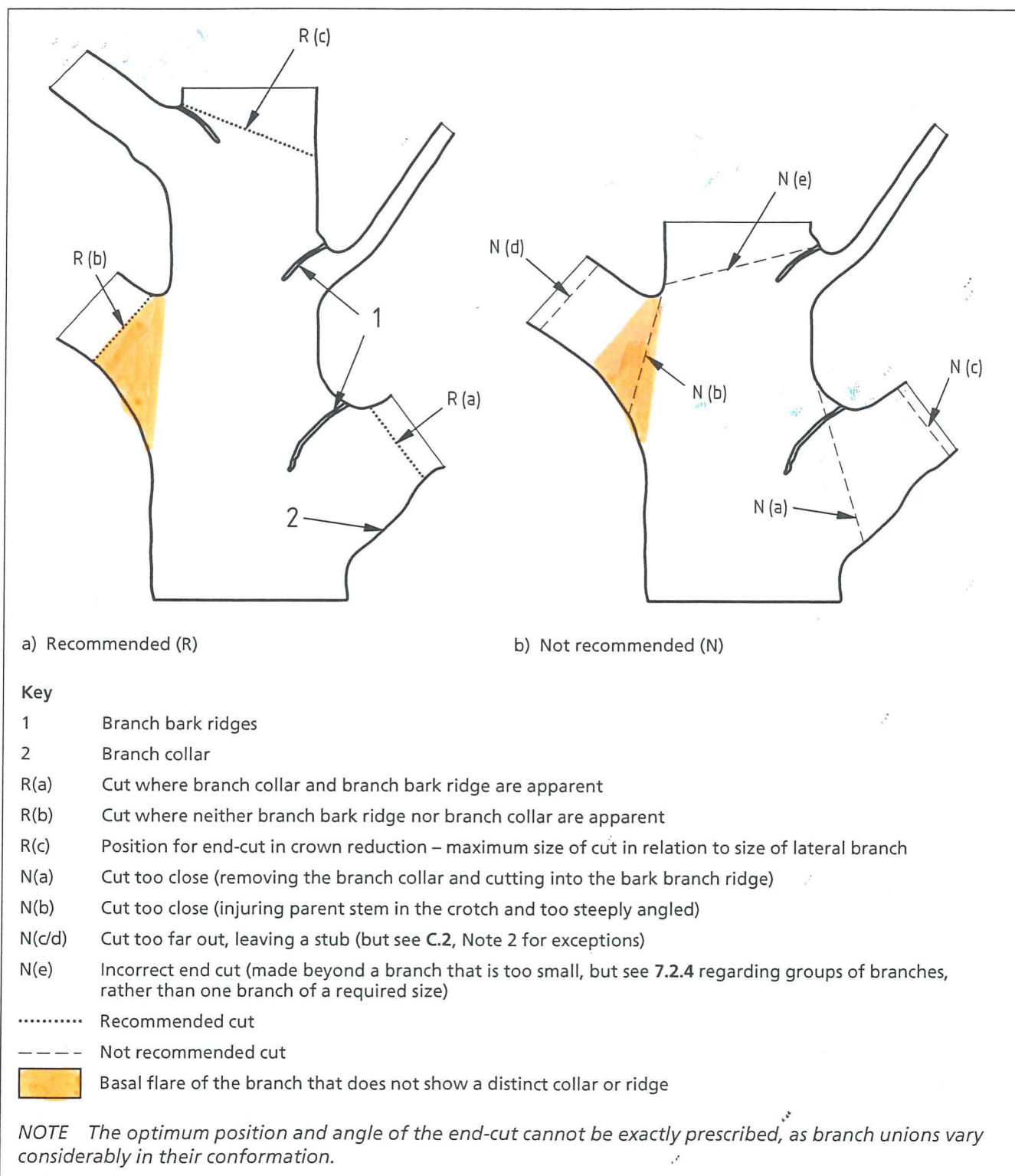


Figure 3 Crown lifting

