

Planning Officer: Lynnyrd Wolfe

Planning Application Ref: AW/139/20/T

Location: 5 Heston Grove, Aldwick, PO21 4LL

Description of works: Fell 1No. English oak (T1585) stump to be left at 2.5-3m & Reduce crown of 1No. field maple (T1592) by to height 10.5-12m and spread 4.5-6m

Reasons given: T1585 in poor, declining condition. T1592 root-plate undermined from bank erosion

Comments on Application:

T1585 Pedunculate oak / <i>Quercus robur</i>	Height: 10-15m	Spread: 0-5m	Age class: Early mature
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T1592 Field maple / <i>Acer campestre</i>	Height: 10-15m	Spread: 0-5m	Age class: Mature
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- T1585 - This tree appears to be under significant physiological distress, evidenced by low upper crown density and a high percentage of dead limbs/branches. Several historic scaffold limb failures suggest internal decay may be advanced within parts of the main stem.
- T1592 – This tree has moderate crown density, asymmetric form and twin-stemmed from near its base. There is substantial erosion of the bank beneath and around the exposed root collar although it appears stable. Sympathetic crown reduction work will reduce the tree's risk factor whilst retaining visual amenity. It is visible from surrounding properties and to users of the public highway (footway).
- Both trees grow from the steep bank of a deep land drain that has recently been subject to high water levels, contributing to accelerated rate of erosion. Although both appear generally stable, it is prudent to reduce the wind-loading on roots, given the 'target area' should a whole tree failure occur. The field maple currently provides a visual amenity and is viable for safe, long-term retention – subject to it being carefully managed.

Conclusions:

- The work proposed is necessary to mitigate risk of structural failure and damage to persons or property, so is justified on arboricultural grounds.
- T1585 - The proposal to leave the stump in-situ and at a safe height is encouraged to assist with bank stability and provide continued ecological benefit.
- T1592 - 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.

Recommendations:

- I recommend **CONSENT** for this application, 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

Advisory:

- The long-term vitality of these trees is best respected when significant pruning work such as proposed, is undertaken during the summer (June to August) period. The work should only be undertaken during this period.

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

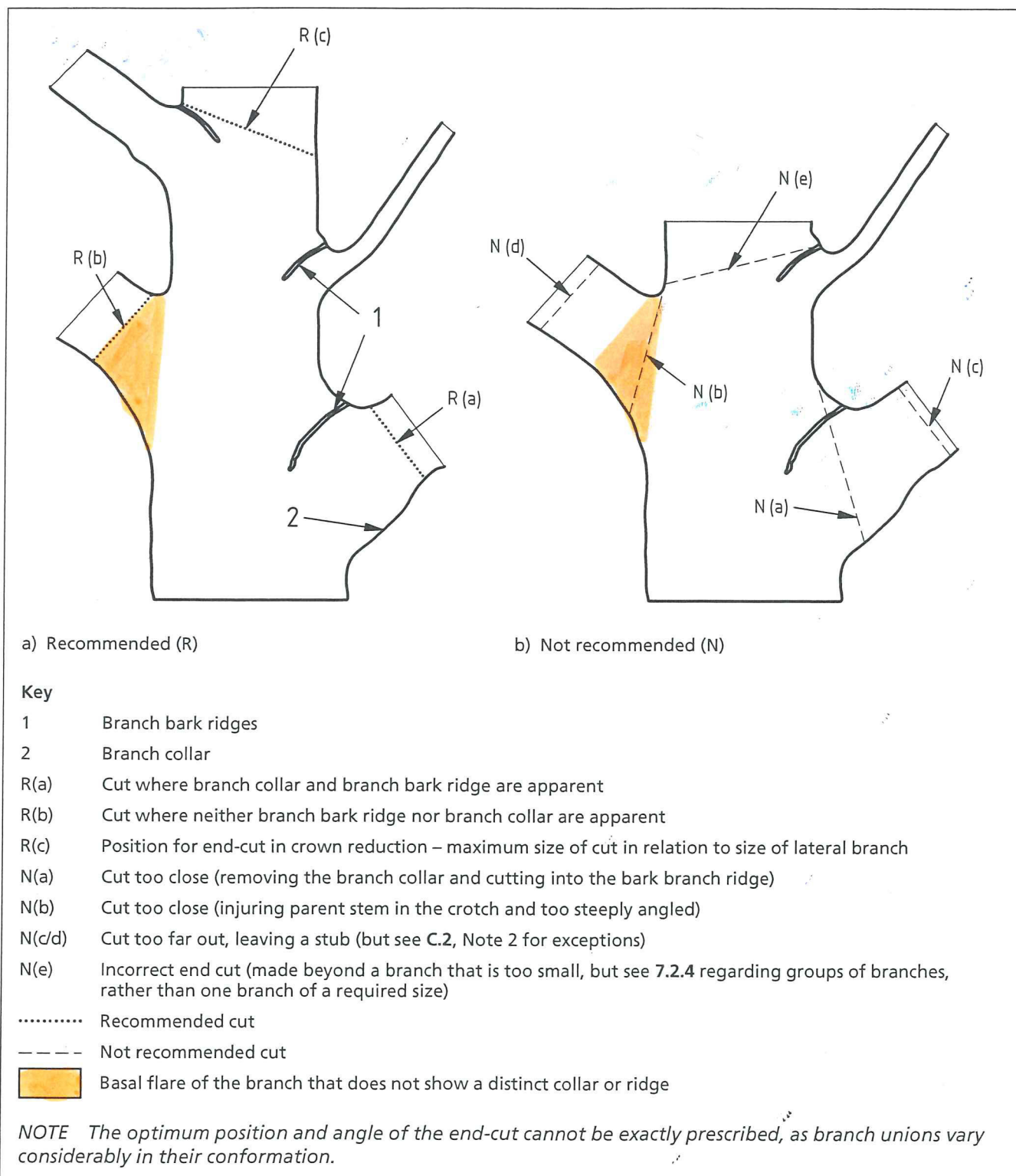


Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

