

Planning Officer: Mr F Gardner

Planning Application Ref: **AW/149/19/T**

Location: **2 Grange Lodge, Aldwick Street, Aldwick, PO21 3AN**

Description of works: **Crown reduction up to 10m and crown thin up to 25% to 1no. beech tree**

Reasons Given: Excessive shading of garden and interference with built structures

Comments on Application:

Beech / <i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Approx. height: 18m	Average spread: 6m	Age class: Mature
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- This tree appears to be outwardly healthy and stable. It has slightly asymmetric form, more evident following historic loss of its companion tree. It is reported to have flourished since then and presents an attractive crown profile.
- It grows from a discreet position in the rear garden although it becomes apparent on closer inspection to have significant presence from numerous properties and can be viewed from the public highway (footway and carriageway). As such, it has public amenity value.
- It is an important constituent of the local mature tree population, that by virtue of their unmodified high canopy collectively help define the character of the area.
- It grows in close proximity to the neighbouring property and dominates that aspect of the dwelling although appears to be in relative harmony with the same.

Conclusions:

- This tree requires careful management that respects its age and vulnerability to environmental changes and disease progression.
- *Crown reduction* and *Crown thinning* work has not been justified on arboricultural grounds. In respect of the latter, such work rarely provides a benefit to the tree and often only a short-term increase in light levels. Furthermore, combining the two operations (and especially to the extent proposed) could drastically alter tree dynamics and natural defences against wind pressure. The sudden exposure of central crown areas to such winds can result in significant damage.
- The proposal to reduce the height by 10m does not comply with 'British Standard (BS3998:2010) Tree work – Recommendations' and would be likely to result in harm to the health and vitality of the tree with large pruning wounds being formed as well as undermining its visual amenity value and impact in the landscape.

Recommendation:

- As it stands, I recommend **REFUSAL** for this application.

Advisory:

- Following an on-site discussion with the applicant, I would like to see them submit a revised work specification such as detailed below, which would address some of their concerns whilst preventing a diminution of the tree's landscape and public amenity value:
 - Reduce crown spread on east aspect only by no more than 2.5m from its farthest lateral extent, and only applied to low branches which substantially grow no higher than 8metres above ground level.
 - Crown lift to 4metres on all aspects.
 - Reduce or remove branches as necessary, to achieve a maximum of 1.5m clearance from adjacent built structures.

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- 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 conditions being applied:

Conditions To Be Applied to All Approved Works: -

- 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.

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

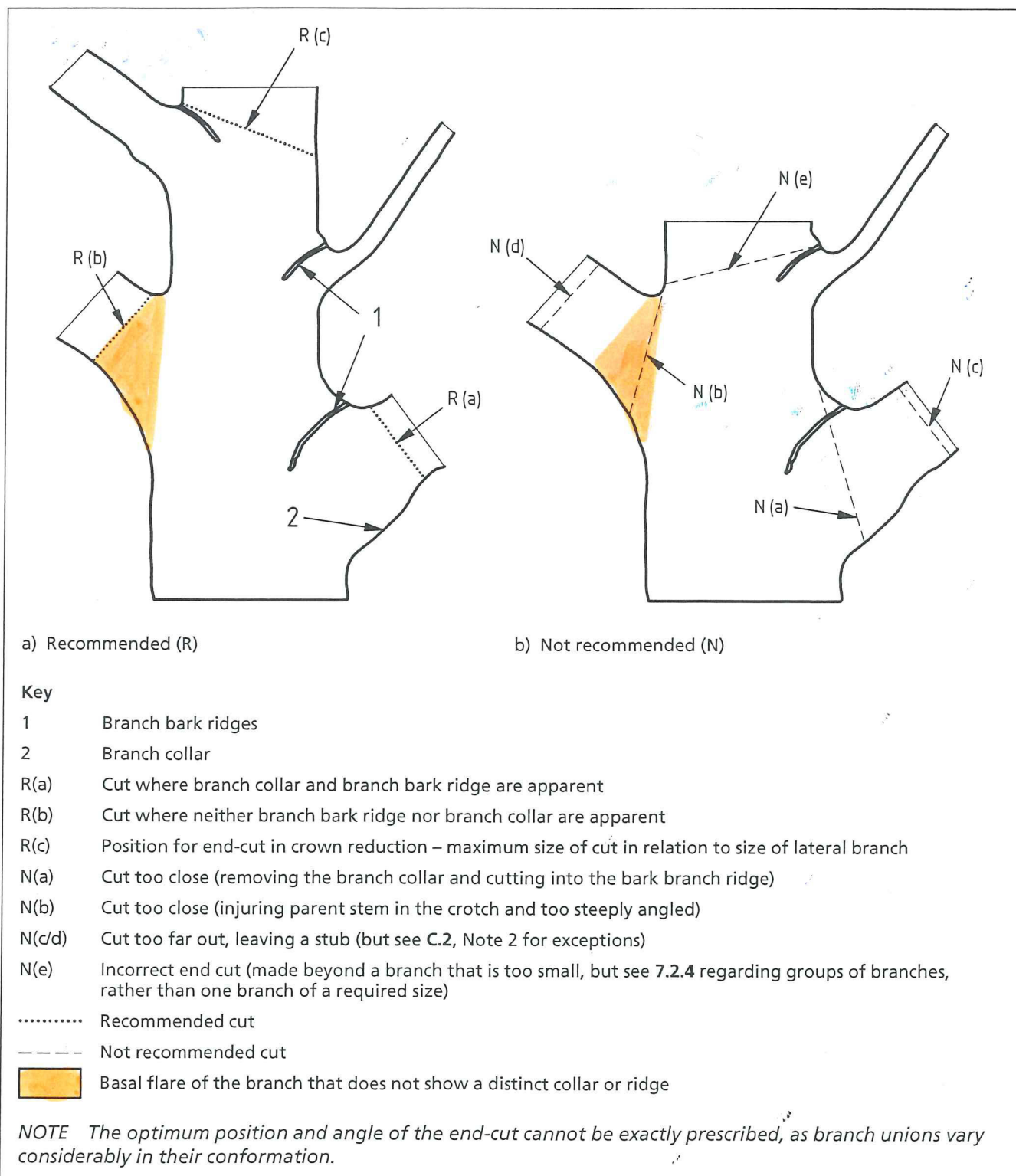


Figure 3 Crown lifting

