

Planning Officer: Richard Sherman

Planning Application Ref: AW/286/21/T

Location: 55 Colts Bay, Aldwick, PO21 4EH

Description of works: 1no. oak tree - Crown reduction to leave height 15m and spread approx. 7-8m

Reasons given: Excessive shading, branches growing toward building and roadside

Comments on Application:

T1 Pedunculate oak / *Quercus robur* Approx. height: 15m, Radial spread: 6m, Age class: Early mature

- This tree appears to be in a fine physiological state, with unmodified and attractive upper crown profile. It can be seen from commercial/retail premises as well as to users of the public highway (footway and carriageway). As such, it has amenity value. It grows from within a shrub border, over which it dominates.
- It will continue to exert considerable seasonal influence over surrounding ground and dwellings but is at a distance that ought to permit harmony if subject to careful and selective pruning in the future. Current building clearance is adequate although some light pruning could be tolerated to achieve long-term clearance. Low branches encroach into the carriageway.

Conclusions:

- Whole *crown reduction* pruning work has not been justified on arboricultural grounds.
- While it is acknowledged that it may not be reasonable to allow this tree to achieve its full growth potential without a degree of 'containment pruning'; it is a tree of public amenity value that can be satisfactorily managed without recourse to extensive pruning work at this time.

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:
 - Crown lift to achieve no more than 3metres overhead clearance on all aspects.
 - Crown lift to achieve no more than 6metres overhead clearance directly above carriageway.
 - Reduce/remove small diameter branches (<50mm diameter) as necessary, to achieve no more than 2metres building clearance.

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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 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 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 / Parks and Greenspace Team

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

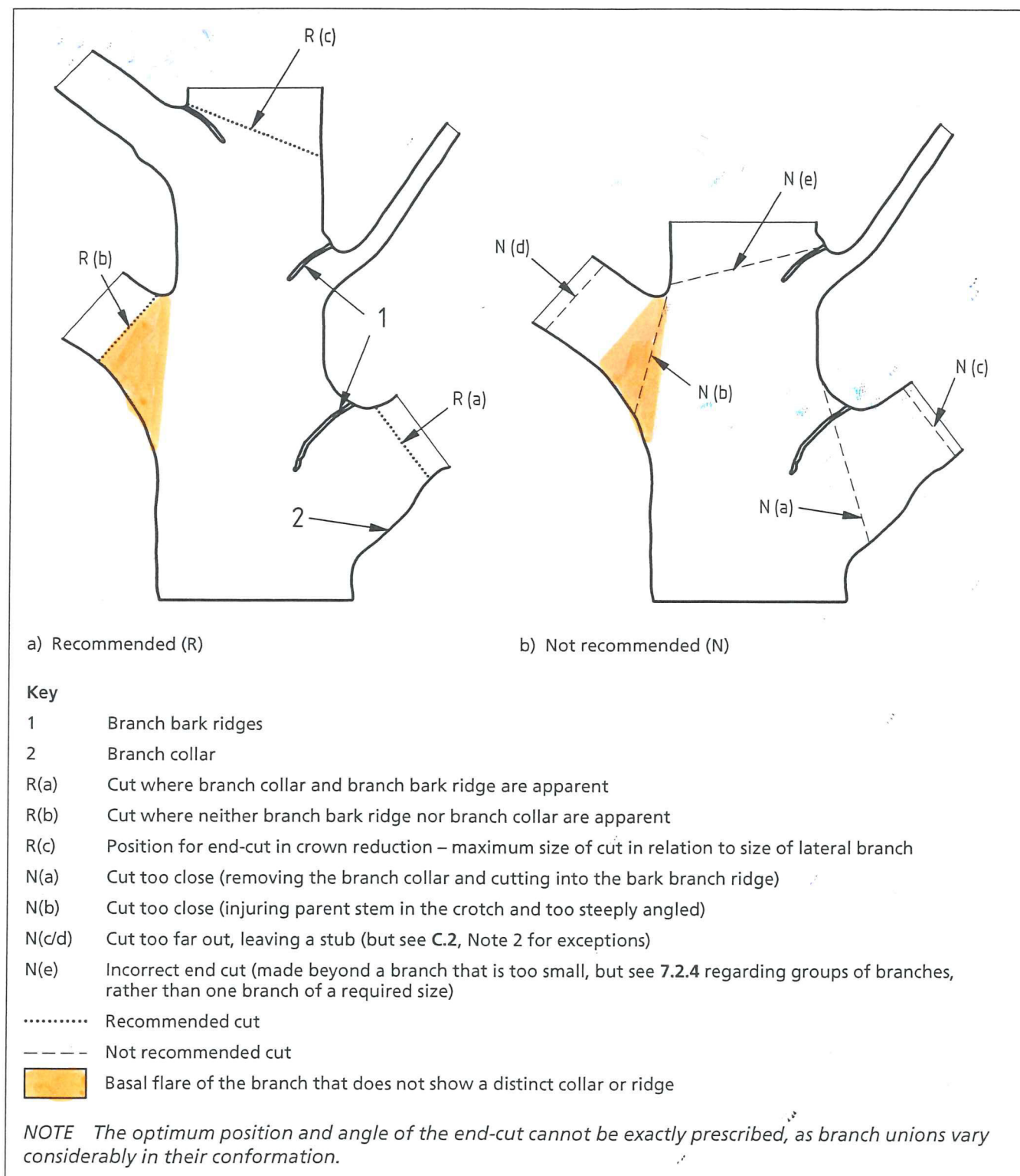


Figure 3 Crown lifting

