

Planning Officer: Hannah Kersley

Planning Application Ref: AW/318/21/T

Location: 3 Seacourt Close Aldwick PO21 4RD

Description of works: 1 No. Oak tree - Crown thin by 25% and Crown Lift to 2m

Reasons given: To reduce shading over garden and permit unobstructed maintenance of lawn beneath canopy

Comments on Application:

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

- Outwardly and from a distance (roadside) 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.
- There is limited public view of this tree at present, but that will increase if the tree is left to develop a full crown and so provide a significant long-term visual amenity.

Conclusions:

- The work proposed is in principle justified on arboricultural grounds as it seeks to maintain reasonable enjoyment of the garden and with respect for natural tree form.
- *Crown thinning* work rarely provides a benefit to the tree and often only a short-term increase in light levels. If done correctly, crown thinning will result in '*an even density of foliage throughout a well-spaced and balanced branch structure*', as described in the British Standard 3998:2010 Tree work – Recommendations.
- Failure to thin evenly can lead to a 'hollowing out' of the crown which will alter tree dynamics and natural defences against wind pressure. The sudden exposure of central crown areas to strong winds may result in significant damage occurring.
- If the work is undertaken to a high 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.

Recommendation:

- 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 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

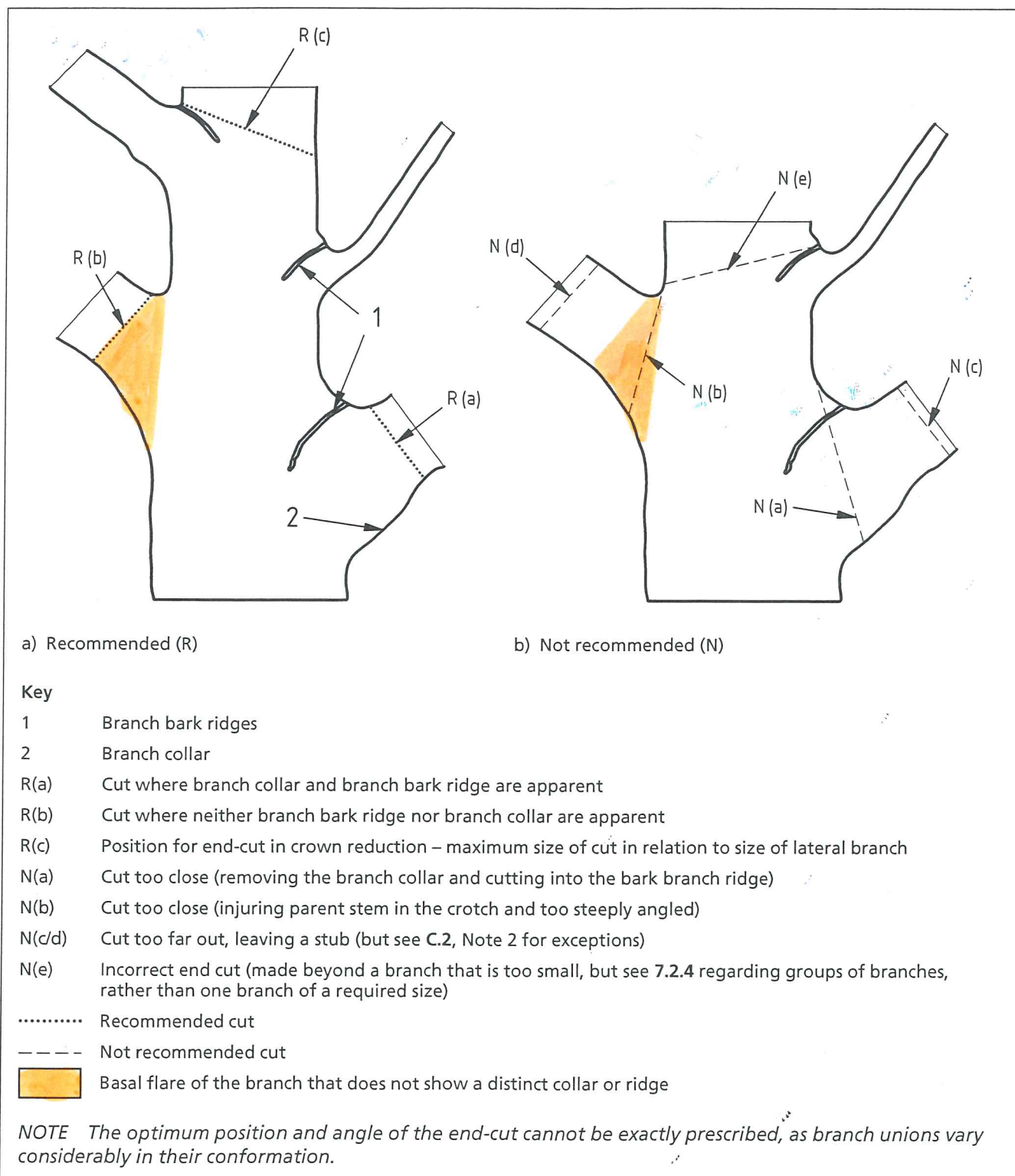


Figure 3 Crown lifting

