

Planning Officer: Hannah Kersley

Planning Application Ref: AW/368/21/T

Location: 102 Rose Green Road, Bognor Regis, PO21 3EF

Description of works: 1no. oak tree - crown lift to 4m and reduce height to 10-12m and spread to 7-8m

Reasons given: Maintain health and adequate clearance of building

Comments on Application:

Pedunculate oak / *Quercus robur* Approx. height: 11m Average radial spread: 6m Age class: 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.
- It is a prominent tree with an attractive crown profile, although formed upon a complex limb and branch framework. Height reduction pruning has occurred within the last 10 years, with 1-2 metres of regrowth. Large upswept limbs on SW and NE aspects limit potential for reduction of lateral spread – that will need to be minimal and carefully undertaken so as not to harm aesthetic value.
- The removal of low branches (*crown lifting*) to achieve 4m clearance above ground level on all aspects is not justified on arboricultural grounds and exceeds that which is recommended in the British Standard (BS3998:2010) Tree work.

Conclusions:

- This tree requires careful management that respects its age and vulnerability to environmental changes and disease progression.
- It is a large tree with a complex crown and in proximity to a dwelling. It also possesses high public amenity value and so any approved work specification needs to be carefully worded to ensure reasonable management objectives can be met without damaging its profile.

Recommendations:

- As it stands, I am unable to recommend approval for this application.
- **I would like the applicant to be invited to agree to a revised proposal for lesser works (as described below) as part of the current application so as not to incur delay.** Such work would go some way to addressing their concerns whilst preventing a diminution of the tree's landscape and public amenity value:
 - i) *Crown lift on all aspects to provide a maximum of 2.5 metres overhead clearance.*
 - ii) *Reduce/remove selected small diameter (<50mm) branches to achieve a maximum of 2 metres clearance from dwelling and car port roof.*
 - iii) *Reduce top height of tree by maximum of 2 metres, with respect to established 'knuckles' so as not to extend beyond the point of origin. Lateral spread to be reduced where required to balance crown profile and to leave a minimum of 5 metres radial extent on all aspects, attending only to small diameter (<50mm) branches.*

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- If the applicant can agree to this revision, 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.

Part c) Where pollarding or crown reduction pruning has occurred previously, then the removal of crown material which has developed since the last operation must be done sympathetically and with respect to established 'knuckles' so as not to extend beyond the point of origin.

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***

Advisory:

- The long-term vitality of this tree is best respected when significant pruning work such as proposed, is undertaken during the late spring to summer period (May to August).

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

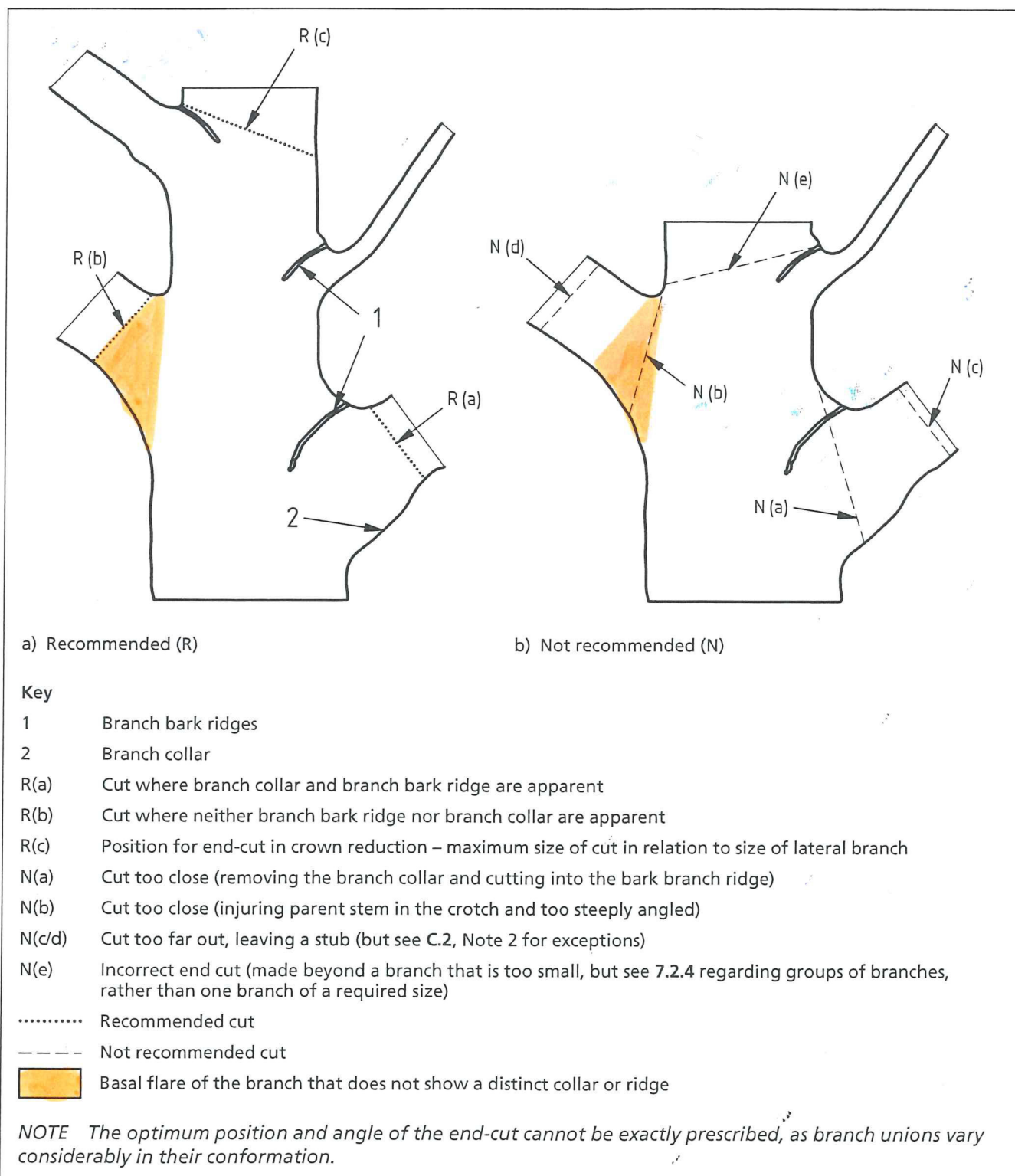


Figure 3 Crown lifting

