

Case Officer: Hannah Kersley
Reference: AW/42/22/T
Location: 64 The Drive, Aldwick, PO21 4DT
Proposal: 1no. oak tree (T1) - Crown reduction to height 7m and spread 5.5m. 1no. oak tree (T2) - Crown reduction to height 7.5m and spread 5.5m
Reasons given: Concern for size, weight and movement in high winds

Comments on Application:

T1 Pedunculate oak / *Quercus robur* Height: 5-10m Radial spread: 0-5m Age class: Early mature

T2 Pedunculate oak / *Quercus robur* Height: 10-15m Radial spread: 0-5m Age class: Early mature

- T1 – Becoming discreet due to erratic and poor form. Possesses ecological value but of low amenity.
- T2 – Despite historic crown damage it has developed a strong limb and branch framework with an attractive crown profile. Whilst imperfect unions exist, it is young enough to assimilate those and gain structural integrity as it develops towards maturity. It appears stable and in a fine physiological state and assumed to be so in the absence of any evidence provided to the contrary. It makes a significant contribution to the street scene and so has amenity value.

Conclusions:

- T1 – Proposed work should facilitate improved crown form and enhance longevity. There will be no loss of amenity on completion provided the work is undertaken to a high standard and at the right time.
- There is no obvious arboricultural justification for the work proposed. Crown reduction work would spoil its natural looking form in the short-term and initiate vigorous regrowth throughout the crown interior. Although it has been subject to historic crown damage, due to its age and condition it has been able to 'grow out' satisfactorily and could mature into a tree of high amenity value.

Recommendation:

- As it stands, I am unable to support this application. I would like the applicant to be invited to agree to remove T2 from the proposal as part of the current application so as not to incur further delay.

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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: -

Condition 1

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*

Advisory:

- The optimum time to undertake significant pruning such as proposed is during the late spring to summer period (May to August).

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Greenspace

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

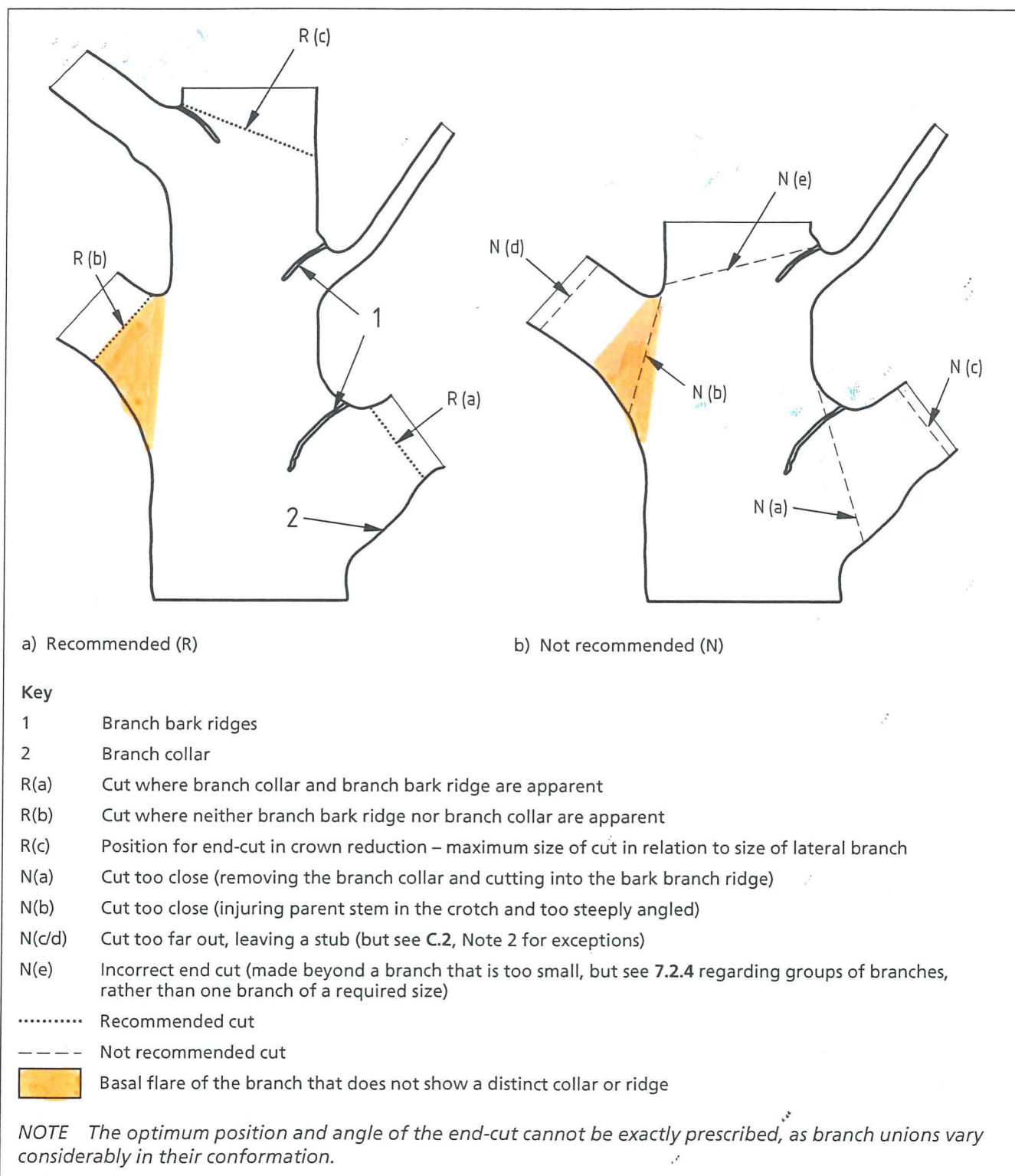


Figure 4 Diagrammatic illustration of crown reduction

