

Case Officer: Hannah Kersley

Reference: AW/50/22/T

Location: 11 Hunters Close, Aldwick, PO21 4HR

Proposal: 1no. *Tilia* tree - Crown reduction to leave height 8m and spread 5m

Reason given: Weak stem union

Comments on Application:

T3 Lime, large-leaved / *Tilia platyphyllos* Height: Approx. 13m Average radial spread: 5m Age: Early-mature

- This tree appears to be in a fine physiological state and has an attractive crown profile. It occupies a discreet position on the estate but is a prominent feature within the close and visible from surrounding properties.
- Stem unions are imperfect due to tight formation. Although probably strong currently, the risk of separation grows as the size and weight of crown increases. It is probably too late for any formative pruning to retard subordinate stems/limbs and so a degree of containment pruning will be necessary.
- The consultant arboriculturist recommended a 30% reduction. What is currently proposed equates to a reduction of 50% in crown volume when one considers crown height begins at 3m above ground level and assumes ultimate 5m spread is radial rather than diametrical.
- It is accepted that significant pruning is necessary to mitigate a developing risk of stem failure and to preserve this tree's place in the landscape, albeit with diminished amenity value. Somewhere in the 30-40% range would be a suitable compromise between tree health impact and practicality of operation.

Conclusion:

- The fundamental reason for this work is sound although the proposed extent of crown volume loss is excessive and should be reduced to increase the tree's tolerance of pruning and preserve visual amenity.

Recommendation:

- As it stands, I am unable to support this application. I **would like the applicant to be invited to agree to a revised proposal for lesser works** (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 excessive diminution of the tree's landscape and amenity value:

'Reduce top height to leave a minimum of 12metres and radial spread to leave a minimum of 4metres on all aspects.'

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- If the applicant agrees to the above proposal, 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.

Part c) T3 Lime should be uniformly reduced in height and spread to leave a balanced structure on completion as shown in Figure 4 of BS3998:2010. Final dimensions of the tree should be a minimum of: Height 12metres, Radial spread 4m on all aspects.

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

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

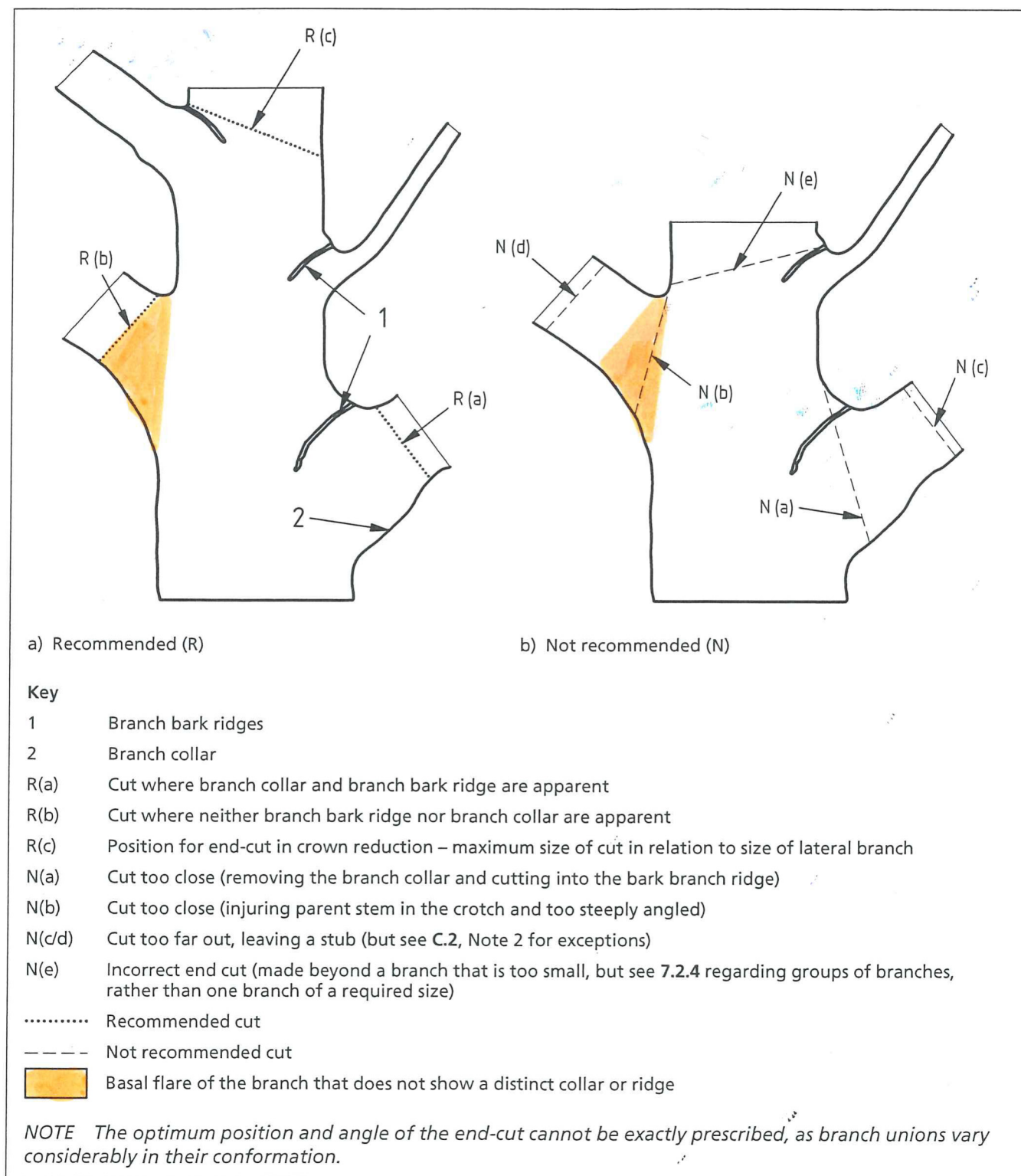


Figure 4 Diagrammatic illustration of crown reduction

