

Case Officer: Hannah Kersley
Reference: AW/85/22/T
Location: Verge outside 11 -19 Colts Bay Aldwick PO21 4EH
Proposal: Crown reduction of 1no. oak tree (T1553) to leave height 22m and spread 10m. Crown reduction of 1no. oak tree (T1554) to leave height 15m and spread 8m. Crown reduction of 1no. oak tree (T1557) to leave height 20m and spread 10m
Reasons given: Perceived instability / excess crown weight

Comments on Application:

T1553 Pedunculate oak / *Quercus robur* Height: 15-20m Radial spread: 5-10m Age class: Mature

- Outwardly and with limited visibility of main stem appears to be in a fine physiological state and assumed to be so in the absence of any evidence provided to the contrary. It has previously been the subject of whole crown reduction pruning and displays 2-4metres growth from established knuckles.

T1554 Pedunculate oak / *Quercus robur* Height: 5-10m Radial spread: 5-10m Age class: Early mature

- Outwardly and with limited visibility of main stem 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 suppressed by companion tree T1553 which has likely been responsible for asymmetric form.

T1557 Pedunculate oak / *Quercus robur* Height: 15-20m Radial spread: 5-10m Age class: Mature

- Outwardly appears to be in a fair physiological state, carrying a high percentage of deadwood. It has previously been the subject of whole crown reduction pruning (c2014) and displays <2metres growth from established knuckles.
- T1553 & T1557 are of especially high public amenity value. The latter is most prominent and requires careful management that respects its age and apparent physiological stress.
- Repeat operations such as now being asked for by the applicant will be necessary throughout the remaining lifespan of these trees, to achieve a degree of structural integrity appropriate for their location.
- The removal of dead branches is an exception and does not require notification to or prior consent from the local planning authority.

Conclusions:

- **T1553 & T1554** - The work proposed is justified on arboricultural grounds. These are high profile trees of significant amenity and are to be carefully pruned to maintain reasonable enjoyment of residential property and with respect for natural tree form.
- If the work is undertaken to a high standard and at the right time; then it is unlikely to have an adverse effect on their long-term vitality.
- **T1557** requires especially careful management that respects its age and vulnerability to environmental changes and disease progression.
- There is insufficient extension of new growth since the last major pruning operation so that repeat crown reduction at this time or within the next few years would be too early in the management cycle and likely have a negative effect on vitality.

Recommendations:

- 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** (by removing T1557 entirely) as part of the current application so as not to incur further delay.
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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 All Approved Works: -

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) 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 interests of the trees' 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 these trees 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 / Greenspace

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

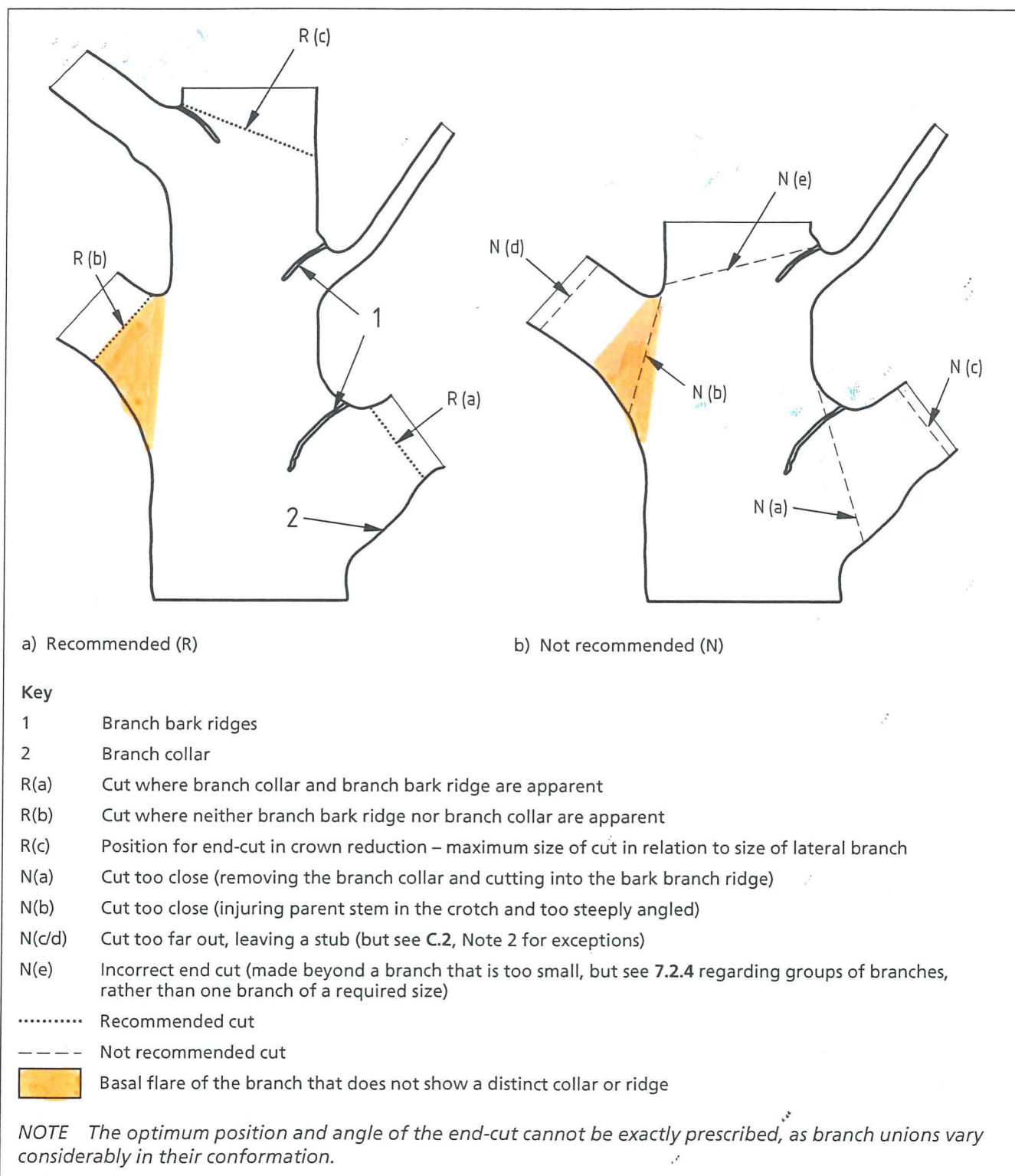


Figure 4 Diagrammatic illustration of crown reduction

