

Planning Officer: Charlotte Easton

Planning Application Ref: AW/9/19/T

Location: 11 Follett Close, Bognor Regis, PO21 4XH

Description of works: Remove overhanging branches by 7m to 1 No. golden macrocarpa tree

Reasons Given: Excessive overhang / garden obstruction

Comments on Application:

Monterey cypress / *Cupressus macrocarpa* Approx. height: 15m Average spread: 8m Age class: Mature

- This tree is a cultivar of gold-coloured foliage. It appears to be outwardly healthy and stable with a relatively unmodified and attractive crown profile.
- It is a large tree with a full and spreading crown. It grows at the rear of the property and yet is highly visible from surrounding properties and in part from publicly-accessible land.

Conclusions:

- This tree requires careful management that respects its age and vulnerability to environmental changes and disease progression.
- The work proposed is unnecessarily severe and in places would result in damaging loss of leaf-bearing volume, leading to individual branch death. That said, I have some sympathy with the likely impediment from numerous low branches extending far into the garden space.
- The tree is a significant feature in the local landscape and appears to be in adequately sound and healthy condition. The tree surgery proposed in the application would result in excessive reduction of the tree's landscape impact and undue detriment to the visual amenities of the locality.

Recommendations:

- I recommend **REFUSAL** for this application.

Advisory:

- I would like to see the applicant submit a revised specification for lesser work such as described below, which would improve garden conditions beneath the tree whilst preventing a diminution of the tree's landscape and public amenity value:
 - Remove/reduce low branches as necessary to achieve a maximum of 3metres overhead clearance above garden space.

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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 conditions:

Conditions To Be Applied to All Approved Works: -

- 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
- 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 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*

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

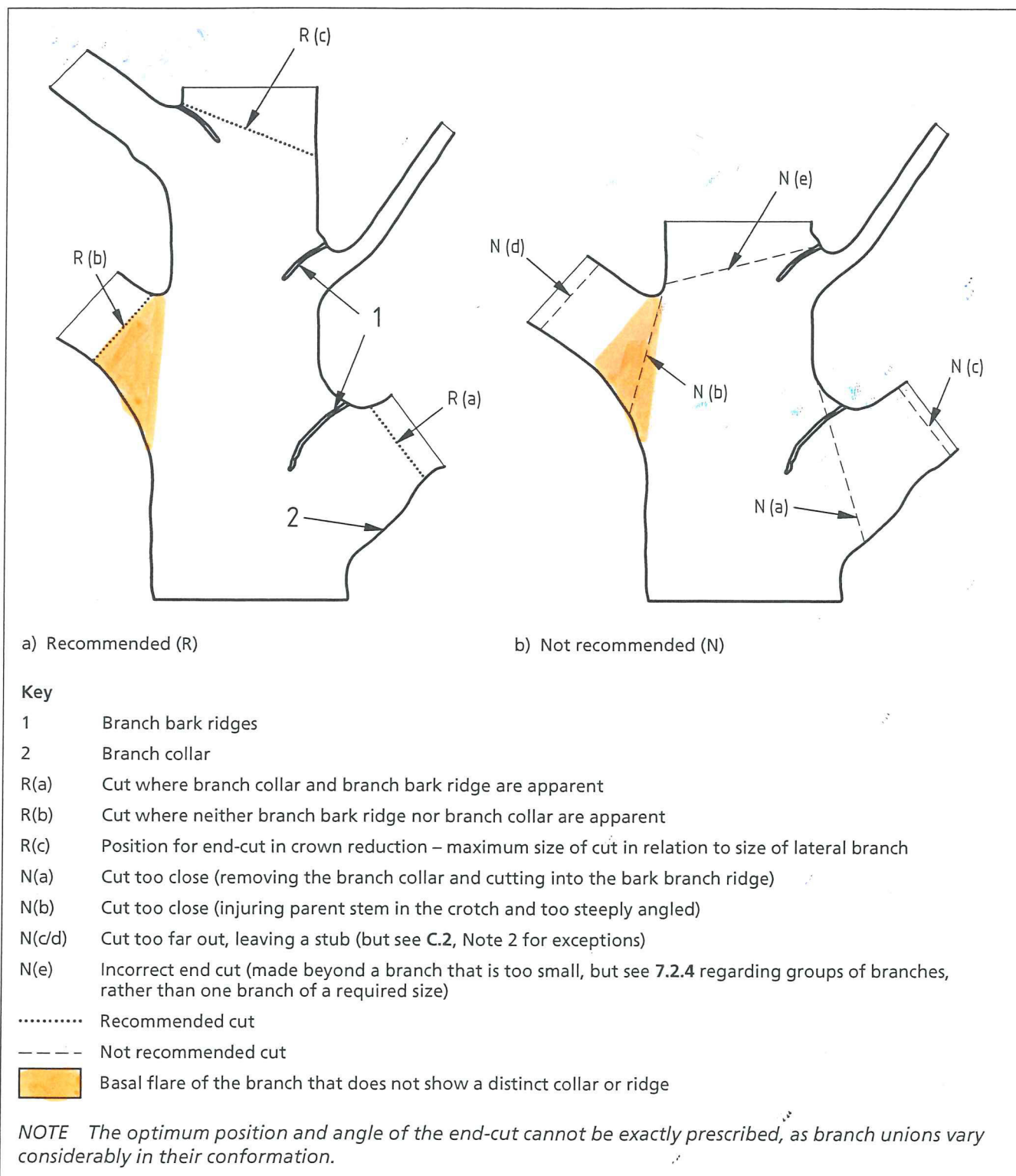


Figure 3 Crown lifting

