

Planning Officer: Lynnyrd Wolfe

Planning Application Ref: A/148/19/T

Location: The Firs, Roundstone Lane, Angmering, BN16 4AT

Description of works: Reduce height and prune sides by up to 3m to 3no. beech trees, crown reduction up to 2m to 1no. ornamental cherry tree, crown reduction by 1.5m to 2no. deodora cedars

Reasons Given: To individualise shape

Comments on Application:

T1 Himalayan cedar / <i>Cedrus deodara</i>	Height: 20-25m	Spread: 5-10m	Age class: Mature
T2 Himalayan cedar / <i>Cedrus deodara</i>	Height: 15-20m	Spread: 0-5m	Age class: Mature
T3 Wild cherry / <i>Prunus avium</i>	Height: 5-10m	Spread: 5-10m	Age class: Mature
T4, T5, T6 Beech / <i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Average height: 10-15m	Average spread: 5-10m	Age class: Early mature

- **T1** - This multi-stemmed large tree appears to be outwardly healthy and stable with a relatively unmodified and attractive crown profile. It is highly visible from publicly accessible land, possessing both landscape and visual amenity value.
- **T2** – This single stemmed tree appears to be outwardly healthy and stable with a relatively unmodified crown. Attractive and uniform upper crown, asymmetric branch development in the lower half due to competition with neighbouring trees.
- **T3** – Limited public view of tree but has significant ornamental value. Appears to be outwardly healthy and stable with an attractive profile despite past crown reduction work (c2015) – from which it has ‘grown on’ with vigour, typical for a healthy example of its type.
- **T4, T5, T6** – In linear formation equidistant along front boundary of property; three distinct multi-stemmed groupings. They can be regarded as ‘pollards’ for the purpose of future management although crudely initiated with a ‘topping out’ of the main stem and severe truncation of limb framework. Roadside they are highly visible from numerous properties and to users of the public highway (footway and carriageway). They have ‘grown on’ well such that they will present attractive crown profiles when in leaf. Repeat operations such as now being asked for by the applicant will be necessary throughout the remaining life-span of these trees, to achieve a reasonable degree of structural integrity appropriate for their location.

Conclusions:

- **T1 and T2** – The tree work proposed in the application has not been justified on arboricultural grounds. This tree type is intolerant of hard pruning and the extent proposed would be damaging to their ongoing health and vitality.

T1 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.

There is limited public view of **T2** at present, but this will increase if the tree is left to develop naturally and so provide a significant long-term amenity. It is unusual for such a tree to enjoy the room to develop with no foreseeable threat of above/below-ground interference and is an ideal candidate to become a future landmark tree of considerable stature and visual amenity.

- **T3** - The proposal to reduce its overall height and spread with a view to restricting its growth is justified and consistent with previous works approved by the Local Planning Authority.

If the work is undertaken to a good standard and at the right time; then it is unlikely to have an adverse effect on the tree's long-term vitality and visual amenity.

- **T4, T5, T6** – These trees have the potential to develop heavy and congested limb/branch frameworks if allowed to grow unchecked, such that they may suffer partial failure of the same.

While a temporary loss of aesthetic value is inevitable, satisfactory canopy renewal and recovery should occur if the work is undertaken to a high standard and at an appropriate time of year.

The work proposed is necessary to mitigate risk of structural failure and so justified on arboricultural grounds.

Recommendations:

- As it stands, I recommend **REFUSAL** for this application due to the unsuitability of work proposed for items T1 and T2.

Advisory:

- I would like to see the applicant submit a revised application for lesser works work such as detailed below, which would seem to address most of their concerns whilst preventing a diminution of the tree's landscape and public amenity value:

T2 Cedar

- Crown lift to 2.5metres on all aspects.
- Reduce crown spread (lateral extent) on west aspect only, by maximum of 1.5metres.

T3 Cherry

- Crown reduction by maximum of 2metres.

T4, T5, T6 Beech

- Crown reduction by maximum of 3metres.

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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:

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) T3, T4, T5 & T6 - 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.
- Part d) The long-term vitality of trees (T3, T4, T5 & T6) is best respected when significant pruning work such as proposed, is undertaken during the late-spring to summer period (May to August). The work proposed must only be undertaken during this period.

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

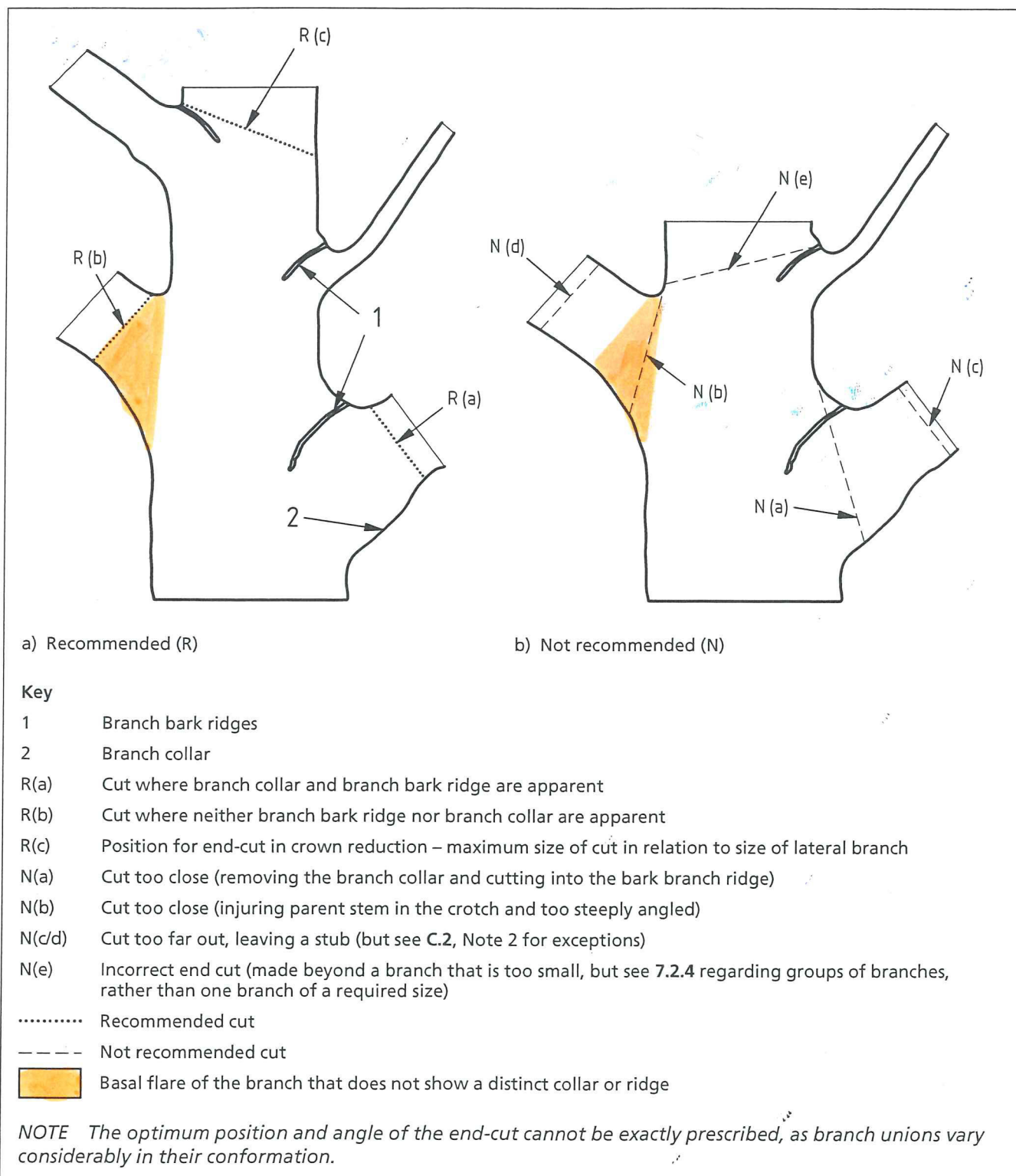


Figure 3 Crown lifting

