

Planning Officer: Mr F Gardner

Planning Application Ref: BE/64/19/T

Location: Fairmead, Shripney Road, Bognor Regis, PO22 9NZ

Description of works: Crown lift by 4m and reduce height & laterals by 3.5 - 4m to 1no. ash tree

Reasons Given: None provided

Comments on Application:

Ash / *Fraxinus excelsior* Approx. height: 16m Average spread: 8m Age class: Mature

- This is a large tree with a full and relatively unmodified crown. It has a visually attractive profile. Outwardly and from a distance it appears to be in a fine physiological state and structurally sound – a fine example of its type.
- It is a landmark tree both highly visible from adjacent residential properties and to users of the busy public highway (A29). As such, it is of high public amenity value.
- The proposed removal of low branches to achieve 4metres overhead clearance on all aspects is within the tolerance recommended by British Standard 3998:2010 – Tree work.

Conclusions:

- The proposal to reduce both the height and lateral spread on all aspects (the correct interpretation of *crown reduction*) by up to 4metres respectively does not comply with 'British Standard (BS3998:2010) Tree work – Recommendations' and would be likely to result in harm to the health and vitality of the tree with large pruning wounds being formed. This has not been justified on arboricultural grounds.
- 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:

- As it stands, I must recommend **REFUSAL** for this application.

Advisory:

- I would like to see the applicant submit a revised work specification which eliminates the *crown reduction* element, such as detailed below. That would seem to address some of their concerns whilst preventing a diminution of the tree's landscape and public amenity value:

- Remove or reduce carefully selected low branches to achieve no more than 4metres overhead clearance on all aspects.

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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 Approved Work: -

- 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

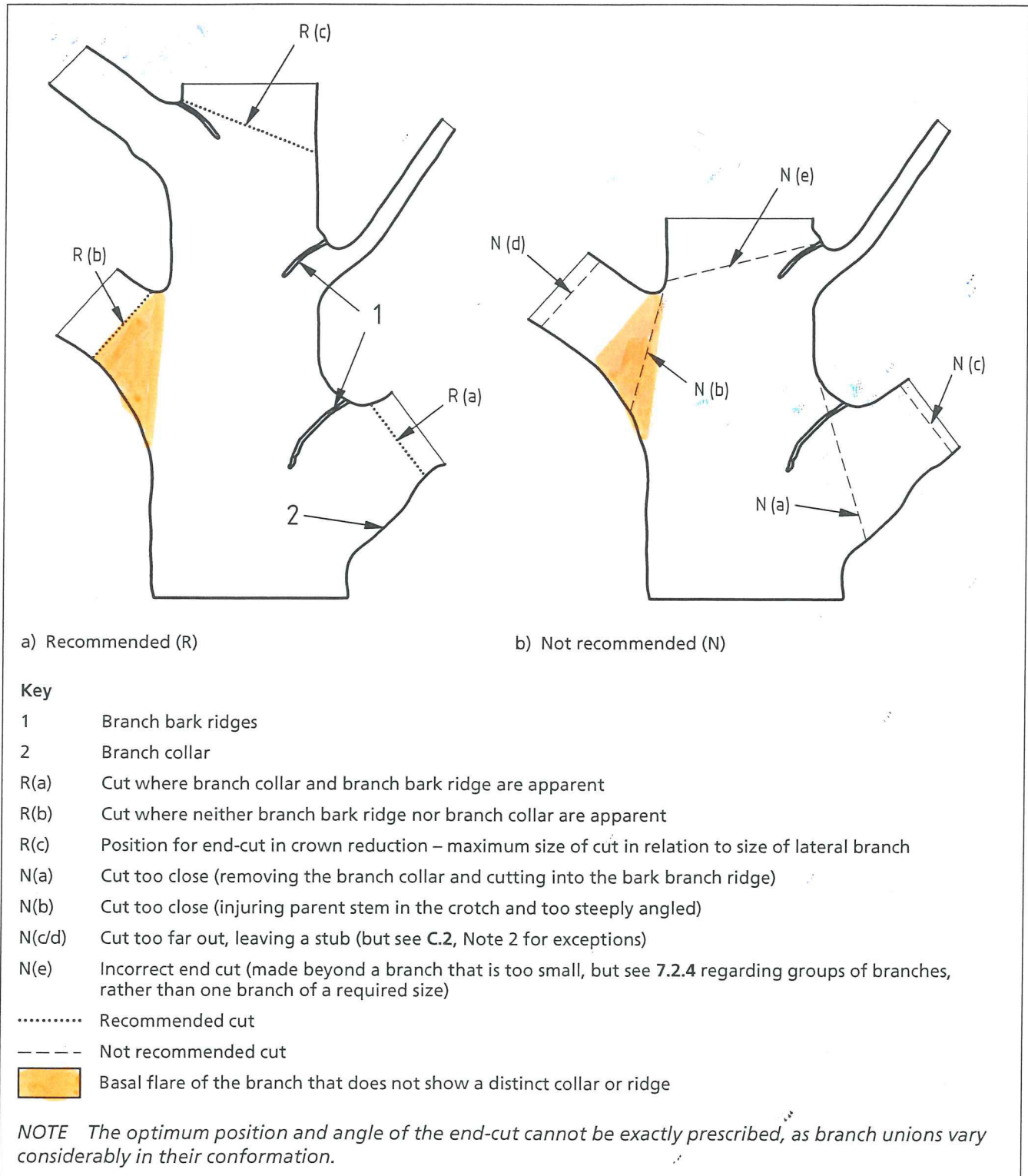


Figure 3 Crown lifting

