

Planning Officer: Lynnyrd Wolfe

Planning Application Ref: BE/92/19/T

Location: Springfields, Chichester Road, Bersted, PO21 5EE

Description of works: Crown lift to 5m 1no. holm oak tree and reduce all side branches by 1.8m up to height of 6m to 1no. blue cedar tree

Reasons given: To achieve adequate long-term clearance of built structures and overhead (BT) cables

Comments on Application:

T1 Cedar, blue Atlas / <i>Cedrus atlantica Glauca</i>	Approx. height: 16m	Average spread: 8m	Age class: Mature
G1 Holm oak / <i>Quercus ilex</i>	Approx. height: 14m	Average spread: 8m	Age class: Mature

- **T1** – Outwardly appears to be in a fine physiological state and stable, with an attractive crown profile.
- It has considerable presence when viewed from adjacent dwellings but is visible only in part from areas accessible to the public.
- Building and cable clearance is adequate at this time but will become problematic in the short-term if left unchecked. The work proposal is a reasonable and well-intentioned response to this and I would expect there to be no detrimental effect on tree health and vitality; so long as a minimum of 2/3 existing live growth (needle-bearing twigs and small branches) is retained for each item pruned.
- **G1** – The obvious multi-stemmed holm oak, appears to be in a fair physiological state and stable. The upper limb and branch framework has achieved good symmetry and presents an attractive crown profile, despite arising from severely truncated multiple stems.
- It grows at the rear of the property and can be seen from neighbouring dwellings but has only limited visibility from publicly accessible land.

Conclusions:

- These trees require careful management that respect their age and vulnerability to environmental changes and disease progression.
- **T1** - 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.
- **G1** - The removal of low branches to achieve 5m clearance above ground level is not justified on arboricultural grounds and exceeds that which is recommended in the British Standard (BS3998:2010) Tree work – Recommendations. The work proposed is unnecessarily severe and if enacted to the maximum extent of 5m on all aspects would result in damaging loss of crown volume.

Recommendations:

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

Advisory:

- I would like to see the applicant submit a revised work specification for G1 such as detailed below, which would seem to address their concerns whilst preventing a diminution of the tree's landscape and visual amenity value:

G1 Holm oak

- Reduce branches as necessary to provide a maximum of 1.5m clearance from built structures.
 - Crown lift to provide maximum 3metres overhead clearance on all aspects.
-

- 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 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

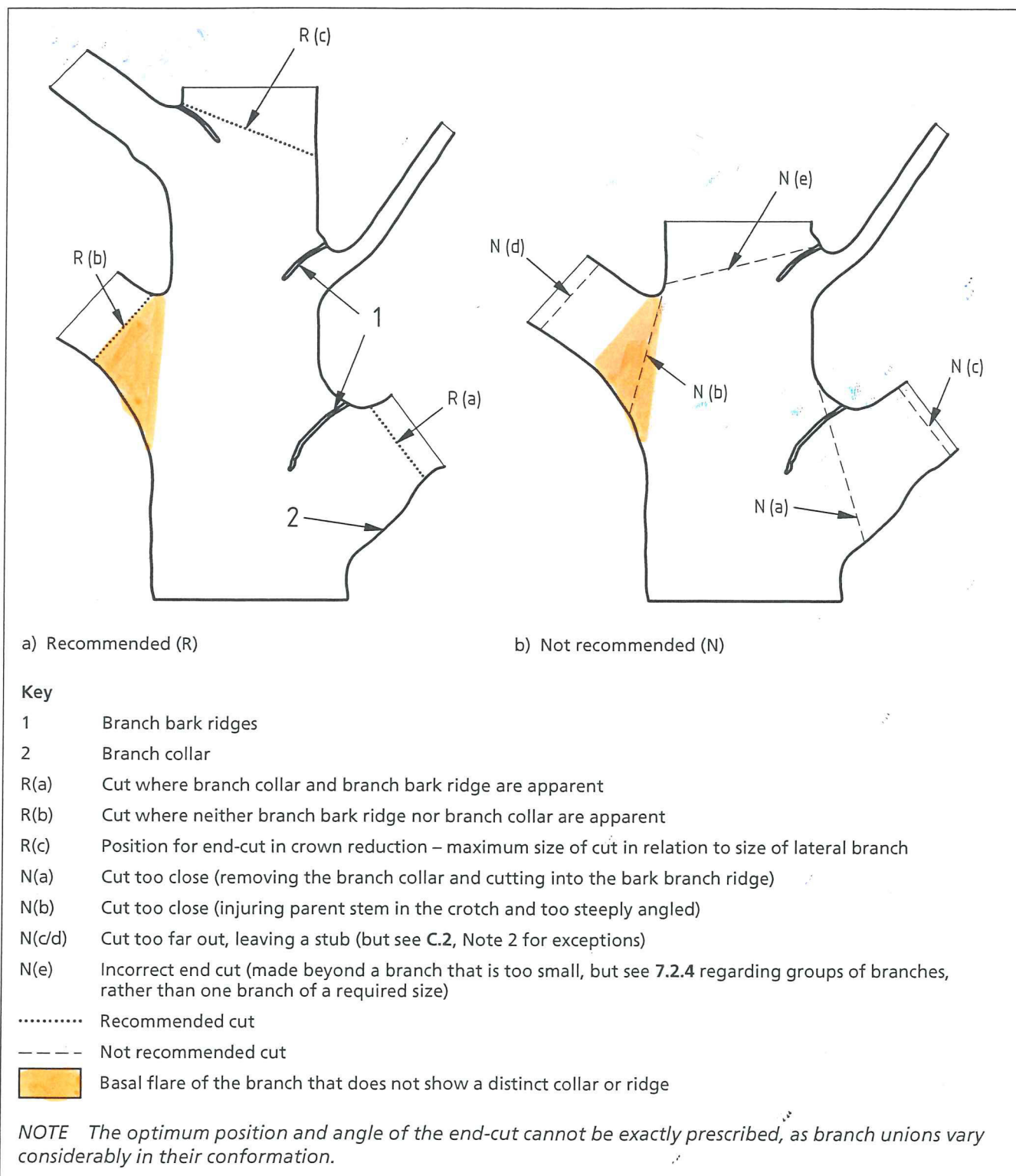


Figure 3 Crown lifting

