

Case Officer: Hannah Kersley
Reference: BN/39/22/T
Location: Copperfield, Old Rectory Drive, Eastergate, PO20 3XH
Proposal: 1no. sycamore tree (T1) - Crown lift of lower branches to 8m on north side only overhanging 1 Abercorn Walk to alleviate excessive shading & impact on neighbouring property. Ivy to be severed to alleviate impact also (no permission required)

Comments on Application:

Sycamore / *Acer pseudoplatanus* Height: 15-20m Radial spread: 5-10m Age class: Mature

- Outwardly and from a distance this tree 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 a relatively unmodified and visually attractive crown. It is prominent from surrounding properties and visible in large part from publicly accessible land.
- Low branches and uniform profile are attractive features of this tree. The extent of branch removal proposed will permanently alter its appearance.

Conclusions:

- The removal of low branches to achieve 8metres 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 severance and removal of ivy from higher levels, combined with a more sympathetic crown lift (removal of low branches) on all aspects is likely to provide an enduring and effective improvement in natural light to the property (1 Abercorn Walk).
- 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.

Recommendation:

- 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** (as described below) **as part of the current application so as not to incur further delay**. Such work would go some way to addressing their concerns whilst preventing a diminution of the tree's landscape and public amenity value:

'Crown lift to provide a maximum of 3metres overhead clearance on all aspects and a maximum of 5metres overhead clearance on the north aspect only.'

- 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.

Reasons: In the interest of the tree's 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 / Greenspace

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

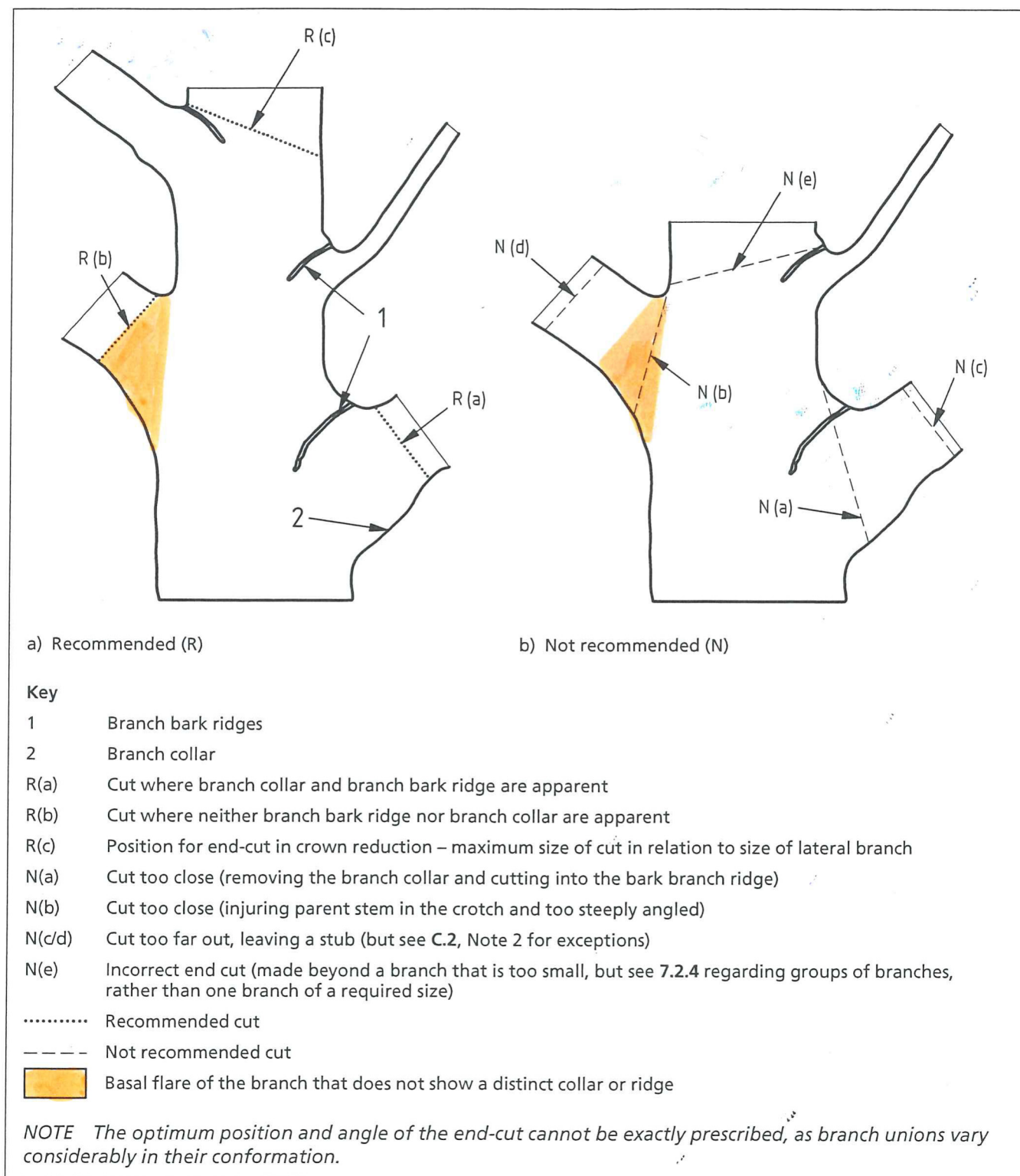


Figure 3 Crown lifting

