

Case Officer: Hannah Kersley
Reference: BR/282/21/T
Location: Meadow Entry, 8 Crescenta Walk, Aldwick, Bognor Regis, PO21 2YA
Proposal: 1 no. Japanese maple tree (*Acer*) - Crown reduction by 4m to leave height and spread at 9.1m
Reasons given: Branches obstructing driveway and public footway

Comments on Application:

Japanese maple / *Acer palmatum* Height: 7m Radial spread (average): 4.5m Age class: Mature

- Outwardly and from roadside 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 excellent form, largely due to the absence of upper crown modification (pruning). A fine specimen tree which makes a significant visual contribution to the street scene.
- Low growth is beginning to encroach into the public highway and become problematic for driveway access.
- The applicant and I disagree in our assessment of the tree's overall dimensions.

Conclusions:

- Whole crown reduction pruning (height and lateral spread on all aspects) has not been justified on arboricultural grounds.
- This species of tree is unlikely to tolerate such an operation (to any extent), resulting in harm to the health and vitality of the tree with large pruning wounds being formed and incurring permanent loss of amenity.

Recommendations:

- 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** (such 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:
- ***Remove/reduce low branches as necessary, to achieve a maximum of 2.5 metres overhead clearance above the driveway and public footway.***
- ***Remove/reduce low branches as necessary, to achieve a maximum of 5.0 metres overhead clearance directly above the carriageway and kerb edge.***

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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 condition:

Condition to Be Applied to Approved Work: -

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***

Advisory:

- The long-term vitality of this tree is best respected when the pruning of live branches is undertaken during either the summer (June to August) or mid-winter (late-December to early-February) period.

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Greenspace

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

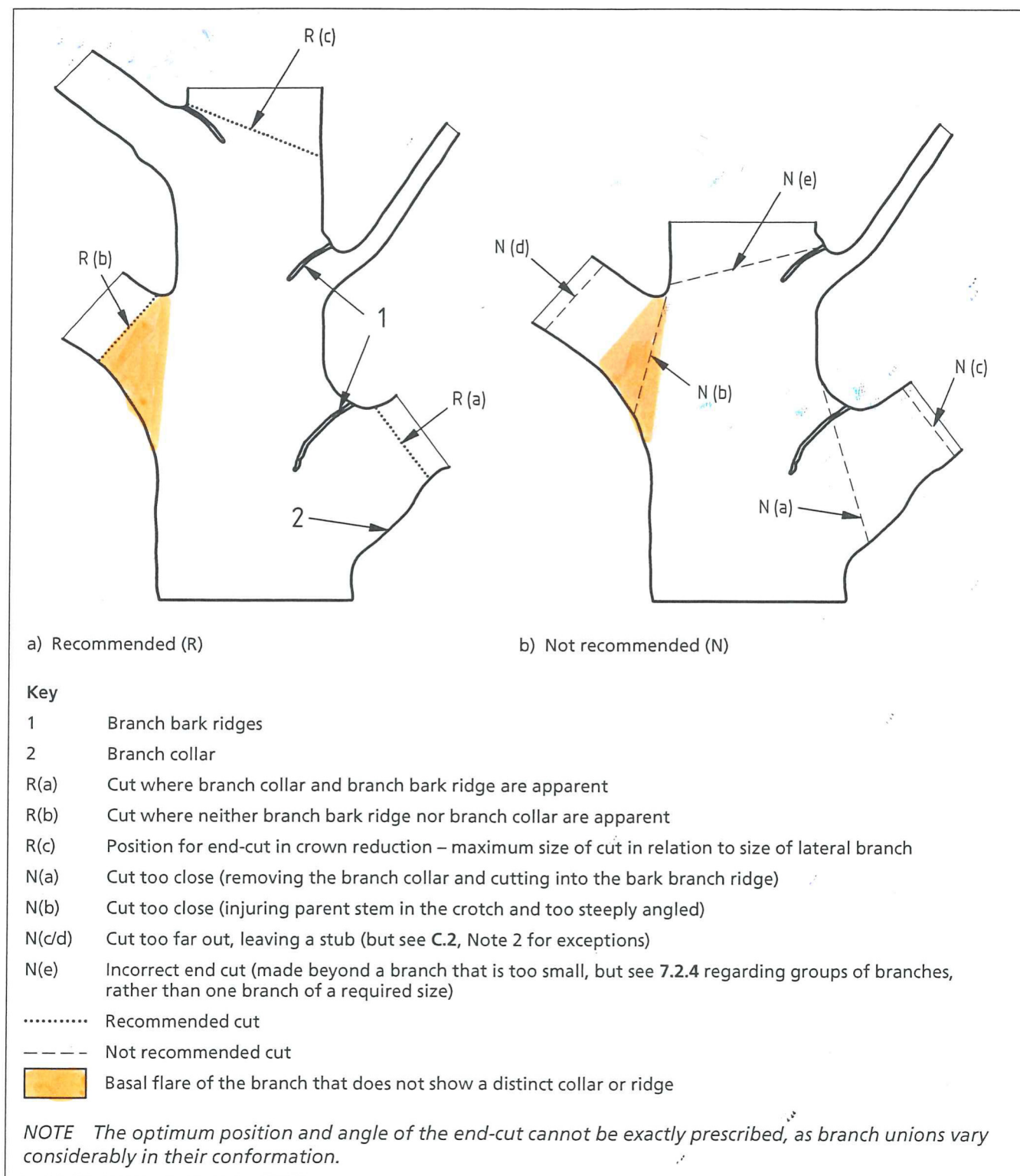


Figure 3 Crown lifting

