

Planning Officer: Charlotte Easton

Planning Application Ref: BR/322/18/T

Location: Corner of Sudley Gardens, Bognor Regis, PO21 1HY

Description of works: Crown reduction of 2m and Crown lift of 5m to 1no. holm oak tree

Reasons Given: None given

Comments on Application:

Holm oak / *Quercus ilex* Height: Approx. 14m Average spread: 6m Age class: Mature

- Outwardly and from a distance this tree appears to be in a fine physiological state with an attractive crown profile.
- Successive reduction pruning has left this tree with a dense compact form. It occupies a prominent position at the gateway to residential estate and is also a key feature in the streetscape. It is therefore highly visible from numerous residential dwellings and to users of the busy public highway (footways and carriageway).
- Its crown is in close proximity to east facing windowed flank wall of a dwelling and will almost entirely block out any direct sunlight to those apertures.
- Observed canopy clearance of 1.5- 2.0m is generally adequate, except where branches overhang the adjacent carriageway.

Conclusions:

- The removal of low branches to achieve 5m clearance above ground level on all aspects is not justified on arboricultural grounds and exceeds that which is recommended in the British Standard (BS3998:2010) Tree work – Recommendations.
- Crown reduction of 2metres on all aspects is not necessary at this time and in any event could result in new wounds being created beyond the established knuckles.
- 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 recommend **REFUSAL** for this application.

Advisory:

- I would like to see the applicant submit a revised specification seeking lesser work, such as detailed below, which would seem to address their client's concerns whilst preventing a diminution of the tree's landscape and public amenity value:
 - Reduce back branches on west aspect to provide a maximum of 2metres clearance from the adjacent building.
 - Crown lift on all aspects by removing carefully selected branches to achieve no more than 3metres clearance above ground level.
 - Crown lift by removing carefully selected branches to achieve no more than 5.5metres clearance above carriageway (road surface).

- 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.
- 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.

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

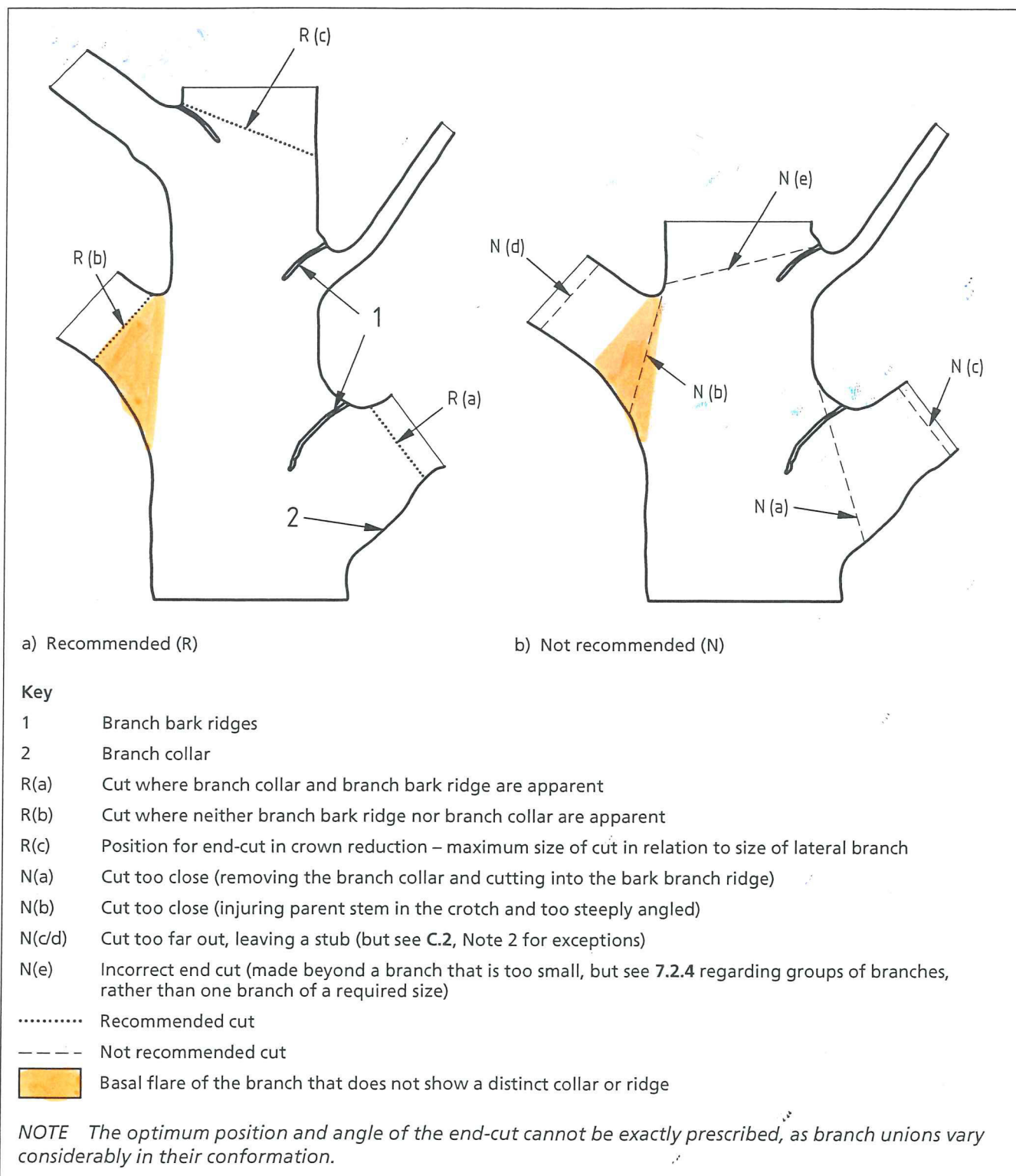


Figure 3 Crown lifting

