

Planning Officer: Mr F Gardner

Planning Application Ref: EG/20/19/T

Location: 19 Holmdale, Eastergate, PO20 3AA

Description of works: Crown lift westerly spread to 3m and lateral reduction of northern spread by 2m and western spread by 0.5m to 1 No. English oak tree

Reasons Given: None provided

Comments on Application:

Pedunculate oak / *Quercus robur* Approx. height: 12m Average spread: 5m Age class: Early mature

- This is an established tree of apparent good health albeit with a heavily modified crown. It has had to endure hard development and changed land use (greater footfall) across almost half of its anticipated rooting zone. That residential development has led to an inevitable 'pressure to prune', involving the truncation and removal of limbs/branches on the west and north sides respectively. Consequently it has developed an irregular form but appears to show reasonable vitality despite this.
- It is a valuable constituent of the established roadside groups of pedunculate oak which are both highly visible to the public and that help define the character of this semi-rural lane.

Conclusions:

- The work proposed is justified on arboricultural grounds, as it should assist in maintaining reasonable use of garden space by controlling lateral spread towards the dwelling (as undertaken previously) and furthermore prevent the development of problematic heavy growth at height.
- This is a tree of public amenity and landscape value and is to be carefully pruned to maintain reasonable enjoyment of residential property and with respect for natural tree form wherever possible.
- If the work is undertaken to a high standard and at the right time then the tree should be able to remain a long-term visually interesting feature in the local landscape.

Recommendations:

- I recommend **CONSENT** for this application, subject to the following conditions:

Conditions To Be Applied to All 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.
- Remove small branches (<50mm diameter) as necessary to achieve all elements of the approved works. No pruning wounds should exceed this size.

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

Advisory:

- It is not clear from our own limited records who has ownership/responsibility for this tree, although the applicant/agent may well be aware. As such we are obliged to advise that where trees are situated on land not owned by the applicant the granting of consent by this authority does not by association give permission to undertake such works that require access onto/from that land. Additional permission must be obtained from the land/tree owner.

Mark Warwick

Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

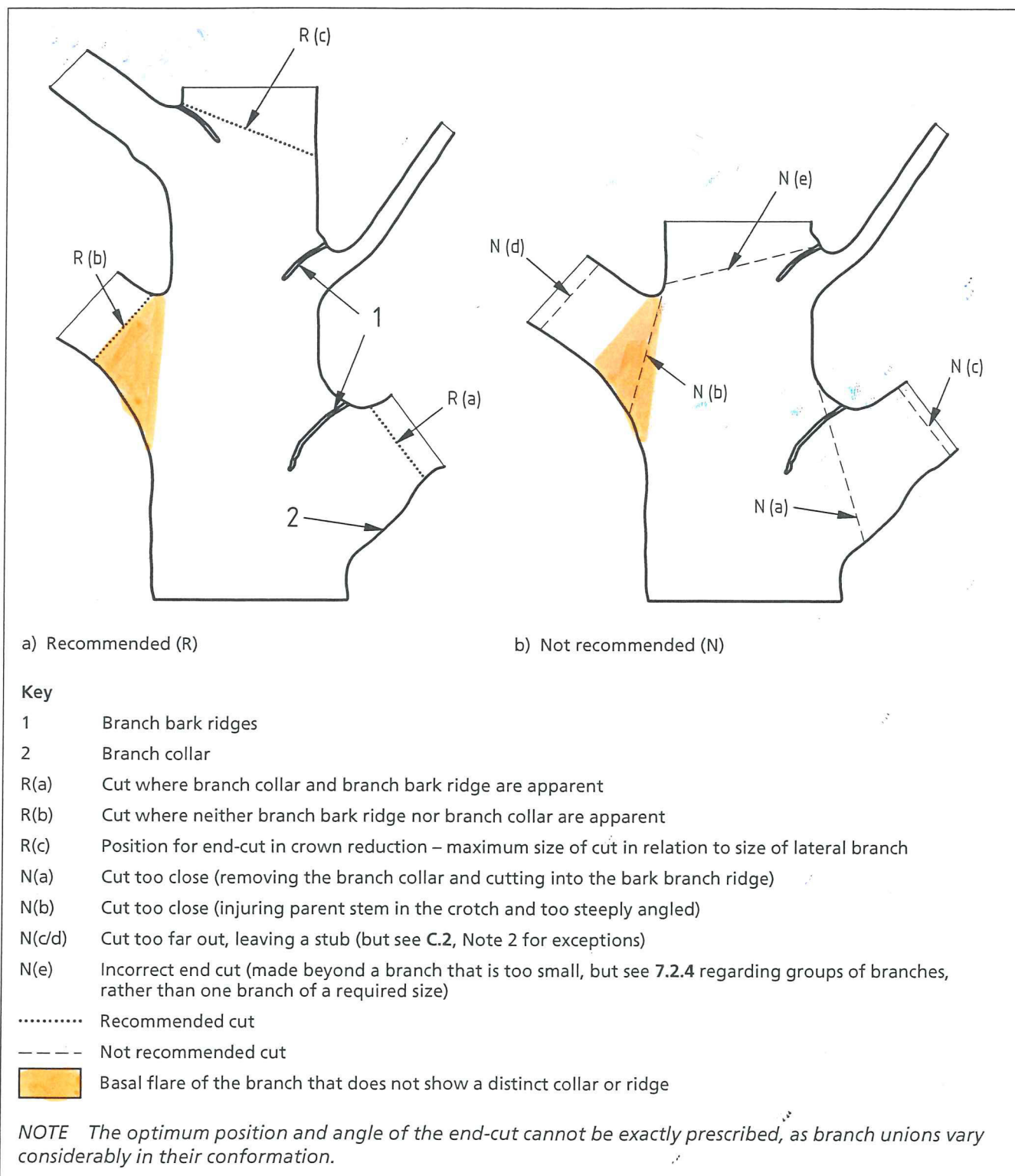


Figure 3 Crown lifting

