

CONSULTEE RESPONSE (Council's Arboriculturist)

Date inspected: 8 August 2022

Case Officer: Harry Chalk

Reference: EP/62/22/T

Location: 1 Kerry Gardens, East Preston, BN16 1HQ

Proposal: 1no. oak tree (T1) reduce crown from 11m to 8m in spread and raise crown to be approx. 4m above ground level. 1no. yew tree (T2) raise crown to be approx. 1.8m above ground level. 1no. cedar tree (T3) reduce southern side by 2m leaving tree approx. 8m wide, remove deadwood

Reason: Oversized

Comments on Application:

T1 Pedunculate oak / <i>Quercus robur</i>	Height: 10-15m	Radial spread: 5-10m	Age class: Early mature
T2 Yew / <i>Taxus baccata</i>	Height: 5-10m	Radial spread: 0-5m	Age class: Semi mature
T3 Cedar, blue Atlas / <i>Cedrus atlantica Glauca</i>	Height: 15-20m	Radial spread: 5-10m	Age class: Early mature

Outwardly these trees appear to be in a fine physiological state and assumed to be so in the absence of any evidence provided to the contrary.

T1 has complex crown form, arising from historic loss of terminal leader and a pronounced kink low in the main stem. The applicant proposes to reduce its spread on all aspects, presumably to contain the tree's growth and at limited dimensions long-term. It has an attractive profile and is highly visible from numerous properties and to users of the public highway (footway and carriageway). Overhead clearance from low branches was not obviously problematic and mostly secondary (epicormic) growth on the main stem.

T2 a twin stemmed tree with an attractive crown profile. Visible from several properties and to users of the public highway (footway and carriageway).

T3 It has an attractive profile and is highly visible from numerous properties and to users of the public highway (footway and carriageway). Low branches over neighbouring property will become problematic and so early intervention to prune smaller diameter branches is desirable.

The removal of dead branches is an exception and does not require notice to or prior consent from the local planning authority.

Conclusions:

T1 Reduction of crown spread and the removal of low branches to achieve 4m clearance above ground level has not been justified on arboricultural grounds. Such work would incur a loss of visual amenity.

T2 Work described will not harm the vitality of the tree or incur a loss of amenity.

T3 If undertaken to a high standard the work described will not harm the vitality of the tree or incur undue 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 specification for lesser works on T1 (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 crown reduction pruning entirely from the proposal.
- Amend crown lifting specification to: *'Remove/reduce small diameter branches (<50mm) as necessary to achieve a maximum 3metres overhead clearance on all aspects.'*

If the applicant agrees to the above revision, 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 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

Environment and Climate Change

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

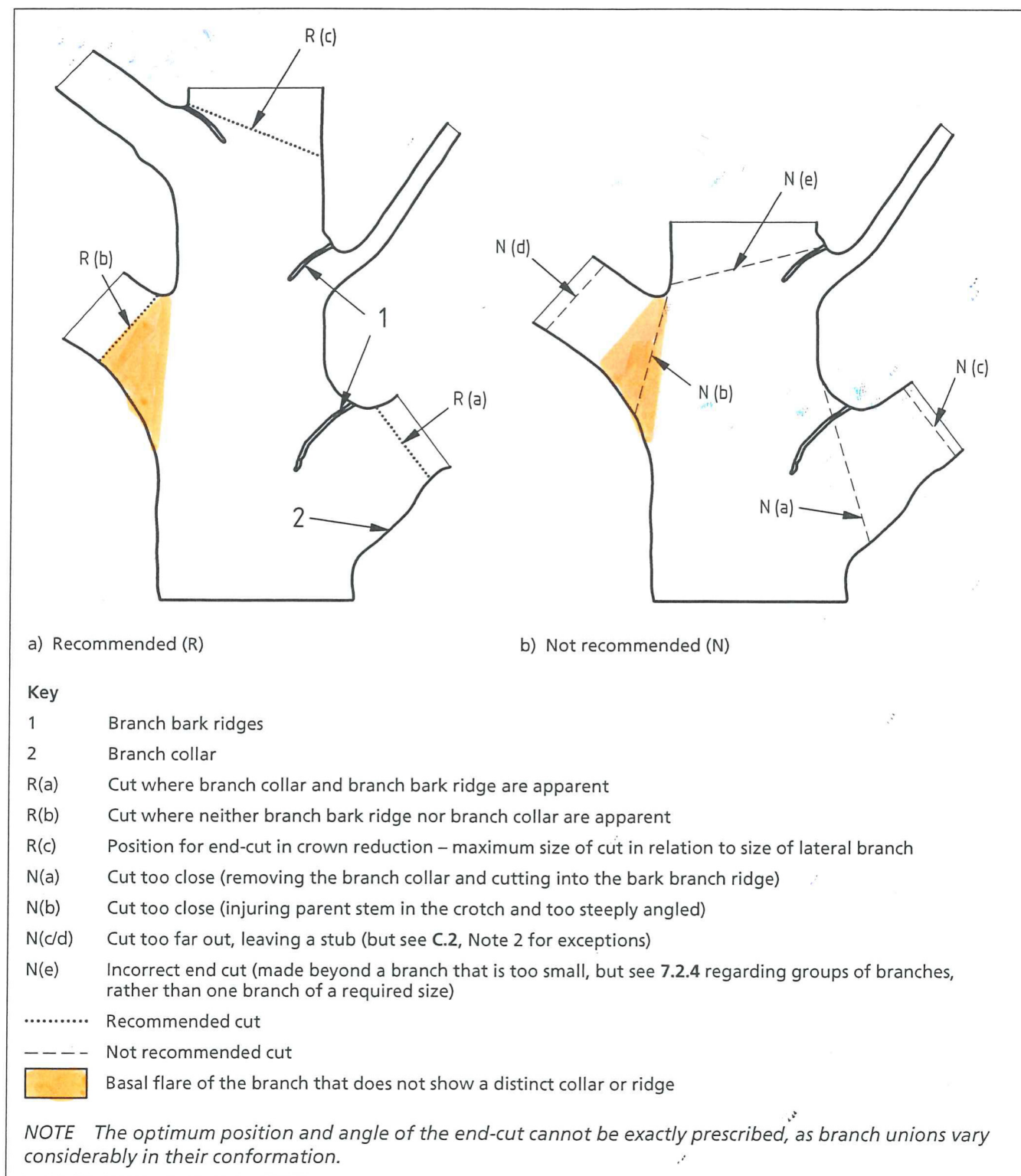


Figure 3 Crown lifting

