

Case Officer: Harry Chalk
Reference: FG/45/22/T
Location: Corner of Oaklands and Ferring Street, Ferring, BN12 5EG
Proposal: 1 no. holm oak tree - Crown reduction to leave height 13.5m and spread 8.5m and crown lift over road to 5m
Reason given: To maintain cyclical pruning regime

Comments on Application:

Holm oak / *Quercus ilex* Height: 10-15m Radial spread: 5-10m Age class: Mature

- Outwardly it appears to be in a fine physiological state and structurally sound despite the slight contortion/compression of its three main stems. It is prominent roadside and so highly visible from nearby properties and to users of the public highway (footway and carriageway). It makes a notable contribution to the character of the area.
- It has previously been the subject of *crown reduction* work; the most recent consent having been granted in February 2016 which seems to correlate with the observed extent of new growth from past pruning points.
- Repeat operations such as now being asked for by the applicant will be necessary throughout the remaining lifespan of this tree, to achieve a degree of structural integrity appropriate for its location.
- The removal of low branches directly over the carriageway to achieve 5metres overhead clearance is necessary for the owner(s) to discharge their 'duty of care' to users of the public highway. The *crown lifting* element of the proposal applies only to the roadside aspect of the tree.

Conclusions:

- The work proposed is justified on arboricultural grounds. If undertaken to a high standard and at the right time; then it is unlikely to have an adverse effect on the tree's long-term vitality and visual amenity.
- The proposal to reduce overall height and spread with a view to restricting its growth is justified and consistent with previous works approved by the Local Planning Authority.

Recommendation:

- I recommend **CONSENT** is granted 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.

Part c) Where crown reduction pruning has occurred previously, then the removal of 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 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:

- Although holm oak may respond with vigour to hard pruning (e.g., crown reduction), they have a poor tolerance of such work and long-term vitality can be severely affected. The optimum time to prune is during mid to late winter (January - February).

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Greenspace

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

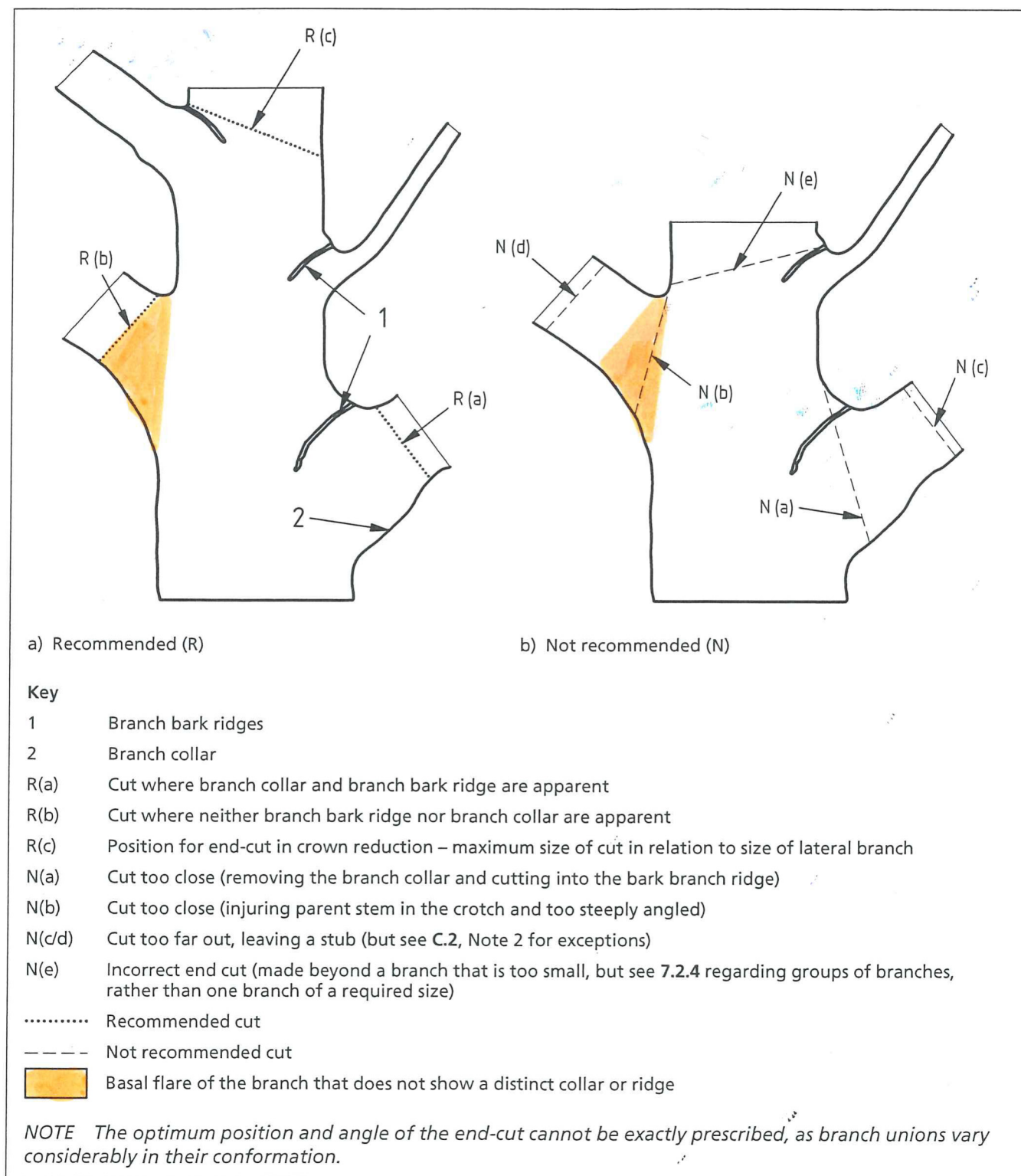


Figure 3 Crown lifting

