

Planning Officer: Miss Z Toppin

Planning Application Ref: FP/228/20/T

Location: Outside 17/19 and Outside 23 Wyke Lane North, Felpham, PO22 8LE

Description of works: Fell 1no. ash tree. Reduce crown of 1no. cherry tree to height approx. 7.5m and spread approx. 7m

Reasons given: T1 – Health and safety T2 – Reshape following vehicle damage

Comments on Application:

T1 Ash / <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Height: 15-20m	Radial spread: 5-10m	Age class: Mature
T2 Cherry / <i>Prunus serrulata</i> cv.	Height: 5-10m	Radial spread: 0-5m	Age class: Mature

- Viewed from afar during dormancy, **T1** appears to be in a fine physiological state. It has good form and presents an attractive crown profile. A prominent and visually impressive tree.
- The applicant has instructed an agent to assess the ash tree and provide a report on its condition, which is both comprehensive and authoritative although unfortunately not dated. The photograph provided clearly shows a deteriorating crown and in stark contrast to the companion ash growing opposite.
- My own close inspection revealed weak shoot extension on those branches at low level and somewhat undersized twigs and buds. Several unidentifiable (frozen) fungal brackets had emerged from between buttress roots and at the stem base, suggesting an extensive and significant decay event. This may be in addition to the *Chalara* dieback episode reported; the evident upper crown tip dieback and relatively high deadwood content are typical of the latter stages of such an infection.
- **T2** cherry is an ornamental tree with character and an attractive, open crown. Outwardly it appears to be in a fine physiological state with only a little canker present on scaffold limbs. Recent impact from a high-sided vehicle has resulted in a large tear-out wound around the crown-break which will not occlude and is therefore likely to provide an entry point for harmful decay fungi.
- While no obvious significant structural defect exists, a sympathetic reduction of the crown as proposed will ensure it is proportionate with and clear from adjacent highway and garden, incurring no significant reduction in amenity.

Conclusions:

- **T1** - The work proposed is necessary to remove a confirmed developing risk of catastrophic failure and so justified on arboricultural grounds.
- **T2** - While a temporary loss of aesthetic value is inevitable, satisfactory canopy renewal and recovery should occur if the work is undertaken to a high standard and at an appropriate time of year.

Recommendation:

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

Conditions to Be Applied to Approved Work: -

CONDITION 1 (applies to T1 only)

- Once the ash tree has been felled (and either grubbed or ground out) then a replacement tree is to be planted in the same place or nearby and to within 5metres.

This is to be of Standard Nursery Stock proportions (10-12cm girth & 2m to 3m overall height) supported on a 'short stake' system with appropriate securing ties and pads.

It is to be planted within 12 months of the removal of the ash tree.

The species shall be selected from the following: -

Wild service *Sorbus torminalis*

Field maple *Acer campestre*

Hornbeam *Carpinus betulus*

- **Reasons:** To accord with current industry guidelines and sound arboricultural practice in general.

CONDITION 2 (applies to T2 only)

- 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*

Informative:

- The long-term vitality of T2 Cherry is best respected when significant pruning work such as proposed, is undertaken during the summer (June to August) period. The work should only be undertaken during this period.

Mark Warwick

Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

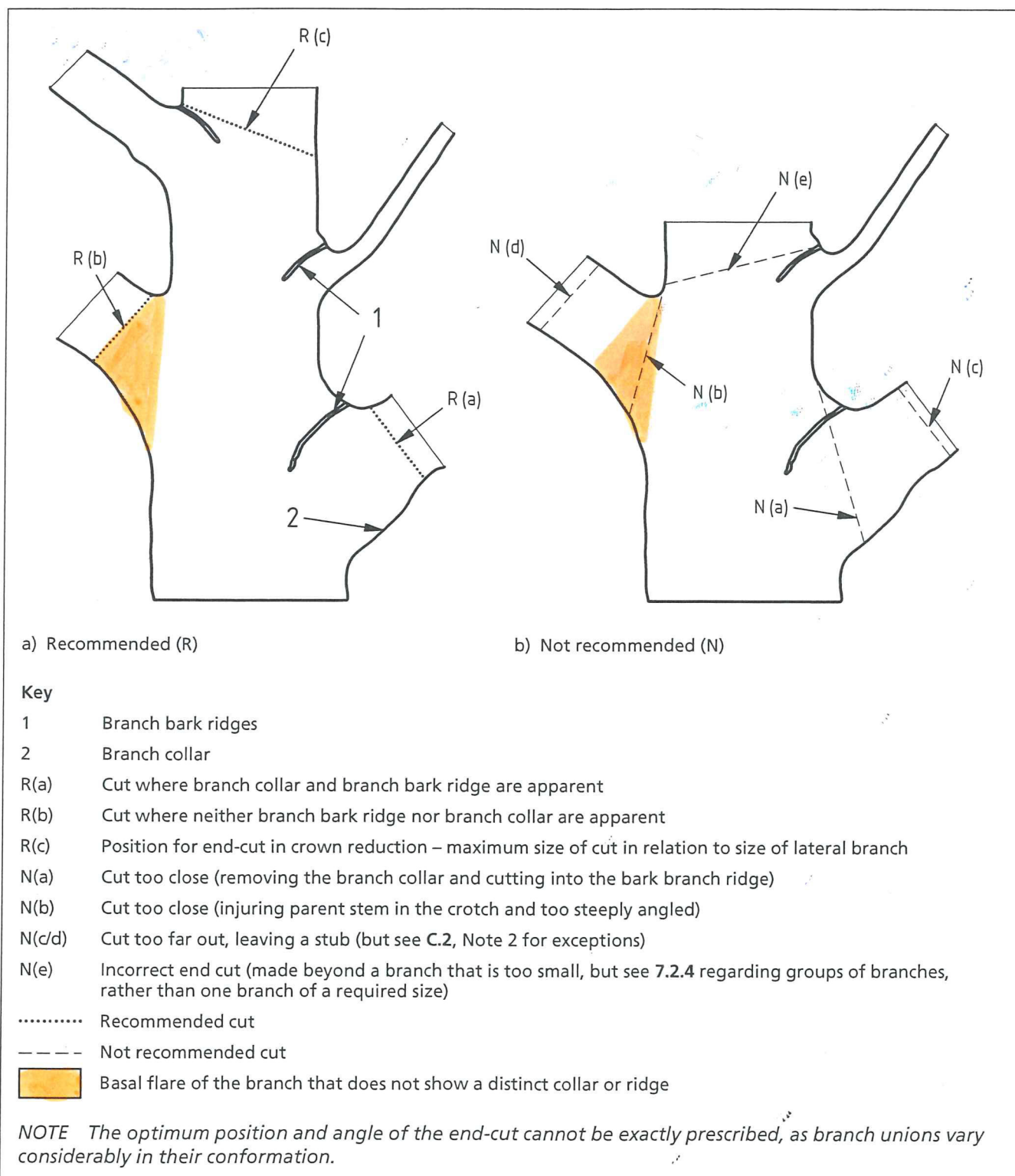


Figure 4 Diagrammatic illustration of crown reduction

