

Planning Officer: Mr F Gardner
Planning Application Ref: LU/229/19/T
Location: Pharos Quay, River Road, Littlehampton, BN17 5BF
Description of works: Various works to 7no. sycamore trees and 5no. Himalayan birch trees
Reasons Given: To achieve adequate clearance for vehicles/pedestrians and from buildings

Comments on Application:

5x Himalayan birch / <i>Betula utilis</i> var <i>Jacquemontii</i>	Average height: 8m	Average spread: 3m	Age class: Early mature
7x sycamore / <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Average height: 7m	Average spread: 2.5m	Age class: Semi mature

- The applicant has employed *The Urban Surgeons* as agent, to prepare and submit a tree survey and plan. This is comprehensive and includes a detailed work specification with satisfactory reasons given for each item.
- Most trees are not worthy of specific comment for the purposes of reviewing this application; they can be satisfactorily considered for generic comment, as follows:
 - The majority of trees are in a fine physiological state and present attractive crown profile. There is a high density of established trees within the development, many of which add considerable value and have high growth potential. A degree of late-formative pruning and carefully selected branch shortening whilst retaining top-height/upper crown profile – is desirable at this time and should allow for future establishment without heavy low limbs becoming problematic in future.
- The exception is T4 which has been proposed for removal. There is evidence of some crown dieback but only of minor extent at my time of inspection. If the tree is in serious decline so as to require removal, then there will be no significant loss of public amenity and a replacement tree can be planted.

Conclusions:

- If the work to these trees is undertaken to a good standard and at the right time; then it is unlikely to have an adverse effect on their long-term vitality and visual amenity. Both tree-types in this application are prone to bleeding from pruning wounds. Birch trees are also intolerant of hard pruning - the timing of operations is critical to their ongoing health.
- The work proposed is justified on arboricultural grounds as it seeks to strike a balance between the tree's influence and potential impact on surrounding residential property and the need to retain trees with dignity by having respect for natural tree form.

Recommendations:

- I recommend **CONSENT** for this application, 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 long-term vitality of these trees is best respected when significant pruning work such as proposed, is undertaken during either the summer (June to August) or mid-winter (late-December to early-February) periods. The work must only be undertaken during these periods.

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***

- Once the tree (T4) 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 4metres. The applicant must advise the local planning authority when this has been carried out.

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 birch tree (T4).

The species shall be selected from the following:-

Field maple *Acer campestre* (an upright cultivar, e.g. 'Elegant').

Sweet Gum *Liquidambar styraciflua*

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

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

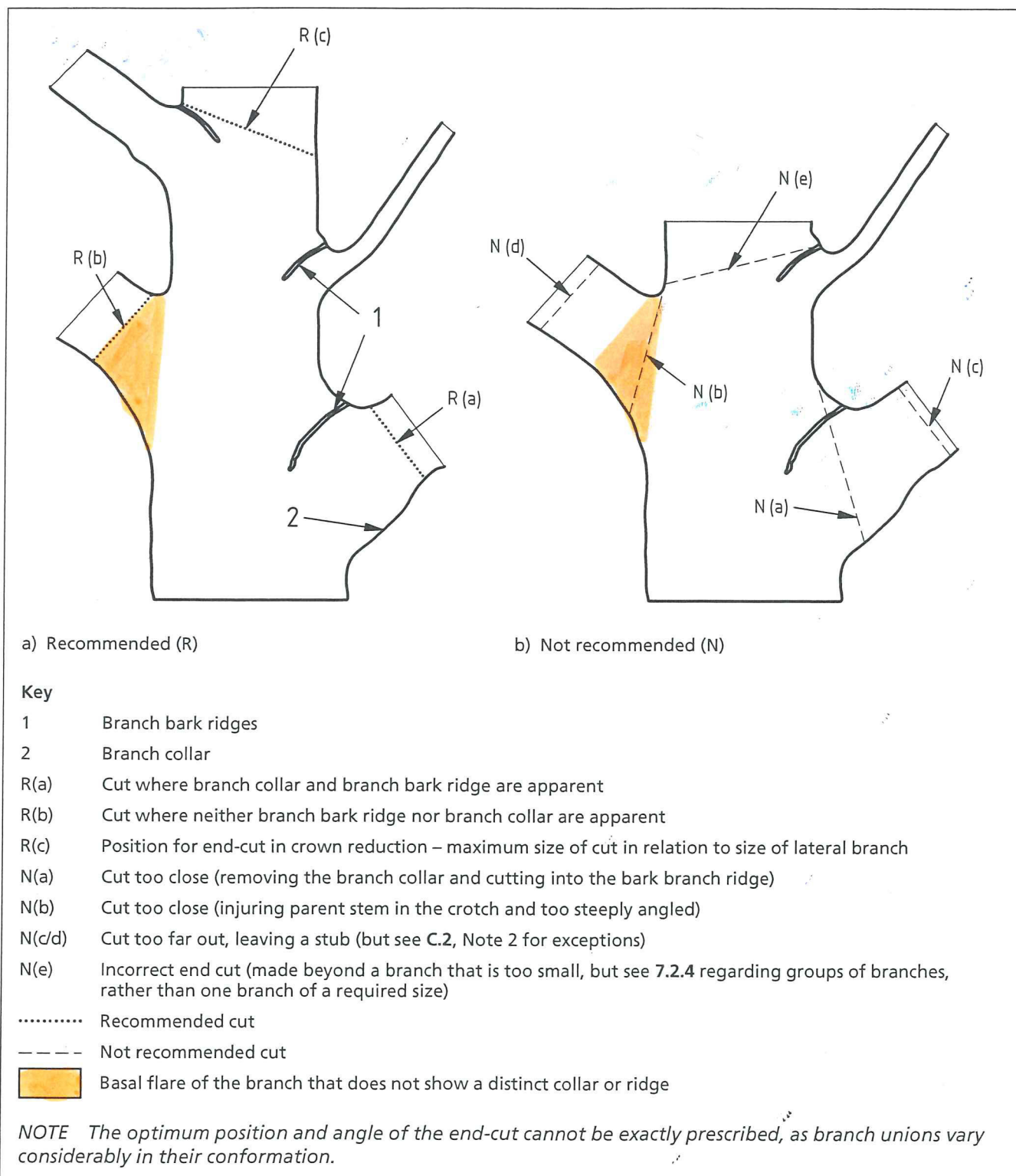


Figure 3 Crown lifting

