

Planning Officer: Harry Chalk

Planning Application Ref: LU/306/21/T

Location: Winterton Lodge, Goda Road, Littlehampton, BN17 6SY

Description of works: 1no. lime tree (T1) - Crown lift to 4m and shorten back roadside growth by 1m on north & west sides to height 16m & spread 7m. 2no. chestnuts and 4no. sycamores (G1) - reduce lateral growth on south & east side by 2m to leave height 16m & spread 4-5m. 1no. sweet chestnut (T2) - Crown lift to 3m; 1no sweet chestnut (T3) - reduce away from property by 2m to leave height 17m and spread 10m 2no. holm oaks (G2) - Crown lift to 3m and Crown reduction to height 18m and spread 8m

Reasons given: To clear buildings

Comments on Application:

- The applicant has employed R S Landscapes as agent, to prepare and submit this application. It recommends a plan of pruning work to manage the trees in an appropriate state for their location.
- They are all long-established trees which both contribute to the character of the area and represent a significant visual amenity.

Conclusions:

- The majority of proposed work is justified on arboricultural grounds, despite where no reasons have been given. If that work is undertaken to a high standard and at the right time; then it is unlikely to have an adverse effect on the trees' long-term vitality and visual amenity.
- The sole but significant exception is the proposed crown reduction of two mature holm oak (G2). Such work might diminish their place in the landscape and so should not be approved where no obvious justification is provided or found.

Recommendations:

- As it stands, I recommend REFUSAL for this application.
- **I would like the applicant to be invited to agree to a revised proposal for lesser works** (by removing the *crown reduction* element of work proposals for G2) as part of the current application so as not to incur further delay.

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- If the applicant is prepared to re-submit in line with this advice, then I would be able to recommend APPROVAL subject to the following condition:

Condition to Be Applied to All Approved Works: -

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 pollarding or crown reduction pruning has occurred previously, then the removal of crown 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 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 / Parks and Greenspace Team

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

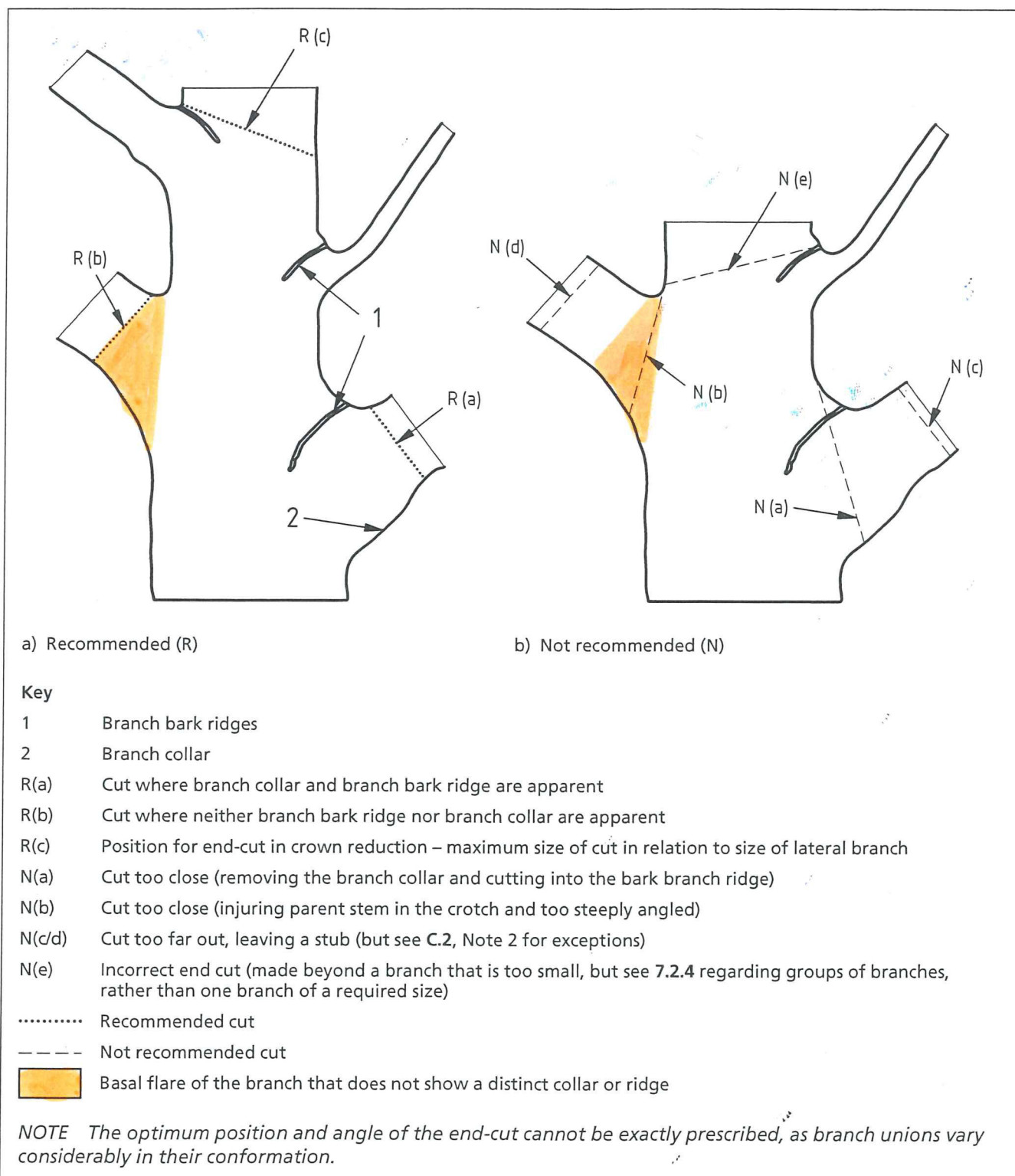


Figure 3 Crown lifting

