

Planning Officer: Miss Z Toppin

Planning Application Ref: R/168/21/T

Location: Various locations within Cudlow Garden, Rustington, BN16 2RP

Description of works: 1no. holm oak tree re-pollard to previous points. 1no. beech tree - crown lift to 3m and reduce northern side of canopy by 1m to leave 4m

Reasons given: T1 – Cyclical maintenance T2 – Improve shape

Comments on Application:

Note: Tree numbers below (eg.T1) are for the sole purpose of interpreting this application (no tree reference numbers were provided) and have no relationship (intended or otherwise) with those referred to elsewhere, such as may be recorded on a Tree Preservation Order.

T1 Holm oak / *Quercus ilex* Height: 10-15m Radial spread: 5-10m Age class: Mature

T2 Beech, purple-leaved / *Fagus sylvatica Purpurea* Height: 5-10m Radial spread: 0-5m
Age class: Semi mature

- Both trees appear generally stable, free from obvious significant structural defect and in fine physiological condition at this time.
- The oak is discreetly located behind an older dwelling 'Cudlow Cottage' and visible only in part outside of the later residential complex. It is a long-established tree providing all year-round visual amenity although it has had to be substantially reduced to limit its nuisance factor at this location.
- It has been 'pollarded' at two stages, the latest operation having been undertaken c2016. Its growth response has been moderate. The crown is dense and compact, formed upon co-dominant stems.
- Repeat operations such as now being asked for by the applicant will be necessary throughout the remaining lifespan of this tree, to achieve a reasonable degree of structural integrity appropriate for its location.
- The beech is a young tree, growing from a position elevated above surrounding footways and carriageway. Its low branched compact habit has visual appeal, despite being subject to coastal winds.
- The extent of crown lifting (low branch removal) exceeds the requirements of British Standard 3998:2010 – Tree Work.

Conclusions:

- The majority of work proposed is justified on arboricultural grounds.
- T1 Holm oak – The proposal to reduce its overall height and spread with a view to restricting its growth is justified and consistent with previous works approved by the Local Planning Authority. If the work is undertaken to a good 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.
- T2 Beech – The proposed reduction of branches on the north aspect is justified and will incur no loss of visual amenity. The removal of low branches to achieve 3m clearance overhead clearance on all aspects is not justified on arboricultural grounds and exceeds that which is recommended in the British Standard (BS3998:2010) Tree work – Recommendations.

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 amending the crown lifting element for T2 beech, from 3metres to 1.5metres;** as part of the current application so as not to incur further delay. Such work would go some way to addressing their concerns whilst preserving the tree's visual amenity.
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- If the applicant is prepared to amend their application 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) 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 (T1 oak only).

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

Advisory:

- The long-term vitality of the holm oak tree is best respected when significant pruning work such as proposed, is undertaken during mid to late winter (January/February). The work should only be undertaken during this period.

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

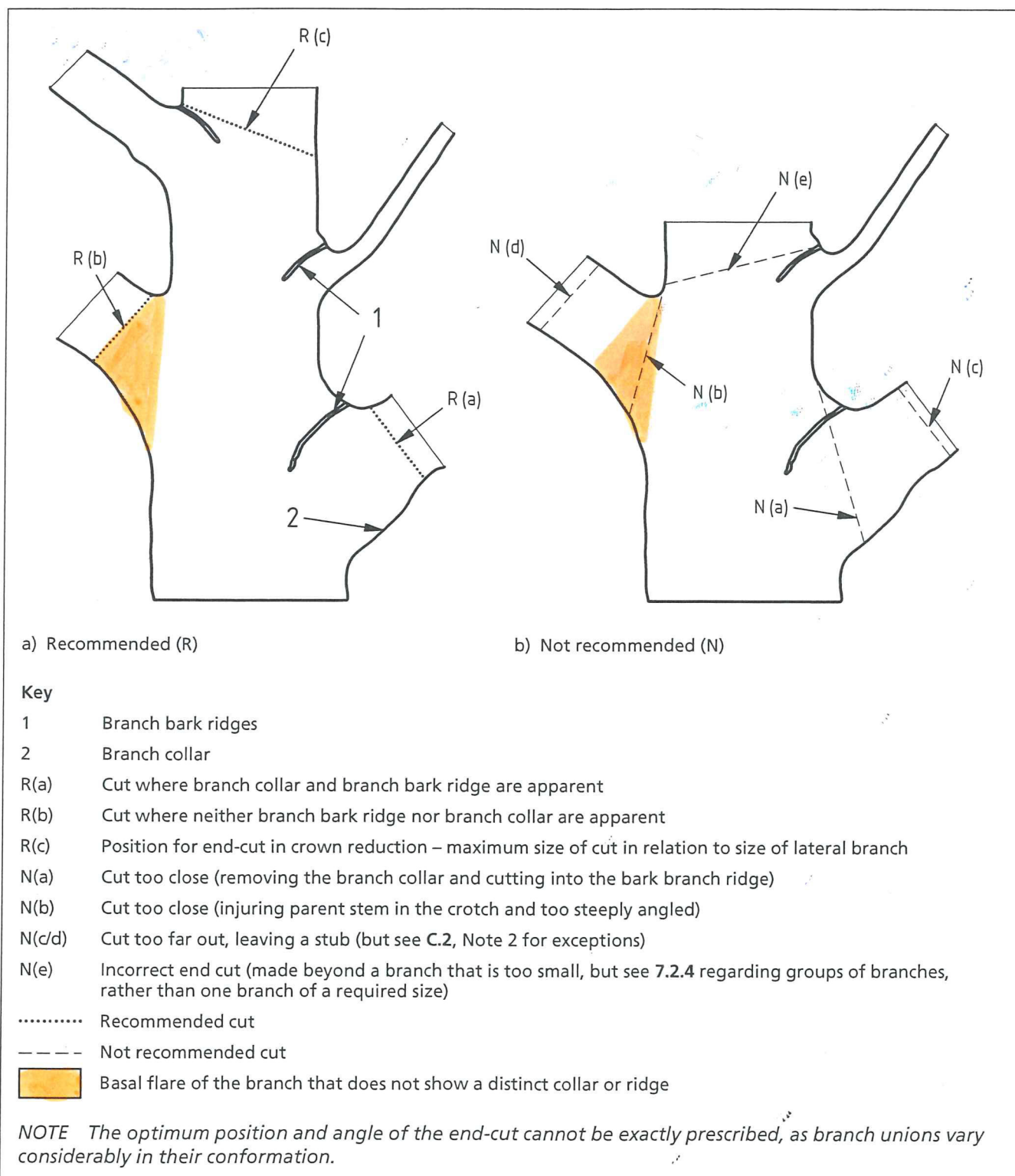


Figure 3 Crown lifting

