

Case Officer: Harry Chalk
Reference: R/40/22/T
Location: Communal area adjacent to Woodlands Avenue, Rustington
Proposal: T1 - Holm Oak - Crown reduction to leave height 20m and spread 17m and crown lift to 6m
Reasons given: Tree is large and needs maintenance work

Comments on Application:

Holm oak / *Quercus ilex* Height: 15-20m Radial spread: 5-10m Age class: Mature

- Outwardly this tree appears to be in a fine physiological state and assumed to be so in the absence of any evidence provided to the contrary.
- The crown is broad and relatively unmodified. It has a heavy limb and branch framework formed upon a cluster of tightly bound stems. It is close to dwellings, low over public highway and suppressing a communal area of landscaped garden.
- While it can be difficult to accurately determine crown dimensions, my own estimation differs from the applicant/agent's so it will be necessary to agree the position of final pruning cuts during a pre-work site meeting between the appointed contractor and local authority representative.
- This is a prominent large tree of high visual amenity.

Conclusions:

- The principle of initiating whole crown reduction pruning is supportable, as it would be prudent to reduce end weight on many of the limbs. Supervision of the work will be necessary to ensure both parties are satisfied with the extent of pruning.
- Crown lifting (removal of low branches) is also justified on arboricultural grounds although not on all aspects to the extent proposed. 6metres overhead clearance would exceed the requirement of British Standard (BS3998:2010) Tree work – Recommendations.

Recommendation:

- As it stands, I am unable to support this application. I **would like the applicant to be invited to revise the crown lifting element of their proposal to lesser works** (as described below) 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 more of the tree's landscape and public amenity value:

Crown lift to achieve a maximum of:

Six metres overhead clearance above carriageway (south aspect of crown), four metres overhead clearance above area of landscaped garden (east aspect of crown), three metres overhead clearance on all other aspects.

- If the applicant agrees to the above proposal, then I would be able to recommend APPROVAL subject to the following condition:

Condition to Be Applied to All Approved Works: -

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.

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***

Condition 2

The work hereby approved shall be undertaken under the supervision of the Local Planning Authority who shall be notified not less than 7days before the work commences.

Reason: To ensure a satisfactory standard of tree surgery in the interests of amenity in accordance with Policy ENV DM4 of the Arun Local Plan.

Advisory:

- Although holm oak may respond with vigour to hard pruning (such as whole crown reduction) they have a poor tolerance of such work and long-term vitality can be severely affected. The optimum time to prune is mid to late winter (January - February).
- We are obliged to advise that where trees are situated on land not wholly owned by the applicant the granting of consent by this authority does not by association give permission to undertake such works that require access onto/from that land. Nor does it permit any work to take place beyond the boundary of the applicant's property. Additional permission must first be obtained from the land/tree owner(s).

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Greenspace

Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

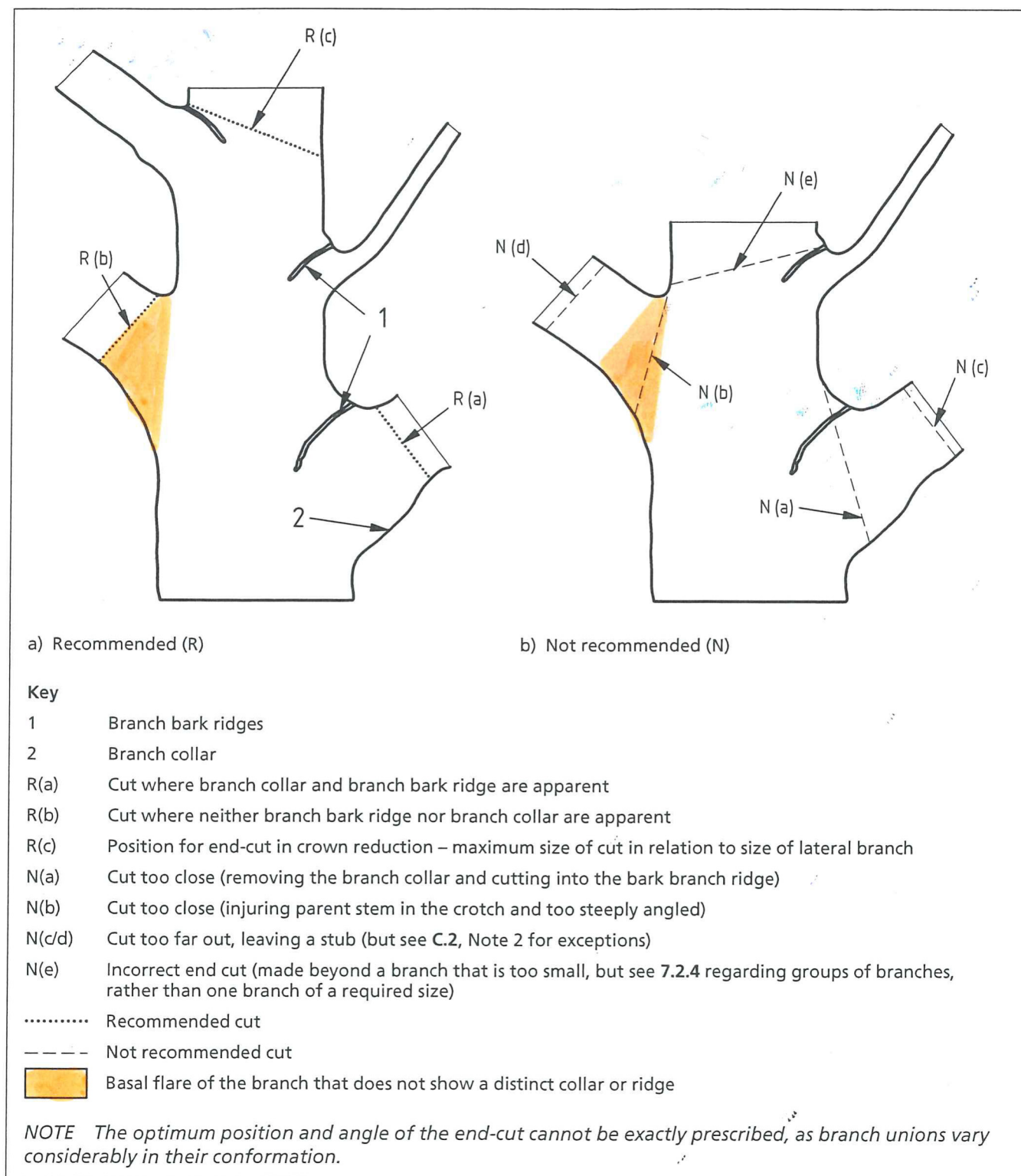


Figure 4 Diagrammatic illustration of crown reduction

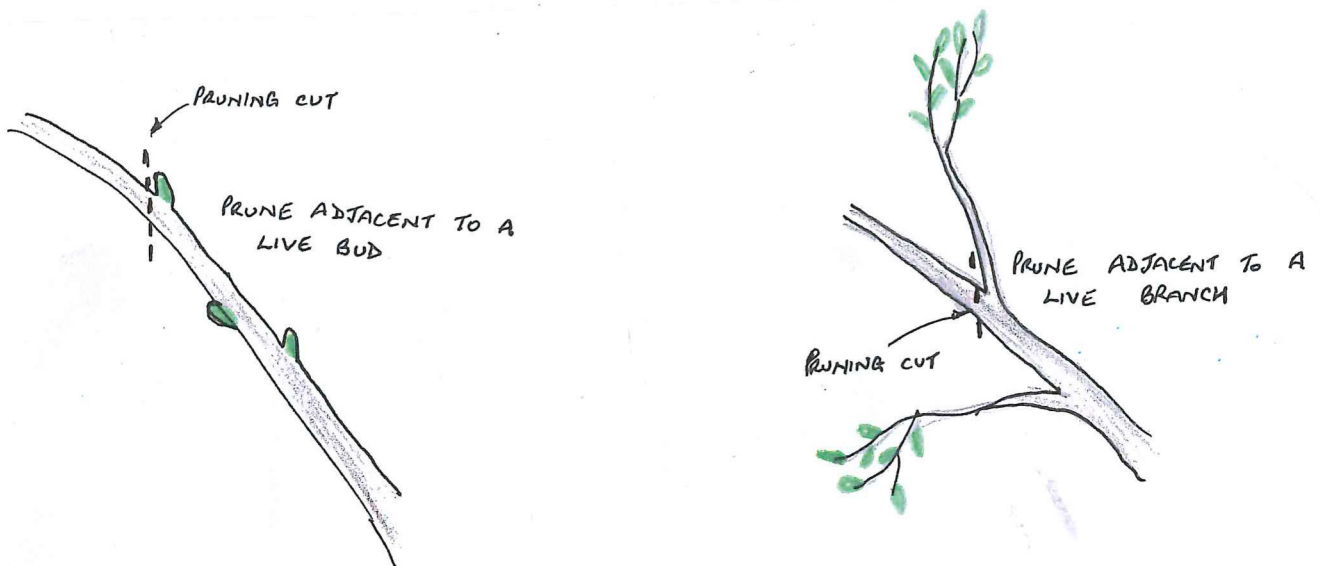
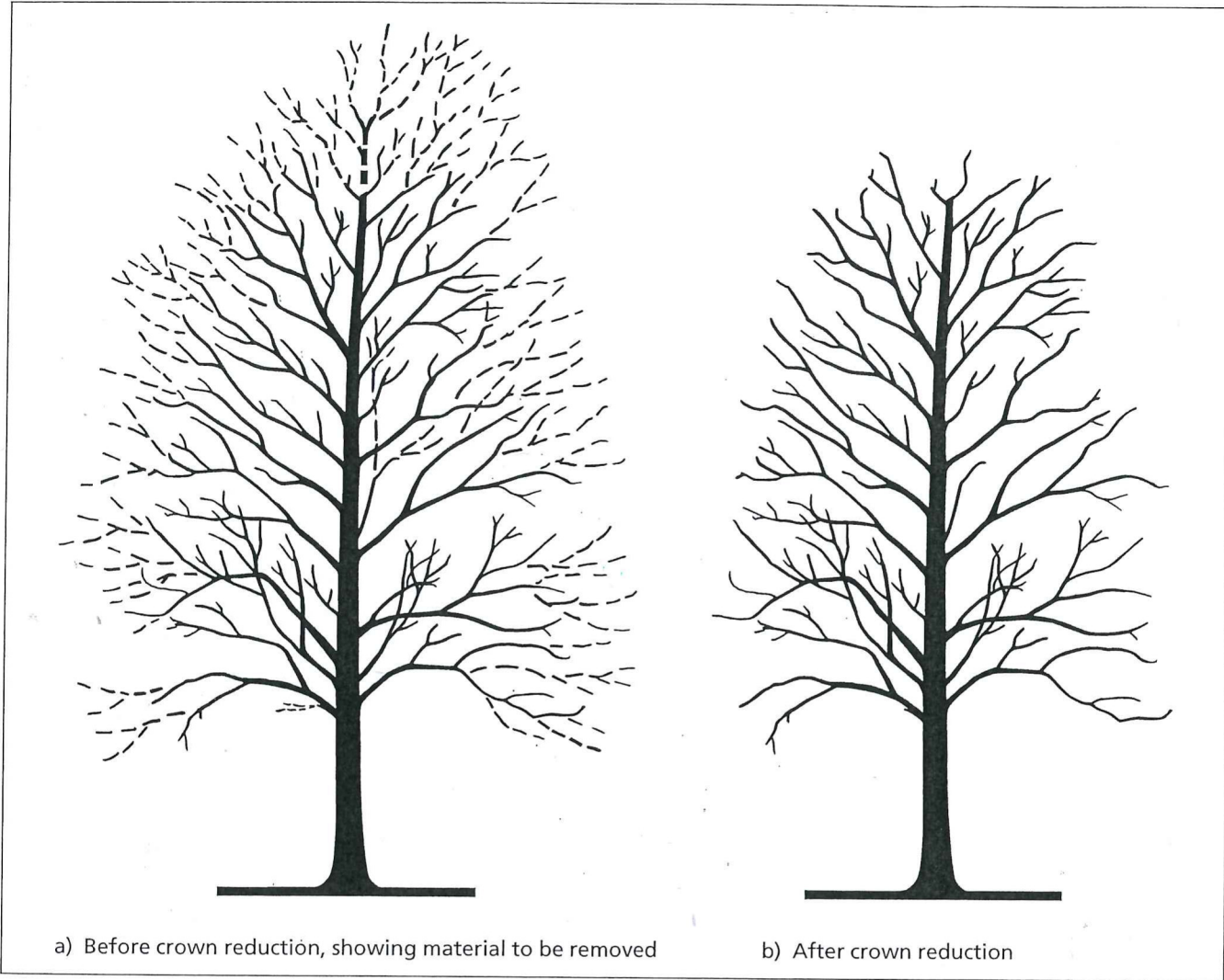


Figure 3 Crown lifting

