

Planning Officer: Mr F Gardner

Planning Application Ref: WA/39/19/T

Location: Fir Tree Cottage, The Street, Walberton, BN18 0PY

Description of works: Remove deadwood from 1 no. ash tree in front of property and crown reduction up to 3m to 1no. ash tree at rear of property

Reasons Given: Health and Safety

Comments on Application:

T1 Ash (front garden) / <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Approx. height: 14m	Average spread: 6m	Age class: Mature
T2 Ash (rear garden) / <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Approx. height: 9m	Average spread: 3m	Age class: Mature

- T1 grows at the front of the property, occupying a prominent position and visible both from nearby residential dwellings and from the public highway (footway and carriageway). It appears to be in a fair physiological state and stable with a relatively unmodified and attractive crown profile. There is a significant quantity of dead branches distributed throughout the crown.
- T2 grows at the rear of the property and can only be seen from neighbouring dwellings. It has previously been pollarded at approximately 3metres height and responded with vigour. On close inspection, it is clear that extensive decay of the stem base and buttress roots has undermined it's structural integrity such that it may be at risk of collapse – especially so if the crown is left to grow-on unchecked.

Conclusions:

- T1 - The removal of dead branches is an exception and does not require our permission.
- T2 - The work proposed is necessary to mitigate risk of structural failure and so justified on arboricultural grounds. There will be no loss of public amenity on completion of the proposed works.
- The long-term vitality of tree (T 2) is best respected when significant pruning work such as proposed, is undertaken during the late-spring to summer period (May to August). That said, if it is determined as being necessary to undertake such work outside of this period to prevent harm to persons or property – then that must take priority over the health of the tree.

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.

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

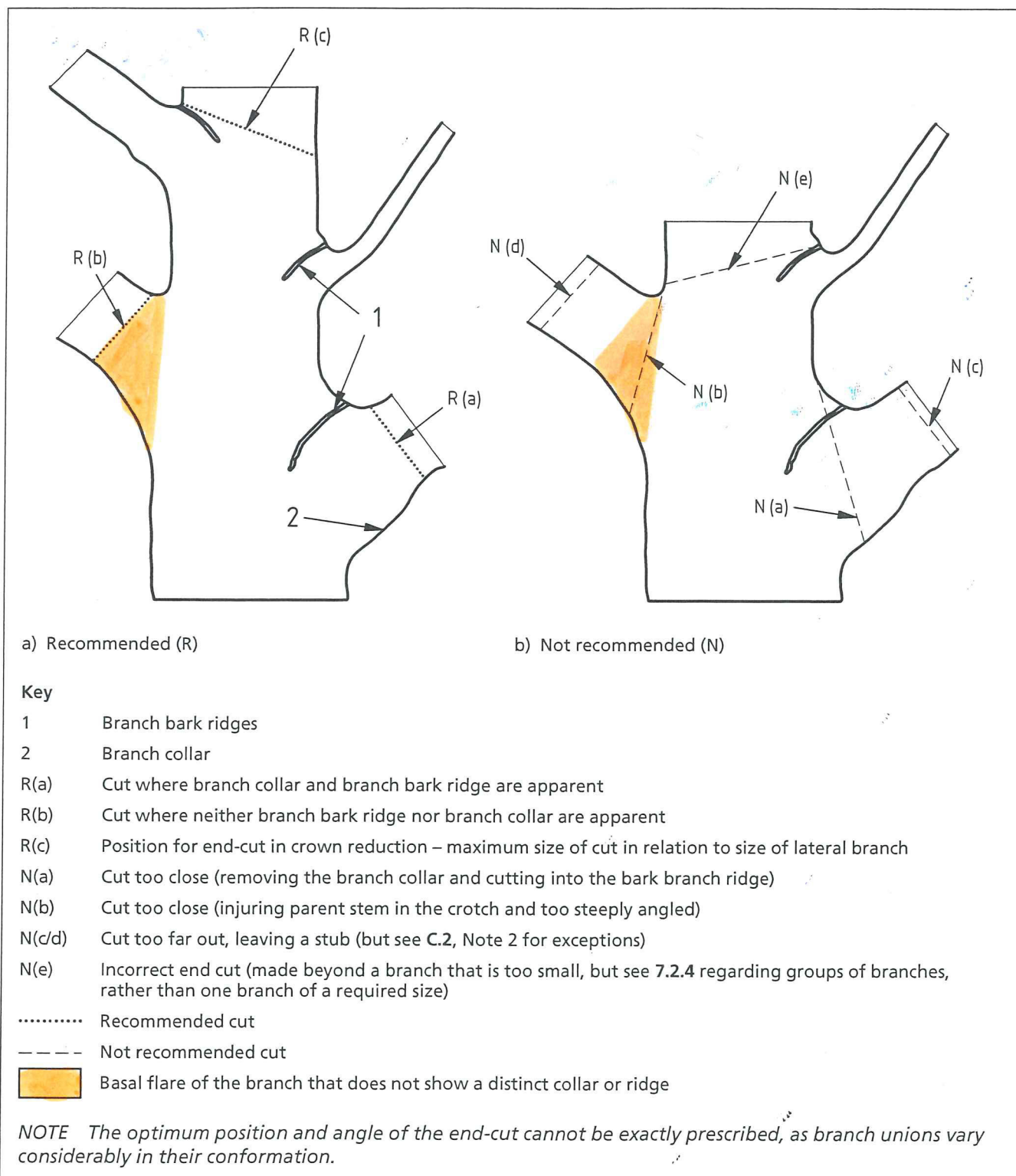


Figure 4 Diagrammatic illustration of crown reduction

