

Planning Officer: Amber Willard
Planning Application Ref: AW/121/19/T
Location: 19 Gossamer Lane, Aldwick, PO21 3AT
Description of works: Crown reduction by 1m to 1 No. beech tree
Reasons Given: None provided

Comments on Application:

Beech / *Fagus sylvatica* Approx. height: 18m Average spread: 8m Age class: Mature

- This is a large tree with a full and spreading crown. Outwardly it appears to be in a fine physiological state and structurally sound. It is a focal point being highly visible from surrounding properties and its high canopy can be seen by users of the public highway (footway and carriageway). As such, it has public amenity value.
- On closer inspection, multiple stems are observed with some compression and there are large zones of bark death/detachment on 3 of those 5 stems. These defects are a concern for the tree's longer term prospects, although not obviously (or having been evidenced as) problematic at this time.
- The extent of crown reduction proposed will require the attention of a skilled arborist to implement correctly and achieve a high standard of pruning.

Conclusions:

- This tree has the potential to develop progressive stem compression and without adequate 'natural bracing' – which would incur an elevated risk of stem separation. A degree of light 'containment pruning' would seem to be a reasonable and prudent management objective for the tree at this time and so I can support the application on that basis.
- If the work is undertaken to a high 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.

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 this tree is best respected when significant pruning work such as proposed, is undertaken during the late-spring to summer period (May to August). The work proposed must only be undertaken during this period.

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 4 Diagrammatic illustration of crown reduction

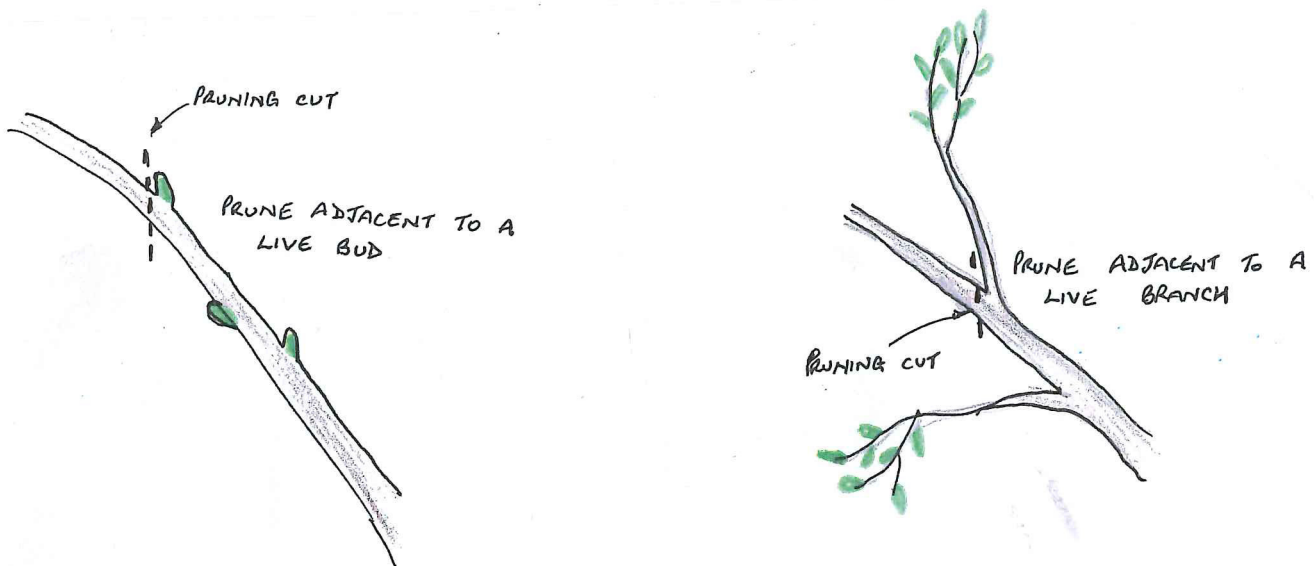
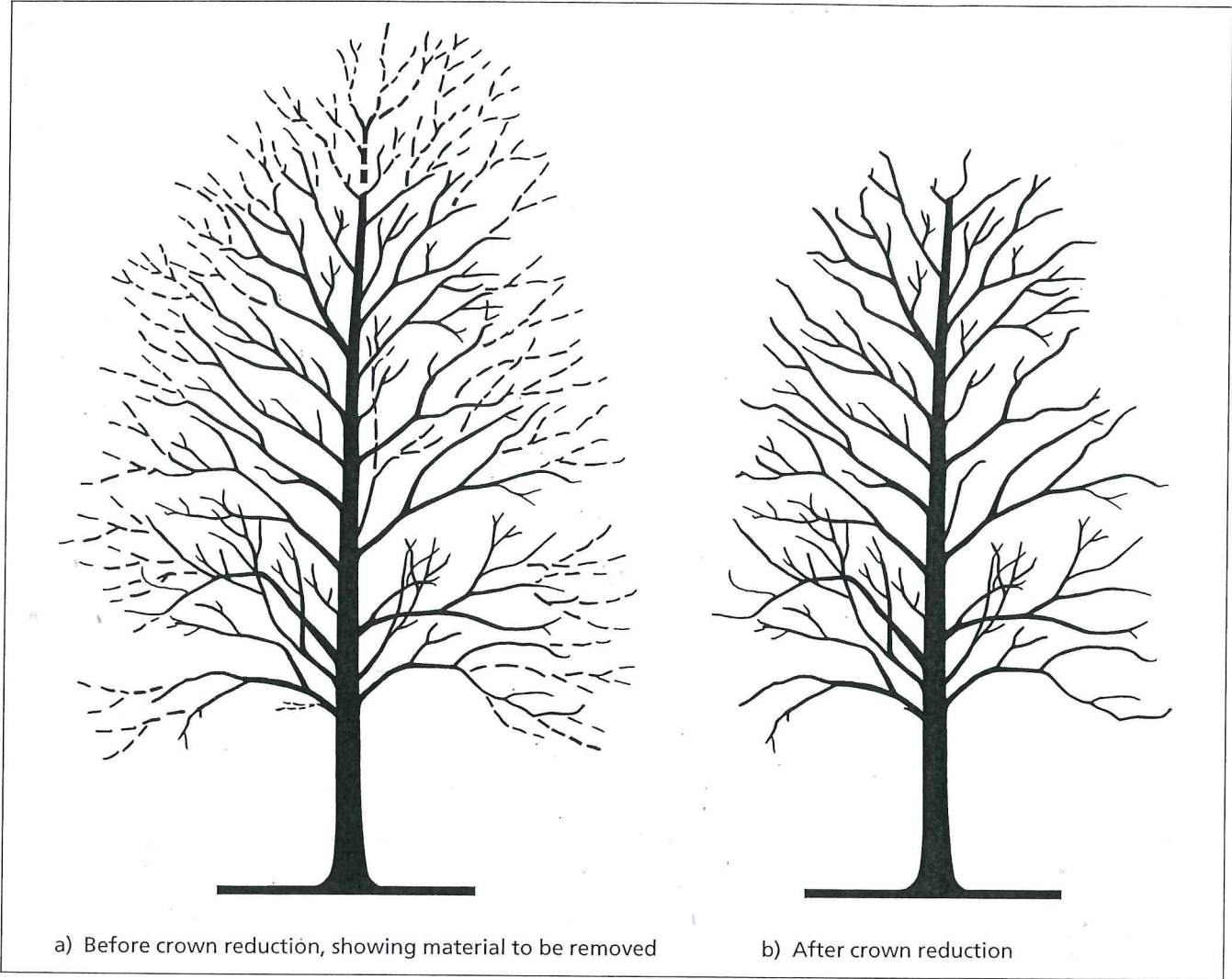


Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

