

Planning Officer: Miss Z Toppin
Planning Application Ref: **AW/253/20/T**
Location: **14 Old Farm Close, Aldwick**
Description of works: **Reduce height of 1No. maple tree to approx. 10m**
Reasons given: To prevent nuisance to public highway users

Comments on Application:

Silver maple / *Acer saccharinum* Approx. height: 12m Average spread: 6m Age class: Early mature

- This tree appears to be outwardly healthy and stable with a relatively unmodified and attractive crown profile.
- It grows at the front of the property and is prominent within the close. It can also be seen by users of the public highway and is of visual interest. It is a tree of high public amenity value.
- Low branches are beginning to encroach the public highway space and will become problematic if left unattended. The applicant proposes a reduction of height and spread, where the removal/reduction of carefully selected low branches would be sufficient to meet the stated aim without introducing structural weakness to the limb/branch framework at height and committing tree owner(s) to regular and costly future maintenance pruning.
- It is perhaps the finest one of three silver maple in close formation that collectively are an impressive arboricultural feature.

Conclusion:

- The tree is a significant feature in the local landscape and appears to be in adequately sound and healthy condition. Although well-intentioned, the tree surgery proposed in the application would result in excessive reduction of the tree's landscape impact and undue detriment to the visual amenities of the locality. *Crown lifting* operations (lesser works) can ensure the applicant discharges their 'duty of care' whilst preserving the visual amenity of the tree.

Recommendations:

- As it stands, I am unable to recommend approval for this application.

Advisory:

- I would like to see the applicant agree to a revision of their work proposal for this application, such as detailed below, which would seem to address their concerns whilst preventing a diminution of the tree's landscape and public amenity value:
 - Crown lift to achieve a maximum of 2.5metres overhead clearance above the footway.
 - Crown lift to achieve a maximum of 5.5metres overhead clearance above the carriageway.
 - Reduce/removal small diameter branches on SW aspect only, to give understorey trees/shrubs adequate room to grow-on, not exceeding 2metres clearance. No final pruning cut to exceed 25mm in diameter.

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- If the applicant agrees to revise their work proposal in line with this advice, then I would be able to recommend **APPROVAL** subject to the following condition:

Condition to Be Applied to Approved Work: -

- 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 interests 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

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team

Figure 3 Crown lifting

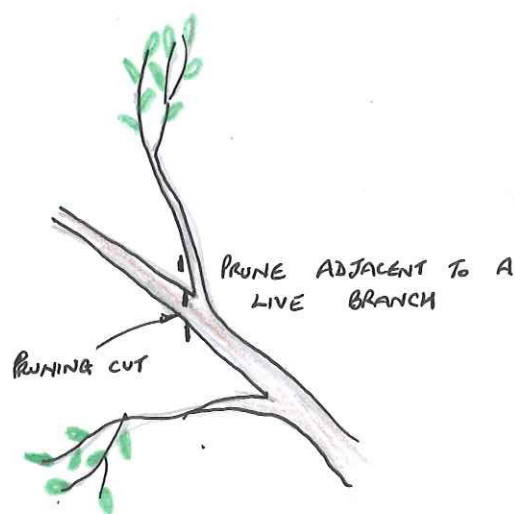
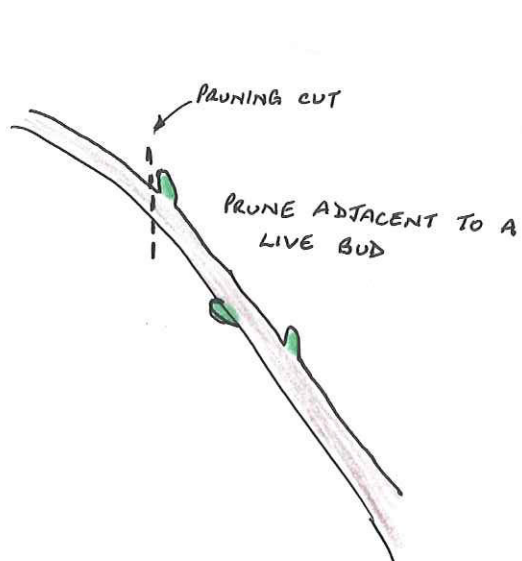
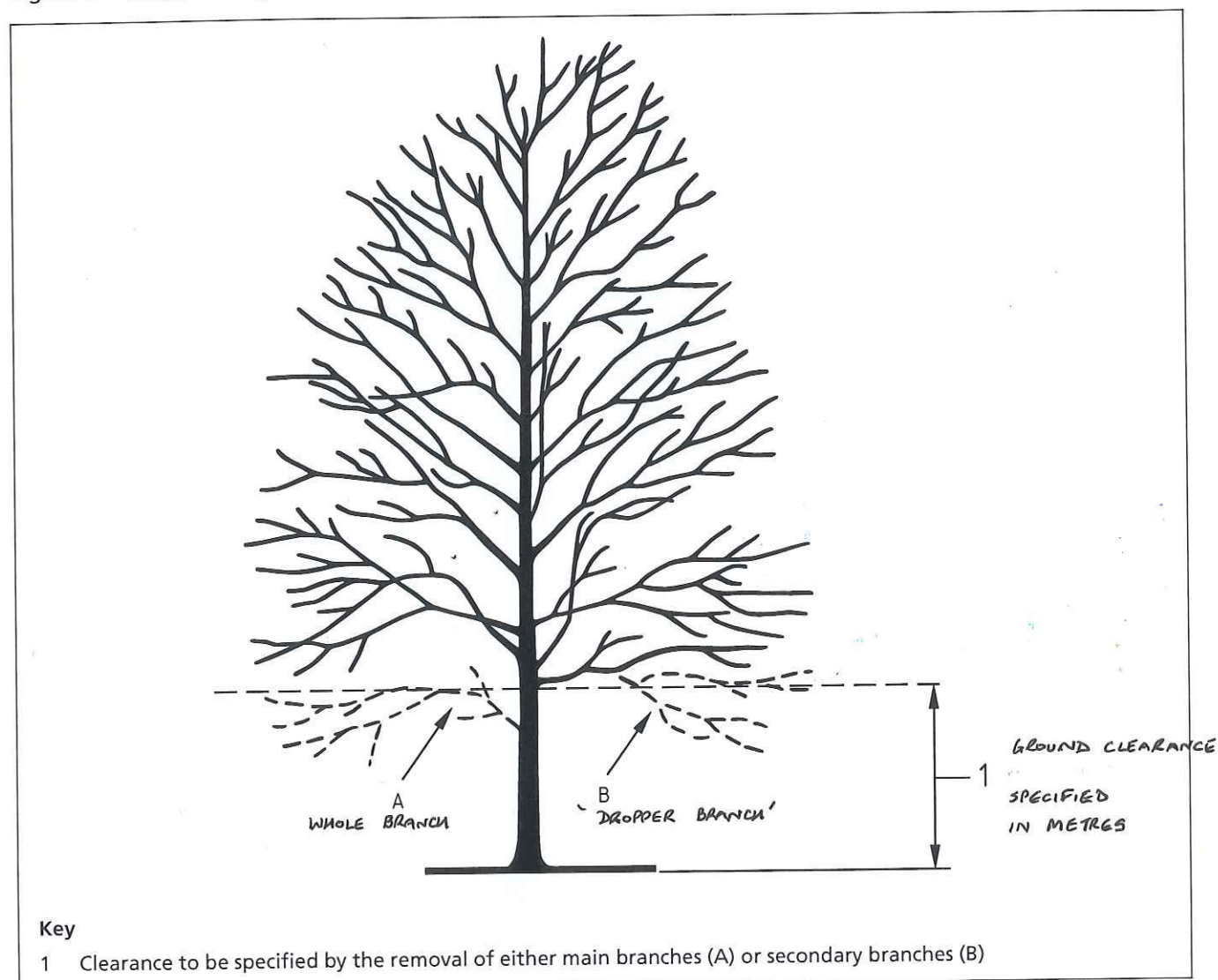


Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

