

Planning Officer: Harry Chalk

Planning Application Ref: AW/317/21/T

Location: Various Locations, Aldwick Bay Estate, Aldwick

Description of works: Various works to various trees

Reasons given: Hazard reduction

Comments on Application:

- The applicant has employed Broad Oak Tree Consultants Limited to assess the Estate's roadside trees and provide a report on their condition. This is comprehensive and recommends a balanced set of work proposals to manage the trees in an appropriate state for their location.
- There are many trees included in this proposal. The Tree Work Recommendations and supporting Tree Work Priority Plans were simultaneously considered during my site assessment. The presentation of survey data ensured interpretation was a time-consuming exercise, although all necessary information was provided.
- There is a complex tapestry of Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) affecting the Estate and a large Conservation Area, either or both of which capture the vast majority of roadside trees. The principal TPO is Bognor No.2, an area Order made in 1958.
- T3 Lime is to be reduced in height and spread (whole crown reduction). Whilst I can support the principle of work, it has been incorrectly specified as a percentage. In the interest of expediency, I propose dimensions for the tree post-pruning and include those in a condition.

Conclusions:

- Having considered the Tree Work Recommendations, I am satisfied that they are justified on arboricultural grounds and either recommend APPROVAL or have no objection to the proposals.
- If significant pruning work is undertaken to a high standard and at the right time; then it is unlikely to have an adverse effect on the trees' long-term vitality and visual amenity.
- Those trees proposed for removal are of limited amenity value and/or not viable long-term prospects. In each case, local tree density and canopy cover is extensive enough such as to preclude a requirement for compensatory planting. Furthermore, most locations could be considered problematic due to restricted space and in some cases, removal would result in an improved vista.

Recommendation:

- I recommend **CONSENT** for this application, 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.

Part c) Where pollarding or crown reduction pruning has occurred previously, then 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.

Part d) T3 Lime should be uniformly reduced in height and spread to leave a balanced structure on completion as shown in Figure 4 of BS3998:2010. Final dimensions of the tree should be a minimum of: Height 11metres, Diameter spread 9m.

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 horse chestnut and lime trees is best respected when significant pruning work such as '*crown reduction*', is undertaken during the late spring to summer period (May to August). For poplar, the optimum time for significant pruning is mid-winter (late-December to early-February). The work proposed should only be undertaken during these periods.
- Where a tree is under 3rd party ownership; we are obliged to advise the applicant that any consent granted by the Local Planning Authority does not by association give authority to undertake the proposed work from/or cut back material to beyond the property boundary, without first seeking permission from the tree owner.

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team

Figure 4 Diagrammatic illustration of crown reduction

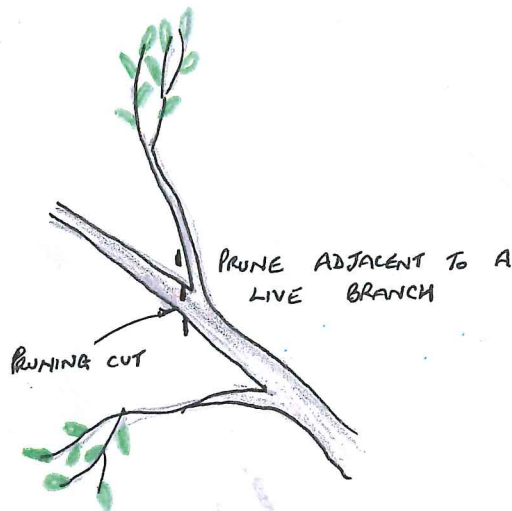
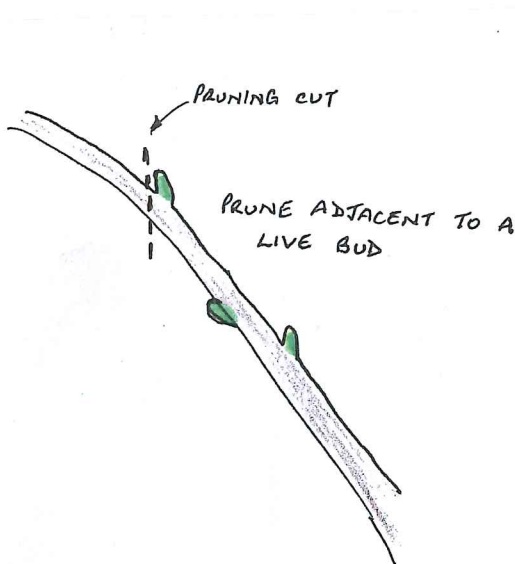
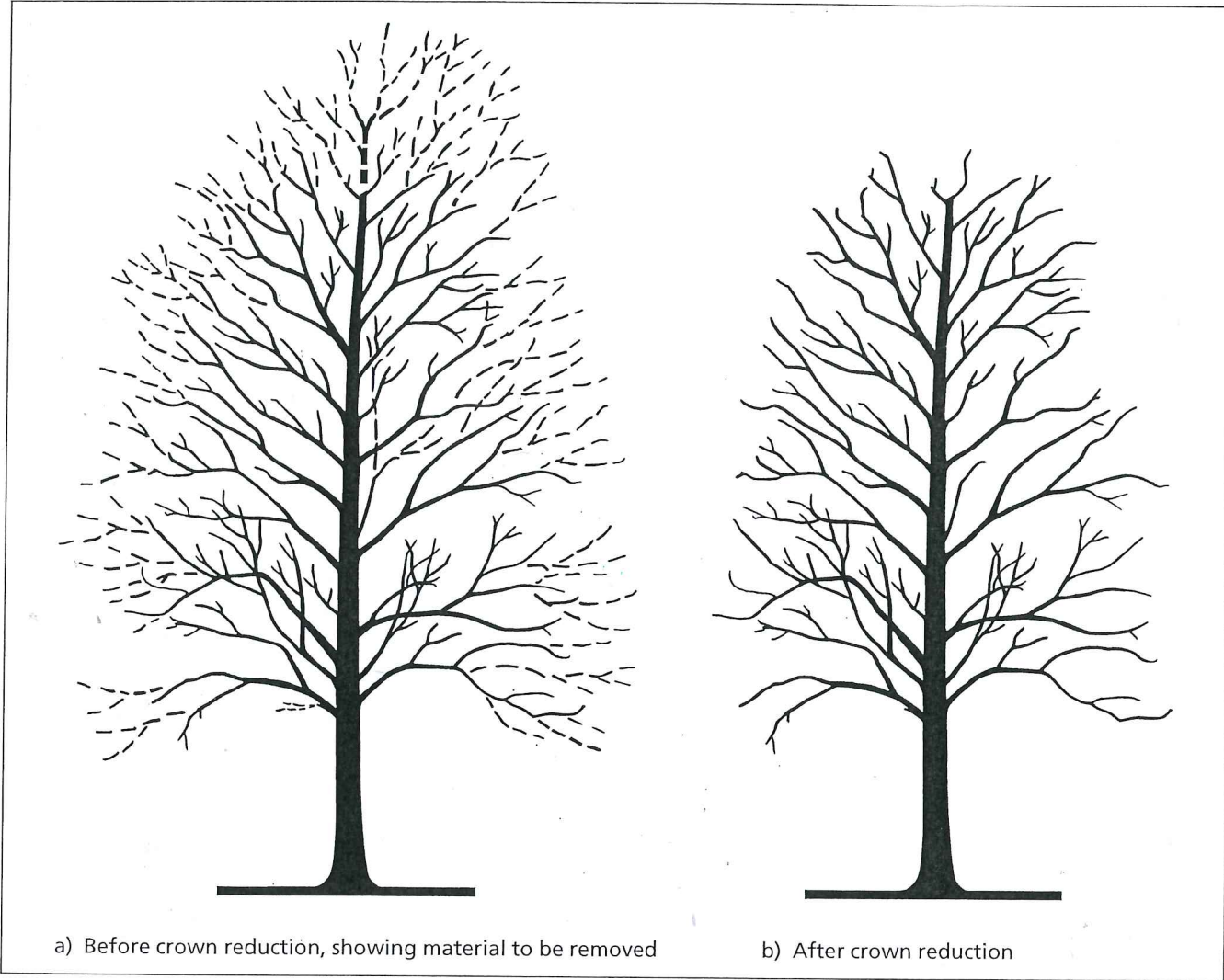


Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

