

Case Officer: Hannah Kersley

Reference: BE/32/22/T

Location: The Old Cottage, 70 North Bersted Street, Bersted, PO22 9AE

Proposal: 1no. *Eucalyptus* tree (T1) - Fell to ground level. 1no. ash tree (T2) - Roadside limb to be reduced by 3-4m leaving a 6m branch, house side limb removed back to main trunk, and lift remaining crown to 6m above ground level

Reasons given: T1 - Suspected loss of structural integrity (roots), T2 - Encroachment over carriageway and property

Comments on Application:

T1 Gum / <i>Eucalyptus</i> sp.	Height: 15-20m	Radial spread: 5-10m	Age class: Mature
T2 Ash / <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Height: 15-20m	Radial spread: 5-10m	Age class: Mature

- Outwardly and from distance (roadside) both trees appear to be in a fine physiological state and stable; assumed to be so in the absence of any evidence provided to the contrary.
- Both trees are large and highly visible from surrounding properties and to users of the public highway. As such they have amenity value.
- The applicant has employed Brushwood Tree Services as agent, to prepare and submit the application.
- T1 - No report has been provided in support of root-plate disruption. That assertion is based upon anecdotal evidence and does not appear to have been properly investigated.
- Branches that are directly interfering with the fabric of the dwelling can be pruned back to remove risk of immediate harm to same. That work qualifies as an exception from the normal application process as it deals with an actionable nuisance. It is important not to exceed what is required as minimum to achieve that aim or an offence may be committed.
- T2 – Work specification is ambiguous hence I have clarified my interpretation of same by annotating the embedded photograph (figure 1). The application is determined on that basis.



Figure 1. Ash tree (T2) proposed pruning work under consideration BE/32/22/T

Conclusions:

- T1 – Appears outwardly sound and stable albeit from distance (roadside) but no evidence of structural instability has been provided in support of the application. As such, this tree may continue to provide significant visual amenity and has not been proven to present an unacceptable level of risk for its location, so should be retained.
- T2 - The work proposed is justified on arboricultural grounds. This is a high-profile specimen tree of significant public and visual amenity and is to be carefully pruned to maintain reasonable enjoyment of residential property and with respect for natural tree form.

Recommendation:

- As it stands, I am unable to support this application. I **would like the applicant to be invited to agree to lesser works** (by removing T1 from the proposal) **as part of the current application so as not to incur further delay.**

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- 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 Approved Work: -

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.

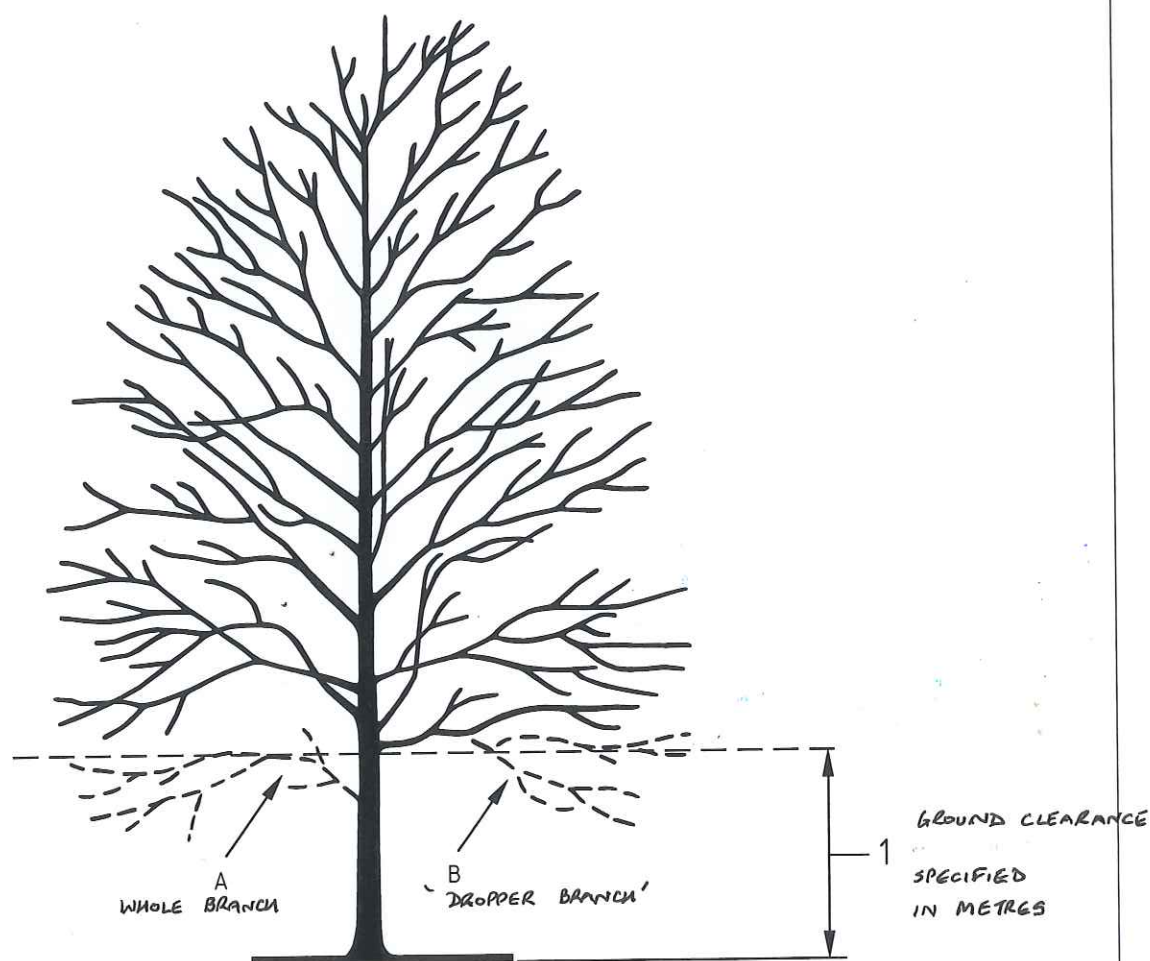
- See also the standard pruning guidance notes issued with the consent letter

Advisory:

- The optimum time to prune ash is during the late spring to summer period (May to August).

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Neighbourhood Services

Figure 3 Crown lifting



Key

- 1 Clearance to be specified by the removal of either main branches (A) or secondary branches (B)

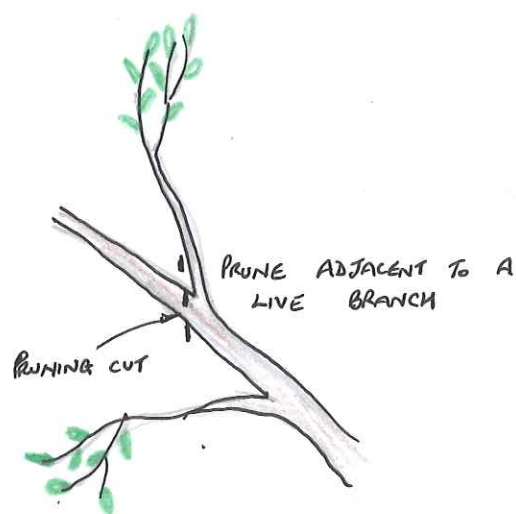
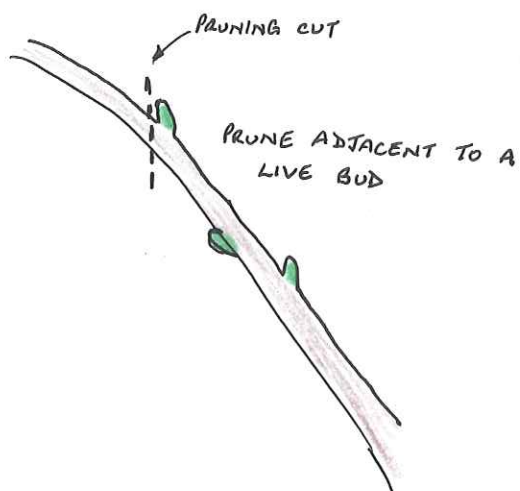


Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

