

Case Officer: Hannah Kersley
Reference: BR/89/22/T
Location: The Maples, 45 Victoria Drive, Bognor Regis, PO21 2TQ
Proposal: Various works to various trees
Reasons given: General maintenance

Comments on Application:

- The applicant has employed Treeline Services Ltd. to assess the trees across the site and provide a report on their condition. This is comprehensive and recommends a balanced set of work proposals to manage most of them in an appropriate state for their location.
- There are many trees included in this proposal. Tree Inspection Schedule and supporting Tree Location Plan were simultaneously considered during my site assessment. The survey data appears accurate.
- Of all the trees identified for work in the above report the following are subject of a Tree Preservation Order: 0238, 0242, 0245, 0247, 0248, 0249, 0252 & 0255. Only those items are considered in my report.
- The site is densely populated with trees along the south boundary, from where the majority of protected trees grow (TPO/3/82 - G4). Those are predominantly early mature sycamore of varying form and typically in good physiological condition. Collectively they present largely unmodified and attractive upper crown profiles, adding maturity to the surroundings. Whilst seasonal nuisance and general influence over residential property is accepted, high-level canopy brings important benefits and visual amenity to the area.
- 0242 has been identified for removal. Legislation imposes a duty to provide a suitable replacement in these circumstances, although I believe it is impractical to attempt the establishment of 'like for like' replacement beneath such dense canopy (perhaps there are locations elsewhere on the site which are more suitable?). Furthermore, their loss will not be detrimental to public amenity and so I would not insist on its replacement.
- I support *crown reduction* pruning, as described, for items 0245 and 0252 but do not consider it appropriate for 0255 at this time.

Conclusions:

- The majority of proposed work is justified on arboricultural grounds and would not incur loss of public visual amenity.
- There is one established sycamore of apparent good form, for which justification has not been made for crown reduction pruning at this time. Such work would unduly diminish its place in the landscape.

Recommendation:

- As it stands, I am unable to support this application. I **would like the applicant to be invited to agree to a revised proposal for lesser works** (by removing item 0255) **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 All Approved Works: -

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 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 sycamore is best respected when significant pruning work (such as crown reduction pruning) is undertaken during either the summer (June to August) or mid-winter (late-December to early-February) periods.

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer
Neighbourhood Services

Figure 4 Diagrammatic illustration of crown reduction

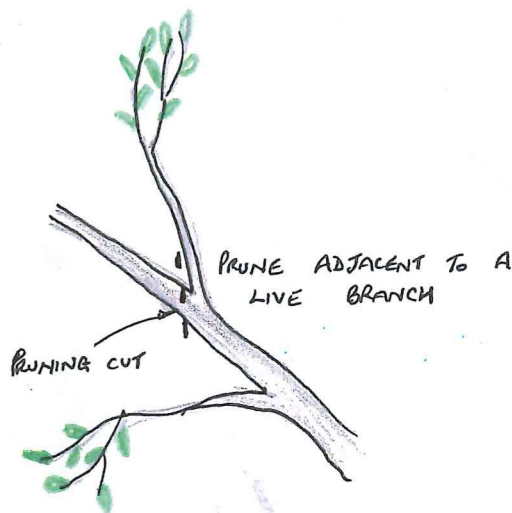
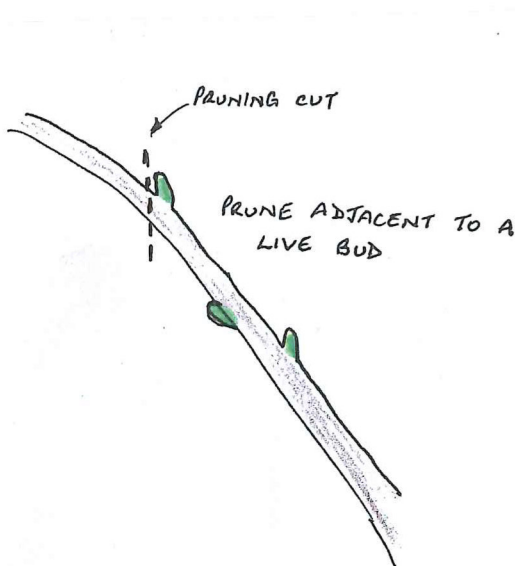
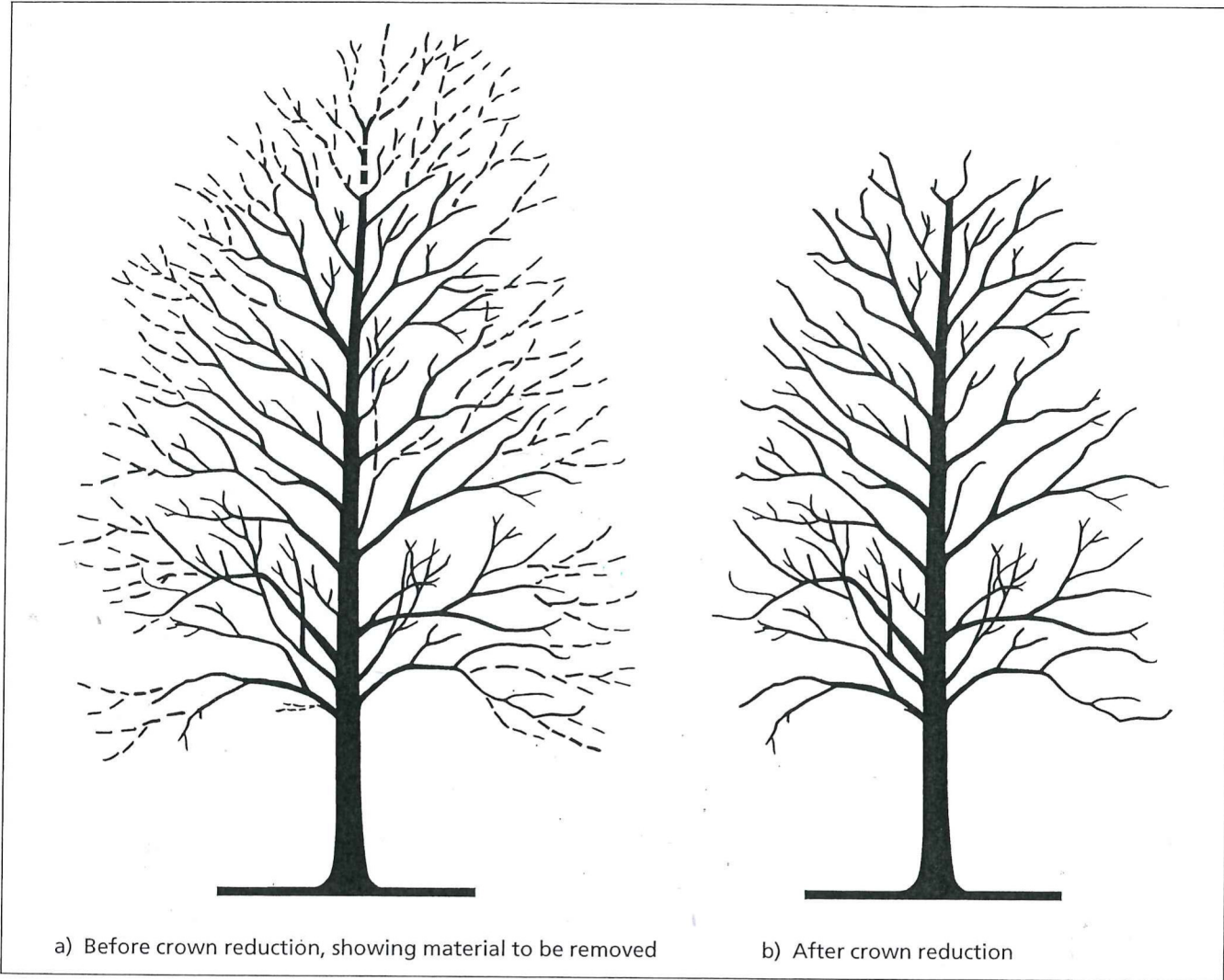


Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

