

Planning Officer: Harry Chalk

Planning Application Ref: FG/172/21/T

Location: Land south of The Pantiles, Ferring, BN12 5NE

Description of works: 1 no. ash tree - reduce canopy by 2m to leave height 7-9m and spread 4-6m

Reasons given: To reduce risk of further crown damage

Comments on Application:

Ash, narrow-leaved / *Fraxinus angustifolia* Height: 10-15m, Radial spread: 5-10m, Age class: Early mature
TPO ref: FG/2/18 (T1)

- I have considered this application by means of a desktop review, using the information and plans submitted as well as online resources.
- This tree is prominent and highly visible from much of the surrounding area. It presents an attractive crown profile.
- It has recently been assessed by the Parish Council's Tree Warden, who recommends the above work. A recent limb failure has occurred over a public area set aside for seating.
- Narrow-leaved ash frequently develop weak unions and limb failures such as this (and shown in the photograph) are characteristic of the species. As such, this risk ought to be proactively managed. The tree is also exposed to coastal winds.

Conclusions:

- The work proposed is necessary to mitigate risk of structural failure and so justified on arboricultural grounds.
- While a loss of aesthetic value is inevitable, vitality should persist if the work is undertaken to a high standard and at an appropriate time of year.

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.

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***

Advisory:

- Although ash trees may respond with vigour to hard pruning (as proposed), they have only a fair tolerance of such work and long-term vitality can be severely affected. The optimum time to prune is during the late spring to summer period (May to August).

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team

Figure 4 Diagrammatic illustration of crown reduction

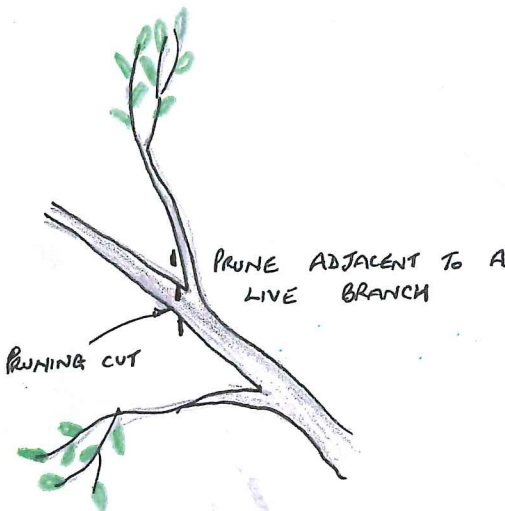
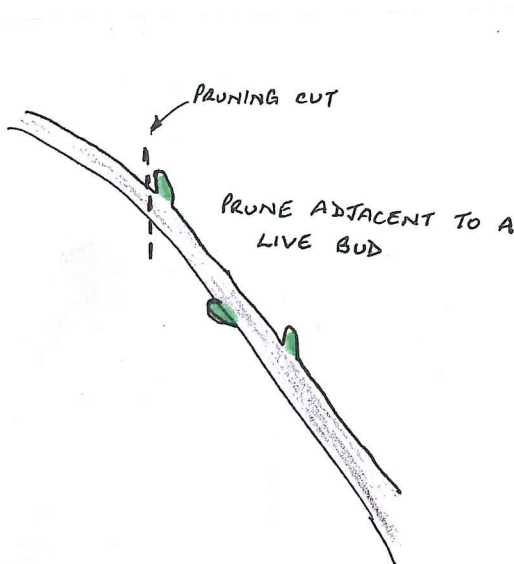
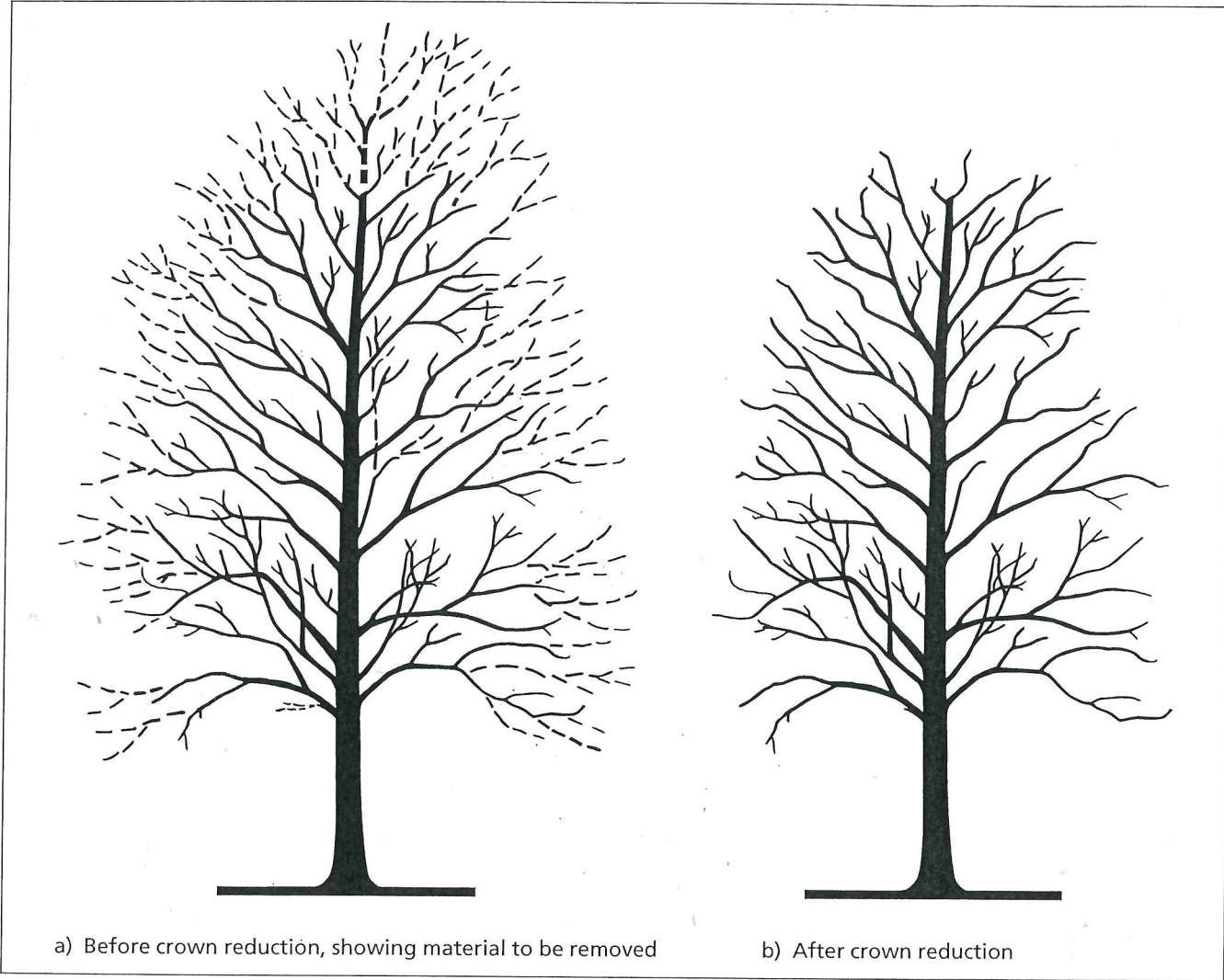


Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

