

Planning Officer: Lynnyrd Wolfe

Planning Application Ref: M/17/20/T

Location: Builders Yard, 17 Harefield Road, Ancton, Middleton-On-Sea, PO22 6EE

Description of works: Crown lift to approx. 6m, reduce back to first leader lowest limb to south over entrance drive, reduce mid crown back by 3m, upper crown by 2.5m and height by 2m to 1no. sycamore tree

Reasons Given:

1. To reduce influence over adjacent buildings and parking bays
2. To improve access for high-sided vehicles to business premises

Comments on Application:

Sycamore / *Acer pseudoplatanus* Height: 10-15m Spread: 5-10m Age class: Late-mature

- This tree appears to be in fair physiological condition and stable, with a relatively unmodified and attractive upper crown profile. Stem compression is a concern when viewed from the south although no evidence to suggest this is a defect with significant implications at this time.
- This is a landmark tree; visible from numerous properties and to traffic (vehicular and pedestrian) accessing/exiting from this side of the estate as well as the public highway. It is clearly a tree of high amenity value.
- Overhead clearance appears adequate (c4metres all aspects) although some low branches could be removed/reduced to ensure longer-term clearance for high-sided vehicle access.

Conclusions:

- This tree requires careful management that respects its age and vulnerability to environmental changes and disease progression.
- The removal of low branches to achieve 6m clearance above ground level (on all aspects) is not justified on arboricultural grounds and exceeds that which is recommended in the British Standard (BS3998:2010) Tree work – Recommendations.
- The tree is a significant feature in the local landscape and appears to be in adequately sound and healthy condition. 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.

Recommendations:

- As it stands, I recommend **REFUSAL** for this application.

Advisory:

- I would like to see the applicant submit a revised work specification such as detailed below, which would seem to address their primary concern whilst preventing a diminution of the tree's landscape and public amenity value:
 - Crown lift on south aspect and immediately above hard standing/driveway only, to achieve a maximum of 5.5metres overhead clearance.

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- If the applicant is prepared to re-submit 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.

Reason: 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

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team

Figure 3 Crown lifting

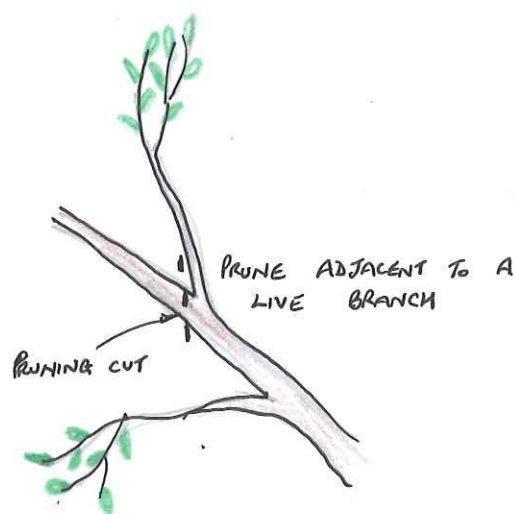
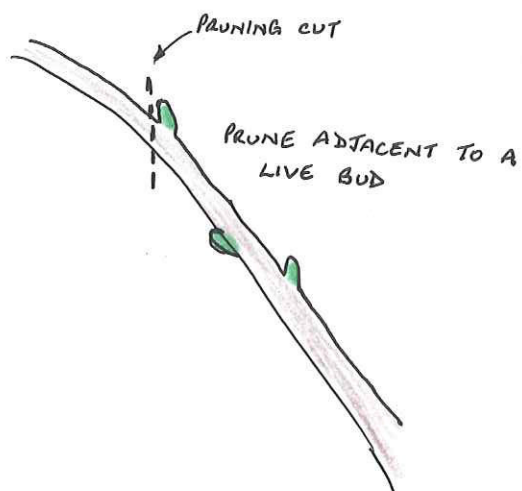
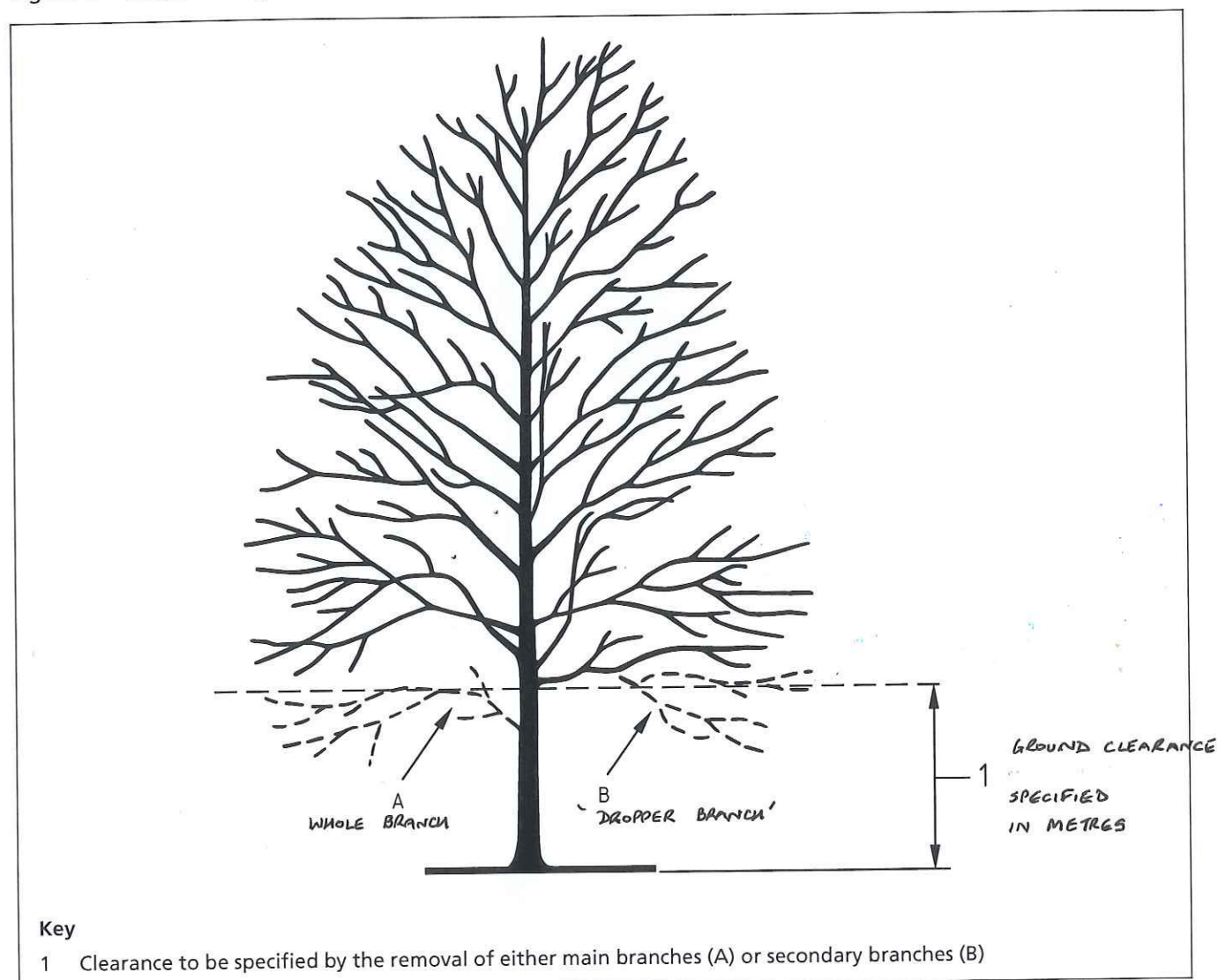


Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

