

CONSULTEE RESPONSE (Council's Arboriculturist)

Date of inspection: 10th November 2025

Case Officer: Silvie Steiningerova

Reference: M/74/25/T

Location: 12 Ilex Way, Middleton-on-Sea, PO22 6PQ

Proposal: Crown reduction to 1no. sycamore (T1) to leave a height of 11m and spread of 10m. Crown thin by 5-10%.

Reasons: To improve structural integrity of main stems and maintain adequate clearance of public highway.

Comments on Application:

T1 is a subject of the tree preservation order – Middleton No.1/68

T1 Sycamore / *Acer pseudoplatanus* Height: 10-15m Radial spread: 5-10m Age class: Mature

The base of the tree is partly obscured by ivy and established hedgerow; several of the main stem unions seen are imperfect and obvious areas of concern. Despite an erratic history of treatment it presents an attractive crown profile. Being prominent in the street scene it has high public amenity value.

The proposal effectively seeks a repeat of past pruning work, to leave a smaller and balanced crown and removes between 1 and 2 metres of top-height.

Conclusions:

There is sufficient extension of new growth since the last major pruning operation was undertaken and so the proposal is justified on arboricultural grounds.

There should be no long-term detriment to tree health and amenity if the work is undertaken to a high standard and at an appropriate time of year.

Recommendation:

We grant consent for this application subject to the following condition:

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.

Part c) Where crown reduction work has occurred previously, the removal of subsequent growth (shoots and branches) and position of final cuts must ensure retention of all established knuckles.

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*

Informatives:

Hard pruning creates numerous and/or large wounds, incurring a physiological stress which may affect long-term health and vitality. The optimum time for pruning sycamore is summer or midwinter, as prone to bleeding.

Where an applicant is not the stated owner of the tree(s), permission must first be obtained from the landowner before operating beyond the boundary of their own property. Consent from the local planning authority does not by association permit approved works to be carried out in the absence of such permission.

Mark Warwick

Tree Officer

Environment and Climate Change

Figure 4 Diagrammatic illustration of crown reduction

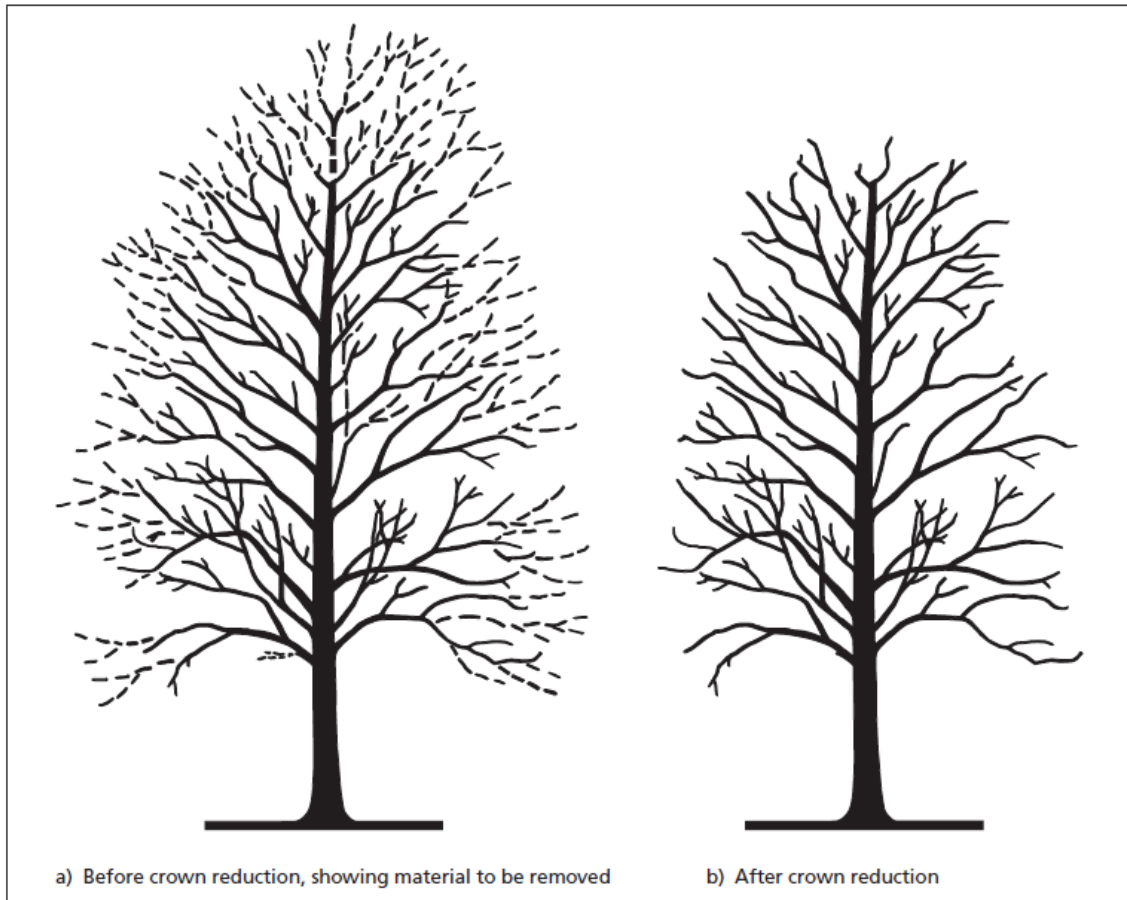
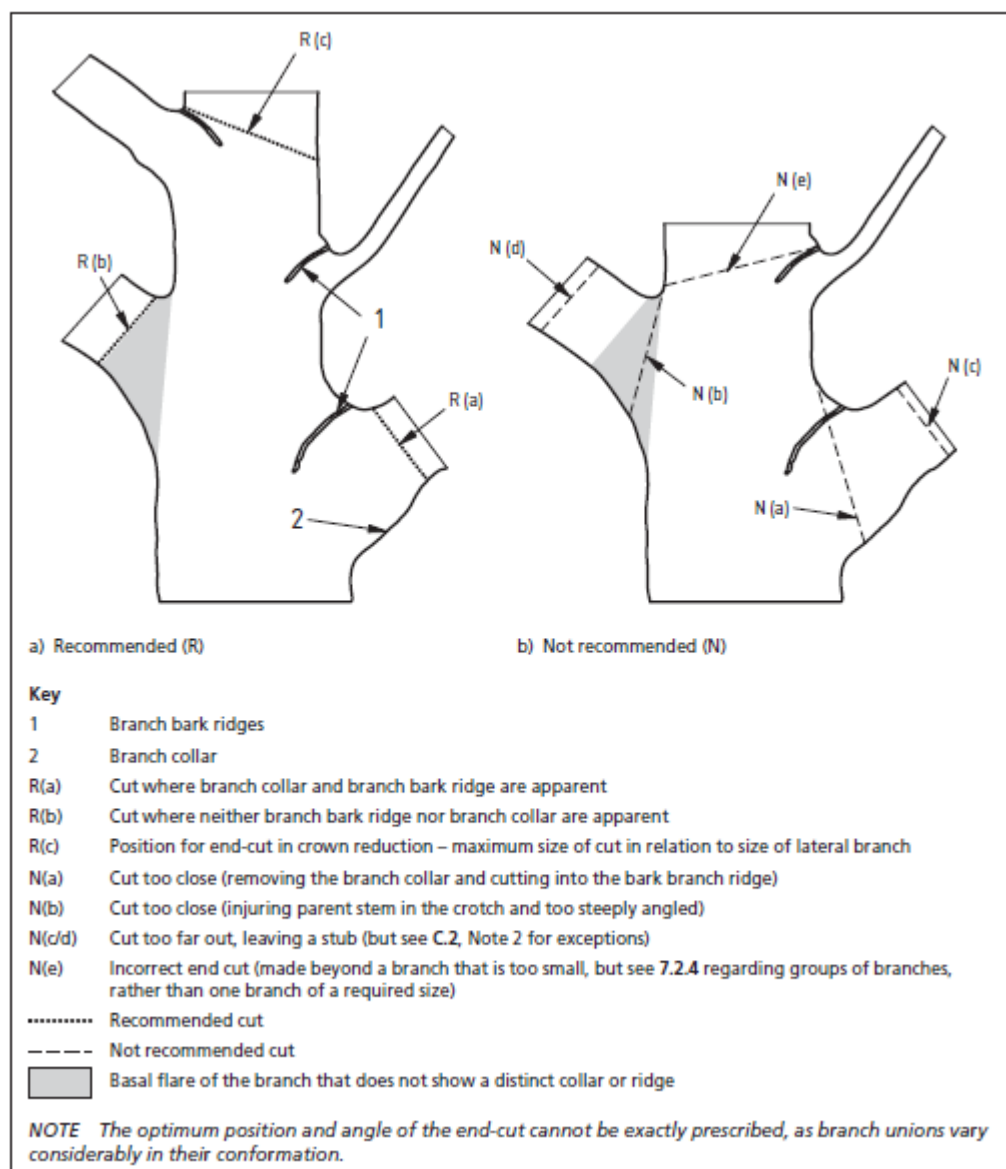


Figure 2 Positions of final cuts



Tree Officer, Environment and Climate Change

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