

Planning Officer: Miss Z Toppin

Planning Application Ref: R/166/20/T

Location: The Manor House, 48 The Street, Rustington, BN16 3NR

Description of works: Various works to various trees

Reasons given: Health and safety (risk management)

Comments on Application:

- The applicant has employed Greensmiths Tree Surgery as agent, to prepare and submit a tree survey and plan. This is comprehensive and includes a detailed work specification with satisfactory reasons given for the majority of items. With the exception of oak trees (T12 & T13) that I come to later, I do not need to list trees individually here in my report; they can be satisfactorily considered for generic comment, as follows:
- The application proposes a degree of crown reduction on all trees listed.
- Those poplar (x4) growing along the east boundary are mature, with heavy crowns overhanging adjacent commercial premises and busy public highway. They have been pollarded from below existing half-height. Although highly visible from afar they are incongruous and offer little public amenity in return for their hazard potential.
- The oak (T2-T6 incl., T10 & T11) are in the semi/early-mature age classes and grow close in linear formation. Collectively they are an interesting feature but individually are mostly of asymmetric and slightly suppressed form. Nonetheless, they retain sufficient growth potential that stem and buttress root expansion is likely to become problematic – so a degree of containment pruning now is appropriate.
- The largest oak (T12 & T13) have unmodified upper crowns and are visually impressive. They appear outwardly and from a distance to be in a fine physiological state. Their high crown can be seen from surrounding properties and by users of the busy public highway (footway and carriageway). These are trees of public amenity value and contribute positively to the character of the area.

Conclusions:

- Poplar x4 - The work proposed is necessary to mitigate risk of structural failure and so justified on arboricultural grounds. APPROVE.
- Oak x7 - The work proposed is justified on arboricultural grounds and if undertaken to a good standard and at the right time is unlikely to have an adverse effect on their long-term vitality and current visual amenity. APPROVE.
- T12 & T13 Oak - These trees require careful management that respects their age and vulnerability to environmental changes and disease progression. They are a significant feature in the local landscape and appear to be in adequately sound and healthy condition. The tree surgery proposed in the application has not been justified on arboricultural grounds and would result in excessive reduction of their landscape impact and undue detriment to the visual amenities of the locality. REFUSE.

Recommendations:

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

Advisory:

- I would like to see the applicant submit a revised work specification that removes T12 & T13 Oak from the proposal.

- If the applicant can agree with this advice, then I would be able to recommend APPROVAL subject to the following condition:

Condition to Be Applied to All Approved Works: -

- 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 pollarding or crown reduction pruning has occurred previously, then the removal of crown material which has developed since the last operation must be done sympathetically and with respect to established 'knuckles' so as not to extend beyond the point of origin.

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 the oak trees is best respected when significant pruning work such as proposed, is undertaken during the late spring to summer period (May to August). The work proposed should only be undertaken during this period.
- The long-term vitality of poplar trees is best respected when significant pruning work such as proposed, is undertaken during the mid-winter (late-December to early-February) period. The work should only be undertaken during this period.

Mark Warwick
Tree Officer / Parks and Greenspace Team

Figure 4 Diagrammatic illustration of crown reduction

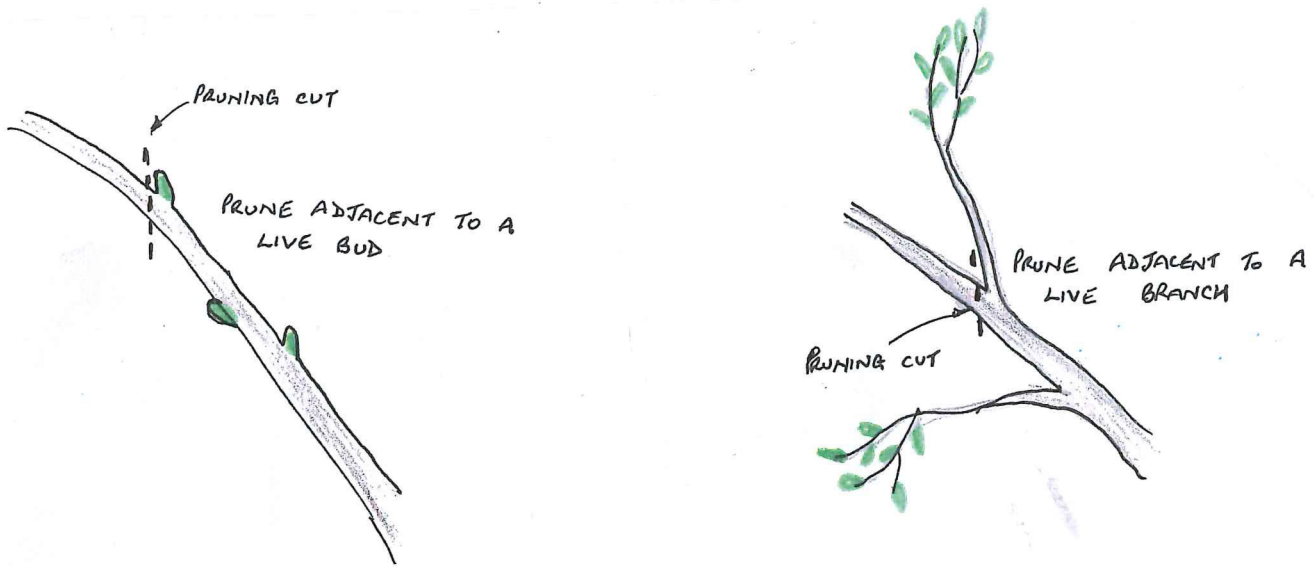
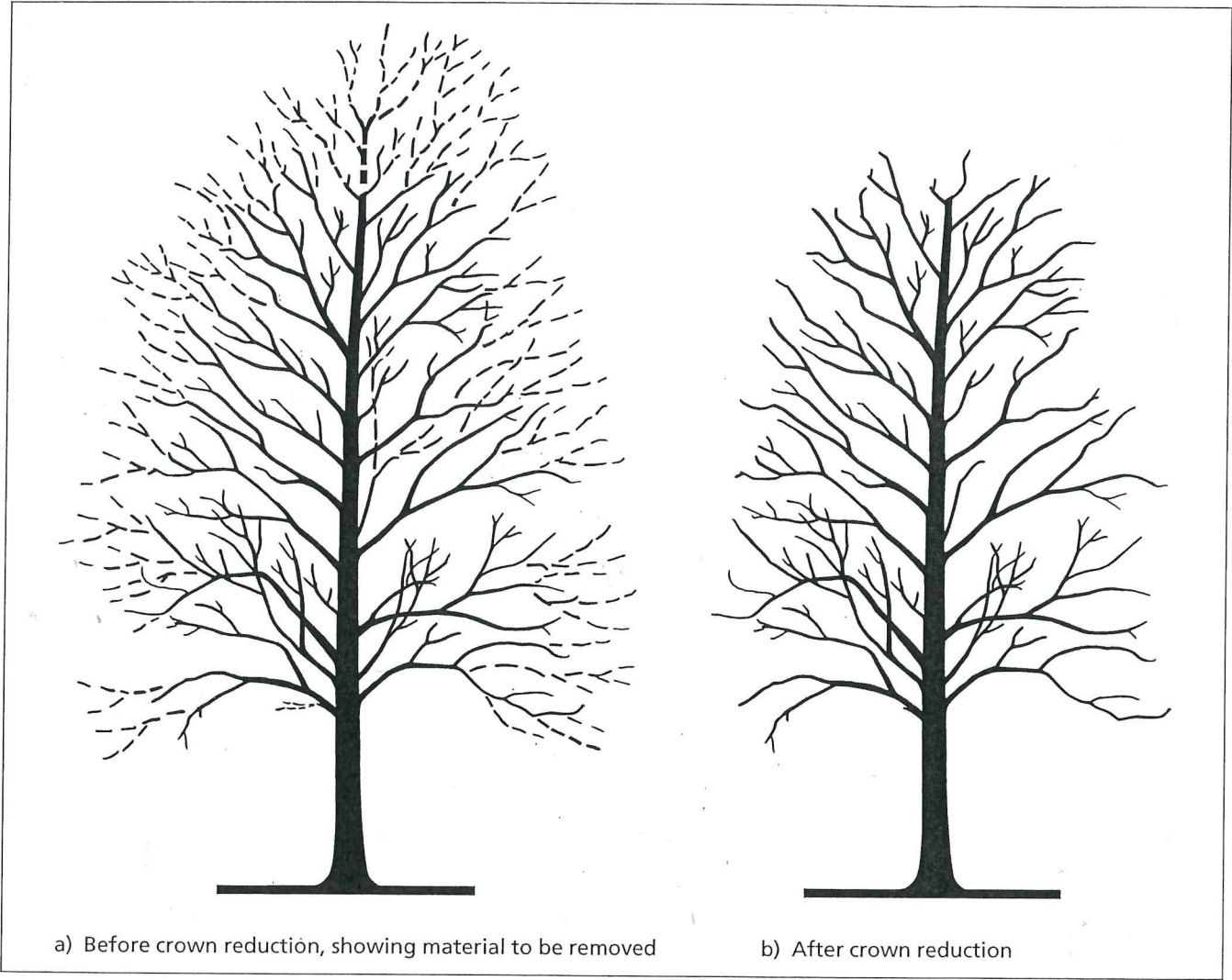


Figure 2 Positions of final cuts

