

If you are unsure of what work you wish to carry out or whether the tree(s) will tolerate it you should obtain qualified arboricultural advice.

For additional advice on trees:

Arboricultural Advisory and Information Service (AAIS)

Alice Holt Lodge, Wrecclesham, Farnham, Surrey, GU10 4LH

Tel **01420 22022** Fax **01420 22000**

Tree Helpline: **0897 161147** calls charged at 1.50 per minute

The Arboricultural Association

Ullenwood Court, Ullenwood, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL53 9QS

Tel **01242 522152** Fax **01242 577766**

email: admin@trees.org.uk website: www.trees.org.uk

Useful contacts and references:

Contact the Tree Team by e-mail at trees@westberks.gov.uk

or phone on **01635 551111** for Council owned trees and general queries.

Contact the Tree Officers for tree works applications, trees and planning applications and trees in Conservation Areas.

The Tree Officer for the Eastern Area is Jon Thomas

Contact Jon at jon.thomas@westberks.gov.uk

or on Tel: **01635 519611** ext 2611

The Tree Officer for the Western Area is Andrew Giles

Contact Andrew at andrew.giles@westberks.gov.uk

or on Tel: **01635 519349** ext 2349

West Berkshire Council

Environment

Market Street

Newbury

Berkshire

RG14 5LD

www.westberks.gov.uk

If you require this information in an alternative format or translation, please call 01635 5191111

Environment

Tree pruning



It is vital that you clearly specify the works you want to carry out for each tree included in your application. A proposal simply to “cut back”, “lop” or “trim” some branches is too vague because it fails to indicate the extent of the works.

The common operations described and simply illustrated here show some of your options. An arborist should be able to help in defining the work that will be appropriate for the tree(s) and in line with British Standard BS 3998 - Recommendations for Tree Work. Please note that the entire branch system is known as the ‘crown’.

LPA approval is not required to remove dead branches.

Crown Thinning

This reduces the density of the tree’s crown without changing the overall shape and size of the tree. Thinning reduces the amount of foliage and allows more light through the canopy or crown. The amount of thinning proposed should be specified as a percentage (%) of the leaf area (usually no more than 30%).

This is useful for letting more light into gardens and windows

Crown Lifting

This means removing lower branches to increase the clearance between the ground and the crown. Identify the branches you wish to remove, or specify a height above ground level to which you wish to “lift” the crown.

Useful for allowing more light into gardens Prevents low branches obstructing paths, drives etc.



Crown Reduction

The tree crown is reduced by shortening branches, and so changes the overall size and shape of the tree. Reductions are usually carried out all round the outer parts of the crown to maintain a balanced shape, but seldom should it include cutting through the main stem.

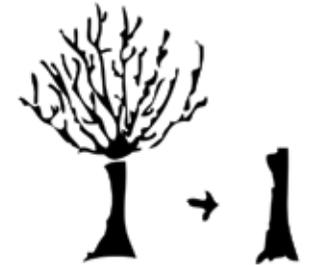
The amount of reduction proposed should be stated in terms of the intended height and spread of the tree after pruning (rather than what percentage (%) of the overall crown is to be removed).

Partial reduction may be useful for preventing branches contacting buildings, roofs and guttering



Pollarding or re-pollard

This is a traditional form of tree management, and involves the removal of all the branches. It should not be used on large trees that have not previously been pollarded, for large wounds created initiate serious decay in mature and maturing trees. It is not suitable for certain species as very heavy pruning may kill some species while others will be stimulated to produce a proliferation of very dense re-growth of shoots from each wound.



Formative pruning and training

Pruning trees when young (formative pruning) may reduce the need for major pruning in middle age and in maturity. The need to prune middle age and mature trees is frequently determined by their position in the landscape. There are occasions when changing land use (e.g. building or highway development) may make extensive pruning necessary.

Crown clean

This is the removal of dead wood, crossing branches and any defective or damaged branches from within the crown for health and safety.