Pruning

Pruning shall be undertaken following the principles of good arboricultural practice as stated in British Standard BS 3998: 2010. The positions of final pruning cuts will comply with Figure 2 'Positions of final cuts' at p23 of this document, as shown below.

Where aerial growth is to be removed, great care shall be taken not to leave a stub which may provide a food base for both fresh wound parasites and decay fungi.

Where a limb, branch or leader is to be shortened it shall be cut back cleanly to a vigorous side branch leaving the branch bark ridge and branch collar intact. Retained side branches intended to form the new dominant shoot shall be at least 30% of the diameter of the parent branch at the pruning point. Injury of the wood and bark of the parent stem or branch above the cut will also be avoided.

The contractor shall relate the position of any individual final pruning cut to the form of the canopy as a whole, so that upon completion of the work the tree has as natural an appearance (for the species) as constraints allow.



 N(a)
 Cut too close (removing the branch collar and cutting into the bark branch ridge)

 N(b)
 Cut too close (injuring parent stem in the crotch and too steeply angled)

 N(c/d)
 Cut too far out, leaving a stub (but see C.2, Note 2 for exceptions)

N(e) Incorrect end cut (made beyond a branch that is rather than one branch of a required (in)

Recommended cut

NOTE The optimum position and angle of the end-cut cannot be exactly prescribed, as branch unions considerably in their conformation.

Crown Lifting

Crown lifting is defined as the removal of all soft growth and branches or parts thereof within the limits prescribed by the Schedule of Works which are below or which extend below the height specified therein.

Ascending branches that originate below the specified height, and have no foliage below this point, shall be retained unless otherwise specified. Descending branches that originate above the specified height, and have foliage below this point, shall be reduced back to the closest appropriate junction point to the desired height.

Crown lifting may result in the canopy base being not at one single level but stepped to allow for different clearances, for example where a tree overhangs both a footway and a road where different height clearances are required.

Crown Reduction

Crown reduction is defined as the reduction of the outline dimension of the canopy, from the tips of limbs and branches toward the main trunk, by pruning growth to an appropriately sized lateral branch, twig or bud to leave a flowing silhouette.

Reduction may be of the entire crown, or of one part of the crown. The extent of reduction is given in metres.

Where a limb, branch or leader is to be shortened it shall be cut back cleanly to a vigorous side branch leaving the branch bark ridge and branch collar intact. Retained side branches intended to form the new dominant shoot shall be at least 30% of the diameter of the parent branch at the pruning point. The contractor shall relate the position of any individual final pruning cut to the form of the canopy as a whole, so that upon completion of the work the tree has as natural an appearance (for the species) as constraints allow.

Dead-Wooding

Dead-wooding is the removal of all dead, dying or diseased branch wood, broken branches and stubs left from previous tree surgery operations that are 25mm in diameter or above at their point of origin.

When removing dead or diseased branches care will be taken to avoid injury to living bark or sapwood, which could lead to the development of further dysfunction and colonization by decay fungi or pathogens.

