

TREE PRUNING OPERATIONS AS STATED IN BS3998

(The British standard for tree pruning)

Tree pruning starts with the simplest of tasks such as removing the dead wood, to taking most of the trees crown away therefore not leaving much more than a standing trunk and everything that comes in-between. At the foot of the document is a glossary of terms.

DEADWOOD REMOVAL

This is probably the least damaging part of tree surgery as it is just the removal of any dead material in the trees crown. A deadwood removal is often part of a Crown clean which also means that we remove any cross rubbing branch, as well as any damaged or diseased material.

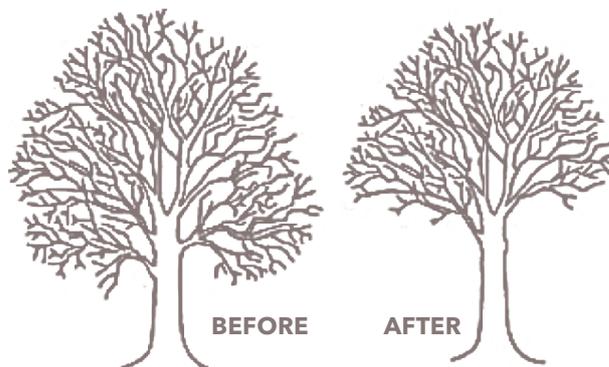
FORMATIVE PRUNE

This only happens on freshly planted trees that have become established over the previous 3-5 years. The formative prune is used to induce shape and remove any possible troublesome branches and unions that may become an issue in the future. Often over looked, we can undertake this operation or give advice to the customer.



CROWN LIFT

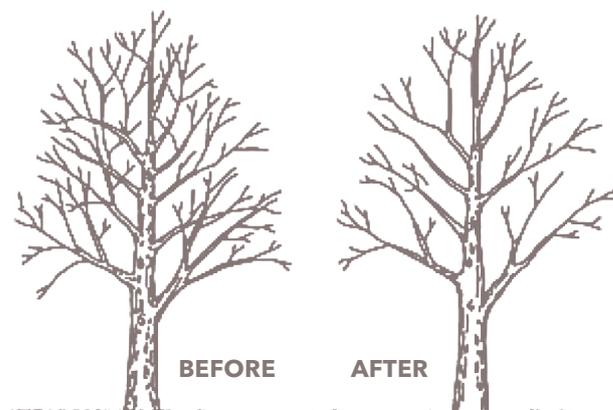
Often the lowest branches of the tree will be low enough to cause a nuisance to passing pedestrians, cars or impede access past the tree. In this case the lowest branches are removed to lift the 'skirts' of the tree. This operation is often used in collaboration with most other pruning works as a matter of course, but especially as part of a cut back which means we are removing or shortening branches that are interfering with buildings, objects or infrastructure.



CROWN THINNING

A crown thin is the first of the larger operations because a lot more material is being removed, the overall size of the crown of the tree will not change but the density /quantity of the branches will be changed in accordance with a stated percentage.

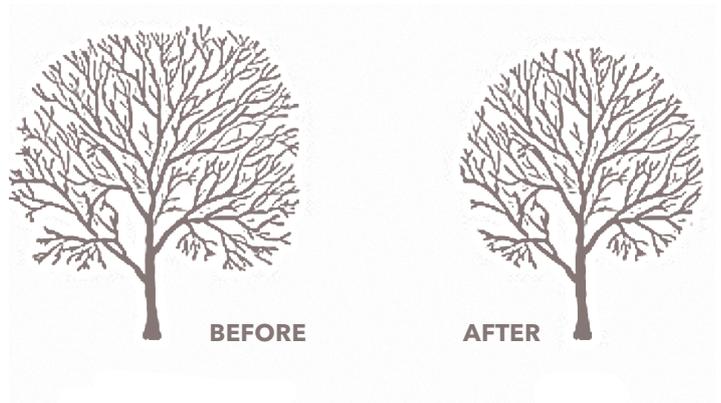
In the right place this is a good option for retaining a screen but is often over looked in favour of a crown reduction.



CROWN REDUCTION

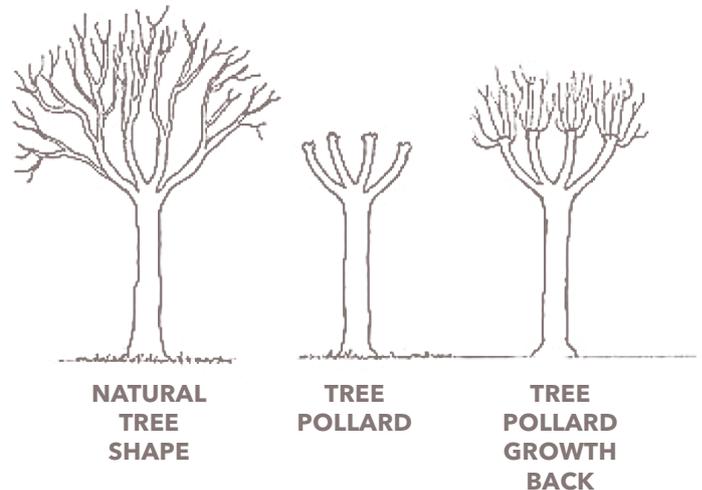
A crown reduction involves shortening every branch of the tree by a stated amount (often expressed as meters to be removed) this usually is the best option for customers who wish to retain the tree but it has become too large for its situation. Often the local authority will push for a crown reduction over removal or pollard on a TPO'd tree.

We often reduce as part of a Crown reshape. This is when the crown of the tree is misshapen or has some prominent branches, in this instance we shorten the offending branches heavily and reduce the rest of the crown to be left with a more uniform and aesthetically pleasing shape.



POLLARD

A pollard is removal of most of the crown to leave some/if any of the main structure of the tree. Allot of our pollarding is actually re-pollarding when the tree has had this operation many years before and we are removing the new material.



GLOSSARY OF TERMS

- CROWN

The point at which the main trunk forks and the spreads out through every smaller branches and terminates in the leaves is referred to as the crown. If a tree has a single fork with two trunks that then extend up for a long time before forking again, it is these second forks that are generally referred to as the crown of the tree

- TPO (TREE PRESERVATION ORDER)

This is a large subject and can have wide ranging issues and it means that the council will have the tree on their data base, you have to request permission to undertake any work on the tree beforehand, otherwise the Local Authority has the power to implement heavy fines.