

Pruning Cuts

Pruning cuts should, wherever possible, be made at a fork or at the main stem to avoid stumps, which can die back, and produce dense re-growth of shoots. Removal of large branches should only be carried out when it is unavoidable, and wounds from such work should be kept as small as possible. Cuts into live wood should be avoided when removing dead branches and stubs. When a branch collar is present the final cut (figure 1) should be just outside it. When there is no collar the angle of the cut should be the mirror image of the branch bark ridge.

"Lopping" and "topping" are terms which are commonly applied to tree pruning practices. These operations are undertaken without using the methods detailed above and should generally be considered bad practice due to their injurious nature, often resulting in extensive decay or dysfunction within the tree.

Pruning with either a handsaw or a chainsaw should be done in stages so as to avoid splitting of the tissues and irreparable damage to the tree.

Note: The construction of a chainsaw may make accurate positioning of the final cut difficult, especially on small diameter branches, and the use of a handsaw is preferable.

Please note that between April and August special care should be taken not to disturb wild bird nests which are protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Hollows and crevices in trees are often used as roosts by bats that are also protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, and the Conservation of Natural Habitats Regulations 1994. Therefore, care should be taken when undertaking tree work to ensure that bats are not present to avoid contravention of the above legislation. Contact the Countryside Council for Wales on (01437) 766646 for details.

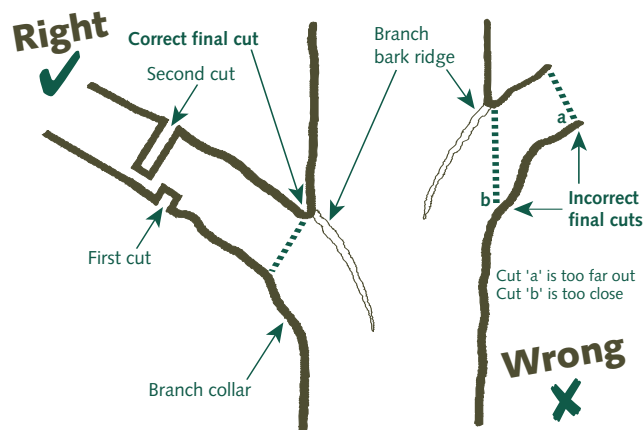


Figure 1. Final Cuts

It is **not** necessary to paint the cut stumps with waterproof sealant, but it is important to make a clean cut using sharp tools.

Tree work and the use of chainsaws are hazardous procedures. Do not attempt either if you are inexperienced.
Employ a properly qualified contractor with full public liability insurance.

Further information

For further information please contact either the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority or Pembrokeshire County Council

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Tree Pruning

Advice on proper tree care



Crown Lifting, Tenby

This leaflet was prepared jointly by the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority and Pembrokeshire County Council.

Pruning Terms

Pruning

Tree pruning is done for a number of reasons and different types of pruning are suitable for different situations. Some trees can be very sensitive to pruning: age, species and time of year all have to be considered. If in doubt contact a qualified arboriculturist (lists are available from the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park & Pembrokeshire County Council).

Formative Pruning

This is done to young trees and may reduce the need for major pruning in middle age and in maturity. Unwanted secondary leading shoots and potentially weak forks which could fail in adverse weather conditions e.g. strong wind or snow, should be removed.



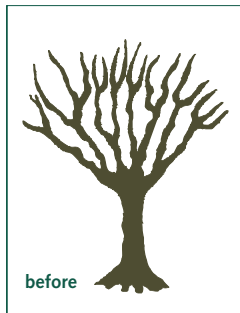
Crown Lifting

Crown lifting, which involves the removal of the lower branches to a given clear height above ground level should be achieved either by the removal of whole branches or only those parts which extend below the desired clear height. At least two thirds of the crown should remain. This can be an effective way of improving a view under the tree, particularly with conifers.



Pollarding

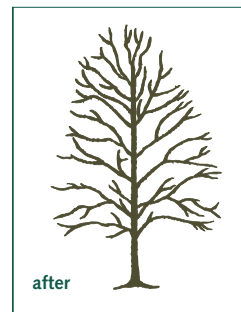
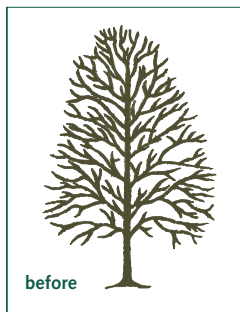
Pollarding is the removal of all branches, it should not be used on large trees that have not previously been pollarded, as the large wounds created initiate serious decay in mature and maturing trees. Very heavy pruning may kill some species while others will be stimulated to produce a proliferation of very dense re-growth of shoots from each wound. Trees lining streets have traditionally been managed using this method.



Crown Thinning

Crown thinning involves the removal of a proportion of secondary and small, live branch growth from throughout the crown to produce an even density of foliage around a well spaced and balanced branch structure. This operation is usually only carried out on broadleaf trees.

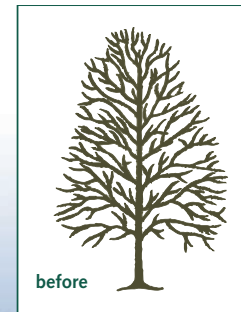
Crossing, weak, duplicated, dead and damaged branches should be removed. The percentage of crown to be removed should be stated, but leaf area removed should not normally exceed 30% of original coverage.



Crown Reduction and/or Reshaping

Crown reduction and/or reshaping should be carried out by cutting back to a side bud or branch to retain a flowing branch line without leaving stumps. All cuts should be made just outside the line of the branch bark ridge and branch collar of the retained branch (see diagram over the page). Very substantial crown reductions should not be made during a single growing season as it may impair a tree's defences against diseases and decay. Reductions are usually not more than 25% of the crown area.

Reshaping should only be a "once only" operation to make a tree safe or bring it to a desirable condition or shape.



Crown Thinning, Saundersfoot

