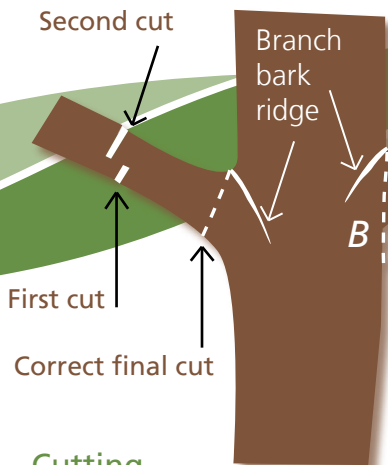


Right



Second cut  
First cut  
Correct final cut

Wrong



Incorrect final cuts  
Cut 'A' is too far out  
Cut 'B' is too close

### Cutting

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 or 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 should be just outside it. When there is no collar the angle of the cut should be the mirror image or the branch bark ridge.

### 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.

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

### Saws

The construction of a chainsaw may make accurate positioning of the final cut difficult, especially on small branches, a handsaw may be better.

Special care should be taken not to disturb birds, bats or other wildlife protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. Contact Natural England on 02380 286410 for further details.

Tree work and use of chainsaws are hazardous procedures. Do not attempt either if you are inexperienced. Employ a properly qualified contractor.



This leaflet has been produced by New Forest National Park Authority to help manage your trees. If you require more information please call 01590 646620.

Web: [www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/trees](http://www.newforestnpa.gov.uk/trees)  
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# Tree Pruning

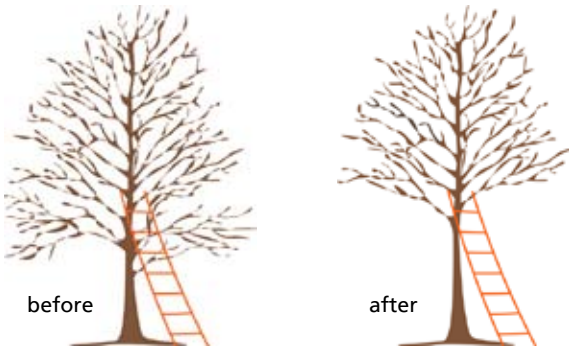
## Advice on proper tree care

### PRUNING

Pruning trees when young (formative pruning) may reduce the need for major pruning in middle age and in maturity. The need to prune middle aged 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 more extensive pruning necessary.

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### Crown lifting..



involves the removal of the lower branches to a given 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.

### Formative pruning..



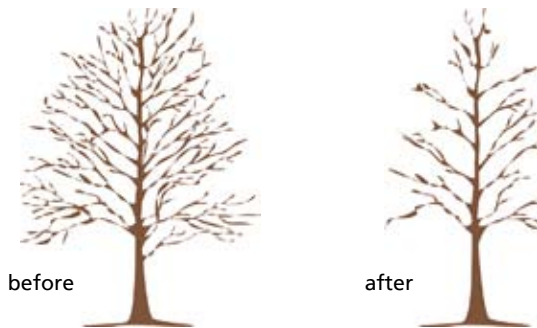
should produce a tree which in maturity will be free from major physical weaknesses. Unwanted secondary leading shoots and potentially weak forks which could fail in adverse weather conditions, e.g. strong wind or snow, should be removed.

### 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.

### Crown thinning..



involves the removal of a proportion of secondary and small, live branches from throughout the crown to produce an even density of foliage around a well

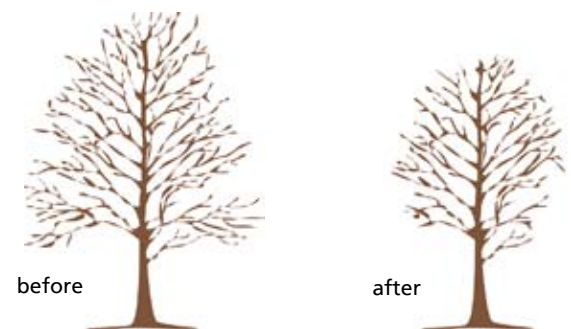
spaced balanced branch structure and should usually be confined to broadleaf species.

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

### Crown reduction..

should be achieved 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 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.

### Crown Reshaping..



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