

Tree Pruning Specification

For a single beech tree near The Old Timber Yard



Instructed by the residents of
No. 8 & 9 The Old Timber Yard
Maiden Bradley
BA12 7FE

Inspected and Prepared by Nick Baxter BSc(Hons) MArborA
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1 Introduction

1.1 Background information

A mature beech tree is situated in the garden of Old Manor House on Church Street in Maiden Bradley (BA12 7HW). The tree is mature and has a wide canopy that overhangs the garden of Cherry Tree Cottage and the roofline of Holly Cottage in The Old Timber Yard (BA12 7FE).

1.2 Instructions

I have been instructed by the residents of Cherry Tree Cottage and Holly Cottage to visit The Old Timber Yard and survey an adjacent beech tree to provide a suitable specification for pruning away from the properties at Holly Cottage and Cherry Tree Cottage. A glossary, tree plan and schedule all accompany this report.

Table 1: *Information that accompanies this report.*

A glossary	A glossary of arboricultural terms that may be used throughout the report.
A tree schedule	A schedule listing the details of the tree and its management recommendations.
A tree plan	A numbered plan showing the location of the tree included in the survey.

1.3 Statutory tree protection

A check of the Wiltshire online mapping system informs me that the tree is protected by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO), and also situated in a conservation area. The TPO reference No. is TPO/2024/00030.

1.4 Site visit and tree assessment methodology

I visited The Old Timber Yard on 1st December 2025 to survey the beech tree from the garden of Cherry Tree Cottage and Holly Cottage. Weather conditions did not present any constraints during the survey.

The inspection took place from ground level aided by the Visual Tree Assessment method (as developed by Mattheck & Breloer, 1995).

1.5 The tree plan

The tree plan presented at the rear of this report shows the location of the tree and it's canopy spread in relation to the surrounding properties, the tree's position is approximate.

The What3Words location for the tree is [///pounding.wounds.retrieves](https://www.what3words.com/pounding.wounds.retrieves).

1.6 Limitations

The report is valid only for typical weather conditions. Healthy trees or parts of healthy trees may fail in normal weather situations although the risk is significantly increased in storm conditions and as the consequences of such weather events are unforeseeable, Nick Baxter cannot be held liable for any such failures. This report is not a Tree Risk Management Report or a Hazard Analysis Report and its use as such is invalid.

Any legal description or other information provided is assumed to be accurate.

The assessment was conducted from ground level only using the Visual Tree Assessment (VTA) method. No access was provided to the base of the tree, instead it was surveyed from a distance in two neighbouring properties.

No account has been taken of the effects of leaves, fruit, exudation and insect activity associated with trees that may impact people or property. In addition, this report does not consider any aspect of tree-related building subsidence or any other tree-related nuisances.

2 The Tree Assessments

2.1 Assessing tree condition

An assessment of a tree's physiological condition and the environment around the tree gives an impression of its vitality and its expected tolerance to stress, wounding and pathogenic attack. The tree has been rated by its current physiological condition as illustrated in Table 2.

Table 2: *The system for defining tree condition.*

Condition	Description
Good	No evidence of crown dieback with signs of healthy new growth.
Fair	Minor crown dieback with initial symptoms of stress.
Poor	Major crown dieback with little or no evidence of recent growth. Secondary pathogens often apparent.
Dead	No sign of live growth. An obvious dead tree.

3 Findings

3.1 Tree condition

This tree is located in a neighbouring garden but overhangs the boundary wall into the garden of Cherry Tree Cottage and over the roof of Holly Cottage. A large secondary stem extends from a main union at 3m and a large limb extends north towards Holly Cottage, also from 3m. Past pruning is evident away from Holly Cottage but the surrounding foliage has now re-grown in close-proximity to the roof at the front and touches the roof to the rear. If left, there are increased chances of damage to the roof tiles from the adjacent branches in windy conditions. The whole canopy is full of buds which is a sign of high vitality.

4 Recommendations

4.1 Recommended tree work

The following pruning specification has been prescribed for this tree,

“Reduce the tips of the western side by 1.5-2.5m (see Figure 1) and crown lift to 3m by pruning to the nearest branch junction over the boundary to provide a more substantial clearance from Cherry Tree Cottage and facilitate more light. Remove the tall upward shoot back to the scaffold branch on the north-western side at 4.5m (see Figure 1 & 2). Reduce the northern side of the crown (over Holly Cottage) by 2.5-3.5m to provide sufficient clearance from the roof of Holly Cottage (see Figure 2).”



Figure 1: Pruning illustration. Photo taken from Holly Cottage facing south towards Cherry Tree Cottage.



Figure 2: Pruning illustration. Photo taken from Cherry Tree Cottage facing east towards Holly Cottage,

4.2 Statutory law

Since the tree is protected by a TPO, permission will be required from Wiltshire Council before any pruning works are carried out. Accordingly, I advise that an application for works to protected trees is made to Wiltshire Council, and that it is accompanied by a copy of this report.

4.3 Common law

Under common law, any landowner can prune branches back to the boundary which extend inside of their land. However, the landowner/contractor must not trespass to the neighbouring land to carry out the works unless they have been granted permission by that landowner. Also, any arisings legally belong to the tree owner so they must be offered back to them for disposal.

In this instance, the recommended pruning work over the garden of Cherry Tree Cottage and directly over the roof space of Holly Cottage will be permitted under common law. However given it has been recommended that a small amount of further pruning is carried out away from Holly Cottage, and that would strictly be within the boundary of Old Manor House, written permission for that pruning will be required from the owner of Old Manor House. At this time, it would be sensible to also request permission to access the land at Old Manor House for the contractor to carry out the recommended works.

4.4 Nature conservation and tree works

Any arborist working at the site must comply with all statutory requirements concerning flora, fauna and habitat in accordance with relevant nature conservation legislation. The arborist should make sure that they are familiar with current best working practices to minimise disturbance to flora and fauna.

The arborist must consider the risk of impacting protected species prior to carrying out arboricultural works, especially when dealing with trees that have veteran characteristics. Natural England must be notified if there is reason to believe that arboricultural operations may disturb bats, because a licence for the works may be required. If nesting birds are found to be present then the tree work must not commence. If the tree surgery has already started and nesting birds are then discovered, then the work must stop immediately and be rescheduled for later in the year.

The responsibility for protecting wildlife will be held by the contractor but the need to protect wildlife may result in some works being delayed, and this requirement may also result in increased costs for tree management.

4.5 General advice

All of the tree work must be undertaken in accordance with BS 3998:2010 – Recommendations for tree work. A glossary of terms used in the survey schedule is provided at the rear of this report.

If contractors need any advice on works specifications, or if they would like to discuss management options, they should contact Nick Baxter on 07415 890038 or nick@nbtreemanagement.co.uk.

Adventitious shoots/growth: Shoots that develop other than from apical, axillary or dormant buds.

As Low As Reasonably Practicable (ALARP): Determining the risks have been reduced to ALARP involves an evaluation of both the risk to be reduced and the sacrifice or cost involved in reducing that risk.

Bole: The main stem or trunk of a tree before it divides into branches.

Branch:

Primary: A first order branch arising from a stem.

Lateral: A second order branch, subordinate to a primary branch or stem and bearing sub-lateral branches.

Sub-lateral: A third order branch, subordinate to a lateral or primary branch, or stem and usually bearing only twigs.

Brown-rot: A type of wood decay in which cellulose is degraded, while lignin is only modified.

Buttress zone: The basal part of a tree, where the major lateral roots join the stem, with buttress-like formations on the upper sides of the junctions.

Canker: Disease-damaged area of a tree, usually caused by fungi or bacteria.

Canopy: The extent of the tree's crown. It can also be used to describe the topmost layer of twigs and foliage in a woodland or group of trees.

Co-dominant: Two or more stems of a similar size and position within the canopy.

Coppice: A coppiced tree is one cut near ground level and then allowed to produce new shoots from the stool.

Crown: That part of a tree where the greater mass of foliar bearing growth is present and is composed of limbs, branches and foliage.

Crown reduction: A specified reduction in crown size whilst preserving a natural tree shape as much as possible.

Crown lifting: The removal of limbs and small branches to a specified height above ground level.

Defect: A tree feature which detracts from the uniform distribution of mechanical stress, or which makes the tree mechanically unsuited to its environment.

Deadwood: A dead branch or stem. Deadwood is valued for the range of habitats that it supports and so, wherever possible, it should be retained within the crown.

Defect: In relation to tree hazards, any feature of a tree which detracts from the uniform distribution of mechanical stress, or which makes the tree mechanically unsuited to its environment.

Dieback: The death of part of a plant, usually starting from a distal point and often progressing proximally in stages.

Drip-line: The outermost extent of the tree's crown.

Dysfunction: In woody tissues, the loss of physiological function, especially water conduction, in sapwood

End-loading AKA 'Lions tailing': A term applied to a branch of a tree that has few if any side-branches except at its end, and is thus liable to snap due to end-loading.

Epicormic growth: Growth derived from a dormant or adventitious bud on a main stem or branch. Such growth within the crown of fully mature and veteran trees is valued for longevity and its protection and promotion is an important aspect of veteran tree management. Basal epicormic growth is common on some trees, particularly lime trees.

Exudation: A flow of viscous liquid (cf. bleeding from bark) exuded onto the surface of the bark from the underlying tissues.

Girdling root: A root which circles and constricts the stem or roots possibly causing death of phloem and/or cambial tissue.

Haloing: Removing or pruning trees from around the crown of another (usually mature or post-mature) tree to prevent it becoming suppressed.

Hazard: A tree-failure hazard is the tree or branch that has potential to cause harm

Hazard beam: An upwardly curved part of a tree in which strong internal stresses may occur without being reduced by adaptive growth; prone to longitudinal splitting.

Included bark union: Bark of adjacent parts of a tree (usually forked stems, acutely joined branches or basal flutes) which is in face-to-face contact; i.e. without a woody connection. Such a structure lacks inherent strength but is in many instances strongly reinforced by a surrounding "shell" of wood.

Lateral limbs: Crown limbs that grow horizontally away from the trunk.

Limbs: The main branches that make up the framework of the crown. In these specifications 'branches' are smaller and originate on crown limbs.

Loading: A mechanical term describing the force acting on a structure from a particular source; e.g. the weight of the structure itself or wind pressure.

Longitudinal: Along the length (of a stem, root or branch).

Minor deadwood: Deadwood of a diameter less than 25mm and or unlikely to cause significant harm or damage upon impact with a target beneath the tree.

Major deadwood: Deadwood of a diameter greater than 25mm.

Mulch: Composted wood-chip and leaf material often laid over the root zone to suppress weeds, retain moisture and encourage earthworms to decompact the soil.

Occlusion: The process whereby a wound in a tree is progressively closed by the formation of new wood and bark around it.

Pathogen: A micro-organism which causes disease in another organism.

Pollarding: The complete or partial removal of the crown of a tree so as to encourage the development of numerous branches.

Primary branch: A major branch, generally having a basal diameter greater than 0.25 x stem diameter.

Pruning: The removal or cutting back of twigs, branches or roots; in some contexts applying only to twigs or small branches, but more often used to describe all kinds of work involving cutting.

Reactive Growth/Reaction Wood: Production of woody tissue in response to altered mechanical loading; often in response to internal defect or decay and associated strength loss (cf. adaptive growth).

Ring-barking (girdling): The removal of a ring of bark and phloem around the circumference of a stem or branch, normally resulting in an inability to transport photosynthetic assimilates below the area of damage. Almost inevitably results in the eventual death of the affected stem or branch above the damage.

Risk: Risk is the combination of the probability of an event occurring and its consequence.

Risk of harm: The QTRA output is termed the Risk of Harm and is a measure of the likelihood x consequence of tree failure,

Root zone: Area of soils containing absorptive roots of the tree/s described. The Primary root zone is that which we consider of primary importance to the physiological well-being of the tree.

Secondary branch: A branch, generally having a basal diameter of less than 0.25 x stem diameter.

Sever ivy: Remove a 5–10cm section of all the ivy stems around the circumference of the tree's trunk. This should be carried out as close to ground level as possible.

Soft-rot: A kind of wood decay in which a fungus degrades cellulose within the cell walls, without any general degradation of the wall as a whole.

Stem: The principal portion of the woody structure (i.e. the trunk), or one of a number of such portions with similar size and status.

Squirrel damage: Stripping of the bark from stems or branches by squirrels. This can result in the death of branches or even entire trees.

Target Canker: A kind of perennial canker, containing concentric rings of dead occluding tissues.

Targets: In tree hazard assessment (and with somewhat incorrect use of English), persons or property or other things of value which might be harmed by mechanical failure of the tree or by objects falling from it.

Understorey: A layer of vegetation beneath the main canopy of woodland or forest

Union: AKA 'tree fork' is a bifurcation in the trunk of a tree giving rise to two roughly equal diameter branches.

Veteran tree: Tree that, by recognised criteria, shows features of biological, cultural or aesthetic value that are characteristic of, but not exclusive to, individuals surviving beyond the typical age range for the species concerned. These characteristics might typically include a large girth, signs of crown retrenchment and hollowing of the stem.

White-rot: A range of kinds of wood decay in which lignin, usually together with cellulose and other wood constituents, is degraded.

Appendix 2 - Tree Schedule**Site:** The Old Timber Yard, Maiden Bradley**Surveyor:** Nick Baxter**Date of Survey:** 1st December 2025

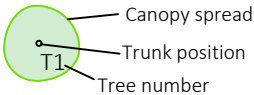
Tree Number	Species	dbh (cm)	Height (m)	Age Class	Physiological Condition	Notes on Structural Condition and Local Environment	Management Recommendations
T1	Copper beech	80	17	FM	G	A large beech which is located in a neighbouring garden but overhangs the garden of Cherry Tree Cottage and the roof of Holly Cottage. A large secondary stem extends from a main union at 3m and a large limb extends north towards Holly Cottage, also from 3m. Past pruning is evident away from Holly Cottage but the surrounding foliage has now grown in close-proximity to the roof at the front and touches the roof to the rear. The whole canopy is full of buds with signs of high vitality. No access to base, surveyed from Cherry Tree Cottage only. Protected by a TPO.	Reduce the tips of the western side by 1.5-2.5m and crown lift to 3m by pruning to the nearest branch junction over the boundary to provide a more substantial clearance from Cherry Tree Cottage and facilitate more light. Remove the tall upward shoot back to the scaffold branch on the north-western side at 4.5m. Reduce the northern side of the crown (over Holly Cottage) by 2.5-3.5m to provide sufficient clearance from the roof of Holly Cottage (see report for pruning illustrations).

A key explaining each category is provided at the rear of the schedule.

Key Headings	Definition	Key Headings	Definition
Tree or Group Number	Reference number for tree as illustrated on the accompanying plan.	Age Class	Y = Young, SM = Semi-Mature, EM = Early Mature, M = Mature, FM = Fully Mature & V = Veteran
Species	Common name of the tree.	Physiological Condition	A measure of physiological condition. G = Good, F = Fair, P = Poor and D = Dead.
DBH	Diameter at Breast Height. Diameter of the main trunk measured at 1.5m.	Notes on Structural Condition and Local Environment	Observations of the trees structural integrity and notes of site features or property within falling distance.
Height	Estimated tree height (m) from ground level.	Management Recommendations	Recommended arboricultural works.



Key



NBTREEMANAGEMENT
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Project Name: The Old Timber Yard Maiden Bradley	
Drawing Title: Tree Plan	
Drawing Number: TP-1	Revision
Client: The Residents of No. 8 & 9 The Old Timber Yard	
Date: 18-12-2025	
Scale: 1:400 @ A4	