



Emma Gee  
Interim Executive Director for  
Economic Growth and  
Neighbourhood Services

Bridge Street, Reading RG1 2LU  
☎ 0118 9373787

Ms S Ransom  
Vegetation Management Services Ltd  
Tingdene Bradfield Road  
Finedon Road Industrial Estate  
Wellingborough  
NN8 4HB

Our Ref: 230717/TPO  
Your Ref:

Direct: ☎01189 372440  
sarah.hanson@reading.gov.uk

19 July 2023

Your contact is: Sarah Hanson, Planning, Development & Regulatory Services

Dear Ms Ransom

**RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO ONE LIME TREE AT CAVERSHAM LOCK, READING - T1 OF TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 101/06.**

Thank you for your application of 24 May 2023, regarding the above.

Your application sought consent to reduce the height of the Lime to approximately 8m above ground level and for lateral limbs to be reduced to create a natural crown shape, with all cuts to be made at suitable growth points where possible.

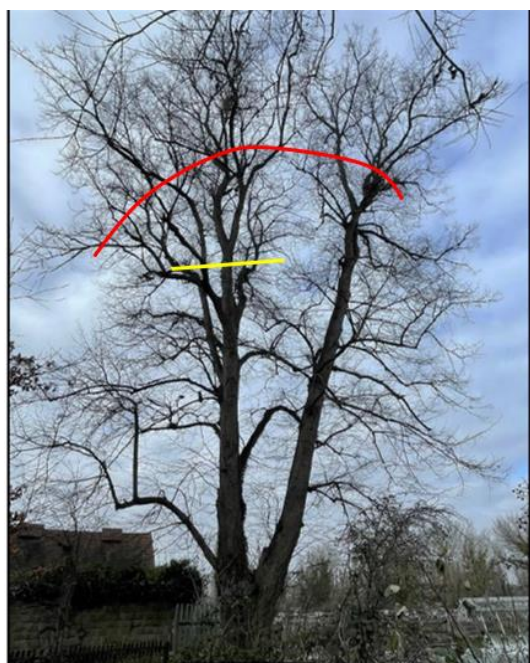
The recommendations followed a climbing inspection (done in January 2022) and the reasons given for the works were due to the tree having a high target potential due to a public footpath directly running underneath the tree, a power cable leading to the adjacent buildings and the lock house with surrounding outbuildings. Matthew Graham's email of 13/06/23 also added: *'Although there are no current defective areas of concern within the crown or on the visible main stem, my attention has been drawn to the location and formation of the rootplate. The North face of the rootplate area is located within 1m of the concrete retaining wall of the River Thames with many other underground structures surrounding the tree and effecting rootplate distribution'*, that the tree was in a *'consistently exposed position'* and that *'The recommendation to reduce the crown was made considering the species tolerance to pruning work and an attempt to reduce likelihood of whole or sectional windthrow'*. The indicated reduction was shown by the annotated photograph below:



Following my visit on 23 June 2023, I emailed Matthew Graham to express concern over extent of the proposed reduction, resulting leaf loss and wound sizes and impact on the future health and amenity value of the tree. As per that email, the arboricultural report didn't highlight any issues that would justify the pruning from an arboricultural point of view with regards to the condition of the tree or any defects present, and there is no history of failure to back-up the claims that the tree is exposed to the extent that failure / part failure is likely. As such, a lesser reduction was suggested that would reduce wound sizes (multiple, smaller wounds) whilst still offering a significant reduction of the crown, hence of weight and sail area. Mr Graham confirmed via email on 10 July that he was happy for the application to be amended to the lesser reduction.

I can confirm that the following proposed works, as detailed in your amended application, are approved subject to the conditions below:

- T1 Lime reduce crown as indicated by the **RED line** on the annotated photograph below; reducing height and then lateral limbs by the minimum necessary, back to suitable growing points, to leave a flowing crown line. *[yellow line shows the approx. original proposed height which no longer applies]*



## Conditions

1. Five days' notice in writing shall be given to the Council prior to undertaking the approved works.

Reason: To ensure that the Local Planning Authority is given sufficient notice of the works to enable the effective monitoring of tree work within the Borough.

2. All tree surgery shall be in accordance with BS 3998: (2010) Tree Work - Recommendations.

Reason: To ensure that all works are carried out in an acceptable arboricultural manner

3. The approved canopy reduction shall be undertaken in mid-late Summer (July - September) when the tree's energy reserves are at their height or during the Winter months of December - January during the period of dormancy.

Reason: Taking into account the tree's phenological cycle and in order to avoid any unnecessary detriment to the tree as a result of the pruning work.

4. Climbing spikes shall not be used whilst undertaking any form of works on living trees, except on trees to be felled.

Reason: Spikes can cause extensive long-term damage

## Informatives

1. You are advised that, in accordance with Part 4, 17 (4) of The Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation)(England) Regulations 2012, this decision is valid for one pruning operation (as per the approved specifications) to be undertaken within two years from the date of this notice, after which the consent lapses and a new application will be required.

2. Removal of dead or dangerous wood: This does not require the formal consent of the Council. However written notice must be given 5 working days in advance of removing dead wood. Where a branch is deemed to be 'dangerous', i.e. where works are 'urgently necessary to remove an immediate risk of serious harm', you are required to give notice to the Council 'as soon as practicable after the works become necessary'.

3. Disturbance of wildlife: It is an offence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) to disturb roosting bats or nesting birds. It is advisable to consult your tree surgeon/consultant to agree an acceptable time for carrying out any work. Wildlife and habitat controls are administered by Natural England who can be contacted on 0300 030 6000

4. Tree work consents on land not owned by the applicant: It is strongly recommended that the owner of the tree be advised of any proposed works. The owner's permission must be sought if the tree works involve work past the boundary line. This consent does not in any way imply that this Council has informed the owner of sought permission or will condone the use of consents to force any landowner to grant such permission.

If you wish to appeal against any of the conditions attached to this consent, please contact the Planning Inspectorate within 28 days of receipt of this letter to obtain the relevant forms:

Trees and Hedges  
Room 3A Eagle Wing  
Temple Quay House  
2 The Square  
Temple Quay  
Bristol  
BS1 6PN

Telephone: 0303 444 5000

E-mail it to: [treeandhedgeappeals@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:treeandhedgeappeals@planninginspectorate.gov.uk)

If you require any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me on the above number.

Yours sincerely

*Sarah Hanson*

Sarah Hanson  
Natural Environment Officer