



Mr G Rees
1 Ridgeborough Court
Castle Hill
Reading
RG1 7SZ

Emma Gee
Acting Executive Director for
Economic Growth and
Neighbourhood Services

Civic Centre, Reading, RG1 2LU
☎ 0118 937 3787

Our Ref: PL/25/0014
Your Ref:

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

13 February 2025

Your contact is:

Sarah Hanson: Planning, Transport & Public Protection

Dear Mr Rees

**RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO TREES AT RIDGEBOROUGH COURT, CASTLE HILL, READING -
SUBJECT TO CONSERVATION AREA STATUS.**

Thank you for Tree Works Notice of 5 January 2025, relating to the above, with accompanying annotated photographs (as amended).

I can confirm that the Council have no objections to the following proposed tree work:

- (T1) Cherry plum - Fell (remove tree) and grind out stump. Tree is of low quality, it is intended that the tree will be replaced with a hedge and boundary fence.*
- (T2+T3) Sycamores x2 - Fell (remove trees) to ground level and treat stumps to prevent regrowth. Both trees are medium sized, self-sown trees that have outgrown their location.*
- (T4-T8) Sycamores x5 - Fell (remove trees) and treat stumps to prevent regrowth. These are small, self-sown trees that are inappropriate for their location.*
- (T9) Monolith (covered in ivy) - remove stump to ground level.*
- (T10) Cherry plum - remove basal suckers and crown lift (approx. 3m) over carpark*
- (T11+T13) Dead elm (x2) - Fell (remove trees) to ground level.*
- (T12) Sycamore - Fell (remove tree) to ground level and treat stump to prevent regrowth. Self-sown tree of poor form.*
- (T14+T15) Cherry (x2) - Reduce crowns (property side only) of the two largest cherry trees back to most recent, previous pruning points and crown lift over the pavement and public highway to provide the statutory clearance (2.75m).*
- (T16) Elm - Fell (remove tree) to ground level and treat stump to prevent regrowth.*

None of the trees to be felled are worthy of a Tree Preservation Order, hence we offer no formal objection. However, the works represent significant, combined canopy cover loss, hence replacement planting of suitable species is encouraged, especially as the property is in a conservation area, within an Air Quality Management Area and on a 'treed corridor' (as defined in our adopted Tree Strategy), hence in a location where tree retention and planting is of a higher priority.

In relation to the dead Elms, under Section 213 (1) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, a landowner is under a duty to replace a tree which is removed because it is dead or dangerous. The duty on the landowner is to plant another tree of an appropriate size and species at the same place as soon as he or she reasonably can.

In this case the Council would expect two replacement native or naturalised broadleaf species trees of a minimum 8-10cm girth and 2.75cm high (at time of planting) to be planted within the curtilage of Ridgeborough Court in the planting season (Nov-March) following or at the time of felling, whichever is soonest. Please ensure the species is agreed with the Council prior to purchase and planting.

The following works are exempt from requiring a formal notice, but are noted:

(H1) Boundary hedge (mainly privet) - reduce to approx. 2.5m height, prune back to boundary growth overhanging neighbouring property, and face up front to create a more uniform and manageable hedge.

This decision is valid for two years from the date of this letter, after which it lapses.

The works can now be carried out.

Informatives

1. 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 060 3900; enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk

2. Removal of dead or dangerous wood: This does not require the formal consent of the Council. However you are encouraged to give 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', please give notice to the Council 'as soon as practicable after the works become necessary'.

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