



Miss H Williams
Heights Tree Care
Mayfield
Hazelmoor Lane
Gallowstree Common
RG4 9DJ

Emma Gee
Executive Director for
Economic Growth and
Neighbourhood Services

Bridge Street, Reading RG1 2LU
☎ 0118 9373787

Our Ref: PL/25/0650
Your Ref:

Direct: ☎01189 374294
Amy.daly@reading.gov.uk

13th May 2025

Your contact is:

Amy Daly: Planning, Transport & Public Protection

Dear Ms Williams

RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO 2NO. LEYLAND CYPRESS TREES AT 153 UPPER WOODCOTE ROAD, CAVERSHAM, READING, RG4 7JR - T1 AND T2 OF TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 177/06.

Thank you for your application of 30th April 2025, regarding the above.

Further to mine and my colleague, Sarah Hanson's, visit on 12th May 2025 I have the following comments:

A site visit was required to assess the proposed works. The canopies of T1 and T2 act as one canopy so have been taken as such in the approved works below - it appears your indicative photos acknowledge this.

Although not included within the application, it was discussed on site that a crown clean would also be appropriate to reduce the amount of dead branches falling into the garden. A crown lift would also be appropriate to provide adequate clearance between the tree branches and the ground. Hence these were added to the application.

It was also discussed that a sufficient amount of foliage must remain after the reduction, to ensure that their aesthetic appearance is not compromised, i.e. pruning is not taken back past the green/live growth.

The approved work is considered reasonable tree maintenance for their setting.

I can therefore confirm that the following proposed works, as detailed in your application (as amended on site), are approved subject to the conditions below and with reference to the annotated photographs provided:

- Reduce the combined canopies in height by approximately 3.5m (see Figure 1 and 2 for reference), removing no more than one third of the foliage, leaving suitable growth points.
- Reduce the combined canopies in lateral spread by approximately 2m (see Figure 1 and 2 for reference), removing no more than one third of the foliage, leaving suitable growth points.
- Crown clean, i.e. removal of dead, dying, low vigour, crossing/rubbing branches (note condition 4).
- Crown lift to 3-4m above ground level, removing minor growth only (branches of or less than 5cm diameter), leaving suitable growth points, but including one small main branch (see Figure 3 for reference).



Figure 1 - Indicative Height and Lateral Reduction



Figure 2 - Indicative Height and Lateral Reduction



Figure 3 - Branch to be included in the Crown Lifting

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. 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

4. Crown cleaning should not include the removal of fused natural braces (branches or stems), or the removal of entwining branches or rubbing branches (where they may be forming a natural brace) from the crown of a semi-mature to fully mature tree without carrying out an assessment of any junctions formed below such natural braces.

Reason: Removal of natural braces may lead to failure of weak unions.

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 from a live tree: 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', 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

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

Website: [Tree Preservation Orders and trees in conservation areas - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk/government/topics/trees-and-woodland/tree-preservation-orders)

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

Yours sincerely

Amy Daly

Assistant Natural Environment Officer

On Behalf of Sarah Hanson, Natural Environment Officer

C.c. Mr Newman, Upper Woodcote Road