



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/25/0649
Your Ref:

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

15th May 2025

Your contact is:

Amy Daly: Planning, Transport & Public Protection

Dear Ms Williams

RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO 1NO. DOUGLAS FIR TREE (T3) AND 2NO. LIME TREE (T1 AND T2) AT 1 SURLEY PLACE, SCOTT CLOSE, EMMER GREEN, READING, RG4 8NF - OF TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 11/06.

Thank you for your application of 30th April 2025, regarding the above, which sought approval for the following:

T1 Douglas fir - Removal. Reasons for works, due to the close proximity of the Douglas fir to neighbouring lime trees, the tree has an unbalanced canopy leaving it aesthetically unpleasing.

T2 & T3 Lime - Lateral width reduction of overextended limbs to reduce overhang to driveway and road on lime trees by approx 2m and removal of deadwood throughout canopy

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

It was discussed between Sarah Hanson and I, that the structure of the Douglas Fir (T3) was suboptimal, having an unbalanced canopy and is suppressed by the adjacent Lime. This is also detailed in your application. The loss would not have a significant detrimental impact on amenity, given the presence of the larger Lime tree and the tree is of poor form. As such felling of T3 is therefore considered reasonable.

In July 2019, a 1.5-2m reduction of selective lateral limbs, over the driveway of 1 Surley Place, was approved to the Lime trees. The proposed work is somewhat similar of the previous approval, on the driveway side, and a slight reduction in overall lateral size is considered reasonable. For clarity, the crowns of the 2 trees have effectively been taken as one, hence a lateral reduction on south side of T1 (closest to Scott Close) and north side of T2 is not envisaged to be included.

The removal of deadwood does not require formal consent. We have taken your application to serve notice of this.

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

- T1 and T2 Limes - Reduce lateral limbs by approximately 2m at the furthest extremity, back to previous pruning points where they exist, leaving suitable growth points and a natural canopy shape (see Figure 1, 2 and 3 for reference).
- T3 Douglas Fir - Remove (see condition 5).



Figure 1 - Indicative Lateral Canopy Reduction



Figure 2 - Indicative Lateral Canopy Reduction



Figure 3 - Indicative Lateral Canopy Reduction

You will note the wording of the approved reduction is 'from the outer extremity' as the proposed specification would be very difficult to follow given the different branch lengths present. It should be appreciated that the work is unlikely to make significant difference to the overall size of the two trees - a point the applicant may wish to consider.

It was noted on site that there are no trees in the rear garden. Tree works application 141441 approved the felling of T7 Horse chestnut subject to replacement planting. Similarly, tree works application 191001 approved the felling of T6 Horse chestnut subject to replacement planting. In addition, it was agreed in 2019 that the felling of T5 Horse chestnut could go ahead under the 'dead / dangerous' exemption for which the applicant was advised about the duty to replant (a Silver birch was agreed in November 2022). I can find nothing on the TPO file to account for T4 Horse chestnut, which is no longer in place. Replacement planting is therefore outstanding for all these trees and is a matter the applicant must address.

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 lateral 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

5. Following the felling of the tree authorised by this consent, 1no. replacement trees of a minimum stock size of 8-10cm girth and 2.75m high (if broadleaf) or 1.5m high (if a conifer), shall be planted on the Surley Row boundary of the front garden or rear garden during the planting season (Nov-March) following or at the time of the felling of the tree, whichever is soonest. The species shall be agreed with the Natural Environment Team prior to purchase and planting.

Planting should be carried out in accordance with clause 10 (Planting) of BS 8545:2014 'Trees: from nursery to independence in the landscape - Recommendations'

Should the replacement tree be removed, die or become severely damaged or seriously diseased, all within 5 years of planting, it shall be replaced by a tree of a similar size and species to that originally planted. Modifications to the requirements of this condition must be agreed in writing with Reading Borough Council Natural Environment Team.

PLEASE NOTE: The requirement to replant is the responsibility of the tree owner even if the application was submitted by another person.

Reason: To retain the present visual amenity value of the area and ensure continuity of tree coverage.

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)

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 and Mrs Groark, Surley Place