



Mr A Reetun
Benson Tree Services
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Emma Gee
Executive Director for
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Our Ref: PL/25/0578
Your Ref:

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

20th May 2025

Your contact is:

Amy Daly: Planning, Transport & Public Protection

Dear Mr Reetun

RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO 1NO. PLANE TREE IN THE CAR PARK OF KINGS COURT, 185 KINGS ROAD, READING - T1 OF TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 44/13.

Thank you for your application of 15th April 2025, regarding the above.

Further to my visit on 6th May 2025, I have the following comments:

Your initial application sought approval for an *‘overall crown reduction in total spread of up to 3m, and height of up to 2.5m. With the reasoning of ‘to provide sufficient clearance to property, and to create a more balanced structure.’*

Through an email exchange between yourself and I, of 14th-19th May 2025, I sought further clarity on the reasoning for an overall canopy reduction and I proposed an alternative specification which would require lesser works. I expressed that the alternative specification was reasonable and would still meet with the desired outcome of the proposed works. You initially advised that: *‘The customer is looking to complete an overall canopy reduction to prevent needing to prune again in a few years time due to the proximity to the buildings’* but when queried you agreed to the alternative specification that I had proposed.

The approved work aims to provide clearance between the tree and the building, and between the tree and the boundary wall. It also aims to marry the shape of the upper and lower canopy, to create a more balanced canopy shape.

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

- Crown lift to 3-4m above ground level, through 360°, leaving suitable growth points.
- Reduce lowest lateral branch growing towards the boundary wall of 191 Kings Road, to indicative reduction points (see Figure 1 and Figure 4), providing 2-3m clearance of the wall, leaving suitable growth points, whilst marrying the shape of the upper canopy.
- Reduce the lower canopy growing towards the flats of 185 Kings Road (see Figure 2, 3 and 4), to indicative reduction points, providing 2-3m clearance of the building, leaving suitable growth points whilst marrying with the shape of the upper canopy.



Figure 1 - Indicative reduction points of the lowest lateral branch growing towards the boundary wall of 191 Kings Road



Figure 2 - Indicative reduction points of the lower canopy growing towards the flats of 185 Kings Road



Figure 3 - Indicative reduction points of the lower canopy growing towards the flats of 185 Kings Road

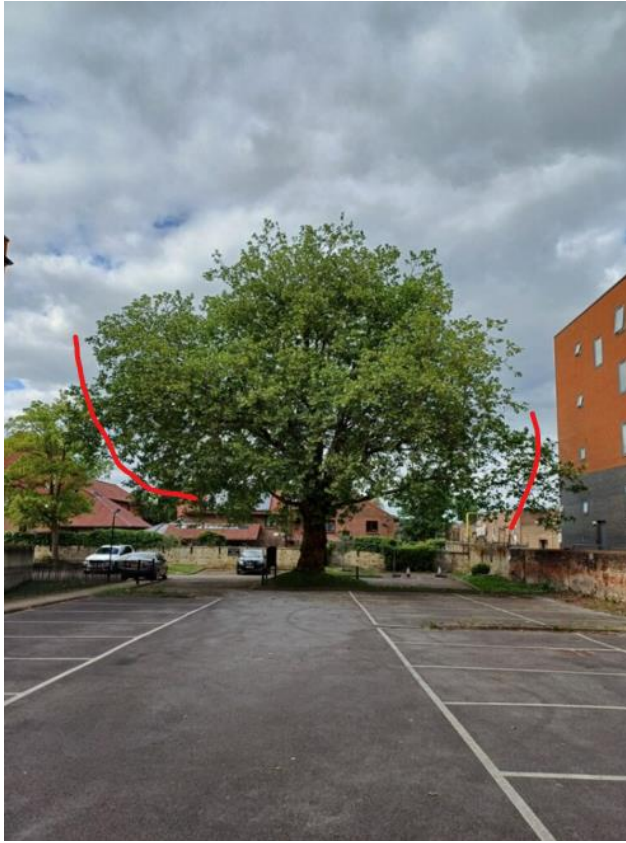


Figure 4 - Indicative reduction points of selective branches

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

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

4. It is best to avoid works in the period immediately before or during bud burst and leaf fall to minimise the effect on the long-term health of the tree

5. 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

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

Please ensure that your client receives a copy of this letter as soon as possible.

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