



Mr D White
White Knight Tree Care & Consultancy
5 Cressingham Road
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RG2 7RS

Emma Gee
Executive Director for
Economic Growth and
Neighbourhood Services

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Our Ref: PL/25/0539
Your Ref:

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20 May 2025

Your contact is:

Sarah Hanson: Planning, Transport & Public Protection

Dear Mr White

RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO ONE TURKEY OAK TREE AT 4 DELLWOOD PARK, READING - T20 OF TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 16/15.

Thank you for your application of 6 April 2025 regarding the above and apologies again the delay in acknowledging receipt.

Your application seeks approval for:

T20 (Turkey oak): Sympathetic crown reduction to Turkey oak, removing approx. 1-2m in branch length to maintain size and distance from house (see annotated photos)

Notice of the removal of major deadwood was also given.

Further to my visit on 25 April 2025, with my colleague Amy Daly, I queried the need for the crown reduction in all directions in my email to you, of the same date, and expressed some concern over the long-term implications of the proposed work. In our email exchanges between then and 6 May it was established that the reduction is with the aim to contain the size of the tree to that considered appropriate (by the applicant) to its location, with branches over the road included to create a balanced crown. It was further agreed that a height reduction, per se, was of little benefit given the proximity of the tree to the house, and hence this would be omitted, albeit tapering to the top following lateral reductions would be appropriate if the works were approved.

It is acknowledged that the tree is not yet mature and has the capacity to grow significantly larger, impacting the house more so as it grows. In the short-medium term it is considered that an appropriate relationship with the house could be maintained by crown lifting and reduction of the north-east side growing towards the house to allow more light under the canopy and to ensure appropriate clearance, without impacting the

appearance of the tree, albeit there appears little need for either at the moment. Crown space is not restricted in other directions. It is acknowledged that in time, this selective reduction may lead to a one-sided tree, i.e. an unbalanced crown, which may negatively impact the appearance of the tree. Whether this will justify a lateral reduction in all directions to balance will be a judgement at a later date. At some point in the future, it is acknowledged that containing the size of the tree is likely to be appropriate, however it is not agreed that the tree has reached that point yet.

The tree is a healthy Turkey oak successfully retained during the development of Dellwood Park and is highly visible on the street frontage, providing amenity value to the road. The proposed reduction would give rise to the need for a repeat of the pruning as appropriate management. Hence this would result in the tree forever being confined to the size proposed (post reduction), limiting its amenity value. It is not agreed that the tree is currently of an overall size inappropriate to its setting, hence that it currently needs to be reduced, but that alternative pruning can be implemented in the short-medium term to maintain a suitable relationship with the house.

The proposed crown reduction is therefore refused.

We welcome a new application in due course for selective pruning, as indicated above.

If you wish to appeal against any the Council's refusal of 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 suffer any loss or damage as a result of this refusal of consent, you may be entitled to recover compensation from the Council. If you wish to make a claim you must do so within 12 months from the date of this decision (or, if you appeal to the Secretary of State, within 12 months from the date of his decision). Claims should be made in writing to the Insurance Section, Reading Borough Council, Civic Centre, Bridge Street, Reading, RG1 2LU.

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

C.c. Ms Hume, 4 Dellwood Park