



Mr D White
White knight Tree Care & Consultancy
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Emma Gee
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Our Ref: PL/25/0673
Your Ref:

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sarah.hanson@reading.gov.uk

29 May 2025

Your contact is:

Sarah Hanson: Planning, Transport & Public Protection

Dear Mr White

RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO ONE OAK TREE AT 15 BRAMBER MEWS, READING - SUBJECT TO TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 59/01.

Thank you for your application of 5 May 2025 regarding the above.

Your application seeks permission to re-pollard the Oak and provides comment on wounds and cavities present.

As you are aware, my acknowledgement email of 6 May 2025 expressed some initial concern about the potential detrimental impact of the proposed works on the tree given its sub-optimal condition. In response you advised that whilst you had not seen the tree in leaf, the upper crown/canopy looked sparse in terms of bud density when you visited, which lead you to think that the tree is struggling to maintain a crown of that size, potentially due to a poor rooting environment.

Following my meeting with Mrs Davies on 12 May 2025, with my colleague Amy Daly, I forwarded you my photographs of the tree in leaf in case you wished to add anything to your initial comments. You advised that you were content with the original proposal and reiterated your concerns about the cavities, potential decay at previous pruning points and limited ability to improve the rooting environment (to improve the tree's health).

Your application advises of cavities in the upper crown at old pollard points, which could not be observed from our visit. However, the large wound on the south side was observed, along with multiple historic pruning points. With regards to the latter, this includes flush cuts, behind which there is likely to be decay/dysfunction. Given the number of wounds present, it is possible that there is some coalescence of decay, which it

may be prudent to investigate further. In any case, reducing the weight of the crown and the amount of foliage that the tree has to sustain is reasonable.

As you know, I have reservations about whether the tree will be able to respond favourably to the re-pollarding (it is a lapsed pollard) due to its sub-optimal condition, however on balance, the work is considered justifiable to the extent that the demonstrated need overrides the concern in this case. Timing of the works will, however, be important to try and limit the detrimental impact - please note condition 3 below. I would caveat this condition by advising against cutting in the summer if drought conditions prevail and the tree is drought stressed.

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

- **T1 Oak - re-pollard back to the previous points as indicated**



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 canopy reduction shall only 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

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

Sarah Hanson

Sarah Hanson
Natural Environment Officer

C.c. Mrs Davies, 15 Bramber Mews