



Mr D Alcock
Ground Control
1 Kingfisher House
Radford Way
Billericay
CM12 0EQ

Emma Gee
Executive Director for
Economic Growth and
Neighbourhood Services

Bridge Street, Reading RG1 2LU
☎ 0118 9373787

Our Ref: PL/25/0366
Your Ref:

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

17th June 2025

Your contact is:

Amy Daly: Planning, Transport & Public Protection

Dear Mr Alcock

RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO 1NO. LIME TREE AT BELGRAVIA COURT, BATH ROAD, SOUTHCOTE, READING, RG30 2BL - T8 OF TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 128/01

Thank you for your application of 7th March 2025, regarding the above.

Your application originally sought approval to '*Side Prune mature Sycamore to clear operational zone*'.

Through an email exchange between yourself and Sarah Hanson, starting on 10th March 2025, Sarah sought clarity on the pruning specification and the species of the protected tree. You stated on 14th March 2025 that '*The height of this tree was 17m so a 3m crown reduction would be required to accommodate the upgrade of the telecoms mast*'. It was also agreed that your T3 Sycamore was T8 Lime tree of the TPO.

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

Whilst we would not normally consider a complete crown reduction to facilitate an upgrade to a telecoms mast to be an acceptable reason alone, upon visiting the site, Sarah and I were in agreement that due to the tree having multiple codominant stems (see Figure 1 and 2 for reference), that an overall canopy reduction would be appropriate to reduce some of the weight from the main stems. Reducing the amount of weight on the branches aims to reduce the chance of stem failure in the future, hence managing the potential greater risk this form of tree presents. It should be noted that the degree of crown reduction agreed is based purely on that you have specified for mast clearance and in no way should be taken as an amount we have properly considered as appropriate to address the tree's multi-stem form. It will be the responsibility of the management

company for Belgravia Court (cc'd) to ensure their trees are regularly inspected and professional advice sought.

As mentioned in the email exchange, the Cyprus tree groups that are included in your application, are not subject to a TPO and therefore do not require written consent before commencing works.

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 photographs below:

- Reduce the height of the crown by approximately 3m (see Figure 3 and Figure 4 for indicative reduction), leaving suitable growth points.
- Reduce the lateral crown spread by approximately 3m in diameter i.e. reduce the branches by 1.5m from each cardinal point (see Figure 3 and Figure 4 for indicative reduction), shaping the lateral crown with the height of the crown to form a natural crown shape, leaving suitable growth points.



Figure 1 - Codominance of Main Stems



Figure 2 - Codominance of Main Stems



Figure 3 - Indicative Canopy Reduction



Figure 4 - Indicative Canopy Reduction

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 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

4. 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.

5. Trees not considered to be protected by the current Tree preservation order: Work can be carried out to this tree without the formal consent from this Council.

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-hedges)

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

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

Yours sincerely

Amy Daly

Assistant Natural Environment Officer

On Behalf of Sarah Hanson, Natural Environment Officer

C.c. Chaney's (Property Managers of Belgravia Court)