

Mr M Ward
Arum Tree Services
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Emma Gee
Executive Director for
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Our Ref: PL/25/0856
Your Ref:

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23rd June 2025

Your contact is:

Amy Daly: Planning, Transport & Public Protection

Dear Mr Ward

RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO 1NO. WILLOW TREE AND 1NO. PINE TREE AT 9 SURLEY ROW, CAVERSHAM, READING, RG4 8ND - SUBJECT TO CONSERVATION AREA STATUS.

Thank you for Tree Works Notice of 10th June 2025, relating to the above.

Through an email exchange between yourself and my colleague, Sarah Hanson, on 10th June 2025, clarity was sought on the works proposed in your notice. It was determined that your notice is as follows:

Reduction of one Willow by 3m and fell one Pine in rear garden

You emailed my colleague, Sarah Hanson, on 20th June 2025 to notify her that the Willow tree had broken one of its branches. She advised you that it would be reasonable to remove the branch back past its failure point, to the next appropriate growing point.

In response to this, Sarah Hanson and I visited the site on 23rd June 2025, to which I have the following comments:

Regarding the Willow tree, given the presence of cavities and the recent branch failure, we discussed with Mr Evans that it would be reasonable to prune the tree in such a way that would reduce the weight of the branches, reducing the strain on the decaying cavities, thereby reducing the risk of future branch failure. Mr Evans expressed his admiration for the Willow tree and that he would like to try and preserve the somewhat natural shape of its canopy.

As a result, Sarah and I suggested performing a pollard to the Willow as a form of weight management. It was explained that as there is already decay present within the tree, it is

important that the pollard points, that would be created, are as small as reasonably possible. Pollarding is likely to further the decay, particularly when creating large pruning cuts. We explained to Mr Evans that in the future, the tree would need to be re-pollarded as a form of management. We also recommend the tree is inspected regularly, due to the presence of its cavities and decay.

It was discussed that whilst the 3m canopy reduction you proposed aimed to reduce the weight of the branches, due to the presence of the cavities and decay, Sarah and I thought that more extensive works would be reasonable.

We advise that when the work to the Willow is performed, that the exact pollard points are discussed with Mr Evans to ensure he is happy with the extent of the work. We hope that a somewhat natural canopy shape remains after the tree is pollarded, as Mr Evans expressed his desire for this.

Regarding the Pine tree, it's removal would be reasonable as it is almost completely dead. It was discussed with Mr Evans that he plans to plant a replacement tree, to which we suggested fruiting trees, as they would be a suitable addition to the character of his garden.

I can confirm that the Council have no objections to the following proposed tree work:

- Willow - Pollard at suggested, identified points (see Figure 1, 2, 3 and 4), using these points as a guide to aid in determining the suitable pollard points for the remaining canopy, to create a somewhat natural and balanced shape; remove failed branch past its failure point.
- Pine - Remove.



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4

This decision is valid for two years from the date of this letter, after which it lapses.

The works can now be carried out.

Informatives

1. 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 060 3900; enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk

2. Removal of dead or dangerous wood: 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', please give notice to the Council 'as soon as practicable after the works become necessary'.

Please ensure that your client, Mr Evans, 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