



Mr O Smith
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Our Ref: PL/25/0801
Your Ref:

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25th June 2025

Your contact is:

Amy Daly: Planning, Transport & Public Protection

Dear Mr Smith

RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO 1NO. LIQUIDAMBAR TREE AT RIVERSIDE COURT, PROMENADE ROAD, CAVERSHAM, READING, RG4 8AL - T6 OF TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 127/001.

Thank you for your application of 30th May 2025, regarding the above.

Further to mine and my colleague, Sarah Hanson's, visit on 23rd June 2025, I have the following comments:

Through an email exchange, starting on the 29th May 2025, between yourself Sarah Hanson, you discussed the TPO, the application process, issues with the tree and the site access.

You expressed that there is a health and safety concern as the tree is interfering with the telephone line, which is thereby putting pressure on the wire and causing the telephone post to lean at an angle.

You provided an annotated photograph, reproduced below, which proposes a canopy reduction on one side of the tree. **The indicative canopy reduction is refused (see Figure 1 below)** as it will cause a detrimental impact to the tree's health and amenity value, leaving an unbalanced canopy shape and removing an unnecessary amount of lower and upper foliage to clear the wire. However, lesser pruning is approved below which reduces the potential impact yet will still achieve the aim of providing clearance between the tree and the wire.



Figure 1 - Refused Indicative Reduction

Whilst we understand your reasoning for the canopy reduction on the side of the tree that is growing towards the wire as being *'to allow sufficient clearance so that the tree will not grow to interfere with the line in the near future'*, we cannot allow pruning of this extent due to the negative impact it presents. The tree will inevitably grow in the future, and it is likely you will need to submit applications in the years to come, to prune the tree away from the wires, as part of routine tree maintenance. We believe that the approved works will provide adequate clearance for a reasonable amount of time, with regrowth being minor in nature.

Upon visiting the site, we noted that the reduction of a relatively large limb is required, which will still result in an unbalanced canopy and will remove most of the foliage from that branch. Whilst this is not good arboricultural practice, it is the only option to provide reasonable clearance from the wire which is unfortunately placed through the canopy of this tree and the adjacent Willow. It was noticeable that, due to the wound caused by the wire rubbing on the branch, there had been interference between the tree and wire for some time.

We recommend that trees are inspected regularly to identify tree defects or conflicts that can present health and safety hazards, as well as suggest any works that may be necessary. It would have been more beneficial to tree health if this was noticed sooner, as lesser works may have been suitable and damage to the telephone pole could have been avoided.

As indicated above, it was also noted that a Willow tree, not subject to a TPO, is also interfering with the telephone wire (see Figure 2). We also recommend that this is pruned to provide clearance from the wire, which can be carried out without consent.

I can confirm that the following proposed works, are **approved** subject to the conditions below and with reference to the annotated photographs below:

- Crown lift, through 360°, to 3m above ground level, removing secondary and tertiary growth only, leaving suitable growth points; remove dead branch back to source (see Figure 3).
- Reduce a selected branch in length (see Figure 4) currently pushing on the wire, to provide a maximum of 1m clearance from the wire.
- Reduce/remove secondary and tertiary growth only on selective branches, to provide approx. 50cm clearance from the wire, leaving suitable growth points.



Figure 2 - Willow Tree and Telephone Wire



Figure 3 - Dead Branch Removal



Figure 4 - Selective Branch 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. 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.

6. 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 the consented works or against the refusal of the reduction originally proposed, 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 \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/tree-preservation-orders-and-trees-in-conservation-areas)

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

Amy Daly

Assistant Natural Environment Officer

On Behalf of Sarah Hanson, Natural Environment Officer