



Ms S Duckworth
Duckworths Arboriculture Ltd
Glebelands Bungalow
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Marlborough
SN8 2LR

Emma Gee
Executive Director for
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Bridge Street, Reading RG1 2LU
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Our Ref: PL/25/0844
Your Ref:

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

9th July 2025

Your contact is:

Amy Daly: Planning, Transport & Public Protection

Dear Ms Duckworth

RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO 1NO. MONTEREY CYPRESS TREE AT FLAT 1, 24 ELDON ROAD, READING, RG1 4GL - T1 OF TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 04/22

Thank you for your application of 9th June 2025, regarding the above.

Further to my visit on 19th June 2025, I have the following comments:

It was apparent whilst on site and mentioned in the Tree Condition Survey Report 06640/2025 you submitted with your application, that branches growing towards the neighbour's driveway had been removed leaving improper pruning cuts - our records indicate that these were pruned without authorisation by contractors in 2022. This is a reminder that any work intended to a tree subject to a TPO, including that by the contractors, requires consent prior to being undertaken to.

As mentioned in your Tree Survey, the ground area has been raised around the base of the tree (see Figure 4). This can pose health risks to the tree by creating a moist environment that encourages fungal growth. Therefore, the leaf litter/substrate should be levelled at the base of the tree as per your recommendations. The ground level has been raised for some time (years) so care must be taken when determining the appropriate level of ground around the base of the tree.

The proposed pruning is considered reasonable to ensure appropriate clearance above ground and from neighbouring properties. 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 reproduced below:

- North side - Crown lift 5m above ground level; selectively reduce outer branches to create approximately 2m canopy clearance to neighbouring dwelling (see Figure 1) ensuring no more than one third of the foliage is removed from the secondary branches, leaving suitable growth points.
- East side - Crown lift smaller secondary/tertiary branches to 4m above ground level leaving suitable growth points and including the removal of a low side branch 200mm diameter back to source (see Figure 2).
- South side - Crown lift to 4m above ground level over neighbouring parking area, leaving suitable growth points; remove the damaged/stub cut branches back to source.
- West side - Crown lift to 4m above ground level creating clearance over the highway, removing a cluster of small low branches off the main trunk back to source as part of these works; selectively reduce branch tips, ensuring no more than one third of the foliage is removed from the secondary branches and leaving suitable growth points to create approximately 2m clearance from neighbouring property on the far side of Eldon Place; remove small branches under 50mm diameter off main trunk as part of the canopy lift.



Figure 1 - North Canopy Selective Branch Reduction



Figure 2 - East Canopy Branch Removal (as part of crown lift)



Figure 3 - Damaged branches/stub cuts to be removed on the south side

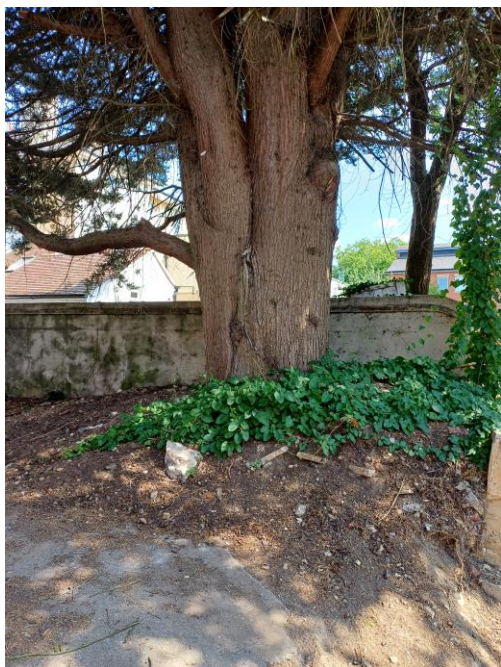


Figure 4 - Raised ground level at the base of the tree

It appears that works are currently being undertaken to implement planning consent PL/23/0405. The applicant should be complying with conditions, as approved under PL/23/1542, including Condition 5 (CMS) which approved Drawing No. 1237/17 - Proposed Construction Site Plan received 24th January 2024 and Construction Method Statement, received 30th October 2023. The plans include tree protective fencing which I note was absent at the time of my visit, although works appeared to be taking place on site. This serves as a reminder to the applicant that the planning conditions must be complied with in order to avoid planning enforcement action.

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. Crown lifting of trees over the footpath and carriageway: If the clearance of vegetation overhanging the highway only involves the removal of branches to give a ground clearance to the statutory heights of 2.7m over the footpath and 5.5m over the road, this does not require formal consent from the Council. You are advised, however, to give notice to the Council of these intended works in order that they can be agreed.

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)

Please ensure your client 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