



Mr S Arnold
Tree Solutions Arboriculture
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RG40 4RZ

Emma Gee
Executive Director for
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Our Ref: PL/25/0830
Your Ref:

Direct: ☎01189 374294
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10th July 2025

Your contact is:

Amy Daly: Planning, Transport & Public Protection

Dear Mr Arnold

RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO 1NO. CEDAR TREE AT 24 HAWTHORNE ROAD, CAVERSHAM READING, RG4 6LY, OVERHANGING THE CAR PARK OF MILESTONE VIEW COURT, LOWFIELD ROAD, CAVERSHAM, READING, RG4 6ND - T2 OF TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 33/01.

Thank you for your application of 5th June 2025, regarding the above.

You have applied for the following:

- *Reduce overhanging branches on the southern and eastern quadrants as near to the boundary line as practicable.*
- *Remove deadwood >40mm in diameter overhanging the boundary*

For the reason of:

This tree has already dropped major branches leading to an asymmetric canopy opening up potentially weak over-extended branches to an increase of natural forces.

Further to mine and my colleague, Sarah Hanson's visit on 30th June 2025, I have the following comments:

On 4th April 2025, Sarah received an email from a resident of Milestone View Court, expressing concerns regarding the Cedar tree. In 2022, a large branch had failed and fallen from the tree, resulting in damage to the fence and raising health and safety concerns amongst the residents. There were also concerns regarding the tree debris causing an unsightly mess in the car park. Our advice is that trees are inspected on a regular basis so that any potential defects can be identified and appropriate remedial

works can be recommended.

Upon visiting the site, Sarah Hanson and I discussed the feasibility of reducing the overhanging branches back to the boundary line between 24 Hawthorne Road and Milestone View Court. It was noted that the majority of the foliage would be removed from the overhanging branches in order to achieve this, which would pose a detrimental impact to the tree's health. We believe the proposed reduction would also result in an unnatural and uneven canopy shape. The reduction of the branches overhanging the southern and eastern quadrants as near the boundary line as practicable is therefore **refused**.

Sarah and I then agreed on an alternative specification which is listed in the approved works below. We hope this specification helps to alleviate the concerns expressed in the emails from residents yet will not pose a significant negative impact to tree health. We believe the approved works will help reduce the amount of debris in the car park, and balance the canopy's asymmetrical shape, which was a result of the large branch failure in 2022.

You do not need consent to remove deadwood from trees subject to a TPO. Instead, a 5-days' notice is required. We have taken your application to serve as your notice to remove the deadwood from the tree.

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

- Crown lift over the car park of Milestone View Court to 4m above ground level, leaving suitable growth points where possible; remove the identified branch (see Figure 1) back to the boundary line or back to the source with the owner's permission.
- Selectively tip reduce the branches on the southern and eastern aspects that are overhanging the car park of Milestone View Court to match indicative line (see Figure 2 and 3) to form a natural crown shape, ensuring no more than one third of the foliage is removed and leaving suitable growth points



Figure 1 - Identified branch as part of the crown lift



Figure 2 - Indicative branch reduction on southern aspect



Figure 3 - Indicative branch reduction on eastern aspect

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. 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.

If you wish to appeal against any of the refused works or 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 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 this 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

C.c. Ms Burton, Ms Barret, Mr Mailney - Milestone View Court
Chaney's CS - info@chaney's-cs.com