



Mr M Harrison
Harrison Arboriculture
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Basingstoke
RG22 5RG

Emma Gee
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22nd July 2025

Your contact is:

Amy Daly: Planning, Transport & Public Protection

Dear Mr Harrison

**RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO VARIOUS TREES AT LAUD CLOSE, READING, RG1 6RD
ADJACENT TO THE HOLY BROOK - OF TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 2/05.**

Thank you for your application of 3rd June 2025, regarding the above.

You have applied for the following:

- *T3, Tag 4701 - Salix alba (White Willow): Reduce the lower lateral branches overhanging the boundary by 4m and the upper canopy by 2m to reshape retaining the shape and habit of the species.*
- *T10 no tag - Populus trichocarpa (Western Balsam Poplar): Sever Ivy. Remove all deadwood. Prune clear of building (1-1.5m).*
- *T11 Tag 4704 - Populus x canescens (Grey Poplar): Crown lift to 5m over road. Prune 2m clear of building(s). Reduce length of lowest laterals overhanging gardens by 5m and reshape remaining canopy to reshape retaining the shape and habit of the species*
- *T12 Tag 4705 Populus trichocarpa (Western Balsam Poplar): Remove.*
- *T13 no tag Salix caprea (Goat Willow): Prune overhanging limbs back to boundary line*
- *T14 no tag Salix alba (White Willow): Pollard to 3m*
- *T15 Tag 4706 Alnus glutinosa (Common Alder): Remove basal growth. Remove deadwood footpath/road side of canopy. Remove broken hanging branch.*
- *T19 Tag 4709 Platanus X hispanica (London Plane): Prune clear of building (1-1.5m).*
- *T20 no tag Platanus X hispanica (London Plane): Prune clear of lamp column. The tree will not be pruned if not under site ownership.*
- *T21 Tag 4710 Platanus X hispanica (London Plane): Prune clear of lamp column.*

Crown lift to provide clear view of traffic lights. Trees appear to be outside TPO area as denoted on TPO plan (included for avoidance of doubt).

- *T40 Tag 4724 Tilia cordata (Small-leaved Lime): Remove basal growth. Remove epicormics up to 4m. (not within TPO boundary).*
- *T42 Tag 4726 Salix alba (White Willow): Coppice (not within TPO boundary)*

Further to mine and my colleague Sarah Hanson's visit of 18th June 2025, I have the following comments:

The following tree numbers of your application are Council owned trees: T19, T20, T21. However, T19 is listed in the approved works as it overhangs the boundary line of Laud Close.

The following tree numbers of your application are not included in TPO 2/05: T21 and T20 (Council Planes), T40 and T42. The work proposed to these trees does not require consent from the Council and appear reasonable.

The removal of deadwood from trees does not require formal consent. However, we do ask that a 5-days' notice is provided. We have taken your application to serve notice of your intention to remove the deadwood from the trees mentioned above.

You also do not need consent to severe ivy to trees subject to a TPO. We ask that you perform this carefully using hand tools to avoid damage to the bark and cambium layer of the tree.

Some of the work specifications in your application have been amended to improve the clarity. We have also included T18 of your application (T2 of TPO) in the approved works as it would be appropriate to undertake works to this tree at this time.

I can therefore confirm that the following proposed works, as amended in your application, are approved subject to the conditions below and with reference to the annotated photographs provided:

- *Salix alba* T3 of application (G6 of TPO): Reduce overhanging lateral branches growing towards the houses in line with the house side of the main footpath, approximately 4-5m from the closest elevation; reshape remaining canopy to form a natural canopy shape.
- *Populus trichocarpa* T10 of application (G6 of TPO): Reduce branches growing towards the building to provide approximately 1-1.5m clearance.
- *Populus x canescens* T11 of application (G6 of TPO): Crown lift to 5m above ground level over the footpath; reduce branches growing towards buildings to provide approximately 2m clearance; reduce the large over-extended later limb by approximately 5m (you may want to reconsider reducing this as a lesser amount as most of the foliage will be removed); reshape remaining canopy to form a natural canopy shape (see Figure 1); remove broken hanging limb resting on fence (see Figure 2)

- *Populus trichocarpa* T12 of application (G6 of TPO) - Remove or consider leaving a monolith to retain habitat
- *Salix caprea* T13 of application (G6 of TPO): Reduce overhanging branches back to the boundary line.
- *Salix alba* T14 of application (G6 of TPO): Reduce in height (topping) to leave the main stem standing at a height of approximately 3m.
- *Alnus glutinosa* T15 of application (G6 of TPO): Remove basal growth through 360°; crown lift over footpath to approximately 3-4m above ground level; remove broken hanging branch.
- *Platanus x hispanica* T18 of application (T2 of TPO): Crown lift over footpath/stairs to approximately 3-4m above ground level; reduce limbs growing towards the building to give approximately 1-1.5m.
- *Platanus x hispanica* T19 of application (T1 of TPO Council owned): Crown lift over footpath/stairs/grassed area to approximately 3-4m above ground level; reduce limbs growing towards the building to give 1-1.5m.

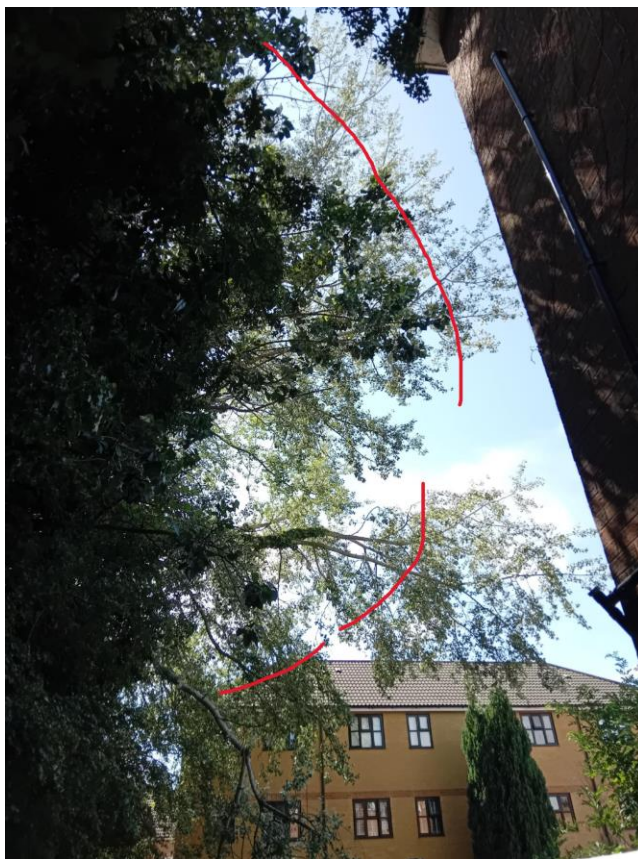


Figure 1 - T11 over-extended limb reduction and reshape of canopy



Figure 2 - T11 broken limb resting on the fence

Whilst we would usually attach a condition to replant a tree subject to a TPO which has been removed, in this circumstance we have waived the replanting condition. There is an abundance of trees within the area, and we expect the retained stump will sprout regrowth.

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.
7. Prior to the severing of well-established Ivy at the base of the tree, it would be prudent to carry out an assessment of whether any of the stems of the Ivy are forming a natural brace above a suspected bark-included union

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