



A Yee
Flat 3
7 Castle Street
Reading
RG1 7SB

Emma Gee
Executive Director for
Economic Growth and
Neighbourhood Services

Civic Centre, Reading, RG1 2LU
☎ 0118 937 3787

Our Ref: PL/25/1127
Your Ref:

Direct: ☎01189 34294
Email: amy.daly@reading.gov.uk

2nd September 2025

Your contact is:

Amy Daly: Planning, Transport & Public Protection

Dear A Yee

**RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO 1NO. BIRCH TREE AT 7 CASTLE STREET, READING, RG1 7SB -
SUBJECT TO CONSERVATION AREA STATUS.**

Thank you for Tree Works Notice of 8th August 2025, relating to the above.

You had stated in your notice that you believe the tree needs to be removed as it '*is significantly leaning and poses a potential safety risk to nearby structures and passers-by.*' We advise to all tree owners that where there are concerns regarding the condition of a tree and potential health and safety risks, that you seek professional advice from an arboriculturalist who will be able to inspect and identify any potential defects and recommend remedial works to help alleviate concerns. It is agreed, from the photographs submitted alongside your notice, that the tree does have a significant lean. The foliage also appears to be sparser than expected.

The tree is not worthy of a TPO and therefore the Council cannot object to the proposed felling.

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

- Birch - fell

As you will be aware, trees contribute to the character of the Conservation Area and as such, these areas are a priority for tree retention and planting in our adopted Tree Strategy. Replacement replanting is therefore encouraged when removing trees in Conservation Areas and I hope this is something that is considered.

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

The works can now be carried out.

Your notice also sought approval to prune a Sycamore tree. However, as stated in my colleague Sarah Hanson's acknowledgement email of 8th August 2025, this tree is subject to TPO 15/19 and thus a tree works application will need to be submitted to obtain approval for any tree work to the Sycamore. We advise professional input is sought when submitting an application so that a clear, reasonable and justified pruning specification can be put forward to alleviate concerns whilst not posing a detrimental impact to the tree's health. At the time of this letter, we are awaiting an application to be submitted.

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'.

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