



Mr G Thompson
63 Alexandra Road
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Emma Gee
Executive Director for
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Your Ref:

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9th September 2025

Your contact is:

Amy Daly: Planning, Transport & Public Protection

Dear Mr Thompson

**RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO 1NO. BEECH TREE AT 63 ALEXANDRA ROAD, READING -
SUBJECT TO CONSERVATION AREA STATUS.**

Thank you for Tree Works Notice of 12th August 2025, relating to the above.

My colleague, Sarah Hanson, enquired to yourself via email on 12th August 2025 regarding the extent of the proposed works. She stated, *'it would seem that pruning to give 2m clearance from the building would effectively take off one side of the tree, or at least a significant portion, (back to the main trunk) given the proximity'*. It would be reasonable to prune tree in such a way to provide adequate clearance between the property and the tree however, clearance of as much as 2m may leave the tree's canopy unevenly weighted on the opposite side and thus leaving it structurally suboptimal.

From Sarah's site visit of 8th August 2025, the 2m distance is approximately level with the outer edge of the exposed geotextile around the base of the tree. Pruning back to this point all the way up the house side of the tree would involve pruning of one of the larger upright stems. It would be prudent to ensure that pruning is limited to removal / reduction of the smaller, lateral branches. You may therefore wish to reconsider this amount of clearance as we appreciate you value the tree, mentioned in your response to Sarah's email. It is considered reasonable to clear the BT wires by 0.5m.

As your notice states *'Pruning to suitable live secondary growth where available in some cases branches may be removed back to main trunk if no suitable growth points are available'*. We advise that when reducing this side of the tree that the branches to be removed/reduced are carefully selected, aiming to retain as much live foliage possible and minimising the size of the pruning cuts. It would be prudent, for the long-term health

of the tree, to avoid creating pruning wounds on any of the main stems (trunk) to limit the onset of decay and to leave suitable growth points where possible to aid in the tree's recovery.

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

- Beech - reduce the branches growing towards the property, to provide approximately 2m clearance from the side of building and over the roof, leaving suitable growth points where possible; reduce the branches growing towards the BT cables to provide 0.5m clearance, leaving suitable growth points.

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

The works can now be carried out.

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'.

3. 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

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