



Mr S Powell
Cressida
The Warren
Reading
RG4 7TQ

Emma Gee
Executive Director for
Economic Growth and
Neighbourhood Services

Bridge Street, Reading RG1 2LU
☎ 0118 9373787

Our Ref: PL/25/1135
Your Ref:

Direct: ☎01189 937 2458
Amy.daly@reading.gov.uk

15th September 2025

Your contact is:

Amy Daly: Planning, Transport & Public Protection

Dear Mr Powell

RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO 1NO. NORWAY SPRUCE TREE AND 1NO. WILLOW TREE AT CRESSIDA, THE WARREN, READING - T2 & T4 OF TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 85/07.

Thank you for your application of 11th August 2025, regarding the above.

Further to mine and my colleague Sarah Hanson's visit of 5th September 2025, I have the following comments:

The Norway Spruce tree proposed to be felled is in poor condition. The majority of the canopy is dead with a small amount of live foliage remaining in the lower canopy. The tree is not expected to recover and there are no options for remedial works. The felling of the tree is therefore considered reasonable. As discussed on site, a replacement tree is required (note condition 5 below). As the land is susceptible to waterlogging the species of the replanted tree must be tolerable of these conditions. The suitable list of species is included in Condition 5.

Whilst on site, we also discussed works to the Willow tree. Due to the large, historic pruning wound on the main stem and an exposed, extensive, longitudinal cavity in one of the primary branches (growing towards the neighbours), it is evident there is a significant amount of internal decay within the tree. Given the inherently weak wood of this species and poor resistance to decay, it would be prudent to undertake some significant weight management of the branches to aim to prevent a significant partial or whole failure of the tree. As discussed on site, you expressed that you would like to retain the tree as it is a feature of your rear garden and thus, we proposed a pollard (effectively topping) at the crown break which has been added to your application. Due to the extent of decay, we recommend the approved works are undertaken as soon as practically possible. It should

be appreciated that the wounds created will be significant and prone to decay hence regrowth will need to be managed by removing it regularly, probably every 3 years.

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 provided:

- T2 Norway Spruce: Fell to ground level
- T4 Willow: Pollard at the crown break (see Figure 1)



Figure 1 - T4 Willow Pollard at Crown Break

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. The approved pollard of T4 Willow tree shall be undertaken in mid-late Summer (July - September) when the tree's energy reserves are at their height or during the Winter months of December - January during the period of dormancy.

Reason: Taking into account the tree's phenological cycle and in order to avoid any unnecessary detriment to the tree as a result of the pruning work.

4. 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

5. Following the felling of the Norway Spruce tree authorised by this consent, 1no. replacement tree of a minimum stock size of 8-10cm in girth & 2.75m in height, shall be planted in the rear garden of Cressida, The Warren during the planting season (Nov-March) following or at the time of the felling of the tree, whichever is soonest. The species shall be agreed with the Natural Environment Team prior to purchase and planting if not selected from the following species:

Taxodium distichum (Swamp cypress)

Alnus glutinosa (Common Alder)

Salix pentandra (Bay-leaved Willow)

Betula pubescens (Downy Birch)

Betula nigra (River birch)

Planting should be carried out in accordance with clause 10 (Planting) of BS 8545:2014 'Trees: from nursery to independence in the landscape - Recommendations'

Should the replacement tree be removed, die or become severely damaged or seriously diseased, all within 5 years of planting, it shall be replaced by a tree of a similar size and species to that originally planted. Modifications to the requirements of this condition must be agreed in writing with Reading Borough Council Natural Environment Team.

PLEASE NOTE: The requirement to replant is the responsibility of the tree owner even if the application was submitted by another person.

Reason: To retain the present visual amenity value of the area and ensure continuity of tree coverage.

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

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/government/topics/trees-and-woodland/tree-preservation-orders-and-trees-in-conservation-areas)

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