



Mr Preston
Beechwood Tree Care Ltd
2 Playhatch Farm Cottages
Playhatch
RG4 9QX

Emma Gee
Executive Director for
Economic Growth and
Neighbourhood Services

Civic Centre, Reading, RG1 2LU
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Our Ref: PL/25/1205
Your Ref:

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24th September 2025

Your contact is:

Amy Daly: Planning, Transport & Public Protection

Dear Mr Preston

**RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO 2NO. BIRCH TREES AT 33 COLEY HILL, READING, RG1 6AE -
SUBJECT TO CONSERVATION AREA STATUS.**

Thank you for Tree Works Notice of 27th August 2025, relating to the above.

As one of the Birch trees (T.1) is dead, the felling is considered reasonable. As per Sarah Hanson's acknowledgment email of 27th August 2025, under Section 213 (1) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, a landowner is under a duty to replace a tree which is removed because it is dead or dangerous. The duty on the landowner is to plant another tree of an appropriate size and species at the same place, as soon as they reasonably can.

In this case the Council would expect a replacement tree of a minimum 10-12cm girth and 3m high (at time of planting) to be planted in the rear garden in the planting season (Nov-March) following or at the time of felling, whichever is soonest. Please ensure the species is agreed with the Council prior to purchase and planting.

As Sarah advised you in her email of 28th August 2025, we are struggling to get Silver Birch trees to establish (climate change resulting in drought conditions in recent years) hence the replacement does not need to be of the same species. A non-native Birch might be a better option (*Betula utilis* or *B. nigra*) or alternatively if your client wishes to input and put a suggestion forward, that's fine - we would expect it to be a species of similar ultimate size to the one removed.

Regarding the other Birch tree (T.2), the BS3998 2010 recommendations state that canopy reductions should be no more than one third (30%). As the reduction proposed is of the maximum recommendation, to give the tree the best chance of recovery after the reduction, I encourage that less than one third of the foliage is removed from the tree.

I can confirm that the Council have no objections to the following proposed tree work and with reference to the reproduced, annotated photograph provided:

- T.1 Birch: Fell
- T.2 Birch: Crown reduce by approximately 30% of leaf area (see Figure 1)



Figure 1 - Birch Reduction

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

C.c Mr Harris, 33 Coley Hill