



Mr D Watts
Goldleaf Treeworks
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Kiln Lane
Binfield Heath
Henley-on-Thames
RG9 4EN

Emma Gee
Executive Director for
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Our Ref: PL/25/1118
Your Ref:

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

30th September 2025

Your contact is:

Amy Daly: Planning, Transport & Public Protection

Dear Mr Watts

**RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO 1NO. CORSICAN PINE TREE AT 15 RIDGE HALL CLOSE,
CAVERSHAM, READING - T20 OF TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 2/09**

Thank you for your application of 7th August 2025, regarding the above.

Further to mine and my colleague Sarah Hanson's visit of 25th September 2025, I have the following comments:

Your application proposes the felling of the Pine tree (T1 Fir of your application, T20 Corsican Pine of TPO), with the reasons stated as being: '*This tree has signs of decay and after removing dead wood would not be worth keeping*'. In support of your application, you provided two photographs; one of the whole tree and one of a trunk/bark wound. In Sarah Hanson's acknowledgement of 7th August 2025, she asked for elaboration on the '*signs of decay*' such that felling was justified. Nicole's initial response advised that '*as you can see in the photo we attached the root has decayed and the crown is looking unhealthy*'. In response to Sarah's email stating that '*two photos had been provided, neither of which demonstrated root decay*', Nicole re-provided the application photos with no commentary.

During our visit, we noted the trunk/bark wound (see Figure 3), which appeared superficial, however it was too high up to carry out any basic inspection for decay and no comment on the confirmed presence, or extent of decay, was provided with your application. As such, it would be unreasonable to agree felling based solely on this.

It was evident that the trees foliage is becoming discoloured (see Figure 1) and a comparison with images of the Pine tree over previous years indicate that the tree's condition is declining as the amount of live foliage has reduced over time.

From a ground inspection using binoculars, we noted the presence of a suspected fungal fruiting bodies, or remains of (see Figure 2), alongside several previous pruning wounds on the main stem, which are not mentioned in your application. Due to the height of these, closer inspection could not be done. It was noted that the main stem lean and the majority of the foliage was above this potential weak point in the stem. These defects combined with the deteriorating condition of the canopy, from which the tree is not expected to recover, means that felling is deemed reasonable.

I note your application also includes the removal of the deadwood from the two other protected Pine trees (G1 of your application, T18 and T19 of TPO). The removal of deadwood from trees subject to a TPO does not require formal consent, hence it is not listed in the approved works below. We have taken your application as notice of your intention to remove the deadwood from these trees.

I can therefore confirm that the following proposed works, as detailed in your application, are approved subject to the conditions below:

- T20 Corsican Pine (T1 of application): Fell to ground level (retaining a monolith if desired - see further comment below)



Figure 1 - Discoloured Foliage



Figure 2 - Suspected Fungal Fruiting Body/Wood Deformity



Figure 3 - Wound in Main Stem

We discussed with Ms Chaplin leaving part of the main stem standing as a monolith. She expressed that she values the tree as it is a feature of her garden and thus, we suggested leaving a monolith for wildlife benefits, or having it carved so the entire feature is not lost. Please discuss the height of the monolith with Ms Chaplin prior to undertaking the works, as it is our understanding she would like to retain the standing timber for a

feature. I would suggest leaving it at a height of approximately 5m for a monolith, however this is her decision to discuss with you. Felling, however, is permitted to ground level in case the retention of a monolith is decided to be undesirable.

In normal circumstances the felling of a tree subject to a TPO requires a replacement as a condition of the consent. However, given there are numerous young, newly planted trees within Ms Chaplin's garden alongside the other two remaining protected Pine trees and the desired retention of a monolith, we have deemed it appropriate to waive this normal requirement.

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

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)

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. Ms Chaplin, Ridge Hall Close