



Dr A Brewster
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Emma Gee
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Our Ref: PL/25/1303
Your Ref:

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7th October 2025

Your contact is:

Amy Daly: Planning, Transport & Public Protection

Dear Dr Brewster

RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO 4NO. LIME TREES AT 21 RIDGE HALL CLOSE, CAVERSHAM, READING - T1-T4 OF TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 3/09

Thank you for your application of 14th September, regarding the above.

You have applied for the following:

Lime T1: Thin crown by 20%, remove dead wood. Lift tree to 5 metres removing epicormic growth from main stem up to 4 metres.

Lime T2: As per Lime T1 above.

Lime T3: As per Lime T1 above

Lime T4: As per Lime T1 above

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

The crown thinning of the Lime trees was discussed during our site visit. We explained that crown thinning is somewhat counter productive as it often leads to the quick regeneration of regrowth in this species. When crown thinning to improve light availability, the regrowth will soon block out any additional light that was created and therefore the desired outcome will not be achieved for long and thus it is not a long-term solution.

The crown lifting and removal of epicormic growth is considered reasonable as it is similar to the works approved in August 2014. We explained that light available into your rear garden will improve as a result of these works hence you agreed to omit the crown thinning from your application.

As T1 has multiple stems which are codominant, some additional works were discussed as we believed weight management may be prudent to reduce the likelihood of future stem failure. As the tree is still in leaf, we found it difficult to identify previous reduction points and thereby struggled to suggest a clear work specification. We advised that we revisit these additional works to this tree during late autumn/winter after leaf fall, when it is clearer to see any previous reduction points.

I advise that when the approved works are undertaken that your chosen tree surgeon inspects any included unions within the trees. I have included the removal of basal/epicormic growth in the approved works to 0.5m above the crown breaks so that any main codominant unions can be properly inspected without visual obstruction.

We have changed the wording of the approved works slightly to improve the clarity and have omitted the crown thinning, which was agreed with yourself during our site visit.

The removal of deadwood from trees subject to a TPO does not require formal consent, however a 5-day notice is required. We have taken your application as your intention to remove the deadwood from the trees when the approved works are undertaken, hence I have not included the removal of deadwood in the approved works below.

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 photograph provided:

- T1 Lime: remove basal and epicormic growth up to 0.5m above the crown break; crown lift remaining branches to 5m above ground level, through 360°, leaving suitable growth points.
- T2 Lime: remove basal and epicormic growth up to 0.5m above the crown break; crown lift remaining branches to 5m above ground level, through 360°, leaving suitable growth points.
- T3 Lime: remove basal and epicormic growth up to 0.5m above the divide in the left stem shown in Figure 1; crown lift remaining branches to 5m above ground level, through 360°, leaving suitable growth points.
- T4 Lime: remove basal and epicormic growth up to 0.5m above the crown break; crown lift remaining branches to 5m above ground level, through 360°, leaving suitable growth points.



Figure 1 - T3 Divide in Left Stem

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

4. 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 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