



Ms S Alexander
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Emma Gee
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Your Ref:

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8th October 2025

Your contact is:

Amy Daly: Planning, Transport & Public Protection

Dear Ms Alexander

RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO VARIOUS TREES AT EASTGATE COURT, READING - OF TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 38/13.

Thank you for your application of 12th August 2025, regarding the above.

You have applied for the following:

*T4576 - Sweet Gum - crown lift to approx 2.5m
T1 - Lime - Grass area - crown lift to approx 2.5m (including epicormic growth & suckers)
T4578 - Yew - Grass area - crown lift to approx 2.5m and reduce lateral branches back from property to provide approx 1.5m clearance
T7508 - Prunus - Grass area - crown reduce removing up to 1m and crown lift to approx 2.5m
T7509 - Prunus - Grass area - crown reduce removing up to 1.5m and crown lift to approx 2.5m*

Further to mine and my colleague Sarah Hanson's visit of 3rd October 2025, I have the following comments:

The works to the Sweet Gum and Yew are considered reasonable as they are for clearance purposes. They are a repeat of those approved in September 2023, with the addition of a crown lift to the Yew. I note the previous approval for the lateral reduction of the Yew was to create 1m clearance from the adjacent property, whilst your application seeks 1.5m clearance, hence the approved reduction is back to the previous pruning points. Whilst I am aware these measurements are approximations; the reduction has been approved to these points as arboriculturally appropriate.

The Lime was not included in the previous approval, however the crown lifting and removal of epicormic growth is also considered reasonable for better clearance above ground.

The previous approved works to the Prunus trees are as follows:

September 2023 (23/1199)

1x Prunus (T7508 on application, T5 of TPO) - reduce lateral branches to provide approx. 1m clearance to telegraph pole.

1x Prunus (T7509 on application, T6 of TPO) - target prune to balance removing up to 1m and crown lift to approx. 2.5m

February 2019 (19/0077)

Formative prune of two Cherry trees (T5 and T6 of TPO 38/13) to the front of Eastgate Court be removing up to 1m canopy radius

The previous reductions targeted clearance and canopy balancing to improve the structure of the trees. I have therefore approved the reductions to the Prunus trees back to their previous pruning points as this was considered reasonable in the previous approvals. The proposed specifications in your application are slightly vague in that it doesn't specifically state a height or lateral reduction; hence approving the reductions back to previous pruning points. It is evident that T7509/T6 is larger than T7508/T5 hence the reduction of the latter has been confined to a lateral reduction only. The crown lifting is considered reasonable for clearance purposes.

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

- Sweet Gum (T4576 of application; T3 of TPO): crown lift to approximately 2.5m above ground level, through 360°, removing secondary growth only and leaving suitable growth points
- Lime (T1 of application; T4 of TPO): crown lift to approximately 2.5m above ground level, through 360°, including the removal of basal growth and epicormic growth from the main stem back to source but otherwise removing secondary growth only and leaving suitable growth points for the growth within the canopy
- Yew (T4578 of application; T1 of TPO): crown lift to approximately 2.5m above ground level, through 360°, removing low epicormic growth from the main stem and then secondary growth only and leaving suitable growth points; reduce lateral branches growing towards the neighbouring property back to previous pruning points to create approximately 1-1.5m clearance, leaving suitable growth points
- 1no. Prunus (T7508 T5 of TPO): crown lift to approximately 2.5m above ground level, through 360°, removing secondary growth only and leaving suitable growth points; reduce lateral branches back to previous pruning points, leaving suitable growth points

- 1 No. Prunus (T7509 of application; T6 of TPO) - crown lift to approximately 2.5m above ground level, through 360°, removing secondary growth only and leaving suitable growth points; crown reduce by 1-1.5m no further than previous reduction points

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 canopy reductions of the two Prunus trees (T5708 & T5709 of application; T5 & T6 of TPO) shall be undertaken in mid-late Summer (July - September) when the tree's energy reserves are at their height and to reduce the likelihood of the trees developing Silver leaf disease

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

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

5. Tree work consents on land not owned by the applicant: It is strongly recommended that the owner of the tree be advised of any proposed works. The owner's permission must be sought if the tree works involve work past the boundary line. This consent does not in any way imply that this Council has informed the owner of sought permission or will condone the use of consents to force any landowner to grant such permission.

6. Crown lifting of trees over the footpath and carriageway: If the clearance of vegetation overhanging the highway only involves the removal of branches to give a ground clearance to the statutory heights of 2.7m over the footpath and 5.5m over the road, this does not require formal consent from the Council. You are advised, however, to give notice to the Council of these intended works in order that they can be agreed.

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)

Please ensure your client receives a copy of this letter as soon as possible

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