



Ms O Grant
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Emma Gee
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Our Ref: PL/25/1163
Your Ref:

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13th October 2025

Your contact is:

Amy Daly: Planning, Transport & Public Protection

Dear Ms Grant

RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO 1NO. CEDAR TREE AT 7A PARKSIDE ROAD, READING - T1 OF TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 66/13.

Thank you for your application of 15th August 2025, regarding the above.

You have applied for the following:

Removal of lowest limb overhanging Ashdene Gardens

For the reasoning:

To give a better shape & balance to the tree & reduce risk of low overhanging branch on the road.

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

Upon visiting the site, it was noted the removal of this branch would remove a significant amount of foliage and thus would reduce the photosynthetic area available for energy production, resulting in a negative impact to tree health. It was also noted that the removal of the entire lower branch that would create a significant pruning wound in the main stem of the tree. The diameter of this branch is approximately one third, if not more, of the diameter of the parent branch (being the main stem in this case), which does not comply with good arboricultural practice. Please refer to Figure 3 & 4 below to view the comparison of branch diameters.

The removal of this branch would thereby risk the onset of decay in the main stem, which should be avoided as decay within the main stem will have a negative impact on tree health and will also risk the structural integrity of the tree in the future as the decay

worsens over time. We are particularly mindful of this as there are existing pruning wounds on the main stem, close to this particular branch, which are likely already inducing internal decay. We do not have anything in our records to account for these removed branches and pruning wounds which is concerning. These previous pruning cuts have also been made flush to the stem, which does also not comply with good arboricultural practice, meaning that the wounds won't be able to occlude and resist the decay/dysfunction of the main stem. Please refer to Figure 3 & 4 below to view the flush pruning cuts.

I also note that the reasonings for the removal of this branch are not considered to be fully justified. The canopy did not appear to be significantly unbalanced and removing this limb entirely would leave the canopy more asymmetrical than it is now. Whilst I appreciate that the branch is overhanging the road, concerns can be alleviated through lesser works which are less detrimental to tree health. Please also note that crown lifting to statutory heights above footpaths and carriage ways can be undertaken without permission from the Council but a 5-days notice is required.

As the proposed works are considered to have an unjustified negative impact to the tree's health, the removal of the lower branch overhanging Ashdene Gardens is therefore refused.

However, there is a scope to undertake some works. In order to reduce the likelihood of branch failure, some weight management of the lowest branch overhanging the road would be prudent. The approved works will also create further clearance between the tree and the adjacent road whilst balancing the crown, which was the reasoning for the works you had proposed.

I can therefore confirm that the following lesser works, are approved subject to the conditions below and with reference to the annotated photographs provided:

- T1 Cedar: tip reduce the lower branch overhanging the road by approximately 1m (see Figure 1 & 2), removing no more than one third of the foliage from the branch, shaping with the remaining canopy to form a natural canopy shape and leaving suitable growth points.



Figure 1 - Approved Reduction of Lowest Branch



Figure 2 - Approved Reduction of Lowest Branch



Figure 3 - Comparison of Branch Diameters and Previous Pruning Wound



Figure 4 - Comparison of Branch Diameters and Previous Pruning Wound

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. 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)

If you suffer any loss or damage as a result of the refused works of consent, you may be entitled to recover compensation from the Council. If you wish to make a claim you must do so within 12 months from the date of this decision (or, if you appeal to the Secretary of State, within 12 months from the date of his decision). Claims should be made in writing to the Insurance Section, Reading Borough Council, Civic Centre, Bridge Street, Reading, RG1 2LU.

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