



Ms N Otigbah
20 Castle Crescent
Reading
RG1 6AG

Emma Gee
Executive Director for
Economic Growth and
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Our Ref: PL/25/1335
Your Ref:

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20th October 2025

Your contact is:

Amy Daly: Planning, Transport & Public Protection

Dear Ms Otigbah

**RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO 1NO. CHERRY TREE AT 20 CASTLE CRESCENT, READING -
SUBJECT TO CONSERVATION AREA STATUS.**

Thank you for Tree Works Notice of 22nd September 2025, relating to the above.

The works proposed for clearance required between the tree, the property and the road/pavement are considered reasonable maintenance of the tree.

I note the proposed canopy reduction in height and spread of the tree is 1.5-2.0 metres (20-25% of current crown volume). From the annotated photographs provided, this would appear to be more than 20-25% of the crown volume described in your notice - I would estimate this as 50% (see Figure 1). It is worth mentioning that you anticipate the tree will remain in good health, to ensure this, I suggest that the tree is reduced by no more than one third which follows the BS3998 recommendations. However, this is for you to consider as the Council cannot object to the proposed works as the tree is not worthy of a TPO, and I am just providing appropriate advice to avoid a detrimental impact on the tree's health.

It is also worth mentioning that Cherry trees are susceptible to Silverleaf disease when pruned in the winter. To minimise the likelihood of the tree developing Silverleaf, I recommend that the works are undertaken in the summer months.

I can confirm that the Council have no objections to the following proposed tree work:

- Reduce overall height and spread by approximately 1.5-2.0 metres (20-25% of current crown volume).

- Lift crown to achieve a minimum of 2.5 metres clearance above footpath and 5.2 metres above roadway
- Crown thin by 15% by removing dead, diseased, and crossing branches within the crown.
- Prune back branches to provide a minimum clearance of 1.0-1.5 metres from the property



Figure 1 - Proposed 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