

The revised proposals have been prepared having regard to Reading Borough Council's Tree Strategy (March 2021), in particular its emphasis on improving species diversity and avoiding over-reliance on any one genus or species, its commitment to predominantly native / wildlife-friendly planting to support biodiversity, and its objectives for resilient planting and effective establishment (regular watering and appropriate maintenance of new trees). The requested details on species mix, stock specification, planting season and watering regime are therefore provided to demonstrate how this small-scale replacement scheme accords with those Strategy aims.

Tree Maintenance Programme – 34 Grosvenor Rd, Caversham

1. Tree Species & Stock Schedule (Replacement Trees)

The following trees are proposed to discharge the replacement tree condition. All will be planted as **standard trees**, meeting or exceeding the minimum stock size defined in Reading Borough Council's Tree Strategy.

Tree Schedule

- 2 × *Pyrus calleryana* 'Chanticleer'
 - Type: Standard tree
 - Girth: 12–14 cm
 - Height at planting: approx. 3.0–3.5 m
- 1 × *Carpinus betulus* 'Frans Fontaine'
 - Type: Standard tree
 - Girth: 12–14 cm
 - Height at planting: approx. 3.0–3.5 m
- 1 × *Amelanchier lamarckii*
 - Type: Standard tree
 - Girth: 10–12 cm
 - Height at planting: approx. 2.5–3.0 m

Extra Shrub Planting

In addition to the above **replacement trees**, a complementary mix of shrubs and understorey planting will be provided to enhance structure and biodiversity within the garden. This will include (but is not limited to):

- *Ligustrum lucidum*
- *Elaeagnus* × *ebbingei* (or similar *Elaeagnus* species)
- *Osmanthus heterophyllus*

These shrubs are proposed as **supplementary planting** and **do not form part of the formal tree replacement schedule**, which is limited to the four standard trees listed above.

2. Planting

- Trees shall be planted in the **first available planting season (September–March)** following completion or first occupation of the development, and in any event no later than the end of the next full planting season after approval.
- All planting shall be carried out in accordance with **BS 8545:2014** (Trees: from nursery to independence in the landscape).

Each tree will be:

- Planted in a **minimum 1 m³ pit** with sides and base broken up and appropriate drainage provided where necessary.
- Backfilled with a **50:50 mix of site topsoil and PAS 100 compost** or an approved tree planting substrate.
- Mulched with a **75 mm deep layer of composted bark mulch** in a minimum **1 m diameter circle**, avoiding contact with the trunk.
- Supported with a **low single or double stake and crossbar** with **flexible rubber ties** and spacers to prevent damage to the bark.
- **Watered in thoroughly at planting** (approx. **40–50 litres per tree**) and during the first few weeks of establishment as required.

Tree stock size

All replacement trees will be planted as **standard trees**, with a **minimum girth of 10–12 cm** and an **approximate height of 2.5–3m** at the time of planting.

3. Years 1–3: Establishment Period

Watering

- Water during dry periods (April–September):
 - **Year 1:** Aim for **40–50 litres per tree once per week** when there has been no significant rainfall for 7 days.
 - **Years 2–3:** Aim for **20–30 litres per tree once per week** in similar conditions.
- Water to be applied slowly within the mulched area to encourage deep rooting.
- Watering visits and approximate volumes to be **recorded**.

Weed and Mulch Management

- Maintain a **1 m weed-free circle** around the base of each tree using hand weeding or carefully targeted spot-treatment (no blanket herbicide use).

- **Top up mulch annually in spring** to maintain a depth of around **75 mm**, keeping mulch clear of the stem.

Inspections

- Inspect trees **at least twice yearly** (with particular attention March–October) for:
 - Signs of stress, wilting or abnormal leaf loss.
 - Damage from pests, diseases or mechanical injury.
 - Stability, root plate movement and condition/tension of ties.

Formative Pruning

- Undertake **formative pruning in late winter** where necessary to remove:
 - Dead, diseased or damaged wood.
 - Competing leaders or poor branch structure.
- All pruning to be carried out in accordance with **BS 3998:2010** (Tree work – Recommendations).

Stake & Tie Checks

- Inspect stakes and ties **at least twice annually** and adjust to prevent constriction.
- **All support structures (stakes and ties) to be removed by the end of Year 3**, or earlier if trees are self-supporting.

4. Years 4–5: Aftercare Period

- Continue **supplementary watering** during prolonged dry spells, especially in periods of high temperature.
- Carry out an **annual visual health check each spring (March–May)** and remedial action as required.
- **Replenish mulch** where bare soil is visible to maintain a protective layer and suppress weeds.
- **Light crown lifting or shaping** may be undertaken to improve form and clearance; no heavy pruning or topping.

Tree Replacement

- Any tree that **dies, is removed, or becomes seriously damaged or diseased within five years of planting** shall be replaced in the next planting season with a tree of the **same species and size specification**, unless otherwise agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority.