



Mr B Ince-Martinez
Tree of Life Arboriculture
18 Yellowhammer Road
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Emma Gee
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Your Ref:

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10 November 2025

Your contact is:

Sarah Hanson: Planning, Transport & Public Protection

Dear Mr Ince-Martinez

RE: PROPOSED FELLING OF ONE ASH TREE AT 9 ELDON SQUARE, READING - SUBJECT TO CONSERVATION AREA STATUS.

Thank you for Tree Works Notice of 30 September 2025, relating to the above, with accompanying photographs.

You have given Notice of the following:

T1 - Ash, fraxinus excelsior:

We propose to fell the self-seeded ash tree because of the severe damage it is causing to the patio and partition wall (photos attached). And also because of its very poor rooting structure and location. It is a reasonably mature tree and has seeded itself in a planter, lifting the base of the tree above ground level. There are large and clear girdling roots at the base. Of course with trees being self-optimising structures it has spread its roots out beyond the planter, into and under the adjacent patio, lifting paving slabs to anchor itself as it has grown, which prevents any refurbishment of the area or repair of the damage. A reduction of the tree would not be suitable because the root and basal system of the tree would still remain in place.

I have not taken whether the tree is self-seeded into account as that is somewhat irrelevant to a tree's value when mature. In addition, whilst I note the lifting of the patio slabs in your photo, this would not be a sufficient reason to fell a good tree as resurfacing could be considered with a more flexible alternative. However, I note the tree's extreme proximity to the boundary wall with No. 7 (leading up to their car parking area) and I am aware that there is damage to the wall, attributed to the tree. In addition, and whilst

you do not mention it as a reason for felling, I can see the poor form of the tree from your photos, in particular the highly questionable fork between two main stems which will detrimentally affect the structural integrity of the tree.

The long-term future of the tree is not sustainable both due to its form and likely continuing damage to the boundary wall (see further comment below) and as such it is not worthy of a TPO hence the Council have no formal objections to its removal.

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

- **Ash (on boundary with No. 7) - fell**

This decision is valid for two years from the date of this letter, after which it lapses.

The works can now be carried out.

I am unaware which property owns the wall, however, removal of the tree should be done with extreme care to avoid further damage to the wall given that both No. 7 and No. 9 are listed properties. No repairs to the wall should be done without first liaising with the owner (if not No. 9) and the Planning Department, with any required consents being obtained first, given the listed nature of the properties and their location within the Conservation Area.

The Ash tree, whilst not worthy of a TPO, is visible from the surrounding streets and adjacent properties, and contributes to the verdant character of the Conservation Area, with such areas being a priority for tree retention and planting to retain this character. I would therefore encourage replanting of an appropriate species in an appropriate place within the curtilage to maintain canopy coverage in line with the objectives of our adopted Tree Strategy.

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. If access for removal is required outside the curtilage of the property, this must be agreed in advance with the relevant landowners. This formal response does not imply agreement to access to land outside the ownership of No. 9 to fell the tree.

If you require any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me on the above number.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Hanson

Sarah Hanson
Natural Environment Officer

C.c. Dr D'Cruz, 9 Eldon Square