



Mrs H Williams
Heights Tree Care
Mayfield
Hazelmoor Lane
Gallowstree Common
RG4 9DJ

Emma Gee
Executive Director for
Economic Growth and
Neighbourhood Services

Bridge Street, Reading RG1 2LU
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Our Ref: PL/25/1432
Your Ref:

Direct: ☎01189 937 2458
Amy.daly@reading.gov.uk

11th November 2025

Your contact is:

Amy Daly: Planning, Transport & Public Protection

Dear Mrs Williams

RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO 2NO. CEDAR TREES AT 1 COURTLANDS, CAVERSHAM, READING - T19 AND T21 OF TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 4/19.

Thank you for your application of 6th October 2025, regarding the above.

You have applied for the following:

T21 of TPO: *T1 Cedar - lateral spread reduction on Cedar on front driveway by approximately 2.5m and removal of snapped limbs and deadwood throughout canopy*
T19 of TPO: *T2 Cedar - lateral spread reduction on Cedar in rear garden by approximately 2m and removal of deadwood throughout canopy*

Upon request, you provided the following reasons for the work in your email of 13th October 2025:

Reduction on T1 is to reduce risk of branch failure over driveway and garage.
Reduction on T2 is to reduce risk of branch failure over patio and garden.

Further to mine and my colleague Sarah Hanson's visit on 23rd October 2025, I have the following comments:

Sarah Hanson and I met with Mr Briggs to assess the application. We discussed some additional works with Mr Briggs that were not included in your application. We discussed the removal of one low branch from T1 (T21 of TPO) back to the main stem (see blue arrow in Figure 2 below). This branch appears to be the remaining half of a forked branch, where the other half of the branch had been removed previously. This has left a significantly sized pruning wound in relation to the remaining branch, leaving an area open to decay and dysfunction. Its structural integrity is questionable and the amount of foliage it bears in comparison to the remainder of the tree is insignificant, its removal is

reasonable and will also help to lift the canopy above the drive. We had also discussed crown lifting T2 (T19 of TPO) to provide clearance from Mr Briggs' pagoda which has also been included in the approved works.

The lateral reductions to both Cedar trees are considered reasonable to reduce the likelihood of failure over the garage, driveway, patio and garden. The removal of the snapped limb in T1 (T21 of TPO) is reasonable as it will prevent the branch from breaking out of the tree and remove any risk it presents. I have slightly amended the wording of the approved works to add further clarity.

The removal of deadwood to a tree subject to a TPO does not require formal consent, hence I have not included it in the approved works, but we note your intention to undertake this to both Cedar trees.

I can therefore confirm that the following proposed works, as detailed in your application and amended on site, are approved subject to the conditions below and with reference to the annotated and reproduced photographs below:

- Cedar T21 of TPO; T1 of application: reduce lateral spread by approximately 2.5m taken from the apex of the garage as shown in Figure 1 below, ensuring no more than one third of the foliage is removed from each branch, leaving suitable growth points and a natural canopy shape; remove snapped branch; remove lowest branch back to source (see blue arrow in Figure 2).
- Cedar T19 of TPO; T2 of application: reduce lateral spread by approximately 2m as shown in Figure 3 below, ensuring no more than one third of the foliage is removed from each branch, leaving suitable growth points and a natural canopy shape; crown lift branches overhanging the pagoda to approximately 1.5m above the height of the pagoda, removing secondary growth only i.e. not removing the main branch growing over the pagoda, and leaving suitable growth points.



Figure 1 - Cedar T21 of TPO; T1 of application: lateral reduction



Figure 2 - Cedar T21 of TPO; T1 of application: lowest branch to be removed back to source



Figure 3 - Cedar T19 of TPO; T2 of application: lateral reduction

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

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 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

C.c. Mr Briggs, 1 Courtlands