



Mr N Cantell
Beechwood Tree Care Ltd
2 Playhatch Farm Cottages
Playhatch
RG4 9QX

Emma Gee
Executive Director for
Economic Growth and
Neighbourhood Services

Bridge Street, Reading RG1 2LU
☎ 0118 9373787

Our Ref: PL/25/1512
Your Ref:

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

20th November 2025

Your contact is:

Amy Daly: Planning, Transport & Public Protection

Dear Mr Cantell

**RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO VARIOUS TREES AT 232 UPPER WOODCOTE ROAD,
CAVERSHAM, READING - T1-T9 OF TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 55/07.**

Thank you for your application of 22nd October 2025, regarding the above.

You have applied for the following:

T.1 Silver Birch: Crown lift to approximately 4m by removing secondary growth only where possible

T.9 Horse Chestnut: Remove 2x low limbs Crown lift to approximately 4.5m by removing secondary growth only where possible

G.3 5x Large trees in rear garden T4, T5, T6, T7 + T8 of TPO: Crown lift to approximately 5m by removing secondary growth only where possible; Remove smaller low level primary limbs if needed to achieve lift and create definition between smaller shrubs, small trees and larger trees

You provided a list of 10 reasons to justify the works, cited in your 'specifications/reasons for work' document submitted alongside your application.

Further to mine and my colleague Sarah Hanson's visit of 6th November 2025, I have the following comments:

During our visit, Sarah and I identified some additional pruning to the work specification relating to the crown lifting, including the removal of identified, low, main branches of the Blue Atlantic Cedar tree (part of G.3 of application, T8 of TPO); minor, main branches of one of the Sycamore trees (part of G.3 of application; T7 of TPO); minor, low, main branches of the Silver Birch tree (T.1 of application; T1 of TPO). These were agreed with Mr Smith.

As discussed with Mr Smith, we have also added a crown lift to the Copper Beech tree (T2 of TPO) on the frontage. We have also included the reduction of the overextended limb that is growing towards the house, and tip reductions the other branches growing towards the house to provide clearance, on the Norway Spruce (T3 of TPO). The works to the Norway Spruce are prudent as Mr Smith informed us that the tree had experienced limb failure previously, and we hope these works will reduce the likelihood of this occurring again. Tip reducing the Deodar Cedar tree (part of G.3 of application; T4 of TPO) was also added to the works, to provide clearance of the roof and chimney of the neighbouring property of 230 Upper Woodcote Road. All the works, both included in your application and those we have additionally included, with Mr Smith's agreement, are considered reasonable as they aim to provide clearance between the trees, ground and structures.

I can therefore confirm that the following proposed works, as detailed in your application with additional works added as agreed with Mr Smith during our site visit, are approved subject to the conditions below and with reference to the annotated photographs below.

- Silver Birch (T.1 of application; T1 of TPO): crown lift, through 360°, to approximately 4m above ground level, removing secondary growth only and leaving suitable growth points but including the removal of three identified branches back to source (see Figure 1).
- Copper Beech (T2 of TPO): crown lift, through 360°, to approximately 4m above ground level, removing secondary growth only and leaving suitable growth points.
- Norway Spruce (T3 of TPO): reduce the branches growing towards the house to provide horizontal clearance of 0.5-1m from the front elevation, including the overextended limb (see Figure 2), ensuring no more than one third of the foliage is removed from the branches, leaving suitable growth points and a natural canopy shape.
- Deodar Cedar (part of G.3 of application; T4 of TPO): crown lift, through 360°, to approximately 5m above ground level, removing secondary growth only and leaving suitable growth points; reduce branches growing towards the roof and chimney of the neighbouring property to provide approximately 1.5m clearance, ensuring no more than one third of the foliage is removed from the branches, leaving suitable growth points and a natural canopy shape.
- 3no. Sycamores (part of G.3 of application; T5, T6 & T7 of TPO); crown lift, through 360°, to approximately 5m above ground level, removing secondary growth only and leaving suitable growth points but, to T7, including the removal of the three lowest and identified small diameter branches back to source (see Figure 3).
- Atlantic Blue Cedar (part of G.3 of application; T8 of TPO): crown lift, through 360°, to approximately 5m above ground level, removing secondary growth only and leaving suitable growth points but including the removal of five identified branches beneath the crown break back to source (see Figure 4).
- Red Horse Chestnut (T.9 of application; T9 of TPO): crown lift, through 360°, to approximately 4.5m above ground level, removing secondary growth only and leaving suitable growth points but including the removal of two identified branches back to source (see Figure 5 and Figure 6).



Figure 1 - Silver Birch (T.1 of application; T1 of TPO): three identified branches to be removed back to source as part of crown lift



Figure 2 - Norway Spruce (T3 of TPO): overextended branch to be reduced



Figure 3 - Sycamore (part of G.3 of application; T7 of TPO): three lowest identified branches to be removed back to source as part of crown lift



Figure 4- Atlantic Blue Cedar (part of G.3 of application; T8 of TPO): five identified branches beneath the crown break to be removed back to source as part of crown lift



Figure 5 - Red Horse Chestnut (T.9 of application; T9 of TPO): three identified branches to be removed back to source as part of crown lift



Figure 6 - Red Horse Chestnut (T.9 of application; T9 of TPO): three identified branches to be removed back to source as part of crown lift

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. 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

5. 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 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 Smith, 232 Upper Woodcote Road