

Mr T Heaps
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Emma Gee
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8th December 2025

Your contact is:

Amy Daly: Planning, Transport & Public Protection

Dear Mr Heaps

**RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO VARIOUS TREES AND SHRUBS AT 3 DOWNSHIRE SQUARE,
READING - SUBJECT TO CONSERVATION AREA STATUS.**

Thank you for Tree Works Notice of 6th November 2025, relating to the above.

The pruning works which are proposed for clearance purposes (T8 Yew, T9 Apple) are considered reasonable maintenance on the trees. The removal of the trees for access purposes (S4 Escallonia) and causing damage to structures (T3 self-seeded Limes) are also considered reasonable if lesser works cannot alleviate these concerns.

The pruning of G1 and G2 to form a 2m high hedge is considered reasonable as they are of species which are suitable to maintain as hedging.

The felling of trees: T5 Cypress, T6 Yew, T7 Cypress, is not supported as whilst I appreciate they are causing damage to the boundary path, using a more flexible paving surface here would allow the trees to be retained and the paving would be less susceptible to displacement from tree root growth and movement. Particularly as I note the existing path is in close proximity to the base of these trees. However, these three trees are not worthy of a Tree Preservation Order and thus the Council cannot object to the felling.

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

- G1 Cherry Laurel, Portugal Laurel, Viburnum & Cotoneaster: trim / clip back into a 2m high hedge
- G2 Cherry Laurel, Holly, Viburnum & Holly: trim / clip back into a 2m high hedge
- T3 Self-seeded group of 3-4 semi-mature trees (or matured suckers): remove

- S4 Escallonia: remove
- T5 Cypress: remove
- T6 Yew: remove
- T7 Cypress: remove
- T8 Yew: crown lift 3.5m above ground level and tip reduce overhanging branches back by 2m
- T9 Apple: remove the majority of the overlong limb growing towards house

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

The works can now be carried out.

As you will be aware, trees contribute to the character of the Conservation Area and as such, these areas are a priority for tree retention and planting in our adopted Tree Strategy. Replacement replanting is therefore encouraged when removing trees in Conservation Areas and I hope this is something that is considered, particularly as there are a significant number of trees being removed in this case.

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'.

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 Woodcock, Downshire Square