



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

Emma Gee
Executive Director for
Economic Growth and
Neighbourhood Services

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Our Ref: PL/25/1515
Your Ref:

Direct: ☎01189 937 2458
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9th December 2025

Your contact is:

Amy Daly: Planning, Transport & Public Protection

Dear Mr Cantell

RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO 1NO. SPRUCE TREE AND 1NO. OAK TREE AT 40 OAK TREE ROAD, TILEHURST, READING - T1 AND T2 OF TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 40/01.

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

Further to mine and my colleague Sarah Hanson's visit of 4th December 2025, I have the following comments:

We met with Mr Campbell to discuss and assess the proposed works. It was noted that the Oak tree's crown condition is sub-optimal. There is a basal wound with potential decay, as mentioned in your application (extent not determined), there are some cavities within the crown (extent not established), and the canopy appeared slightly sparser than that of a healthy tree of its species, particularly towards the tips of the branches.

The proposed crown lifting is reasonable to ensure statutory heights over the public highway is achieved. The crown reduction is considered reasonable to manage the crown dieback. We hope that the proposed reduction will encourage some reactive regrowth to improve the density of the buds/foilage within the crown. We have also approved the pruning of the branches growing towards the overhead wires to provide clearance, as we considered this prudent to avoid future conflict.

The removal of deadwood to a tree subject to a TPO does not require formal consent, hence this is not included in the approved works, but we have noted your intention to undertake this.

We have also added some works to the Spruce tree in the rear garden to the approved works following the discussion with Mr Campbell. Mr Campbell informed us that his neighbours have expressed concerns regarding the Spruce tree and its movement during strong winds. From a cursory ground inspection, the tree appeared to be in good health, and we informed Mr Campbell that it is difficult to identify works to alleviate these concerns without having a detrimental impact to the tree's health and amenity value. However, the canopy of the tree was relatively low, and we have approved a crown lift to this tree to help improve light availability in Mr Campbell's rear garden beneath the canopy.

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

- T1 Spruce: crown lift, through 360°, to the height of the gutter line of the property (see Figure 1), removing secondary growth only, ensuring no more than one third of the foliage is removed from each branch and leaving suitable growth points.
- T2 Oak: reduce in radial spread by approximately 1-1.5m and in height by approximately 0.5m as indicatively shown in Figure 3 and Figure 3 below, ensuring no more than one third of the foliage is removed from each branch and leaving suitable growth points; prune branches growing towards the overhead wires to provide approximately 0.5m clearance by removing small, secondary growth only i.e. not removing structural branches; crown lift to approximately 5.5m above the road, removing secondary growth only and leaving suitable growth points.



Figure 1 - T2 Oak: proposed crown lift and reduction



Figure 2 - T2 Oak: proposed crown lift and reduction



Figure 3 - T1 Spruce: crown lift to the height of the gutter shown

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. The approved canopy reduction to T2 Oak tree shall be undertaken in mid-late Summer (July - September) when the tree's energy reserves are at their height or during the Winter months of December - January during the period of dormancy.

Reason: Taking into account the tree's phenological cycle and in order to avoid any unnecessary detriment to the tree as a result of the pruning work.

4. 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. 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 Campbell, Oak Tree Road