



Mr D White
Whiteknight Tree Care & Consultancy
5 Cressingham Road
Reading
RG2 7RS

Emma Gee
Acting Executive Director for
Economic Growth and
Neighbourhood Services

Bridge Street, Reading RG1 2LU
☎ 0118 9373787D White

Our Ref: PL/25/1732
Your Ref:

Direct: ☎01189 372440
Sarah.hanson@reading.gov.uk

12 December 2025

Your contact is:

Sarah Hanson: Planning, Transport & Public Protection

Dear Mr White

RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO ONE ASH TREE AT 9 STANSFIELD CLOSE, READING - T12 OF TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 18/10.

Thank you for your application of 1 December 2025 regarding the above, with accompanying photographs.

Your application seeks approval to effectively fell the tree, albeit retention of a monolith for ecologic value is intended, due to the presence of multiple brackets of *Inonotus hispidus* (Shaggy polypore) on opposite sides of the main stem at approximately 3m above ground level, and an old *Cerioporus squamosus* (Dryads saddle) on one side, on top of the other bracket.

In relation to the *I. hispidus*, as you will know, the decay/dysfunction resulting from this fungus is associated with branch/stem failure, particularly in Ash. The *C. squamosus* will exacerbate the concern by causing additional decay/dysfunction. The location of the fungal brackets on the main stems, below the crown, questions the structural integrity of the tree and leaves no feasible option to safely 'manage' the tree whilst retaining a useful portion of the crown. I am also aware there are multiple significant pruning wounds on the main stems, most likely with associated decay. Therefore, the proposals are considered reasonable, and the unfortunate loss of the tree mitigated to a certain extent by the proposed monolith.

For clarity, the approval given below is for felling to ground level and any lesser works, which includes the proposed monolith, falls within that approved.

I can therefore confirm that the following proposed works are approved subject to the conditions below:

- T12 Ash - fell to ground level

Officer note: the proposed monolith, as indicated by the annotated photograph provided (reproduced below) is noted and positive for ecological value.



Indicated monolith height

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. Following the felling of the tree authorised by this consent, one native or naturalised broadleaf species of a minimum 8-10cm girth and 2.75m high (at time of planting) shall be planted within the curtilage of 9 Stanfield Close during the planting season (Nov-March) following or at the time of the felling of the tree, whichever is soonest. The species shall be agreed with the Natural Environment Team prior to purchase and planting.

Planting should be carried out in accordance with clause 10 (Planting) of BS 8545:2014 'Trees: from nursery to independence in the landscape - Recommendations'

Should the replacement tree be removed, die or become severely damaged or seriously diseased, all within 5 years of planting, it shall be replaced by a tree of a similar size and species to that originally planted. Modifications to the requirements of this condition must be agreed in writing with Reading Borough Council Natural Environment Team.

PLEASE NOTE: The requirement to replant is the responsibility of the tree owner even if the application was submitted by another person.

Reason: To retain the present visual amenity value of the area and ensure continuity of tree coverage.

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. 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/guidance/tree-preservation-orders-and-trees-in-conservation-areas)

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. Mr Tansley, 9 Stansfield Close