

Mr R Taylor
Estates,
University of Reading
Building 50
Shinfield Road
Reading
RG6 6DQ

Emma Gee
Executive Director for
Economic Growth and
Neighbourhood Services

Civic Centre, Reading, RG1 2LU
☎ 0118 937 3787

Our Ref: PL/25/1727
Your Ref:

Direct: ☎01189 372440
Email: sarah.hanson@reading.gov.uk

22 December 2025

Your contact is:

Sarah Hanson: Planning, Transport & Public Protection

Dear Mr Taylor

RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO TREES AT THE MUSEUM OF ENGLISH RURAL LIFE, REDLANDS ROAD, READING - SUBJECT TO CONSERVATION AREA STATUS.

Thank you for Tree Works Notice of 1 December 2025, relating to the above.

This follows recent tree works notice PL/25/0956, which included one of the trees also included in this new Notice; that being 02PM Maple. You have clarified that following the previous agreement to remove or reduce one low branch due to squirrel damage that further branch failure has occurred, indicating more damage within the crown hence a crown reduction has now been proposed instead.

You have provided additional detail to explain the proposed works and photographs to demonstrate the concerns.

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

- 05UL Holm Oak - Fell Ground Level (and over plant area with mixed native species)
- 02PE Cappadocicum Maple - fell due to trunk cavity, extensive squirrel damage throughout the crown and some previous failures.
- 02PC Norway Maple - Form monolith/pollard structure at approximately 5m due to historic squirrel damage throughout crown with notch stress wounds on most laterals. Remove seedling trees below.
- 02PM Norway Maple - crown reduce by up to 2m
- 02PN Group - Fell Squirrel damaged Norway Maple (group of undergrowth consisting of one Norway Maple <150mm diameter and stump regrowth <75mm diameter all are squirrel damaged - intention is to fell and replace with mixed native species).

The intention to remove dead wood is noted, thank you.

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

The works can now be carried out.

I note your intention to carry out some new planting and hope that this ensures no net canopy cover loss. As you will appreciate, tree cover provides Conservation Areas with their characteristic verdant nature and as such they are priority areas for tree retention and planting.

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

Sarah Hanson

Sarah Hanson
Natural Environment Officer