



Mr M Clive
Beechwood Tree Care Ltd
2 Playhatch Farm Cottages
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Emma Gee
Executive Director for
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Our Ref: PL/25/1705
Your Ref:

Direct: ☎01189 937 2458
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23rd December 2025

Your contact is:

Amy Daly: Planning, Transport & Public Protection

Dear Mr Clive

RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO 1NO. SYCAMORE TREE, 1NO. MAPLE TREE AND 1NO. HORSE CHESTNUT TREE AT 18 PICTON WAY, CAVERSHAM, READING - G1 OF TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 40/03.

Thank you for your application of 26th November 2025, regarding the above.

You have applied for the following:

Crown reduce Sycamore by approximately 20% of leaf area (this equates to reducing the existing crown by up to approximately 1m of the radial crown spread and up to approximately 1m of the height)

Reduce lower northern canopy of Horse Chestnut by 1m over garden

You provided a list of ten reasons to justify the works, mainly aiming to provide clearance from the property and the garden.

Further to mine and my colleague Sarah Hanson's visit of 5th December 2025, I have the following comments:

The Sycamore in your application is actually a Maple, however as discussed with Mr Hammond, works to the Sycamore (adjacent to the Maple) were also identified and are discussed within this letter. For absolute clarity, I have annotated an extract from the TPO plan which indicates the species of each tree and its position in Figure 5 below.

It was noted during our site visit that the canopy of the Maple tree is slightly unbalanced, with the southern portion growing close to the property. The adjacent Sycamore tree is suppressing a portion of the Maple's canopy and thus the Maple's canopy extends further towards the property and adjacent road. The works to the Maple tree are considered

reasonable to create clearance from the property. The tree has also been reduced previously and thus performing similar works is considered reasonable. However, with the canopy slightly unbalanced, it would be appropriate to reduce the suppressed area by a lesser amount than the remaining canopy to try to maintain a balanced crown shape. We have also approved the removal of one small diameter, lower branch. It is the closest branch to the property, and it would be prudent to remove it now whilst it still has a relatively small diameter in comparison to its source (main stem) and so that the pruning wound that remains has the best chance of successfully occluding.

The proposed works to the Horse Chestnut tree are slightly unclear. However as discussed and agreed with Mr Hammond, the specification has been amended to include slightly different and clearer works. The approved works to the Horse Chestnut are considered reasonable as the canopy has more weight on one side, it is reasonable to slightly reduce the branches to create clearance from the neighbouring conifer (not subject to a TPO) and to try to create a more balanced canopy structure.

We also discussed reducing one of the lower branches to the Sycamore with Mr Hammond. He expressed he would like to reduce this branch significantly however this was not in line with good arboricultural practice. We then proposed and agreed an alternative specification to tip reduce this branch to reduce some of the overhang of this branch into his garden, which has been included in the approved works below.

I can therefore confirm that the following proposed works, as detailed in your application and amended/agreed during our site visit, are approved subject to the conditions below and with reference to the reproduced and annotated photographs below:

- Maple (G1 of TPO, Sycamore in application): reduce by approximately 1m in radial spread on the western (growing towards adjacent road) and southern (growing towards the property) cardinals, reducing the remaining radial canopy (suppressed area) by a lesser amount to match with the reduction to the west and south to form a balanced canopy shape (see Figure 1 and 2), ensuring no more than one third of the foliage is removed from each branch and leaving suitable growth points; reduce in height by approximately 0.5m (see Figure 1 and 2), ensuring no more than one third of the foliage is removed from each branch and leaving suitable growth points; remove identified branch back to source (see Figure 3)
- Horse Chestnut (G1 of TPO): reduce lateral branches growing towards the adjacent conifer to create approximately 1m clearance (see Figure 4), ensuring no more than one third of the foliage is removed from each branch and leaving suitable growth points.
- Sycamore (G1 of TPO): tip reduce identified lower branch (see Figure 4) by approximately 0.5-1m, ensuring no more than one third of the foliage is removed and leaving suitable growth points



Figure 1 - Maple: 0.5m height reduction; 1m radial reduction (reducing by a lesser amount on the suppressed section)



Figure 2 - Maple: 1m radial reduction (reducing by a lesser amount on the suppressed section)



Figure 3 - Maple: identified branch to be removed back to source (main stem)



Figure 4 - Sycamore (left - red arrow): identified branch to be reduced by 0.5-1m; Horse Chestnut (right - indicative red line): reduction to create 1m clearance from the adjacent conifer

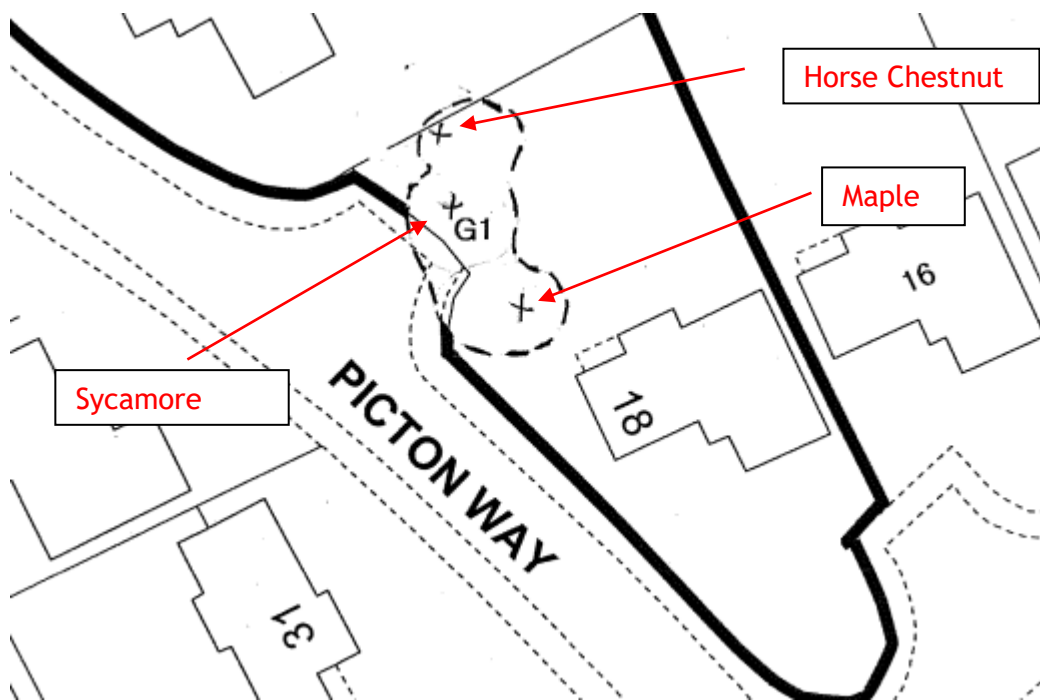


Figure 5 - TPO extract of tree species and location in G1

As an aside, Mr Hammond expressed that he was intending to have the works undertaken in February. However please note the requirements regarding the timing of canopy reductions in Condition 3 below.

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 reductions to the Maple and Horse Chestnut within G1 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. 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)

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 Hammond, Picton Way