



Mr B Sahota
Greenfingers Grounds Maintenance
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Emma Gee
Executive Director for
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Our Ref: PL/25/1692
Your Ref:

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23rd December 2025

Your contact is:

Amy Daly: Planning, Transport & Public Protection

Dear Mr Sahota

RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO 1NO. WILLOW TREE AT REGENTS RIVERSIDE, BRIGHAM ROAD, READING -T1 OF TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 45/06.

Thank you for your application of 25th November 2025, regarding the above.

Your application initially sought approval to '*Reduce canopy width to provide a few metre buffer between tree and building*'. Following your email exchange with Sarah Hanson, this was amended to reflect previous management and requirements.

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

Your application proposes to reduce the tree and undertake a crown lift. Upon visiting this site, it was noted that the tree has been previously maintained as a pollard with clear previous pruning points. Reducing/re-pollarding the Willow back to its previous reduction/pollard points is considered reasonable maintenance of the tree, as this is how the tree has been maintained previously. The approved reduction/re-pollard will also crown lift the tree, with all the newer growth being removed including that close to the ground.

We also noted that the tree is covered in ivy which has grown into the crown of the tree. Where the tree has been maintained as a pollard and is of a species that does not resist decay and occlude pruning wounds well, it is likely that there is some decay (extent not determined) within the trees structure. Also being a species with brittle timber, and ivy being a very heavy climbing plant, it is important that the ivy is managed so the mechanical stress on the trees structure is reduced, also making inspection easier. As pruning points are entry points for decay, I advise that when your chosen tree surgeon

undertakes the works, that they inspect the previous pruning points and assess the extent of any potential decay. Whilst you do not need formal consent to remove ivy from trees subject to a TPO, I have included it in the approved works for ease of reference. We kindly ask that this is undertaken carefully using hand tools to prevent any damage to the bark and cambium layer of the tree.

I can therefore confirm that the following proposed works, as assessed during our site visit, are approved subject to the conditions below and with reference to the annotated photograph below:

- T1 Willow: reduce/re-pollard back to previous pruning points (see Figure 1 for examples of previous pruning points), leaving 25mm stubs for any growth being removed that is more than 25mm in diameter to aid regrowth; sever ivy at ground level and 1m above ground level, through 360°, removing the ring of ivy around the main stem between the severed points.



Figure 1 - T1 Willow: previous pruning point examples

Please note that the tree should be regularly inspected (I suggest annually) due to its location in a high footfall area and it will need to be reduced again in 3-5 years (depending on re-growth) as appropriate management of the regrowth.

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/re-pollard to T1 Willow 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. Tree work consents on land not owned by the applicant: It is strongly recommended that the owner of the tree be advised of any proposed works. The owner's permission must be sought if the tree works involve work past the boundary line. This consent does not in any way imply that this Council has informed the owner of sought permission or will condone the use of consents to force any landowner to grant such permission.

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.

6. Prior to the severing of well-established Ivy at the base of the tree, it would be prudent to carry out an assessment of whether any of the stems of the Ivy are forming a natural brace above a suspected bark-included union

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)

Please ensure that your client and/or landowner receives a copy of this letter as soon as possible.

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