



Mr N Comery
5 The Beeches
Tilehurst
Reading
RG31 6RG

Emma Gee
Executive Director for
Economic Growth and
Neighbourhood Services

Bridge Street, Reading RG1 2LU
☎ 0118 9373787

Our Ref: PL/26/0015
Your Ref:

Direct: ☎01189 937 2458
Amy.daly@reading.gov.uk

20th January 2025

Your contact is:

Amy Daly: Planning, Transport & Public Protection

Dear Mr Comery

RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO 1NO. BEECH TREE AT 5 THE BEECHES, TILEHURST, READING - PART OF G1 OF TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 133/06.

Thank you for your application of 7th January 2026, regarding the above.

Further to my visit on 15th January 2025, I have the following comments:

During my site visit, the felling of the Beech tree was discussed. There is clear evidence of decay throughout the canopy and main stem. There are several cavities and fungal fruiting bodies present (see Figure 1,2 &3 below). In some areas, the bark is cracking and exposing the inner layers of the tree's wood. The tree's structural integrity is questionable and there unfortunately isn't any scope to carry out any remedial works, as the tree's condition is not expected to improve given the extent of the decay and the defects present. The tree has been reduced previously, but any further reduction is not expected to improve the tree's health. The felling is therefore considered reasonable.

We also discussed the felling of two Larch trees within G1. You informed me that one of the other Larch trees had failed recently. Larch trees (*Larix decidua*) are a deciduous, coniferous species which are not in leaf at this time of year, making it difficult for me to assess the trees' condition, particularly the condition of the foliage. I advised that we revisit once the trees are in leaf, so that the condition of the trees can be fully assessed.

I can therefore confirm that the following proposed works, as detailed in your application, are approved subject to the conditions below:

- 1no. Beech: fell and retain a monolith at approximately 4m in height.



Figure 1 - evidence of fungal fruiting bodies



Figure 2 & 3 - evidence of cavities and cracking of bark

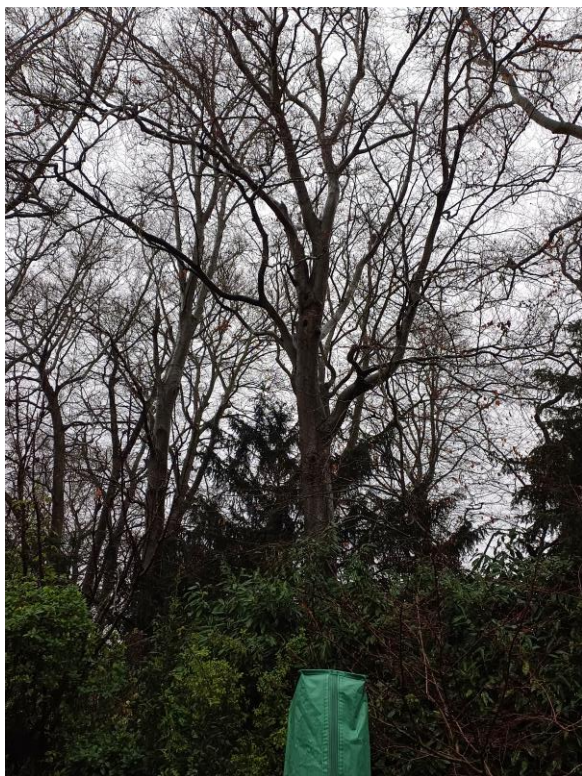


Figure 4 - Beech tree approved to be felled

In normal circumstances the felling of a tree subject to a TPO requires a replacement as a condition of the consent. However, given there are numerous young, newly planted trees within the woodland area of your garden alongside several other and densely populated, protected trees, and a monolith is to be retained, I have deemed it appropriate to waive this normal requirement.

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

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

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-and-trees-in-conservation-areas)

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