



Mr D White
White Knight Tree Care & Consultancy
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Emma Gee
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Your Ref:

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11th February 2026

Your contact is:

Amy Daly: Planning, Transport & Public Protection

Dear Mr White

RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO 4NO. HORSE CHESTNUT TREES AT AUGUST END, READING - T2, T3, T8 & T9 OF TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 138/05.

Thank you for your application of 6th January 2026, regarding the above.

You have applied for the following:

T2 (horse chestnut): crown reduction removing 2-4m of branch length in order to lessen sail area and reduce weight on significantly extended limbs, reshaping crown into more uniform shape .Remove major deadwood

T3 (horse chestnut): crown reduction removing 2-4m of branch length in order to lessen sail area and reduce weight on significantly extended limbs, reshaping crown into more uniform shape. Remove major deadwood

T8 (horse chestnut): crown reduction of 1-2m with significantly extended limbs on north and south sides of crown by 2-3m to blend into remaining crown. Remove major deadwood.

T9 (horse chestnut): crown reduction of 1-2m with significantly extended limbs on north and south east sides of crown by 2-3m to blend into remaining crown and ensure clearance to street light. Remove major deadwood

Your application is supported by a Tree Report from Arborwood Solutions Tree Services, dated 12th September 2025, and annotated photographs.

Further to mine and my colleague Sarah Hanson's visit in October 2025 (to assess the previous, withdrawn application), and with reference to the Tree Report I have the following comments:

It is noted that your proposals differ from those in the Tree Report and in relation to T8 & T9 (T3 & T4 of Tree Report respectively) include a reduction which the report does not. Clarity was therefore sought on this in Sarah's email to you of 7th January 2026 and you provided the required information on the same date. The report is helpful in assessing the condition of the trees, noting the defects present and it is assumed that you have taken this and added to your own observations to devise a pruning specification.

The reduction of all four Horse Chestnut trees is proposed following the defects identified during aerial inspections of each individual tree, which are detailed in the Tree Report.

Horse Chestnut T2 (T1 of the Tree Report) has questionable structural integrity. The tree has historically been pollarded and as a result there are many upright, leading branches to which the Tree Report has identified several defects, including fractures in the timber, cavities and comprised unions. The tree is also displaying symptoms of Horse Chestnut Bleeding Canker. The reduction of this tree is considered reasonable to manage the weight load on the branches and hopefully reduce the likelihood of future branch/tree failure.

Horse Chestnut T3 (T2 of the Tree Report) has been identified to have similar defects to that of T2 (T1 of the Tree Report), which makes its structural integrity questionable. Fungal fruiting bodies have also been identified at the base of this tree during our site visit, and shown on your photographs, which indicates the presence of some possible internal decay occurring within the tree. The reduction of this tree is considered reasonable as a form of weight management.

It should be noted that T2 & T3 (T1 and T2 of the Tree Report respectively) are adjacent to one another and thus their individual canopies are suppressed by one another in the area between the bases/main stems of the two trees. But together both trees form one balanced, natural canopy shape. The reductions should therefore focus on shaping both trees to maintain the natural canopy shape formed by both trees and any reductions of the branches in the suppressed area should be minimal, as the branches are significantly shorter here than that of the remaining canopy areas - your annotated photographs indicate that this has been considered. Although, the reduction of some of the branches in the suppressed area may be necessary due to the weight load, characteristics and defects of each branch.

Horse Chestnut trees T8 & T9 (T3 & T4 of Tree Report respectively) are notably smaller in size than T2 & T3 (T1 and T2 of the Tree Report respectively) as a result of having been previously topped/pollarded. The presence of decay and thereby cavities which have established from old pruning wounds and branch failures were identified in the Tree Report. Reducing these trees is also considered reasonable to manage the weight of the branches to hopefully reduce the likelihood of future branch failure.

These trees are similar to T2 & T3 (T1 and T2 of the Tree Report respectively) in that they are adjacent to one another, and the canopies have become suppressed on the side between the two trees. But the two trees together form one balanced, natural canopy shape. The reductions should therefore focus on sympathetically reducing both canopies to form one balanced canopy shape, with only minimal reductions of the suppressed area

where it is deemed necessary to reduce the weight load on any branches of which their structural integrity is questionable - again your annotated photographs indicated you have considered this. The reduction of T9 will also provide clearance from the adjacent streetlight, as mentioned in your application.

You do not need formal consent to remove deadwood from trees subject to a TPO, hence this has not been included in the approved works. However, we have noted your intention to undertake this to all four Horse Chestnut trees.

I can therefore confirm that the following proposed works, as detailed in your application, are approved subject to the conditions below and with reference to the annotated photographs provided with your submissions below:

- T2 & T3 Horse Chestnuts (T1 and T2 of the Tree Report respectively): reduce in height and lateral spread by approximately 2-4m, in accordance the indicative reductions shown in Figures 1,2,3,4 & 5, to create a natural and balanced canopy shape, leaving suitable growth points.
- T8 & T9 Horse Chestnuts (T3 and T4 of the Tree Report respectively): reduce in height and lateral spread by approximately 1-2m, with the extended branches growing towards the north and south (T8)/south east (T9) being reduced by approximately 2-3m, in accordance with the indicative reductions shown in Figures 6,7,8 & 9, to create a natural and balanced canopy shape, leaving suitable growth points.

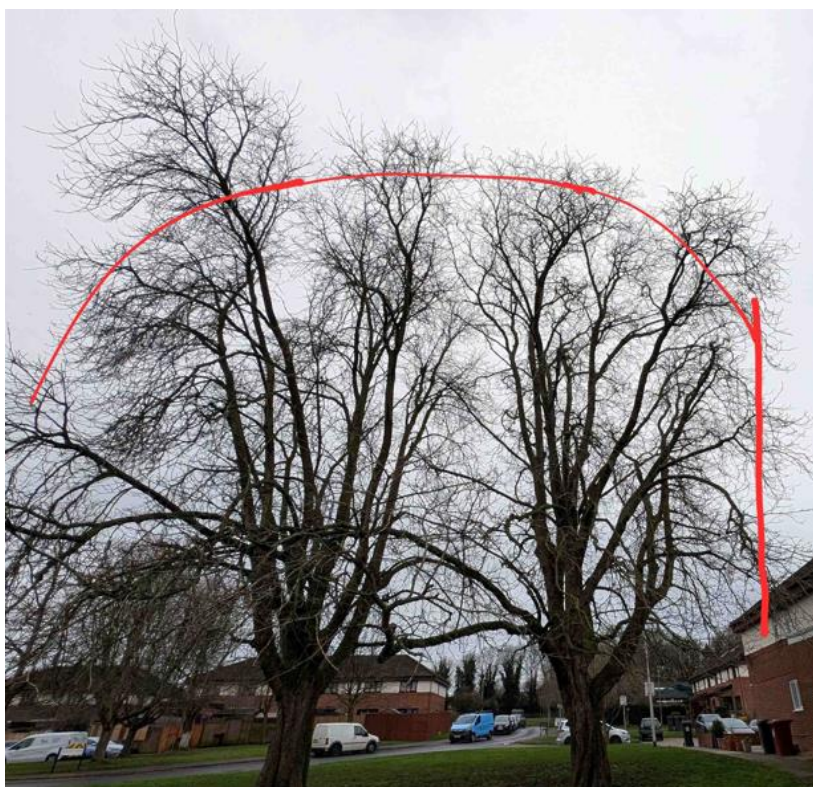


Figure 1 - T2 & T3: indicative reduction

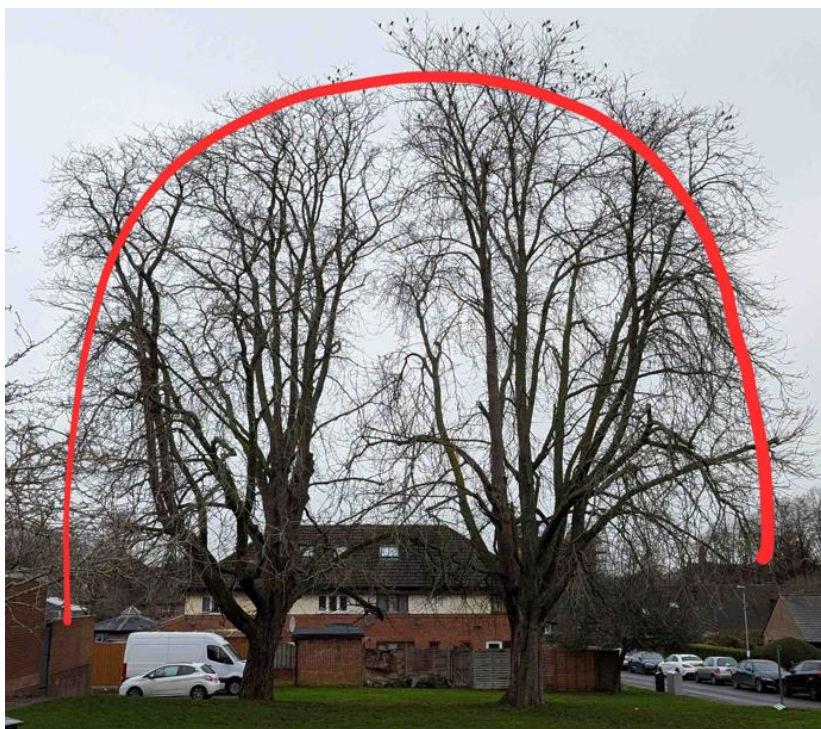


Figure 2 - T2 & T3: indicative reduction



Figure 3 - T3: indicative reduction

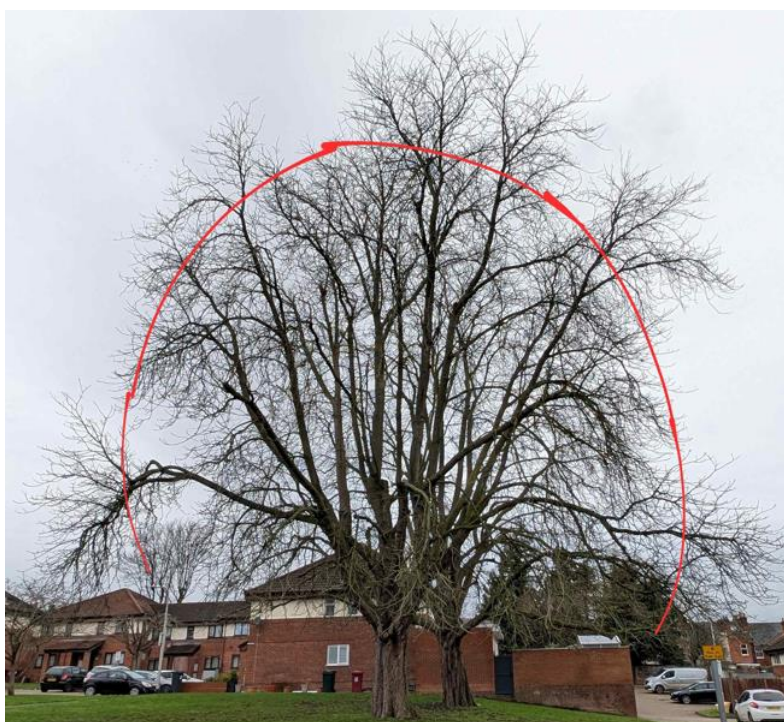


Figure 4 - T3: indicative reduction



Figure 5 - T2: indicative reduction



Figure 6 - T8: indicative reduction



Figure 7 - T8: indicative reduction



Figure 8 - T9: indicative reduction



Figure 9 - T9: indicative reduction

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 four Horse Chestnut trees T2, T3, T8 and T9 of the TPO 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.

5. 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.

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)

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. Chaney's