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Emma Gee  
Executive Director for  
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Our Ref: PL/26/0094  
Your Ref:

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

13<sup>th</sup> March 2026

Your contact is:

Amy Daly: Planning, Transport & Public Protection

Dear Mr Dackombe

**RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO 7NO. LIME TREES AND 5NO. PLANE TREES AT THAMES VALLEY POLICE, CASTLE STREET, READING - T1-T12 OF TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 6/23.**

Thank you for your application of 26<sup>th</sup> January 2026, regarding the above.

Your application initially sought approval for works identified through the Tree Survey Report, 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2025. Report No. G&TS/SR/0039, which you submitted alongside your application. However, during mine and my colleague Sarah Hanson's visit of 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026, we identified further works that would be appropriate to undertake to the Lime trees, specifically re-pollarding, in order to manage them in an appropriate, arboricultural manner, which would be appropriate within the two years this decision notice is valid.

Following our site visit, we proposed an alternative work specification to include further works and to reword some of that proposed for clarity purposes. I emailed you with our proposed work specification on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2026 and you confirmed on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2026 that your consultants have agreed to amend the specification to that we proposed, which are specified in the approved works below.

The re-pollarding of the Lime trees is considered reasonable, being maintained as pollards, re-pollarding is appropriate cyclical management of the trees (see Officer note below approved works). The basal and epicormic removal of the Lime trees, the reduction of lateral branches to provide clearance from the adjacent building to the Plane trees, as well as the crown lifting of the Lime and Plane trees, are all considered reasonable to ensure there is adequate clearance between the trees and buildings and to give adequate clearance above the ground (including footpaths and highways).

We have considered it appropriate for the approve to include the removal of the basal and epicormic growth to the Lime trees twice a year. This is because this species of Lime produces basal and epicormic growth rapidly compared to other species. This saves repeat applications for frequently required and reasonable works

The severance of ivy and deadwood removal does not require formal consent; however, we have noted your intention to undertake deadwood removal to Plane trees T1-T5 and ivy severance to T4 Plane tree. The crown lifting and ivy severance to T4 Plane tree will provide clearance from the adjacent road sign, mentioned in your application. We kindly ask that ivy severance is undertaken with care, using hand tools to avoid any damage to the bark and cambium layers of the tree.

I can therefore confirm that the following proposed works, as identified following our site and thereafter agreed via email exchanges, are approved subject to the conditions below and with reference to the annotated photographs below:

- 7no. Lime trees (T6-T12 of the TPO; trees 2-8 of the survey): re-pollard at previous pollard points (see Figure 1 for examples of previous pollard points), leaving 25mm stubs to aid regrowth, for one operation; crown lift, through 360°, to 3m above ground level including the removal of all basal and epicormic growth (see Figure 2 for examples of this growth), removing secondary growth only and leaving suitable growth points, twice a year for the next five years
- 4no. Plane trees (T1-T4 of TPO; trees 11, 14, 17 & 20 of the survey): reduce branches growing towards the buildings to create approximately 3m clearance from the nearest elevation, removing secondary growth only and leaving suitable growth points; crown lift, through 360°, approximately 5.5m above ground level, removing secondary growth only where possible and leaving suitable growth points.
- 1 No. Plane tree (T5 of TPO; tree 10 of the survey) - crown lift, through 360°, approximately 5.5m above ground level, removing secondary growth only where possible and leaving suitable growth points.

*Officer note: As discussed during our email exchange, it may be beneficial to the street scene to retain some green growth, so alternate Lime trees could be re-pollarded this year, and then the remaining Lime trees the following year, however it is appreciated that arranging all works in one operation may be preferable. We also noted Magpie's appear to be nesting within the canopy of TPO T10 Lime tree, so please ensure your chosen tree surgeon is aware of this and does a thorough check of all trees before undertaking any tree work (note informative 3 below).*



Figure 1 - Examples of Pollard Points on Lime Trees



Figure 2 - Examples of Basal and Epicormic Growth on Lime trees

## Conditions

1. Five days' notice in writing shall be given to the Council prior to undertaking the approved works, including on each occasion of basal and epicormic growth removal.  
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 re-pollarding of 7no. Lime trees T6-T12 (of TPO) shall only 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 of the Plane trees (as per the approved specifications), one operation of re-pollarding of the Lime trees (as per the approved specification) to be undertaken within two years from the date of this notice, after which the consent lapses and a new application will be required, and two operations per year of the crown lifting including basal/epicormic removal of the Lime trees (as per the approved specification), to be undertaken within five 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. 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.

6. 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.

7. 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](mailto: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