



Mrs S Cooper  
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Emma Gee  
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Our Ref: PL/26/0063  
Your Ref:

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26<sup>th</sup> March 2026

Your contact is:

Amy Daly: Planning, Transport & Public Protection

Dear Mrs Cooper

**RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO 2NO. ASH TREES AT THE HEIGHTS PRIMARY SCHOOL,  
GOSBROOK ROAD, READING - G1 OF TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 7/08.**

Thank you for your application of 21<sup>st</sup> January 2026, regarding the above.

Further to my visit on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2026, and the Planning Applications Committee on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2026, and with reference to the Tree Inventory Report, 21<sup>st</sup> January 2025, I have the following comments:

The proposed felling of the 2no. Ash trees has unfortunately been determined as the only option for works following the defects identified in the report. The trees in question are classified as two trees but appear to share the same buttress and suspected to share some of their rooting systems. However, the specimens divide into two individual trees very close to the ground level and thus has been classified as two individual trees. *Ganoderma* fungal fruiting bodies have been identified on both Ash trees, indicating the presence of internal decay and that their structural integrity is questionable. They have been significantly reduced in the past, and the canopies are of low vitality with tip die back present (suspected Ash Die Back), and significant deadwood present. Given these defects, tree health is not expected to improve through lesser works i.e. a further reduction, and thus felling has been determined as the only option. Please refer to the Figures 1,2 & 3 below which show the tree defects identified to justify the felling.

I can therefore confirm that the following proposed works, as detailed in your application and as agreed at Planning Applications Committee, are approved subject to the conditions below:

- G1 2no. Ash trees: Fell to ground level



**Figure 1 & 2 - Fungal Fruiting Bodies**

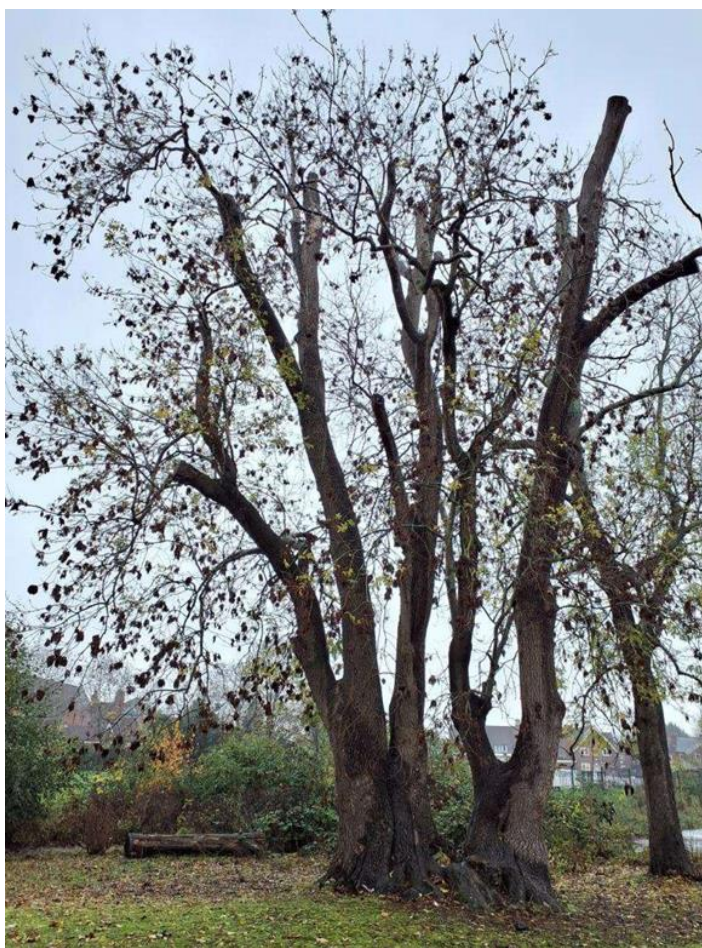


**Figure 3 - Low Vitality Canopy; Significant Deadwood**

Your submissions put forward specific replanting plans, which were positive insofar as providing a net gain in tree number. There have been some questions raised about the land on which the existing and replacement trees are proposed which need to be resolved through internal discussion, hence the wording of condition 3.

### 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. Following the felling of G1 (2no. Ash trees) authorised by this consent, 2no. replacement trees of a minimum 8-10cm girth and 2.75m in height (at time of planting), of a broadleaf species, shall be planted during the planting season (Nov-March) following or at the time of the felling of the tree, whichever is soonest. The locations and species of the replacement trees shall be agreed with the Natural Environment Team prior to purchase and planting.

Planting should be carried out in accordance with clause 10 (Planting) of BS 8545:2014 'Trees: from nursery to independence in the landscape - Recommendations'

Should the replacement tree be removed, die or become severely damaged or seriously diseased, all within 5 years of planting, it shall be replaced by a tree of a similar size and species to that originally planted. Modifications to the requirements of this condition must be agreed in writing with Reading Borough Council Natural Environment Team.

PLEASE NOTE: The requirement to replant is the responsibility of the tree owner even if the application was submitted by another person.

Reason: To retain the present visual amenity value of the area and ensure continuity of tree coverage.

### 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. 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](mailto: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)

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 D Johnson, Arboriculture Contracts Manager, Reading Borough Council