



Mrs R Wasylciw
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Emmer Green
Reading
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Emma Gee
Executive Director for
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Our Ref: PL/26/0118
Your Ref:

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

26th March 2026

Your contact is:

Amy Daly: Planning, Transport & Public Protection

Dear Mrs Wasylciw,

RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO 1NO. BEECH TREE AT 41 SURLEY ROW, EMMER GREEN, READING - T1 OF TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 1/25.

Thank you for your application of 29th January 2026, regarding the above.

Further to mine and my colleague Sarah Hanson's visit of 27th February 2026, I have the following comments:

Sarah and I met with you to assess the proposal as the pruning specification provided was slightly vague and we wanted to assist you with achieving the desired outcome whilst minimising the impact any pruning would have on the tree's health.

You mentioned in your application form and during our site visit that you would like to remove some of the lower branches to create adequate clearance from the ground to facilitate a parking space beneath the tree's canopy. It was agreed during our visit that the five lowest branches could be removed from the main stem, as they are less than one third of the diameter of their source/parent branch (the main stem). This will create an adequate and a reasonable level of clearance between the tree and the ground, whilst following good arboricultural practice. It is best to remove these branches whilst they are still relatively small in diameter and to minimise the size of the pruning wounds, which can be entry points for decay/dysfunction. From a cursory ground inspection, the tree appeared to be in good health, and we hope that these pruning wounds will successfully occlude and thereby reduce the likelihood of decay/dysfunction occurring within the in the main stem.

It was also mentioned in your application form that you would like to make the Beech tree a more symmetrical shape as you stated it was unevenly weighted on one side due to it having a tree in close proximity to it, thereby suppressing it, and one of these trees has since been removed. We assessed the tree and did not agree the tree was significantly unbalanced and had a natural canopy shape (not completely symmetrical, but still natural given suppression from adjacent trees). Although some branches in the middle canopy growing towards the adjacent Yew tree, extended past the main middle/lower canopy line on this side of the Beech tree.

You had proposed to laterally reduce the tree to create a more balanced structure and provided an annotated photograph which indicated a significant reduction that would result in the Beech tree having an unnatural canopy shape. Reducing trees significantly requires arboricultural justification as reductions confine trees to a forever lesser size and thereby lesser amenity value, whilst also posing a significant impact to tree health. We haven't considered it appropriate to reduce the Beech tree in such a way with no arboricultural grounds to support this; reductions for aesthetic purposes are not considered justified in relation to the potential negative impact to tree health. However, we did agree that two of the lateral branches can be reduced to create adequate clearance from the adjacent protected Yew tree and will also help to form a more uniform canopy shape on this side of the tree.

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

- T1 Beech tree: removal of the 5no. lowest identified branches back to source (see Figure 1); reduce 2no. lateral branches growing towards the adjacent Yew tree to create approximately 1.5-2m clearance (see Figure 2), marrying with the upper identified branch's previous pruning point (see arrow in Figure 2), to create a flowing crown line, leaving suitable growth points.



Figure 1 - 5no. identified lower branches to be removed at their source



Figure 2 - identified upper branch that has been previously reduced (red arrow) and indicative reduction of the two lower lateral branches to create 1.5-2m clearance from the adjacent Yew, marrying with the upper branch's previous pruning points

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. 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. 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

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-hedges)

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