



Ms P Paul
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Emma Gee
Executive Director for
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Our Ref: PL/26/0134
Your Ref:

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30th March 2026

Your contact is:

Amy Daly: Planning, Transport & Public Protection

Dear Ms Paul

RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO 1NO. SYCAMORE TREE AT 8 DARELL ROAD, CAVERSHAM, READING, OVERHANGING THE REAR BOUNDARY OF 27 COPPERFIELDS, CAVERSHAM, READING - T7 OF TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 5/05.

Thank you for your application of 2nd February 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 visited to assess the works proposed. You had stated that you wanted to remove two branches overhanging your garden. The extent of these branch removals were slightly unclear and the potential impact this may have to tree health. During our visit we discussed that you would like to remove some branches as they are overshadowing your garden, also mentioned in your application form.

We had concerns that the larger branch proposed to be removed would leave a significantly sized pruning wound, being more than one third of the diameter of its parent branch. Sycamore trees are a species which are not particularly good at resisting decay in comparison to other species and thus focusing on minimising the size of the pruning wounds is important. From a cursory ground inspection, there are several existing pruning wounds on the main stem which have not successfully occluded; so, a level of decay occurring within the tree is likely and thus entry points for further decay, particularly within the tree's structural branches, should be avoided/minimised where possible.

The majority of the foliage is on the tips of the branches and there aren't any other suitable growth points to reduce this branch to. A tip reduction would not significantly improve the light availability into your garden and there were no suitable growth points to

reduce the branch to that would help achieve the desired outcome. We came to an agreement that the branch could be removed but that a stub would be left (see Figure 1 below) to avoid a significant pruning wound (with potential for future decay) close to a main, structural branch.

The removal of the smaller branch is considered reasonable as it is small in diameter, being much less than one third of the diameter of the parent branch which follows good arboricultural practice and will remove this branch from overhanging into your garden, whilst not posing a significant impact to the tree's health.

I can therefore confirm that the following proposed works, as detailed in your application but amended as agreed following our site visit, are approved subject to the conditions below and with reference to the annotated photographs below:

- T7 Sycamore: reduce identified branch in Figure 1 back to approximately 1m from its point of origin, as shown in Figure 1; remove identified branch in Figure 2 back to source.



Figure 1: reduction of branch back to the point identified to leave a long stub.



Figure 2: removal of identified branch back to source

As indicated above, there are numerous pruning wounds on the trunk, with expected associated decay / dysfunction. As advised, it would be prudent to have these investigated to determine the extent of decay - multiple wounds on a trunk like this can coalesce to form a column of decay.

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
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-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