



Mr T Yeulet
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RG4 6HL

Emma Gee
Executive Director for
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Our Ref: PL/26/0125
Your Ref:

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

1st April 2026

Your contact is:

Amy Daly: Planning, Transport & Public Protection

Dear Mr Yeulet

RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO 7NO. BEECH TREES AT 102 HENLEY ROAD, CAVERSHAM, READING, ADJACENT TO 177 HENLEY ROAD, CAVERSHAM, READING - G1 OF TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 18/14.

Thank you for your application of 30th January 2026, regarding the above.

My colleague Sarah Hanson sent an acknowledgement email of 2nd February 2026, which clarified the relevant TPO and the trees which are subject to it, as the TPO reference number referred to in your application form had been review and replaced with TPO 18/14. This TPO includes 7no. Beech trees which are located in 102 Henley Road but are adjacent to your boundary.

Sarah then clarified that she has taken your application to propose works to the 7no. Beech trees, for the following works:

Carry out a moderate crown thin of up to 20% to each tree within the group, together with minor deadwood removal.

Works to include:

Selective removal of secondary and tertiary branches evenly throughout the crowns.

Retention of the natural form and collective character of the group.

Removal of deadwood up to 50mm diameter.

Optional minor clearance (if required for garden use)

Lift low secondary branches only where necessary to provide clearance, to a maximum finished height of 2.5 metres above ground level.

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

We met with your wife (I believe) as you were away. We discussed the proposal with her and agreed a work specification. There is already an existing level of clearance between the trees and the ground in the rear garden i.e. 2-2.5m of clearance above ground level. However, we noted that the Beech tree closest to the outbuilding has some low hanging branches and thus crown lifting this tree above the roof of the outbuilding to create a level clearance is considered reasonable.

We also discussed the crown thinning of the trees as we are aware that additional light availability into the garden was desirable and Beech are known for their dense canopies. Thinning is agreeable in principle; however, this should focus in the first instance on dead, dying, poor vigour and crossing/rubbing branches, i.e. a crown clean, the remainder of the 20% then being made up of other branches. In accordance with BS3998:2010, material should be removed systematically from throughout the tree rather than from the inner crown only. Uneven or over thinning increases the probability of branch failure so needs to be done with care.

The severance of ivy to the Sycamore (not included within the TPO) would also help to achieve further light availability. The removal of deadwood does not require formal consent hence it is not included in the approved works below; however, we have noted there is intention to undertake this to all 7no. Beech trees in the group. We hope the crown lifting of the Beech closest to the outbuilding and the ivy severance of the Sycamore adjacent to this Beech, will improve some light availability into the garden and the outbuilding. Whilst the Sycamore isn't included within the TPO, please note informative 7 below. It is encouraged/advised with any tree that ivy severance is undertaken with care and using hand tools to avoid damage to the bark and cambium layers of the trees.

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:

- 1no. Beech in G1 (closest to the outbuilding): crown lift to approximately 1.5-2m above the height of the roof of the outbuilding (see Figure 1), removing secondary growth only and leaving suitable growth points.
- 6no. Beech in G1: crown lift to provide approximately 2.5m clearance above ground level where required, removing secondary growth only and leaving suitable growth points.
- 7no. Beech in G1: crown thin by a maximum of 20% to incorporate initial crown cleaning, i.e. removal of dead, dying, low vigour, crossing/rubbing branches with the remainder of the 20% made up of other branches.



Figure 1 - Beech tree closest to outbuilding (red arrow) and approximate crown lift height (red line)

During our visit it was noted that there has been a level of excavation within the closest tree to the outbuilding, and likely other protected trees', Root Protection Areas (as defined in the BS5837 2012), to facilitate the outbuilding. **Please remember that permitted development rights do not override TPO legislation and tree roots are protected under the legislation in the same way as above ground parts of the tree are.** The use of concrete in the soft ground is also not ideal, and this should have been discussed with us prior to undertaking any works within the RPA, so we could have advised accordingly to minimise the impact to tree health this may have.

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.
6. Trees not considered to be protected by the current Tree preservation order (the Sycamore mentioned above): Work can be carried out to this tree without the formal consent from this Council.
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

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