



Ms S Rawlings
29 Alexandra Road
Reading
RG1 5PE

Emma Gee
Executive Director for
Economic Growth and
Neighbourhood Services

Civic Centre, Reading, RG1 2LU
☎ 0118 937 3787

Our Ref: PL/26/0254
Your Ref:

Direct: ☎01189 34294
Email: amy.daly@reading.gov.uk

2nd April 2026

Your contact is:

Amy Daly: Planning, Transport & Public Protection

Dear Ms Rawlings

RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO 2NO. LAUREL TREES, 1NO. APPLE TREE, 1NO. SYCAMORE TREE AND 1NO. EUCALYPTUS TREE AT 29 ALEXANDRA ROAD, READING - SUBJECT TO CONSERVATION AREA STATUS.

Thank you for Tree Works Notice of 24th February 2026, relating to the above.

The 2no. Laurel trees are proposed to be removed for the reason of '*to enable a new planting programme and reduce current overcrowding*'. Whilst the felling of trees within Conservation Areas is not ideal, removing these trees to enable a new planting plan is somewhat positive and I encourage that replacement trees are included within your new planting plan. These trees are not worthy of a TPO so the Council can not object to the works. I note you want to remove the stumps of the Laurels, if a stump grinder is used, it would be prudent to assess whether any other retained trees' roots within the near vicinity would be impacted by this, as damage to their roots may impact the retained trees' health.

The felling of the Sycamore is proposed due to overcrowding, proximity to a boundary wall and to allow space for replanting. As with the Laurels, the felling of trees within Conservation Areas is not ideal but I note this is also proposed to facilitate a new planting programme. This tree is also not worthy of a TPO hence we can not object to the felling.

You have only proposed to sever the ivy on the Eucalyptus tree which doesn't require a notice, but I have included this in the works below for completeness. These works are positive as it will allow the basal area to be visible for future inspection. Ivy is also a fast growing and heavy climbing plant which can increase the weight load on tree branches, making them more susceptible to branch failures, so severing it will reduce the likelihood of this occurring. We advise that when severing ivy, this is undertaken with care and using

hand tools to avoid damage to the bark and cambium layer of the tree.

The works to the Apple include the removal of dead, damaged, diseased and crossing branches, and reduction of over-extended growth as needed. These works are considered reasonable as this is effectively a crown clean and the reduction of over-extended growth would be reasonable to maintain a natural and balanced canopy shape. The removal of deadwood does not require notice, but I have included it in the proposed works below for completeness. Apple trees are susceptible to Silver Leaf Disease and to reduce the likelihood of this developing, I advise you undertake these works in the mid-late summer months (July - September). When reducing the over-extended growth, I advise that no more than one third of the foliage is removed from each branch to minimise any impact to the tree's health. However, this is just some advice for you to consider.

I can confirm that the Council have no objections to the following proposed tree work:

- 2no. Laurel trees: fell to ground level
- 1no. Sycamore: fell to ground level
- 1no. Eucalyptus: sever ivy
- 1no. Apple: removal of dead, damaged, diseased and crossing branches; reduction of over-extended growth

This decision is valid for two years from the date of this letter, after which it lapses.

The works can now be carried out.

I am aware the tree removals are to facilitate a new planting plan. Trees contribute to the character of the Conservation Area and as such, these areas are a priority for tree retention and planting in our adopted Tree Strategy. Replacement replanting is therefore encouraged when removing trees in Conservation Areas and I hope this is something that is considered within your new planting plan. If you need any advice on appropriate species, please feel free to contact us and we would be happy to comment on any species suggestions you may have. We encourage that broadleaf, native/naturalised or wildlife friendly species are used.

Informatives

1. 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 060 3900; enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk

2. Removal of dead or dangerous wood: 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', please give notice to the Council 'as soon as practicable after the works become necessary'.

3. 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 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