



Ms C Whipple
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Emma Gee
Executive Director for
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Your Ref:

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16th April 2026

Your contact is:

Amy Daly: Planning, Transport & Public Protection

Dear Ms Whipple

**RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO 1NO. FIR TREE AT 120A HAMILTON ROAD, READING -
SUBJECT TO CONSERVATION AREA STATUS.**

Thank you for Tree Works Notice of 7th April 2026, relating to the above.

My colleague Sarah Hanson emailed you on 7th April 2026 acknowledging the receipt of your notice. An ex-colleague in the Natural Environment Team dealt with your previous notice in 2024 (reference: 240533), however, no formal response was provided. You provided photographs of the tree's current condition which show the works which were carried out following your notice in 2024, which appear to be that discussed with our previous colleague. Said colleague, noted in an email to you of 25th April 2024 *'It appears the result will effectively be a monolith / standing high stump. Given the species and age of the tree, it is unlikely that it will manage to put out any significant re-growth following such a reduction'*. He then further advised *'It is normal for trees to move in the wind and to shed small twigs and branches as wind intensity increases. The first step in assessing the health of a tree is to have it professionally inspected. Following an inspection, the tree consultant that carried it out will be able to recommend any necessary works to manage the tree in a safe and healthy condition.'*

Following the photographs you have provided, it is clear that the tree did not respond well to the significant reduction undertaken following your previous notice, as was advised. You are now proposing to fell the tree, which would appear to be the only option as remedial works are not feasible to improve the tree's health or address your concerns given how little of the tree remains. I am unclear whether an inspection was carried out in 2024; however, if it was, this may have prevented the need for such significant works to this tree at that time and hence the need for it to be felled now.

An inspection may have been able to provide pruning alternatives to alleviate concerns regarding its safety whilst having a lesser negative impact to tree health than the works proposed and undertaken in 2024. I do, however, acknowledge from the 2024 photographs that the tree was of poor form - it appears the main leader/stem had been lost in the past. Due to the tree's condition and limited extent remaining, it is not worthy of a Tree Preservation Order, hence the Council cannot object to the felling.

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

- 1no. Fir tree: fell to ground level



Figure 1: Fir tree to be felled

The felling of trees within Conservation Areas is always unfortunate as they contribute to the character of these areas, canopy cover within the Borough and overall tree numbers to help mitigate the impact of climate change - mature/large trees being particularly important.

Conservation Areas are a priority for tree retention and planting in our adopted Tree Strategy. Replacement replanting is therefore encouraged when removing trees in these areas and I hope this is something that is considered.

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

The works can now be carried out.

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'.

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