



Mr D White
White Knight Tree Care & Consultancy
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Emma Gee
Executive Director for
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Your Ref:

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13th May 2026

Your contact is:

Amy Daly: Planning, Transport & Public Protection

Dear Mr White

RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO 1NO. SILVER BIRCH TREE AND 1NO. HORNBEAM TREE AT 5 NEW ROAD, READING - SUBJECT TO CONSERVATION AREA STATUS.

Thank you for Tree Works Notice of 6th April 2026, relating to the above.

The felling to the Silver Birch tree (T1 of application form/sketch plan) is considered reasonable as the tree is dying. You cited in your application form that the tree is '*covered in bleeding cankers and birch polypore*' - the Birch polypore can be seen in Figure 1 below, along with no/very limited vitality in the tree's canopy where lesser works aren't expected to improve its health. I note that replanting is intended, as discussed in your email exchange with my colleague Sarah Hanson of 6th April 2026, you advised that Mrs Thomas (applicant and landowner) would like to plant a Himalayan Birch 'Snow Queen', which is consistent with Birch planting in the rear garden.

The proposed works to the Hornbeam tree (T2 of application form/sketch plan) are considered reasonable as they are similar to previously agreed works, such as that agreed in March 2023 (notice reference: 230208), and agreed also in April 2025 (notice reference: PL/25/0380). The Hornbeam tree is evidently being maintained as part of a cyclical pruning cycle, hence repeat pruning is considered reasonable management of the tree. I acknowledge the removal of three upright stems is proposed for clearance purposes, aiming to create further clearance from the adjacent property so less frequent maintenance is required, maintaining adequate clearance for a longer period of time.

Whilst removing established pruning points isn't ideal in terms of the impact to tree health, the tree is not worthy of a Tree Preservation Order and thus the Council cannot object to the works. It would be prudent to leave a length of wood above the new pruning cuts, to try to minimise/slow down decay and dysfunction in the main stem. Also, to

minimise the size of the entry points for decay/dysfunction, aiming to keep the new pruning cuts as small as possible is also advised. However, this is just advice and something for you to perhaps discuss with Mrs Thomas, with the future impact on the tree's health in mind.

I can confirm that the Council have no objections to the following proposed tree work, with reference to the reproduced annotated photographs below:

- T1 Silver Birch: fell to ground level
- T2 Hornbeam: increase clearance to neighbouring property by removing the three upright stems closest to the adjacent property, as shown in Figure 2 below; reduce remaining crown, as shown in Figure 3, to maintain size suitable for the location as part of routine maintenance.



Figure 1 - T1 Birch Polypore



Figure 2 - T2 Hornbeam: removal of upright branches closest to adjacent property



Figure 3 - T2 Hornbeam: crown reduction

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'.
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

C.c. Mrs Thomas, 5 New Road