



Mr A Olver and Mrs J Olver
67 Hamilton Road
Reading
RG1 5RA

Emma Gee
Executive Director for
Economic Growth and
Neighbourhood Services

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

Our Ref: PL/26/0554
Your Ref:

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

21st May 2026

Your contact is:

Amy Daly: Planning, Transport & Public Protection

Dear Mr & Mrs Olver

RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO 1NO. CONIFER TREE AND 1NO. CEDAR TREE AT 67 HAMILTON ROAD, READING - SUBJECT TO CONSERVATION AREA STATUS.

Thank you for Tree Works Notice of 23rd April 2026, relating to the above.

The felling of both trees is proposed. The reasons for the felling of the Cedar tree were cited in your notice email of 23rd April 2026, as *'We are worried that this tree might fall on the house during bad weather and/or knock over the chimney. This might cause severe damage and perhaps injury'* then further citing *'We are minded to reduce the height and spread of this tree or maybe remove it entirely'*. My colleague Sarah Hanson then acknowledged your notice via email of 27th April 2026, and advised that the Cedar may be able to be retained if *'You are able to carry out lesser works than that in the formal notice so could take professional advice on 1) its condition given your concern that it might fall, and 2) potential pruning of the Cedar if you wished to keep it, in order to make its size more appropriate to its proximity to the house.'*

Therefore, we have agreed to the felling of the Cedar. However, we encourage that lesser works, such as a reduction that you have mentioned, are undertaken so that the tree can be retained. Trees contribute the character of Conservation Areas, and are priority areas for tree retention and planting, as designated in our adopted Tree Strategy. The Council cannot object to the felling unless the tree is worthy of a Tree Preservation Order. Whilst the Cedar is of a substantial size, it has limited amenity value due it being in a rear garden, hence views of it are obstructed by other trees and buildings, and it is growing close to the property. Unfortunately, due to its limited amenity value and unsustainable location (particularly at its optimum size), serving a TPO would not be appropriate.

Regarding the felling of the other Conifer tree, you cited in notice email '*growing very close to it which is in somewhat poor health due to being overshadowed*'. The felling cannot be objected as this tree is not worthy of a TPO due its limited amenity value. I note both of these trees provide screening from adjacent properties. Once this Conifer tree has been felled, it may be more desirable to retain the Cedar tree for screening purposes, which is something for you to consider.

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

- 1no. Cedar: fell to ground level.
- 1no. Conifer fell to ground level.



Conifer - blue arrows; Cedar - red arrows

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

The works can now be carried out.

As mentioned above, trees contribute to the character of Conservation Areas and as such, are designated priority areas for tree retention and replanting in our adopted Tree Strategy. Therefore, I encourage you seek professional advice as to whether lesser works can be undertaken to the Cedar so that it can be retained whilst alleviating your concerns, and the replanting of replacement trees for those which have been felled is considered.

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