



Mrs H Williams  
Heights Tree Care  
Mayfield  
Hazelmoor Lane  
Gallowstree Common  
RG4 9DJ

Emma Gee  
Executive Director for  
Economic Growth and  
Neighbourhood Services

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☎ 0118 9373787

Our Ref: PL/26/0502  
Your Ref:

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

29<sup>th</sup> May 2026

Your contact is:

Amy Daly: Planning, Transport & Public Protection

Dear Mrs Williams

**RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO 2NO. BEECH TREES AND 5NO. YEW TREES AT PINEMead, UPPER WARREN AVENUE, AND 2NO. BEECH TREES AT 7 UPPER WARREN AVENUE, CAVERSHAM, READING - PART OF A2 & A1 RESPECTIVELY OF TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 339.**

Thank you for your application of 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026, regarding the above.

You have applied for the following, supported with annotated photographs and a sketch plan to refer to when identifying the 'T' numbers:

- T1 - Removal of snapped beech limb and reduce lower limb by 2.5m in order to prevent risk of limb failure*
- T2 & T3 Prune back overhang of two beech trees located in neighbouring property (no 7) by approx 2m*
- T4 - Reduce overhang to garden on beech within Pinemead by approx 2.5m*
- T5, T6, T7 and T8 - Reduce and reshape line of yew trees in rear garden by 1m in height and spread*
- T9 - Reduce and reshape yew on front driveway by 1m in height and spread (no photo)*

With the following reasons for the proposed works, cited in an email exchange with my colleague Sarah Hanson of 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2026:

- T1 - there is a tight fork union, works are to reduce risk of limb failure due to the tight fork union. Snapped limb removal to prevent it falling unexpectedly.*
- T2, T3 and T4 due to extended canopy over the rear garden, creating large amounts of shade; maintenance works on these trees.*

*T5, T6, T7 & T8 - maintenance pruning, to tidy and keep in cloud formation along boundary to improve aesthetics.*

*T9 - yew is located close to neighbouring property and would like to keep manageable size.*

Further to mine and Sarah Hanson's visit of 1<sup>st</sup> May 2026, I have the following comments:

The proposed works to T1 Beech, which is located on the property's frontage adjacent to the driveway, are considered reasonable. There is a co-dominant stem growing over the driveway and is in close proximity to the base of the tree, shown in Figure 1 below. This co-dominant stem is where the branch failure has occurred (described as a snapped limb in your application); hence reducing the branches growing from this co-dominant stem, to manage the weight load on the union and to reduce the likelihood of failure is considered reasonable.

I note the canopy has previous pruning points; hence the reduction should focus on previous pruning points, rather than the branch reductions being of 2.5m which is your application specification, as it difficult to envisage what extremity this would be taken from. I acknowledge you have provided an annotated photograph showing the previous pruning points. However, I have reproduced your annotated photograph below as you didn't specify previous pruning points in your specification; this is shown in Figure 2, with further annotation of the indicative reduction as a yellow curve. We have also included a crown lift to the height of approximately 3.5m above ground level, including the removal of one small diameter branch (detailed in the approved works below). The branches were relatively low to the ground/driveway entrance during our visit, and it is likely that these works will be required in the near future, hence negates the need for another application for these reasonable works.

Regarding T2, T3 & T4 Beech trees, which are located in the rear garden, the works are also considered reasonable. These trees have been reduced over the garden previously; hence the reduction should focus on reducing the branches back to previous pruning points. It is difficult to envisage what extremity the 2m would be taken from T2 & T3, and what extremity the 2.5m would be taken from for T4. Hence, we have approved the reductions back to previous pruning points, rather than the lengths of the branches in metres in your application specification. We have also included some additional works to T4, including the removal of 1no. identified, small diameter branch from its source (main stem) and 1no. crossing/rubbing branch. I note that your justification for some of these works includes the shading the Beech trees cause over the rear garden. Whilst this won't eliminate all of the shade, we hope these works improve light availability into the garden, as Mrs Caswell expressed this was desired.

Please note that light availability/shading is not always considered a justified reason for certain works and that each application is assessed on its own individual merit/ circumstance. In this case, the trees have been reduced before, so reducing them back to previous pruning points is considered reasonable cyclical management of the trees.

The works to the Yew trees (T5-T9), are considered reasonable as these trees have been reduced/reshaped previously. These works form a cyclical maintenance programme; hence they are considered reasonable. Whilst we don't consider aesthetics to justify works which were mentioned in your justification; in this instance, the trees have been maintained as part of a cycle, hence it is appropriate repeat these works which is reasonable management.

I can therefore confirm that the following proposed works, as detailed in your application but reworded for clarity, with additional works included following our site visit, are approved subject to the conditions below and with reference to the reproduced and annotated photographs:

- T1 Beech (frontage of Pinemead): remove branch which has failed/snapped within the canopy (shown in Figure 2); reduce branches which are growing from the co-dominant stem overhanging the driveway, back to previous pruning points, as shown as in Figure 3, to form a natural canopy shape, ensuring no more than one third of the foliage is removed from each branch, leaving suitable growth points; crown lift, through 360°, to approximately 3.5m above ground level, removing secondary growth only and leaving suitable growth points but including the removal of one identified branch growing towards the road, back to source (see Figure 2).
- T2 & T3 Beech trees (overhanging rear garden from No. 7): reduce branches overhanging the rear garden back to previous pruning points, as shown in Figure 4 & 5 below, to form a natural canopy shape, ensuring no more than one third of the foliage is removed from each branch, leaving suitable growth points.
- T4 Beech (rear garden of Pinemead): reduce branches overhanging the rear garden back to previous pruning points, as shown in Figure 6 & 7 below, to form a natural canopy shape, ensuring no more than one third of the foliage is removed from each branch, leaving suitable growth points; remove one identified small diameter branch back to source (see Figure 8); remove one identified crossing/rubbing branch back to source (see Figure 8).
- T5-T9 Yew trees (front & rear garden of Pinemead): reduce and reshape by approximately 1m in height and spread, as shown in Figures 9,10 & 11, ensuring no more than one third of the foliage is removed from each branch, leaving suitable growth points.



Figure 1- T1 Beech: co-dominant stems/union - the stem to the right is the one in question having its canopy reduced



Figure 2 - T1 Beech: small diameter branch removed from main stem as part of crown lift (red arrows/lines); failed branch (blue)



Figure 3 - T1 Beech: previous pruning points to be reduced back to (your red arrows/lines); indicative reduction back to these previous pruning points (yellow curve)



Figure 4 - T2 Beech: previous pruning points to be reduced back to (blue arrows); indicative reduction back to these previous pruning points (yellow curve)



Figure 5 - T3 Beech: previous pruning points to be reduced back to (blue arrows); indicative reduction back to these previous pruning points (yellow curve)



Figure 6 - T4 Beech: previous pruning points to be reduced back to (blue arrows); indicative reduction back to these previous pruning points (yellow curve)

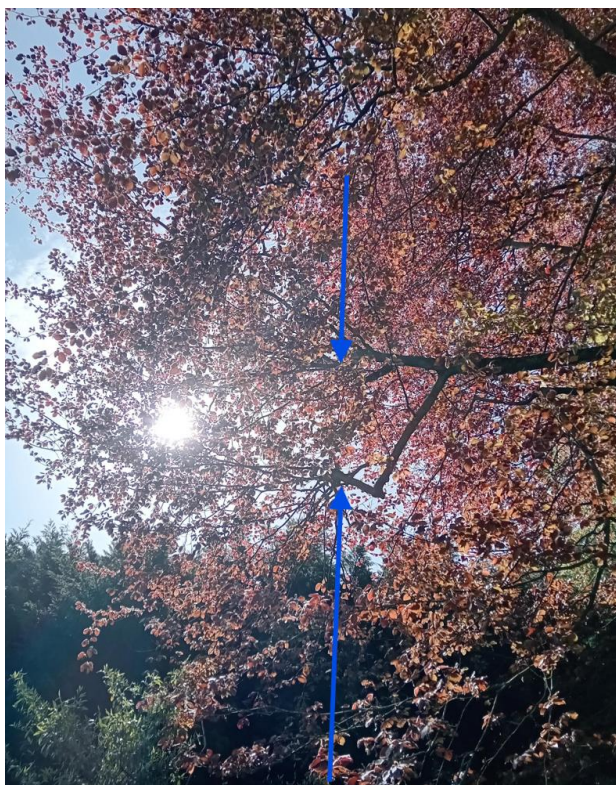


Figure 7 - T4 Beech - clearer previous reduction points



Figure 8 - T4 Beech: small diameter branch to be removed back to source (lower arrow/line); crossing/rubbing branch to be removed back to source (upper arrow/line)



Figure 9 - T5 & T6 Yew trees: indicative reduction/reshape



Figure 10 - T7 & T8 Yew trees: indicative reduction/reshape



Figure 11 - T9 Yew tree: indicative reduction/reshape

## 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.

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](mailto:treeandhedgeappeals@planninginspectorate.gov.uk)

Website: [Tree Preservation Orders and trees in conservation areas - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/tree-preservation-orders)

**Please ensure your client receives a copy of this letter as soon as possible.**

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