



Ms S Duckworth
Duckworths Arboriculture Ltd
Glebelands Bungalow
Mildenhall
Marlborough
SN8 2LR

Emma Gee
Executive Director for
Economic Growth and
Neighbourhood Services

Bridge Street, Reading RG1 2LU
☎ 0118 9373787

Our Ref: PL/26/0811
Your Ref:

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

23rd June 2026

Your contact is:

Amy Daly: Planning, Transport & Public Protection

Dear Ms Duckworth

**RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO 1NO. ASH TREE AT 230 PEPPARD ROAD, EMMER GREEN,
READING - T1 OF TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 49/04.**

Thank you for your application of 18th June 2026, regarding the above.

My colleague Sarah Hanson and I visited on 27th March 2026, to assess the works proposed under a previous application (reference: PL/26/0317), which sought to reduce one branch - this has since been withdrawn, on the submission of your application. We noted the presence of what appeared to be *Inonotus Hispidus* (Shaggy bracket) fungal fruiting bodies. The presence of said fungus indicates a level of internal decay is occurring within the tree's structure.

Following this, on 14th April 2026 we reported our findings back to Mr Couthard (and his agent for this previous application) and advised a further inspection would be prudent. On 16th April 2026, Mr Coulthard informed us that a survey of the tree would be undertaken to assess the tree's condition and identify further works.

On 27th May 2026, Mr Coulthard informed us that the branch that was proposed to be reduced under the previous application had failed. This is likely due to the additional weight load of the foliage as the tree has come into leaf, with the tree's structural integrity compromised due to the presence of *Inonotus Hispidus*. We responded and agreed the branch could be removed back to its point of failure, and that as agreed at that time, we are awaiting the results of the tree survey to assess further works.

Your application is accompanied by an Arboricultural Report (Tree Condition Survey), dated 12th June 2026.

In Section 5 (arboricultural inspection data), you have cited the following in the 'stem & unions' section, and thereafter your recommendations in the 'discussion' section:

Stem & Unions: 'Single stem gently tapering to 4m. Historic wound on north side 200mm diameter partially occluded. Scar 200mm below wound with indication of previous fungal attachment - Inonotus hispidus. Fungal fruiting body of Inonotus hispidus 250mm above the historic wound. The fungi and historic wound are within the area of lowest primary branch fork. There is necrotic bark lifting on the upper side of the fork and audible decay in this area. I consider that the low fork which supports a large low branch growing out over the public footpath is undermined by decay. The most foreseeable failure event in light of this defect is the potential failure of the large low limb on the west side of crown which could impact on the public footpath and a neighbouring property on the far side of the footpath'

Discussion: 'Inonotus hispidus, commonly known as the shaggy bracket fungus, is a destructive pathogen that causes rapid white-rot and soft-rot in ash trees. It primarily degrades both cellulose and lignin, leading to sudden, brittle wood failure. This places the tree at high risk of structural collapse around the affected area, especially during storms or droughts. This may impact on branches beyond the point of the fungal growths. There is no cure.

Although it is possible to improve the safety factor of the tree in the short term by reducing the crown, the resultant loss of photosynthetic area would cause significant physiological stress to the tree and this would allow the fungi and decay to spread more rapidly. Therefore, any benefit would be short lived and ultimately the tree would need to be removed.

In view of this the preferred solution is to fell the tree and to plant a suitable replacement.'

It is agreed that a reduction would not be appropriate as any reduction would have to be significant to manage the risk the tree presents due to the above. A significant reduction would detrimentally impact the tree's health and amenity value, and it is not considered a long-term solution for the management of this tree. Unfortunately, felling is agreed to be the most suitable option. I have re-produced an annotated photograph from your Arboricultural Report in Figure 1 below, so the extent of the tree's defects can be appreciated.

I can therefore confirm that the following proposed works, as detailed in your application, are approved subject to the conditions below:

- T1 Ash: Fell to ground level



PHOTO 2) Fungal scar (yellow), Necrotic bark (cyan), Areas of audible decay (red)

Figure 1: annotation of defects from Arboricultural Report

I note you have proposed an Oak (*Quercus robur*) as a replacement tree, which would be acceptable. I am unclear whether this has been agreed with Mr Coulthard, hence we have left the replacement tree species open to discussion with us, within Condition 3 below.

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. Following the felling of T1 Ash tree authorised by this consent, 1no. broadleaf replacement tree of a minimum 8-10cm in girth and 2.75m in height at the time of planting shall be planted within 5m of the location of T1, during the planting season (Nov-March) following or at the time of the felling of the tree, whichever is soonest. The species shall be agreed with the Natural Environment Team prior to purchase and planting.

Planting should be carried out in accordance with clause 10 (Planting) of BS 8545:2014 'Trees: from nursery to independence in the landscape - Recommendations'

Should the replacement tree be removed, die or become severely damaged or seriously diseased, all within 5 years of planting, it shall be replaced by a tree of a similar size and species to that originally planted. Modifications to the requirements of this condition must be agreed in writing with Reading Borough Council Natural Environment Team.

PLEASE NOTE: The requirement to replant is the responsibility of the tree owner even if the application was submitted by another person.

Reason: To retain the present visual amenity value of the area and ensure continuity of tree coverage.

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

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

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

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. Mr Coulthard, 230 Peppard Road