



Mr J Gillate
Roots Shoots Leaves Ltd
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Kingsclere Park
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Emma Gee
Executive Director for
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Our Ref: PL/26/0615
Your Ref:

Direct: ☎01189 372440
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15 July 2026

Your contact is:

Sarah Hanson: Planning, Transport & Public Protection

Dear Mr Gillate

RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO TWO OAK TREES AT HAREWARREN COURT, MARSHLAND SQUARE, READING - T2 & T3 OF TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 125/01.

Thank you for your application of 8 May 2026 regarding the above and apologies for the delay in responding.

The works proposed within your initial 'Identification of Tree(s) and Description of Works' document was limited to selective branch reduction for clearance purposes and crown lifting to deal with 'nuisance' issues - details and annotated photographs were provided.

My acknowledgement email of 11 May queried the level of inspection done, given certain comments given on both trees within the submissions, in order that all works necessary could be considered, i.e. based on the known condition of the tree, rather than just focusing on alleviating 'nuisance' issues. Following that, an amended arboricultural report was submitted to include more significant reduction of specific branches on T3, based on a climbing inspection, supported by additional photographs, and further clarified by photographs provided on 8 June.

Further to my visit on 3 July 2026 with my colleague Amy Daly, I have the following comments:

On site we were able to understand the proposed crown lifting and branch clearance from the building and overhead wires, with the assistance of your annotated photographs. Whilst we were able to identify the large limbs on T3, it was difficult on site to be clear on the reduction points due to the tree. To resolve this and given the principle of the reduction is, sound based on your findings, I have approved the works below but required, by virtue of Condition 1, a meeting on site prior to commencement. This can be on the

day of the works to avoid you having to attend site twice. However, if you are in the vicinity prior to the date of works, we could arrange to meet earlier. As we are not encouraging the work to take place until late summer, and until the current drought conditions have passed, in order to avoid additional stress on the trees (T3 in particular), this may give time to meet prior to the date of works - note Condition 4. Your report does not recommend the works are carried out within a specific timescale, so I assume this is acceptable. However, if you have more immediate concerns about leaving the branches of T3 as they are, please let me know.

I can therefore confirm that the following proposed works, as detailed in your application, (as amended) are approved subject to the conditions below and with reference to annotated photographs provided (provided in a separate document for reference):

- T2 Oak:
 - targeted-pruning crown reduction on the south-west facing side of the tree (the apartment facing side of the tree), by cutting back up to approximately 2m back to previous cut points to remove the tertiary new growth on x7 secondary branches to create a minimum 2-2.5m gap between the building and tree to a height of up to 2.5m above the guttering & roof-line only
 - targeted-pruning crown reduction to x6 secondary branches in total on the north-east facing side of the tree (the side that is overhanging Marshland Square Road). x5 secondary branches that are touching the telephone wires, will be reduced back to the tree side of the wires, cutting up to approximately 4m from tips, back to good growth points to clear the overhang and snagging of the telephone lines. The remaining x1 secondary branch that is overhanging beyond the telephone wires, will be cut back to a union that is on the far side of the cables, removing all the tertiary branches in order to remove the overextended weight, and therefore will lift the limb clear above the height of the telephone wires
- T3 Oak:
 - targeted-pruning crown lift to approximately 4m over the parking spaces, removing up to approximately 1m from tips
 - eastern and western scaffold limbs - reduce by approximately up to 5 metres back to appropriate secondary growth points, equating to an approximate reduction of up to 50% of the length of the affected laterals only

Conditions

1. Details of the branch reductions authorised by this consent to T3 Oak shall be agreed on site with the Local Authority before such works are commenced.

Reason: To ensure that there is no ambiguity about the details of the works for which consent had been given.

2. 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.

3. 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

4. The approved works shall only be undertaken in late summer (July-September) when the tree's energy reserves are at their height or during the Winter months of December - January during the period of dormancy, with the exception of the branch reduction to T3 which shall only be undertaken in late Summer (August-September) and only when drought conditions no longer prevail.

Reason: Taking into account the tree's phenological cycle and in order to avoid any unnecessary detriment to the tree as a result of the pruning work.

5. 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.

6. Crown lifting of trees over the footpath and carriageway: If the clearance of vegetation overhanging the highway only involves the removal of branches to give a ground clearance to the statutory heights of 2.7m over the footpath and 5.5m over the

road, this does not require formal consent from the Council. You are advised, however, to give notice to the Council of these intended works in order that they can be agreed.

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)

Please ensure you client receives a copy of this letter.

If you require any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me on the above number.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Hanson

Sarah Hanson
Natural Environment Officer