



Mr M Welby
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Emma Gee
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Our Ref: PL/26/0865
Your Ref:

Direct: ☎01189 372440
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30 July 2026

Your contact is:

Sarah Hanson: Planning, Transport & Public Protection

Dear Mr Welby

RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO TREES AT 5 GRASS HILL, READING - SUBJECT TO TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 3/19.

Thank you for your application of 30 June 2026 regarding the above.

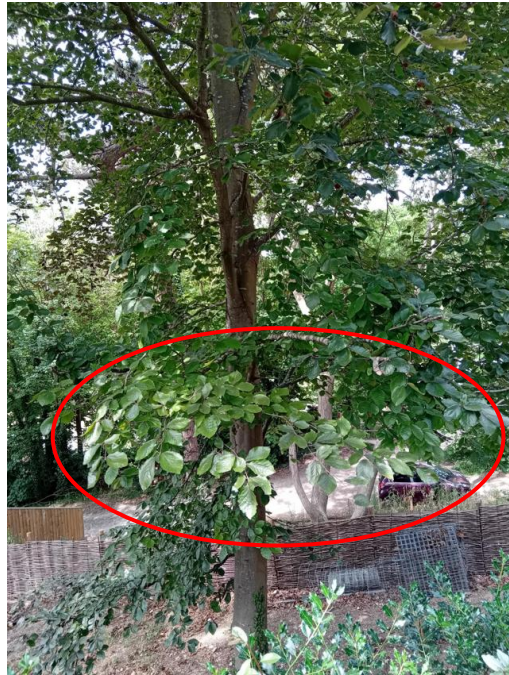
Further to my visit on 23 July 2026, I have the following comments:

The proposed works listed on your Tree Assessment Schedule were discussed with Mr Tanner and some amendments made. In relation to the Beech, it was agreed to omit the height reduction as there was no benefit to this, the reduction was clarified and crown lifting above the upper lawn area confirmed. In relation to the Ash tree, the addition of one minor branch removal was agreed. In relation the False acacia, the reduction specifics were agreed and crown lifting over the drive added.

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

- Copper beech (T1 of application; T11 of TPO) - reduce northern spread (growing towards the house) by 2m from the furthest extremity; crown lift to give 1-2m above the upper lawn area
- Ash (T2 of application; part of G5 of TPO) - reduce radial crown spread from 10.5m to no less than 8m; reduce height to no less than 15m; remove one small, low branch
- Scots pine (T3 of application; T6 of TPO) - intention to remove dead wood noted
- Sycamore (T4 of application; T4 of TPO) - reduce length of lowest easterly branch by up to 50%

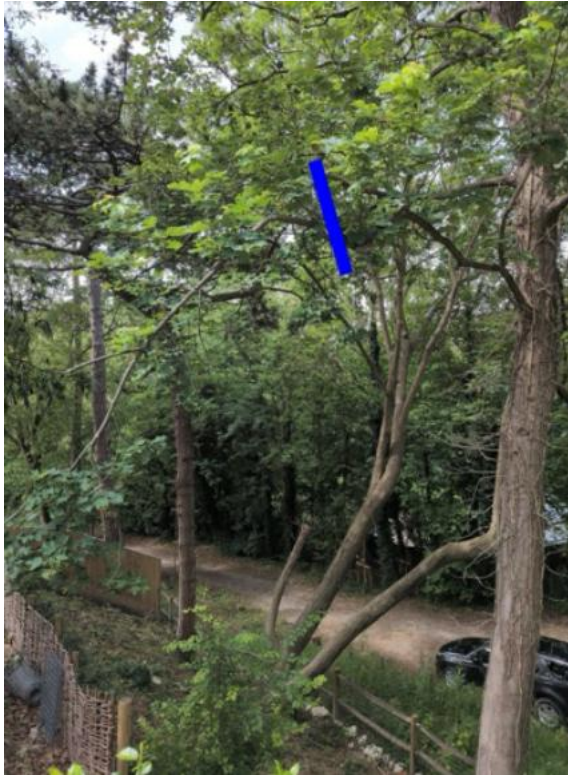
- False acacia (T5 of application; T3 of TPO) - prune to provide 2m clearance from dwelling; crown lift over driveway to gutter height



Copper beech - furthest extremity (left); branches included in crown lift (right)



Ash - small branch to be removed



Sycamore - branch to be reduced



False acacia - crown lift (left) and indicative reduction from dwelling (right)

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. The approved canopy reduction to Ash (T2 of application; part of G5 of TPO) shall be undertaken only in mid-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.

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.

4. 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

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/government/topics/trees-and-woodland/tree-preservation-orders)

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

C.c. Shaun Tanner, 5 Grass Hill