



Mr N Cantell
Beechwood Tree Care Ltd
2 Playhatch Farm Cottages
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Emma Gee
Executive Director for
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Our Ref: PL/26/0907
Your Ref:

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11th August 2026

Your contact is:

Amy Daly: Planning, Transport & Public Protection

Dear Mr Cantell

RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO 1NO. WILLOW TREE AND 1NO. ASH TREE AT 241 HENLEY ROAD, CAVERSHAM, READING - T4 & T5 RESPECTIVELY OF TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 178/07.

Thank you for your application of 8th July 2026, regarding the above.

Further to mine and my colleague Sarah Hanson's visit on 31st July 2026, I have the following comments:

The works to the Willow tree have been amended, as agreed with Ms Frenzel, to re-pollarding. The tree has been maintained as a pollard and thus re-pollarding is considered appropriate cyclical management of the tree. Ms Frenzel informed us it had been some years since the tree was last re-pollarded (approved March 2019, application reference: 190076), hence we advised it would be appropriate to re-pollard the tree given the years since it was last undertaken and the diameter of the regrowth. The original proposal to *'thin pollard points by removing 20% of the larger sections of growth'*, can be discussed with Ms Frenzel and undertaken if she wishes, as lesser works than that approved. I note your concerns regarding potential branch failure in your 'Reasons Sheet' submitted alongside your applications. Pollarding encourages the rapid regeneration of new growth, which is weakly attached, hence we hope that re-pollarding will alleviate these concerns, but if the lesser works are undertaken then we assume you are happy these are sufficient to address this concern.

The selective canopy reduction to T5 Ash tree is considered reasonable. You have noted that there is decay occurring within the base of the tree, which was also evident in an application from 2014 (application reference: 141248) where the tree was approved to be felled (now expired). I assume that instead of felling, a reduction was undertaken instead

to manage the weight load of the canopy on the comprised base. During our visit, the tree appeared to have been reduced before, and undertaking similar works would be considered reasonable if desired. I acknowledge your concerns regarding potential branch failure which is mentioned in your 'Reasons Sheet' submitted alongside your application, which we hope the selective reduction alleviates these concerns. The crown lifting of the Ash is considered reasonable for ground clearance purposes.

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

- T4 Willow tree: re-pollard back to previous pollard points (see Figure 1 for example), retaining 25mm stubs to aid regrowth.
- T5 Ash tree: reduce the canopy overhanging the adjacent nursery by approximately 1.5-2m (see Figure 2), back to previous pruning points, leaving suitable growth points and a natural canopy shape; crown lift, through 360°, to approximately 5m above ground level, removing secondary growth only where possible and leaving suitable growth points.



Figure 1: T4 Willow - examples of pollard points



Figure 2: T5 Ash - approximate 1.5-2m reduction of the branches overhanging the adjacent nursery

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 re-pollarding to T4 Willow tree shall be undertaken 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-hedges/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. Ms Frenzel, 241 Henley Road