



Mr D Watts
Goldleaf Treeworks
Kiln Cottage
Kiln Lane
Binfield Heath
Henley-on-Thames
RG9 4EN

Emma Gee
Executive Director for
Economic Growth and
Neighbourhood Services

Bridge Street, Reading RG1 2LU
☎ 0118 9373787

Our Ref: PL/26/1010
Your Ref:

Direct: ☎0118 937 2458
Amy.daly@reading.gov.uk

24th August 2026

Your contact is:

Amy Daly: Planning, Transport & Public Protection

Dear Mr Watts

RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO 1NO. GOAT WILLOW TREE AND 1NO. ASH TREE AT 7 POTTERY ROAD, TILEHUST, READING - WITHIN W1 OF TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 2/16

Thank you for your application of 28th July 2026, regarding the above.

You initially submitted an application form with no pruning specification and did not provide a sketch plan to identify the locations of the trees; hence your application was not validated. My colleague Sarah Hanson informed you of this via email on 28th July 2026 following the receipt of your application.

An amended application form was received on 18th August 2026, for which you provided the information required to validate your application, and applied for the following:

One Ash Tree- removal of any overhang to boundary
One Goat Willow- removal of any overhang to boundary

Further to my visit on 20th August 2026, I have the following comments:

The works have been amended as agreed with Ms Cowley. I explained that removing all the branches overhanging her boundary would remove a significant amount of foliage from the branches and would leave the trees with an unbalanced canopy structure. I asked what the purpose of the works were, to which she explained she was concerned about potential branch failure. I noted ivy growing on both the Ash and Willow, and explained that if left unsevered, it would continue growing into the canopy and contribute to the weight load on the branches and increasing the 'sail area', making them more susceptible to failure. Therefore, I then advised it would be prudent to sever the ivy. Whilst the trees appeared healthy from a cursory ground inspection, I could not view the base of the

trees and could only view them from her garden, and thus I encouraged that she requests you undertake a climbing inspection of both trees, to see if you could identify any cause for concern. It is acknowledged that the trees do not belong to her (or the Council) hence responsibility for inspection does lie with the landowner.

I also explained that pruning the branches back to the boundary would require several structural branches to be removed, including that from the main stem. It was explained that these would be entry points for decay/dysfunction, which both species do not resist well in comparison to other species. We then agreed on lesser works that would have less of a negative impact to the health of the trees whilst alleviating her concerns.

I did note that the lower branches of both trees overhang Ms Cowley's garden significantly, and some works would be reasonable to create clearance and slightly reduce the amount of overhang. I noted one branch in the canopy of the Ash which is clearly damaged from rubbing against the branch beneath it, hence I have approved the removal of this branch. I encourage you inspect the lower branch it is rubbing against for defects. There is also a damaged branch within the canopy of the Willow, that has been approved to be removed. Both damaged branches are identified in the annotated photographs below.

You do not need formal consent to sever ivy of trees subject to a TPO, hence not included in the approved works below. We kindly ask this is undertaken with care, using hand tools, to avoid damage to the bark and cambium layer of the trees.

I can therefore confirm that the following proposed works, as agreed with Ms Cowley on site, are approved subject to the conditions below and with reference to the annotated photographs below:

- 1no. Ash (adjacent to the rear boundary fence of the property): remove one damaged, crossing/rubbing branch as identified in Figure 1, back to source; reduce the lower canopy overhanging the garden by 1-1.5m from the furthest extremity, ensuring no more than one third of the foliage is removed from each branch and leaving a natural canopy shape and suitable growth points.
- 1no. Goat Willow (adjacent to the rear boundary fence of the property): remove epicormic growth overhanging the garden up to the height of the crown break, back to source (see Figure 2); remove one damaged/broken branch, as identified in Figure 2, back to source; reduce the two identified secondary branches back to the point where the main branch divides into two branches, as shown in Figure 2; reduce the canopy overhanging the garden, approximately 3m horizontally from the rear fence, leaving a natural canopy shape and leaving suitable growth points, as shown in Figure 3.



Figure 1: 1no. Ash - reduce the canopy overhanging the garden by 1-1.5m from the furthest extremity (red); remove one damaged, crossing/rubbing branch back to source (yellow)

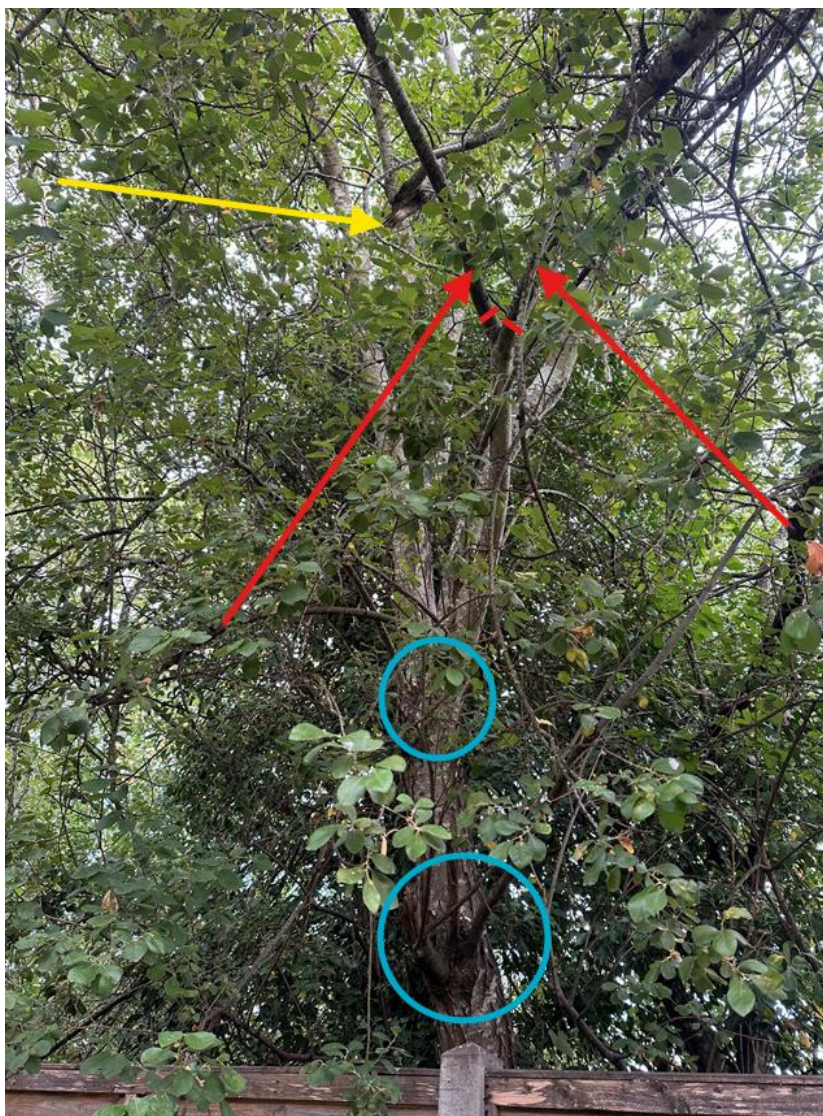


Figure 2: Goat Willow: remove epicormic growth overhanging the fence up the the height of the crown break (blue); remove one broken/damaged branch back to source (yellow); reduce two identified secondary branches back to the point where the main branch divides into two (red)



Figure 3: Goat Willow: reduce the canopy overhanging the garden, approximately 3m horizontally from the rear fence

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.

6. Prior to the severing of well-established Ivy at the base of the tree, it would be prudent to carry out an assessment of whether any of the stems of the Ivy are forming a natural brace above a suspected bark-included union

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

Amy Daly

Assistant Natural Environment Officer

On Behalf of Sarah Hanson, Natural Environment Officer

C.c. Ms Cowley, 7 Pottery Road