



Mr A Goodings  
43 Richmond Road  
Caversham  
Reading  
RG4 7PR

Emma Gee  
Executive Director for  
Economic Growth and  
Neighbourhood Services

Bridge Street, Reading RG1 2LU  
☎ 0118 9373787

Our Ref: PL/26/0823  
Your Ref:

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

3<sup>rd</sup> September 2026

Your contact is:

Amy Daly: Planning, Transport & Public Protection

Dear Mr Goodings

**RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO 1NO. BEECH TREE AT 37A RICHMOND ROAD, CAVERSHAM, READING - T2 OF TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 25/00**

Thank you for your application of 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2026, regarding the above.

We apologise for the delay in processing your application. A site visit was required and depended on the availability of all parties involved.

Further to mine and my colleague Sarah Hanson visit of 28<sup>th</sup> August 2026, I have the following comments:

Your application sought consent to *'have overextended branches pruned by up to 3 metres on side & top / crown raise by 3.5 metres on side only'*. You advised that this pruning specification was suggested by your tree surgeon.

As discussed during our site visit, we explained why the height reduction would not be supported, as this would confine the tree to a forever lesser size (height) and thereby a forever lesser amenity value. Your justification for reducing the height was for aesthetic purposes, not based on arboricultural concerns, which we don't consider justified when weighed against the potential impact of the tree's health and future amenity value. We also informed you that an application in 2022 (reference: 220081) refused a height reduction hence our concerns are consistent with that decision. For information an application in 2023 (reference: 230805) approved a crown lift and selective branch reduction, as this was considered reasonable work to improve the relationship between the tree and adjacent gardens and driveway.

The proposed height reduction is therefore **refused**.

As an aside, the tree is located in the property to the rear of yours (37A Richmond Road), hence the owners of the tree would need to give their agreement to undertake any works past the shared boundary line - there is no indication of their input in your application.

The lateral reductions have been clarified to address branches where they are encroaching onto adjacent trees, and over the summer house/shed, both to provide clearance. You advised that the 3m proposed was not on each side but overall - the works approved below reflect this. The crown lifting is proposed for clearance purposes hence considered reasonable.

I can therefore confirm that the following works are approved subject to the conditions below and with reference to the annotated photographs below:

- Reduce the lateral branches on the east and west aspects growing towards adjacent trees to provide approximately 1-1.5m clearance, as shown in Figure 1, ensuring no more than one third of the foliage is removed from each branch, leaving suitable growth points.
- Reduce the lower lateral branches on the south aspect (see Figure 2), overhanging the summer house/shed, approximately in line with the front elevation of the summer house/shed (shown in Figure 2), using previous pruning points where these are present, ensuring no more than one third of the foliage is removed from each branch, leaving suitable growth points.
- Crown lift secondary branches overhanging the summer house and rear garden, to 1m above the height of the apex of the roof of the summer house/shed (see Figure 1), leaving suitable growth points



Figure 1: T2 Beech - reduction of branches on the east and west aspects (red); crown lift (yellow)



Figure 2: T2 Beech - reduction of lower branches on the south aspect (red); front elevation of summer house/shed (yellow)

### 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.

If you wish to appeal against the refusal to allow the height reduction or 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](mailto: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 suffer any loss or damage as a result of this refusal of consent, you may be entitled to recover compensation from the Council. If you wish to make a claim you must do so within 12 months from the date of this decision (or, if you appeal to the Secretary of State, within 12 months from the date of his decision). Claims should be made in writing to the Insurance Section, Reading Borough Council, Civic Centre, Bridge Street, Reading, RG1 2LU.

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