



Ms S Duckworth
Duckworths Arboriculture Ltd
Glebelands Bungalow
Mildenhall
Marlborough
SN8 2LR

Emma Gee
Executive Director for
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Our Ref: PL/26/0998
Your Ref:

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14th September 2026

Your contact is:

Amy Daly: Planning, Transport & Public Protection

Dear Ms Duckworth

**RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO 1NO. JAPANESE PAGODA TREE AT 34-36 CHAZEY ROAD,
CAVERSHAM READING - T3 OF TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 24/06**

Thank you for your application of 26th July 2026, regarding the above.

Your application form was submitted on behalf of Mr Lazar stated at 36 Chazey Road, however we established on site that Mr Lazar was at No. 34 and Mr Evans was at No. 36.

Further to mine and my colleague Sarah Hanson's visit on 28th August 2026, and with reference to your Arboricultural Report (Tree Condition Survey - dated July 2026) submitted alongside your application, I have the following comments:

The crown lifting is considered reasonable for ground clearance purposes.

Regarding the reductions proposed over the roadside/southern aspect, you have cited within the 'discussion' of the Arboricultural Report that *'The tree's crown is showing significant decline and there is deadwood throughout the crown and decay pockets in previous pruning cuts. Selective pruning is recommended to reduce elongated branches over the highway to reduce the risk of further branch failure. Elsewhere live growth should be protected and retained to sustain tree health'*. You have also cited within the 'canopy' section *'Secondary branch shed onto the public highway from a point 6m above ground level in full leaf. Defective part viewed on ground - failure due to a pre-existing large cavity which might not have been visible from ground level'*. Given the previous branch failure, alongside notable cavities from old pruning wounds and suspected other cavities, the reductions are considered reasonable to manage the weight load of the canopy on defective branches, to reduce the likelihood of failure due to natural forces.

During our site visit, we noted that some of the branches conflict with the overhead wires passing through the tree's canopy. Therefore, we have also approved clearance pruning of the overhead wires to prevent/reduce said conflict.

I note you have recommended that a climbing inspection should be undertaken, which we encourage too when the approved works are undertaken, to assess any defects/cavities not visible from the ground. We encourage that any defects that are not visible from the ground, are photographed for our records, which will aid us in assessing any proposed works in the future.

You have also recommended to sever the ivy and remove the deadwood, neither of which require formal consent but your intention to undertake this is noted. We kindly ask the ivy severance is undertaken with care, using hand tools, to prevent damage to the bark and cambium layer of the tree.

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

- Crown lift secondary branches, through 360⁰, to approximately 3.5m above ground level, leaving suitable growth points
- Reduce branches on the southern aspect overhanging the road by approximately 4m from the furthest extremity, as shown in Figure 1 below, aiming to retain as much live foliage from each branch as possible (ideally two thirds), leaving suitable growth points
- Reduce secondary branches in conflict with the overhead wires to create approximately 0.5m of clearance

You have noted that the canopy is in decline and lacks vitality, hence timing of the works is important to consider. I understand that pruning of this species is best done during late summer hence if this could be arranged as soon as possible, i.e. in the next few weeks, that would be prudent. Pruning in spring should be avoided as there is a risk of bleeding - please note Condition 4 below.



Figure 1: 4m reduction of the branches on the southern aspect overhanging the road

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

4. The approved canopy reduction 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

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 2.75m 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)

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. Mr Evans, 36 Chazey Road

Mr Lazar, 34 Chazey Road