



Mr E O'Donnell
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Emma Gee
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5th October 2026

Your contact is:

Amy Daly: Planning, Transport & Public Protection

Dear Mr O'Donnell

**RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO VARIOUS TREES AT 11 DOWNSHIRE SQUARE, READING -
SUBJECT TO CONSERVATION AREA STATUS.**

Thank you for Tree Works Notice of 24th August 2026, relating to the above.

The majority of the works are considered reasonable maintenance of trees for clearance purposes, albeit cutting trees back to boundary lines can have a significant impact to their health and structure. An alternative would be crown lifting to help achieve desired clearance, whilst minimising the impact to the health of the trees. But this is just advice and you do not have to follow it. The works to the Bay tree and the felling of the Greengage tree can only be objected against if the trees are worthy of a Tree Preservation Order. In this case, the trees have limited amenity value due to them being located in a rear garden and small in size, hence cannot be seen from the wider public realm and thus not considered worthy of a TPO.

I can confirm that the Council have no objections to the following proposed tree work, with reference to the reproduced, annotated photographs below:

- Bay tree: reduce three stems back to source and remove; reduce the remaining stem to wall height (see Figure 1)
- Plum tree (neighbours): cut back to the boundary.
- Walnut tree (neighbours): reduce growth by approximately 750mm.
- Lime tree (neighbours): trim lower branches (see Figure 2).
- Greengage tree: fell to ground level
- Ceanothus (neighbours): cut back to the boundary wall.



Remove all stems except highlighted, and reduce to approx. 2m above ground level.

Figure 1



reduce branch ends by approx 750mm in circled area

Figure 2

Trees contribute to the character of the Conservation Area and as such, these areas are a priority for tree retention and planting in our adopted Tree Strategy. Replacement replanting is therefore encouraged when removing trees in Conservation Areas

This decision is valid for two years from the date of this letter, after which it lapses.

The works can now be carried out.

Informatives

1. 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 060 3900; enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk
2. Removal of dead or dangerous wood: 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', please give notice to the Council 'as soon as practicable after the works become necessary'.
3. 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 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