



Miss P Phoon  
37 Send Road  
Caversham  
Reading  
RG4 8EH

Emma Gee  
Executive Director for  
Economic Growth and  
Neighbourhood Services

Bridge Street, Reading RG1 2LU  
☎ 0118 9373787

Our Ref: PL/26/1175  
Your Ref:

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

13<sup>th</sup> October 2026

Your contact is:

Amy Daly: Planning, Transport & Public Protection

Dear Miss Phoon

**RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO 1NO. TURKEY OAK TREE AT 37 SEND ROAD, CAVERSHAM, READING - T1 OF TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 187/06.**

Thank you for your application of 31<sup>st</sup> August 2026, regarding the above.

Further to mine and my colleague Sarah Hanson's visit of 9<sup>th</sup> October 2026, I have the following comments:

In June 2022, a crown reduction of the tree was approved as a result of a decay detection report (application reference: 220541/TPO). *Ganoderma* fungal fruiting bodies have been noted since the time of your previous application, with decay detected within said decay detection report at that time. The reduction was required to reduce the biomechanical loading being applied to the main stem where the presence of decay had been detected and to reduce the risks associated with premature failure. The works were carried out, albeit they may not have been carried out to the full extent as that approved i.e. a lesser reduction may have been undertaken.

Submitted alongside your application is a letter by Urban Tree Experts, dated 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2024, detailing findings from further investigations, including a visual tree assessment and decay detection, which recommends reducing the tree further, hence this is what you have applied for. The letter/report concludes '*The evidence of new and enlarged FFB indicates that the pathogen is active, and that wood decay continues*', later stating '*The extent of decay indicates that the pathogen has been active for an extensive period.*'

Since this letter/report was written, a crack has appeared at the base of the tree, which you advised occurred over the summer period. During our site visit, I inserted a probe into the crack, which could be fully inserted with minimal resistance. The main stem was also

tapped with a sounding mallet, and audible differences were apparent on different aspects. The canopy of the tree was sparser than that of a healthy tree of this species, which is likely a result of the tree's sapwood now being impacted from the presence of *Ganoderma*. These defects can be seen in the photographs below the approved works. The tree did not appear to respond favourably to the reduction approved in 2022, which leads us to question how well it would respond to a further reduction, as its condition has deteriorated.

The tree has been a host to *Ganoderma* fungal fruiting bodies for at least four years, decay has been detected within various investigations, and now a significant crack in the base of the tree has appeared. The tree's structural integrity is compromised, which is particularly evident given the presence of the new crack, and thus the felling/removal of the tree is considered reasonable to manage the risk the tree presents. As agreed with you on site, your application has therefore been changed to one seeking approval to fell. We strongly encourage that the tree is removed without undue delay.

As also discussed on site, we appreciate the tree is a notable feature within your garden and the circumstances are unfortunate. Whilst you may wish to discuss undertaking lesser works with your chosen tree surgeon, it is inevitable that the tree will need to be removed in the near future to prevent failure. Any lesser works would be for you to consider at your own risk.

We discussed retaining a height of the main stem above ground level, which would be our normal suggestion for wildlife value. However, in this situation it may not be a reasonable or safe option due to the decay. In addition, we discussed that the location of the Oak may be most feasible place for replanting but will require the stump to be ground out. Please note Condition 3 below with regards to replacement planting. As discussed, another species of a similar size to a Turkey Oak would seem unreasonable, hence we're happy to consider a medium sized tree. You suggested a Whitebeam (*Sorbus aria*) - as per that you have on the frontage. We would have no objection to this but are happy to consider alternatives such as *Acer campestre* (Field maple) or *Sorbus torminalis* (Wild service tree). If replanting in an alternative location, retention of a low stump is encouraged for wildlife.

I can therefore confirm that the following proposed works, as agreed during our site visit, are approved subject to the conditions below:

- T1 Turkey Oak: fell/remove to ground level



T1 Turkey Oak: red arrow - crack/probe insertion; blue arrow - *Ganoderma* fungal fruiting bodies



T1 Turkey Oak: sparse crown condition

## 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. Following the felling of T1 Turkey Oak authorised by this consent, one replacement tree of a minimum 8-10cm girth and 2.75m in height (at time of planting) shall be planted within the rear garden during the planting season (Nov-March) following or at the time of the felling of the tree, whichever is soonest. The species shall be agreed with the Natural Environment Team prior to purchasing

The tree shall be planted within the rear garden during the planting season (Nov-March) following or at the time of the felling of the tree, whichever is soonest.

Planting should be carried out in accordance with clause 10 (Planting) of BS 8545:2014 'Trees: from nursery to independence in the landscape - Recommendations'

Should the replacement tree be removed, die or become severely damaged or seriously diseased, all within 5 years of planting, it shall be replaced by a tree of a similar size and species to that originally planted. Modifications to the requirements of this condition must be agreed in writing with Reading Borough Council Natural Environment Team.

PLEASE NOTE: The requirement to replant is the responsibility of the tree owner even if the application was submitted by another person.

Reason: To retain the present visual amenity value of the area and ensure continuity of tree coverage.

## 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

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:

Planning Inspectorate  
C/O Quadient  
69 Buckingham Avenue  
Slough  
SL1 4PN

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/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