



Mr T Clay
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21st October 2026

Your contact is:

Amy Daly: Planning, Transport & Public Protection

Dear Mr Clay

RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO 1NO. WALNUT, 1NO. PEAR, 1NO. CRAB APPLE AND 1NO. DOGWOOD AT ABBEYFIELD HOUSE, 11 MAITLAND ROAD, READING - SUBJECT TO CONSERVATION AREA STATUS.

Thank you for Tree Works Notice of 10th September 2026, relating to the above.

A sketch plan with photographs were submitted alongside your notice, hence the discussion and agreed works below refer to the relevant 'T' numbers within the plan and photographs.

The reduction of T2 Pear tree is considered reasonable as the previous pruning points indicate this has been done before, so reducing back to these points is a repeat of that undertaken before.

It is assumed that the reduction proposed to the overextended limb of T1 Walnut is due to the branch extending past the main crown line, making it more susceptible to failure from natural forces; hence the works aim to manage the weight load of the branch. The reduction of 4m in branch length is fairly significant but I assume this has been assessed as necessary. As with all reductions, it is advised no more than one third of the foliage is removed from the branch and suitable growth points are left to ensure the branch retains enough foliage to sustain itself.

The reasoning for the reductions proposed to T6 Crab Apple and T8 Dogwood haven't been provided, although from your photographs, I note both trees are encroaching onto adjacent properties so the works may have been proposed for clearance and to manage the trees at an appropriate size for their setting. Whilst lesser works such as pruning to

provide clearance of adjacent properties would help avoid conflict and may avoid the need for a height reduction, which would minimise the impact to the trees' health, we can only object to the works if the trees are worthy of a Tree Preservation Order. In this instance where they are relatively small in size and views of them is obstructed by a larger Sycamore on the frontage, hence their amenity value is limited and they have not been considered worthy of a TPO. As above, it is encouraged that no more than one third of the foliage is removed from each branch and suitable growth points are left, following good arboricultural practice.

You may also wish to consider Informative 3 regarding the timing of the works, alongside the timing of the works to the fruit trees (July - September being ideal), when the trees' energy reserves are at their height and to reduce the risk of Silver Leaf disease. However, this is just advice, and it is your decision whether to follow it.

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

- T1 Walnut: tip reduce over extended limb in Figure 1 by approximately 4m
- T2 Pear: overall crown reduction of 1-2m back to previous pruning points
- T6 Crab Apple: overall crown reduction of 1-2m
- T8 Dogwood: overall crown reduction of 1-2m



Figure 1: T1 Walnut - reduction of overextended branch

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

Please ensure that your client receives a copy of this letter as soon as possible.

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