



<b>Title</b>	<b>PROPOSED FELLING OF TWO TREES AT 26 KENDRICK ROAD, READING WITHIN THE KENDRICK ROAD CONSERVATION AREA</b>
<b>Purpose of the report</b>	To make a decision
<b>Report status</b>	Public report
<b>Executive Director/ Statutory Officer Commissioning Report</b>	Emma Gee
<b>Report author</b>	Sarah Hanson, Natural Environment Officer
<b>Lead councillor</b>	Councillor Micky Leng, Lead Councillor for Planning and Assets
<b>Council priority</b>	Deliver a sustainable and healthy environment and reduce our carbon footprint
<b>Ward</b>	Katesgrove
<b>Recommendations</b>	The Committee is asked: 1. To offer no objections to the felling of one Bay tree & one Conifer.

### 1. Executive summary

- 1.1. To report to Committee on the proposed felling of one Bay tree & one Conifer at 26 Kenrick Road, within the Kendrick Road Conservation Area (plan showing address within the Conservation Area attached as Appendix 1).

### 2. Policy Context

- 2.1. Local Plan policy EN14: TREES, HEDGES AND WOODLANDS includes the aim for

*'Individual trees, groups of trees, hedges and woodlands will be protected from damage or removal where they are of importance, and Reading's vegetation cover will be extended'.*

- 2.2. The service of TPOs, where appropriate to do so following receipt of a Section 211 Notice, contributes to these aims.
- 2.3. The Reading Borough Council adopted Tree Strategy (2021) sets 12 Objectives, which can be viewed here: [Reading Borough Council Tree Strategy, March 2021](#) . Where a TPO is not appropriate, replacement planting is actively encouraged to meet Objective 4 (Canopy cover).

### 3. The Proposal

- 3.1. The trees are two of many within the rear garden of 26 Kendrick Road. The property was previously an HMO and the garden and house have not been well maintained. The Bay tree is close to the rear elevation and requires removal in order to erect scaffolding to carry out necessary gutter and roof

repairs. The Conifer (on the boundary with Alpha House next door) is growing out of the base of the fence, has significant dead areas of foliage and is growing into the crown of the better Yew tree overhanging from Alpha House.

- 3.2. A Section 211 Notice (6-weeks prior notice of tree works in a Conservation Area) was received on 20 March 2025 for the felling of the two trees - reference PL/25/0464 – photographs are in Appendix 2. The 6-week period ends of 1 May 2025 after which the proposed works can be carried out. The only way in which felling can be prevented is by service of a Tree Preservation Order (TPO). In this case, neither tree is worthy of a TPO. It should also be noted that there is no ability to require replacement planting in this case. It is normal practice to promote replacement planting given that Conservation Areas are higher priority areas for tree retention and planting, however in this case there are numerous trees in the rear garden, in addition to others overhanging from neighbouring properties hence a lack of replacement planting would be reasonable. The owner has, however, advised that new planting will be considered once the garden has been tidied up.
- 3.3. Neither tree is worthy of a TPO hence the only appropriate response is to offer no objection to the felling.

#### **4. Contribution to Strategic Aims**

- 4.1. Trees within the Council's ownership improve the quality of its open spaces and provide multiple environment benefits, including improvement of air quality. The retention, planting and appropriate management of Council trees promotes a healthy environment in Reading.
- 4.2. The Council Plan has established five priorities for the years 2025/28. These priorities are:
- Promote more equal communities in Reading
  - Secure Reading's economic and cultural success
  - Deliver a sustainable and healthy environment and reduce our carbon footprint
  - Safeguard and support the health and wellbeing of Reading's adults and children
  - Ensure Reading Borough Council is fit for the future
- 4.3. In delivering these priorities, we will be guided by the following set of principles:
- Putting residents first
  - Building on strong foundations
  - Recognising, respecting, and nurturing all our diverse communities
  - Involving, collaborating, and empowering residents
  - Being proudly ambitious for Reading
- 4.4. Full details of the Council Plan and the projects which will deliver these priorities are published on the Council's website - [Council plan - Reading Borough Council](#). These priorities and the Council Plan demonstrate how the Council meets its legal obligation to be efficient, effective and economical.

#### **5. Environmental and Climate Implications**

- 5.1. The Council declared a Climate Emergency at its meeting on 26 February 2019 (Minute 48 refers).

- 5.2. Trees have multiple environmental benefits that include flood alleviation, wildlife benefits, air pollution mitigation and air cooling. The proposed works are not expected to substantially diminish these benefits within the locality due to the number of other trees present.

## **6. Community Engagement**

- 6.1. No specific consultations were required, however, the Notice has been available to view on the Council's website via Public Access. No comments have been received.

## **7. Equality Implications**

- 7.1. Under the Equality Act 2010, Section 149, a public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to -
- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
  - advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
  - foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

- 7.2. None required.

## **8. Other Relevant Considerations**

- 8.1. None

## **9. Legal Implications**

- 9.1. Service and administration of Tree Preservation Orders falls under the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 and The Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation)(England) Regulations 2012.
- 9.2. Preparing, serving confirmation and contravention of TPO's are services dealt with by the Council's Legal Section.
- 9.3. Whilst the Natural Environment Officer is delegated to issue a formal decision on Section 211 Notices, this Notice is being brought to Committee in line with the Council's Constitution as the owner is a serving Councillor (not on Planning Applications Committee).

## **10. Financial Implications**

- 10.1. None of this report. It is understood that works to the tree would be funded by the Council from existing budgets.

## **11. Timetable for Implementation**

- 11.1. Once issued, tree work Notices last for a period of 2 years, i.e. must be carried out within that period.

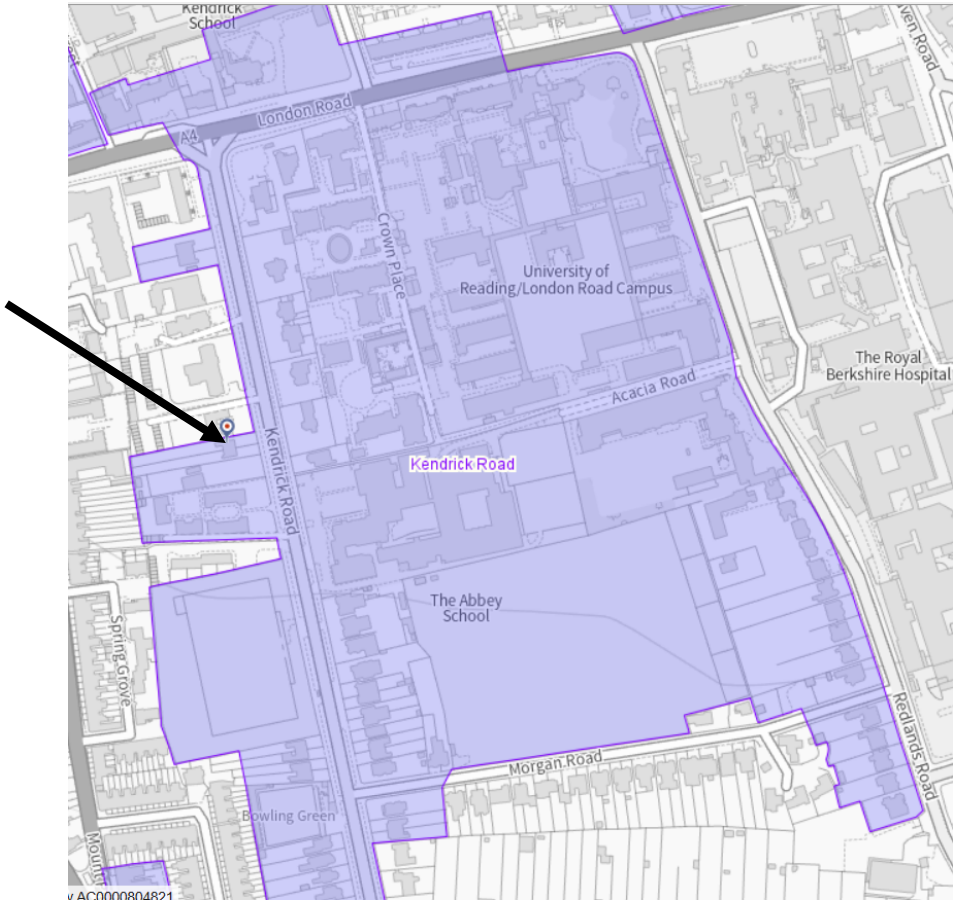
## **12. Background Papers**

- 12.1. Conservation Area maps

## **Appendices**

- 1. Map extract showing the property within the Kendrick Road Conservation Area**
- 2. Photographs**

# Appendix 1 – Location of 26 Kendrick Road within the Kendrick Road Conservation Area



**Appendix 2 – Photographs**



**Bay tree**



**Conifer**