

Planning Applications Committee

29 April 2026



Reading
Borough Council
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Title	PROPOSED POLLARDING OF FOUR WILLOW TREES AT ROSE KILN LANE / LAUD CLOSE, READING
Purpose of the report	To make a decision
Report status	Public report
Executive Director/ Statutory Officer Commissioning Report	Emma Gee
Report author	Sarah Hanson, Natural Environment Officer
Lead councillor	Councillor Micky Leng, Lead Councillor for Planning and Assets
Council Priority	Deliver a sustainable and healthy environment and reduce our carbon footprint
Ward	Coley
Recommendations	The Committee is asked: 1. To approve the proposed tree works.

1. Executive summary

- 1.1. To report to Committee on the proposed pollarding of four, Council Willow trees at Rose Kiln Lane / Laud Close, those being within G5 of TPO 2/05 (copy of TPO plan attached – 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 protection of Council trees where appropriate to do so contributes to this policy aim.
- 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](#) . Appropriate management of Council, protected trees meets the aims of Objective 1.

3. The Proposal

- 3.1 The Willow trees are located on Council land west of the A33 / east of Rose Kiln Lane and south of Laud Close, adjacent to the Holy Brook. Following an inspection by Streetscene, an application was received on

2 March 2026 seeking consent for the pollarding of four Willow trees to 2m above ground level (application reference PL/26/0275). The trees are multi-stemmed or of poor form, have a poor rooting environment and are located direct adjacent to the weir, where trees need to be appropriately managed to avoid failure into the watercourse. Given the general structurally weak nature of Willow, exacerbated in this case by their form, pollarding at 2m is deemed appropriate, with the intention to manage the trees as pollards in the future. This allows their retention as part of the treescape of the brook and benefit to wildlife, whilst managing them appropriately for their surroundings.

- 3.2 For information, a separate application has been approved for the same works to the adjacent privately owned Willow trees north of Rose Kiln Court that form the remainder of G5 of the TPO (application reference PL/25/1709).
- 3.3 As the Council-maintained trees in question are subject to a Tree Preservation Order, a formal tree works application is required for the works to be approved.
- 3.4 The Town and Country Planning Act 1990 requires applications for works to protected Council owned or maintained trees to be decided by a Committee of the Council which is not responsible for managing the land to which the application relates.
- 3.5 The law also requires a public notice to be displayed for at least 21 days giving details of the proposed works and contact details for any comments to be sent.
- 3.6 The works proposed are necessary in order to appropriately manage the risk these trees present to the watercourse and to enable their retention as part of the tree-lined feature along the Holy Brook. As no objection or comments have been received as a result of the public notice, it is recommended that the works be approved.

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 sustainable and healthy environment in Reading and helps to reduce its carbon footprint, one of the five priorities of the Council Plan 2025/28.

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 replacement planting overall represents a net gain in tree number hence contributed to the Council's aims.

6. Community Engagement

- 6.1. A site Notice was placed on the bridge across the Holy Brook on Rose Kiln Lane on 20 March 2026 and left for the required 21-day period, i.e. until 10 April 2026. No objections or comments were received.
- 6.2. The application has also been available to view via Public Access

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. No implications identified.

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. Determination of applications affecting work to protected trees is delegated to officers except where the proposal has been submitted by or on behalf of the Council.

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 approvals last for a period of 2 years, i.e. must be carried out within that period.

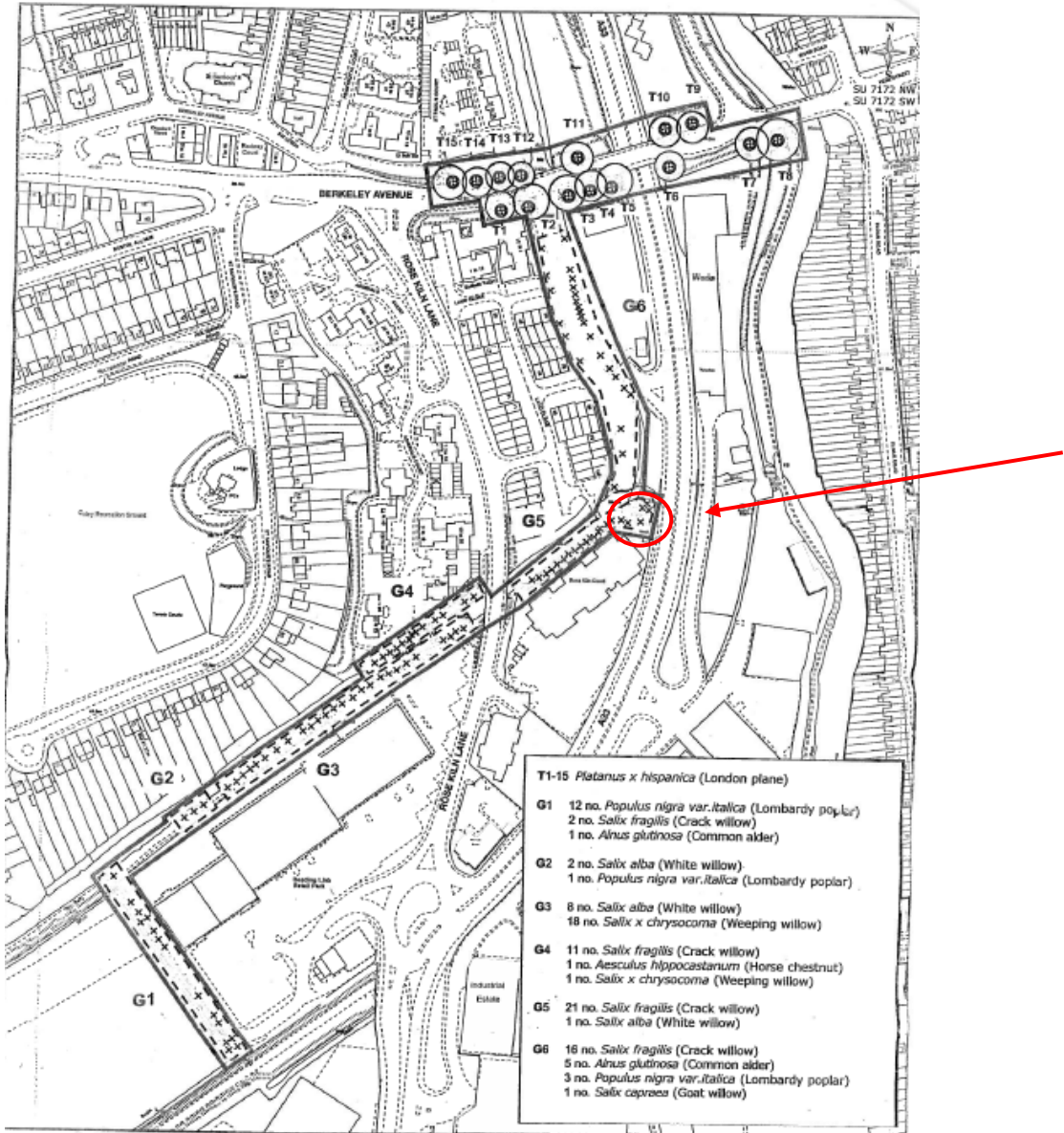
12. Background Papers

- 12.1. Register of Tree Preservation Orders

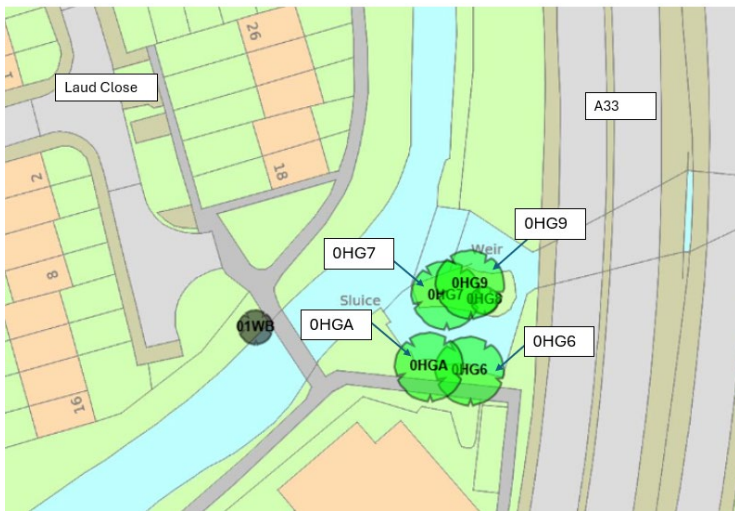
Appendices

- 1. TPO plan of TPO 2/05 & Location Plan**
- 2. Photographs**

Appendix 1 – TPO 2/05 (plan) & Location Plan



Location of Council Willow trees within G5



Appendix 2 – Photographs



