

From: Lindsey Abbott
Sent: 14 August 2026 12:36:08 UTC+01:00
To: "Nathan Cantell" <nathan@beechwoodtreecare.co.uk>
Cc: "Matt Wharton" <MXW@rbcs.org.uk>; "Colette Yan" <Colette.Yan@wokingham.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Reading Bluecoat School Section 211 responses

Dear Nathan,

Thanks for such a warm welcome and your responses to specifications below. I'm now revising the notification and will update it to include the CA trees only. I'm afraid you will need to submit a separate tree works application for works to trees covered by the woodland and group TPO-0002-1951. These trees should not have been included within the Section 211 application, and I will speak with our validations team on this matter. The letter will be uploaded today and sent out with Monday's date, as agreed with Matt Wharton.

Thank you and wishing you a good weekend,
Lindsey Abbott

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From: Nathan Cantell <nathan@beechwoodtreecare.co.uk>
Sent: 13 August 2026 10:51
To: Lindsey Abbott <Lindsey.Abbott@wokingham.gov.uk>
Cc: Matt Wharton <MXW@rbcs.org.uk>; Colette Yan <Colette.Yan@wokingham.gov.uk>
Subject: Reading Bluecoat School Section 211 responses

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For the attention of

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Dear Lindsey

Firstly, I hope you are well and congratulations on the new role at Wokingham. I look forward to working with you going forward.

Please see my responses below to your questions and I trust this will allow you to determine the notification.

1.

Tree ID: 6256

Tree Type: Yew

Recommendation: Fell to ground level. (From survey, identified as “Windblown and hung-up in adjacent yew”)

Priority: 3 Months

CA/TPO: CA

Note: Could not identify 6256 in Woodland. Possibly this hung-up tree but we weren’t sure it was a yew.

I think your picture does show the tree in question. W3W is [///zones.gender.looks](#)

2.

Tree ID: 568

Tree Type: Plane

Recommendation: Crown reduce by removal of regrowth back to previous pruning points. Remove all up-right suckers. Raise canopy height to 6m AGL, and minimum 3m clearance to adjacent building roofs/walls.

CA/TPO: CA

Note: Ok to remove upright suckers. It was difficult to ascertain where the previous pruning points were given the size of this tree but presume there are pruning points. 6m AGL seems excessive for this tree as did 3m clearance from buildings given one side of the tree’s canopy is larger than the other (side closest to The Wharf building is larger). 5.2m is the highway clearance for lorries, for example and it seems only pedestrians and facilities team on ride-on lawn mowers will need to get under the tree, but perhaps there is more that you can explain. See photos below and let me know what you think.

Understand your comments, however we still wish to carry out the works set out by the consultant, and have provided enough information for a CA notification to be validated.

3.

Tree ID: 830

Tree Type: Oak

Recommendation: Prune back canopy (S) to give 2-3m clearance.

CA/TPO: CA

Note: We did not know what (s) meant? Is that Stem or South? Can we amend spec to read: “Prune back canopy (southern side) to give 2-3m clearance to structures and building only.” This tree’s form / habit is quite special. We think pruning only where there’s a conflict with the pool fence and buildings is appropriate.

Yes, I have interpreted (S) as southern side only. It needs to be structures, buildings and the fence.

4.

Tree ID: 1047
Tree Type: Yew

Recommendation: Prune back canopy from adjacent building roof to give 2m clearance
CA/TPO: CA

Note: Can you clarify the spec? Tree is located less than 1.8-2m from neighbouring Bright Horizons Nursery Building. If 2m is pruned, then branches will be cut back to main stem. Is this work necessary? Is it the lower branches next to the fence that your consultant recommended pruning back?

As per the specification it is to give 2m clearance to the roof. Again, as per our notification this is enough information.

5.
Tree ID: 4945
Tree Type: Sycamore

Recommendation: Remove low branch over highway to trunk.
CA/TPO: CA

Note: Could we add "Remove low branch over highway to trunk to provide 5.2m clearance over Sonning Lane" please?

Yes

6.
Tree ID: 4967
Tree Type: Norway Maple

Recommendation: Prune back longest lower canopy branches (S) by 2m to remove squirrel damage.
CA/TPO: CA

Note: In order to remove all of the squirrel damage and deadwood from the lateral branch that overhangs a playing field, your arboriculturalist should pursue one of these two options:

Option 1: Remove lateral branch with squirrel damage and dead wood 1m from main stem.

Option 2: Reduce outer edge of stem in vicinity of lateral branch with squirrel damage and dead wood to reduce weight in this area (and prevent the lateral branch from failing).

Arrow indicates approximate location of damaged lateral branch.

I am not sure I understand what you mean on this. As per the specification provided, we intend to reduce the lower canopy on the south side by 2m to remove the squirrel damage. This is a poor specimen with could be considered of removal at some point.

7.
Tree ID: 5809
Tree Type: Horse Chestnut

Recommendation: Fell to ground level. (Survey notes due to squirrel damage.)
CA/TPO: CA

Note: As per our on-site discussion, we will assume this is the Horse Chestnut tree by the utility pole along Sonning Lane.

Yes this is correct

8.

Tree ID: 6216

Tree Type: Myrobalan Plum

Recommendation: Crown reduce by 35% (2m).

CA/TPO: CA

Note: Can we please amend the specification to the following? Reduction on the south side of main stem by 2m over path only. (This is where most of the growth is as seen in the second photo. The survey notes: "Broken stem bifurcation at 2.5m AGL (S). Strained bending stem over path." Colette and I did not observe this but we may have missed it. 35% (2m) crown reduction on the north, east, and west sides of this tree seems excessive. Obviously, it's important to make the tree safe given its proximity to the path.

We wish to stick with the consultant's recommendations please.

I appreciate the need for clarification on some of the items raised, and I hope the responses provided help to address those points.

That said, I think it is worth clarifying the scope of what is required as part of a Section 211 Conservation Area notification. My understanding is that the purpose of the notification is to identify the tree(s) concerned, provide their location, and clearly state the works that are proposed. Unlike a planning application, there is no requirement to provide a detailed justification for the works, supporting evidence, or an arboricultural assessment.

We are, of course, happy to provide clarification where it is reasonably necessary to understand the proposed works. However, where the comments relate to a preference for a different specification, or an opinion that the proposed specification is excessive, I would understand these to be matters for discussion rather than information that we are required to amend as part of the notification itself.

Kind regards

Nathan
Sales Director

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