



Ms R Brockett
Artemis Tree Services Ltd
West Hyde Nursery
Old Uxbridge Road
West Hyde
WD3 9XY

Emma Gee
Interim Executive Director for
Economic Growth and
Neighbourhood Services

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Our Ref: 230966/TPO
Your Ref:

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16 August 2023

Your contact is: Sarah Hanson, Planning, Development & Regulatory Services

Dear Ms Brockett

**RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO ONE MAPLE TREE AT 58-60 GRANVILLE ROAD, READING - T5
OF TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 38/11.**

Thank you for your application of 11 July 2023, regarding the above.

Further to my visit on 11 August 2023, I have the following comments:

The proposed work is to '*crown reduce by removing approximately 3m from all over*'; the reason cited being as the '*tree has outgrown its location*'. The pruning specification has been interpreted as meaning 3m from each 'direction' and height such that the spread will be reduced by 6m overall and the height by 3m, which is a significant reduction. It was unclear from my visit why it is considered that the tree has outgrown its location such that an overall reduction of the amount specified is required, and no further explanation is given in the application; certainly a height reduction would not seem to be of any benefit in terms of the space the tree occupies. The reduction will produce multiple wounds (size unclear), all being entry points for pathogens, and reduce the leaf bearing structure significantly and is proposed without clear justification for works that reduce the size, hence amenity value, of a tree.

As part of our consideration, we assess the amenity value of the tree and the likely impact of the proposal on the amenity of the area, and in the light of that assessment, consider whether or not the proposal is justified, having regard to the reasons put forward in support of it. In this case, the reasons put forward in support of the pruning are not considered to outweigh the potential harm to the tree and its amenity value and hence is **refused**.

The close proximity of the crown to the building was noted, hence pruning to provide better clearance is approved below as lesser works.

I did note that the branches are fairly low, so I have included crown lifting to provide better ground clearance in the approved works.

I can confirm that the following alternative, lesser works are approved subject to the conditions below:

- Maple (T1 of application; T5 of TPO) - crown lift to 4m above ground level through 360° by removing/reducing only secondary and tertiary growth or main branches of no more than 5cm in diameter; prune to provide 2m clearance from the building.

We would welcome a further application with clearer justification for an overall crown reduction or an application for alternative works to alleviate specific concerns, if not addressed by the above, approved works.

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. Climbing spikes shall not be used whilst undertaking any form of works on living trees, except on trees to be felled.

Reason: Spikes can cause extensive long-term damage

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: This does not require the formal consent of the Council. However written notice must be given 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

4. 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

5. Tree work consents on land not owned by the applicant: It is strongly recommended that the owner of the tree be advised of any proposed works. The owner's permission must be sought if the tree works involve work past the boundary line. This consent does not in any way imply that this Council has informed the owner of sought permission or will condone the use of consents to force any landowner to grant such permission.

If you wish to appeal against the refusal to allow the overall crown reduction or 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:

Trees and Hedges
Room 3A Eagle Wing
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Temple Quay
Bristol, BS1 6PN

Telephone: 0303 444 5000

E-mail it to: treeandhedgeappeals@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Website: [Tree Preservation Orders and trees in conservation areas - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/tree-preservation-orders-and-trees-in-conservation-areas)

If your client suffers any loss or damage as a result of this refusal of consent, they may be entitled to recover compensation from the Council. If they wish to make a claim they must do so within 12 months from the date of this decision (or, if they appeal to the Secretary of State, within 12 months from the date of his decision). Claims should be made in writing to the Insurance Section, Reading Borough Council, Civic Centre, Bridge Street, Reading, RG1 2LU.

Please ensure your client is provided with a copy of this letter.

If you require any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me on the above number.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Hanson

Sarah Hanson
Natural Environment Officer

C.c. Gosia Gubanska-Kolanczyk, Pinnacle Group