



Mr D White
White knight Tree Care & Consultancy
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Emma Gee
Interim Executive Director for
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10 August 2023

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

Dear Mr White

RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO TREES AT 6 GRASS HILL, READING - SUBJECT TO TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 98/05.

Thank you for your application of 22 July 2023, regarding the above, with supporting Arboricultural Report (survey carried out 23rd & 26th June 2023). Further to our site meeting of 3 August 2023, I have the following comments:

Following submission, additional work was added immediately via email to crown lift all trees to 2.5m above ground level to provide maintenance access, which is reasonable. A few changes were made to the application during our meeting, which were then discussed with Mr Stroomer, as follows:

- T001 False acacia - recommendation changed to felling due to extensive lean (Mr Stroomer to decide how he wishes to proceed following approval - lesser works can be done under the approval),
- Small Sycamore adjacent to T001 False acacia - fell,
- T015 English Yew - recommendation changed to felling. The tree is small and not a specimen and will be problematic during the implementation of the revised boundary between 6 & 8 Grass Hill (No. 8 to take a strip of land currently within No. 6's curtilage),
- T013 & T014 Irish Yew - recommendation changed to a 50% reduction. These trees, as noted, have overextended, subsiding limbs. The foliage has begun to thicken up in lower half of the tree and the reduction is reasonable. It was noted that one will ultimately be within the curtilage of No. 6 and one within the curtilage of No. 8; the new boundary line running between them. It was suggested to Mr Stroomer that these could be incorporated within a new Yew boundary hedge/row of trees (to replace the boundary conifers to be felled).

I can confirm that the proposed works, as detailed in the supporting Arboricultural Report with the following amendments, are approved subject to the conditions below:

- Crown lift all trees to 2.5-3m above ground level through 360° removing/reducing secondary and tertiary growth or main branches less than 5cm diameter only
- T001 False acacia - fell
- Small boundary Sycamore adjacent to T001 False acacia - fell
- T015 English Yew - fell
- T013 & T014 Irish Yew - 50% crown reduction as indicatively shown:



For clarity, in addition to the above trees , the works include the felling of the following trees as they are dead:

- T012 Common Hawthorn
- T040 Cherry plum
- T046 Plum

And the following trees due to other identified reasons:

- T004 Sycamore
- T005-T011 (7 trees) Lawson cypress
- T029 Plum
- T050 Laburnum
- T051 Wych Elm

The duty to replace dead trees under Section 206 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 does not apply within Woodland designation TPOs. I would, however, encourage Mr Stroomer to consider replacing the 3 trees to which this applies to aid in maintaining tree coverage.

Condition 5 below details the replacement planting requirements to replace the other 14 trees for which permission to fell has been given.

I note the intention to sever Ivy, which should be done with care to avoid damaging the bark of the trees. Please also note Informative 4.

In relation to timing, the more significant work (reduction, pollarding and coppicing) is subject to timing condition 3 below. This applies to the following trees:

- T002 Ash
- T003, T018, T021, T043 Hazel
- T030 Sycamore

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. The approved canopy reduction, pollarding and coppicing (to trees as listed above) shall be undertaken in mid-late Summer (July - September) when the tree's energy reserves are at their height or during the Winter months of December - January during the period of dormancy.

Reason: Taking into account the tree's phenological cycle and in order to avoid any unnecessary detriment to the tree as a result of the pruning work.

4. 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

5. Following the felling of the 14 trees authorised by this consent, 14 native or naturalised trees of a minimum 6-8cm girth & 2.5m in height for broadleaves and minimum 1.5m in height for conifers shall be planted within the curtilage of 6 Grass Hill during the planting season (Nov-March) following or at the time of the felling of the tree, whichever is soonest. The species shall be agreed with the Natural Environment Team prior to purchase and planting.

Planting should be carried out in accordance with clause 10 (Planting) of BS 8545:2014 'Trees: from nursery to independence in the landscape - Recommendations'

Should the replacement tree be removed, die or become severely damaged or seriously diseased, all within 5 years of planting, it shall be replaced by a tree of a similar size and species to that originally planted. Modifications to the requirements of this condition must be agreed in writing with Reading Borough Council Natural Environment Team.

PLEASE NOTE: The requirement to replant is the responsibility of the tree owner even if the application was submitted by another person.

Reason: To retain the present visual amenity value of the area and ensure continuity of tree coverage.

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. Prior to the severing of well-established Ivy at the base of the tree, it would be prudent to carry out an assessment of whether any of the stems of the Ivy are forming a natural brace above a suspected bark-included union

If you wish to appeal 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 \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk/government/topics/trees-and-hedges/tree-preservation-orders-and-trees-in-conservation-areas)

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. Mr Stroomer, 6 Grass Hill