



Mr T Heaps
Trevor Heaps Arboricultural Consultancy Ltd
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Emma Gee
Interim Executive Director for
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24 August 2023

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

Dear Mr Heaps

**RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO THREE SYCAMORE TREES REAR OF 1 OPAL COURT, READING -
SUBJECT TO TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 51/12.**

Thank you for your application of 14 July 2023, regarding the above.

Further to my visit on 24 August 2023, I can confirm that the following proposed works, as detailed in your application, are approved subject to the conditions below and with reference to the attached annotated photographs:

- T3, T4 & T5 Sycamore - fell

The trees are located on a steep bank to the rear of the garden, with T3 & T5 exhibiting significant leans; the former leaning over the small garden of No. 1. Whilst each form part of the woodland area and contribute to the tree/canopy cover, their removal is considered reasonable due to their form and proximity to the dwelling.

It was noted that there is excessive Ivy present on trees within the woodland area. It is recommended that this be severed at the base and left to die off. Whilst Ivy provides wildlife value, its presence makes tree inspection difficult, i.e. it can hide defects present, and adds to the weight on branches and to the shade created by the trees.

Replacement planting is required - note condition 3 below. However, we would only expect these to be small, native species to avoid conflict with the dwellings in the future and to help maintain stabilisation of the slope and the wildlife habitat of this area.

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. Following the felling of the three trees authorised by this consent, three (3) native broadleaf trees of a minimum 6-8cm and 1.5m in height shall be planted within the same area in which the 3 trees to be felled are located during the planting season (Nov-March) following or at the time of the felling of the trees, 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. 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.

5. 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/guidance/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. Sarah Alexander, Heritage Tree Services Ltd
Ms Turner, 1 Opal Court