

Mrs Margaret Walsh
23 New Road
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Emma Gee
Interim Executive Director for
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15 June 2023

Your contact is: Andrei Nazare, Planning, Development & Regulatory Services

Dear Mrs Walsh,

RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO THREE TREES AT 23 NEW ROAD, READING - SUBJECT TO CONSERVATION AREA STATUS.

Thank you for your notification of 22nd April 2023, regarding the above and apologies for the delay of this response.

Further to your notification and the photographs received on 27th May 2023, I can confirm that the Council have no objections to the following proposed tree work:

- 1x Magnolia tree - trim back and reshape canopy by reducing branch length by up to 2-3m
- 1x Bay tree - prune and shape canopy by reducing branch length by up to 1m
- 1x Beech tree at no. 21 - 2-3m reduction of overhanging branches

Advice on following good arboricultural practices states that no more than 1/3rd of the leaf area of a branch or of the tree overall should be removed at once to retain the tree's photosynthesis ability and to avoid irreversible decline in health and vigour. Your work specifications can lead to a significant removal of leaf area for both the Magnolia tree and the Bay tree. While the Bay tree is likely to recover more easily, please consider whether more sympathetic works can be carried out to the Magnolia tree, in line with good arboricultural advice. If you need help finding a tree surgeon to advise and carry out the works, please visit the Council's trees page at: <https://www.reading.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/trees-hedges-and-environment/trees/>

As the works proposed to the neighbouring Beech tree are not extending past your boundary, you do not need the tree owner's permission to carry them out. However, it is recommended that you inform them about carrying out the works beforehand and note

that all the resulting trimmings belong to the tree owner and should therefore be returned (with care) unless otherwise agreed.

The six weeks notification period for the agreed works lapsed on 3 June 2023, after which date you were within your right to carry out the works, as noted in my e-mail of 24 April.

This decision is valid for two years from the date of this letter, after which it lapses.

Informatives

1. 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'.

2. 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 060 3900; enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk

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

Yours sincerely,

Andrei Nazare

Andrei Nazare
Assistant Natural Environment Officer