



Ms S Alexander
Heritage Trees Ltd
Unit 3b, Orchard Cottage
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Keith Townsend
Executive Director for
Economic Growth and
Neighbourhood Services

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Our Ref: 231066/TPO
Your Ref:

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5 September 2023

Your contact is: Sarah Hanson, Planning, Transport & Public Protection

Dear Ms Alexander

RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO ONE SYCAMORE TREE AT 66 SHILLING CLOSE, READING - T27 OF TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 145/06.

Thank you for your application of 30 July 2023, regarding the above.

You application seeks consent to crown reduce the tree up to 2.5m and crown lift to 3m due to the tree encroaching onto the fence, light in the car wash and the adjacent telegraph pole.

Further to my visit on 1 September 2023, I have the following comments:

The Sycamore appears to be a good condition, albeit much of the tree is obscured by excessive Ivy growth, and provides amenity value, being visible from Tilehurst Road. It is acknowledged that some work is justified to achieve a greater crown clearance above the garden, pavement in Tilehurst Road and around the telegraph wires, however, a crown reduction is not considered necessary to alleviate concerns when other, lesser works can be carried out instead that would reduce the detrimental impact on the amenity value of the tree. I am unclear why reasoning includes 'light in the car wash' given the proximity of buildings and the lack of necessity for greater light given the nature of the business. As such, **the crown reduction is refused**, however lesser works are approved and were discussed with Mr Watson (tenant) on site.

I can confirm that the following works are approved subject to the conditions below and with reference to the attached photographs:

- Remove basal growth 4 times a year for the next 5 years
- Remove one low main branch growing over the garden and one minor branch

growing eastwards

- Remove one low branch overhanging the Tilehurst pavement and crown lift the remaining branches to 3m above ground level (of pavement) by reducing / removing secondary and tertiary growth only
- Cut back individual secondary and tertiary branches as required to provide 0.5m canopy clearance to phonelines.

As mentioned above, there is excessive Ivy growing within the crown and extending along the rear fence. It would be prudent to sever this and remove from the base, allowing the Ivy in the crown to die off. Ivy can hide defects present, adds weight to the branches and adds to shading of the garden.

It was also noted that there were detached, hanging wires from the telegraph pole and I suggested to Mr Watson that these are reported to the appropriate persons.

Conditions

1. Five days' notice in writing shall be given to the Council prior to undertaking the approved works and on each occasion for the removal of the basal growth.

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. The exception is the approved removal of basal growth for which this consent lasts for 5 years, a new application being required as of 5 September 2028.

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.

6. Crown lifting of trees over the footpath and carriageway: If the clearance of vegetation overhanging the highway only involves the removal of branches to give a ground clearance to the statutory heights of 2.7m over the footpath and 5.5m over the road, this does not require formal consent from the Council. You are advised, however, to give notice to the Council of these intended works in order that they can be agreed.

7. 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 the refusal to allow the proposed crown reduction or against any of the conditions attached to the consented works, 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-woodland/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 you/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.

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 Watson, 66 Shilling Close