



Mrs H Waller
1 Dovedale Close
Reading
RG4 7AL

Emma Gee
Interim Executive Director for
Economic Growth and
Neighbourhood Services

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Our Ref: 230807/TPO
Your Ref:

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7 July 2023

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

Dear Mrs Waller,

RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO ONE SYCAMORE TREE AT TREETOPS, THE MOUNT, READING - T13 OF TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 165/01.

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

Further to my visit on 12 July 2023, accompanied by my colleague Sarah Hanson, and to the e-mail exchange of 13 July 2023, I can confirm that the following amended works, as shown on the annotated photographs attached, are approved subject to the conditions below:

- 1x Sycamore tree (T13 on application and on TPO)
 - remove one low branch growing east; reduce one low branch growing west back to the previous pruning point ('elbow'); reduce branches growing towards the houses by 0.5-1m (from the outer extremity); reduce 2 branches growing south to appropriate growing points (as annotated).

You submitted the tree works application to address concerns with regards to the tree's condition following the hot summer of 2022 and due to the tree's location on high ground which may further limit water availability during periods of extended drought. In particular, a number of dead branches throughout the crown and some drooping low branches are noted and you wish to remove or reduce them.

During our visit, we discussed the removal of one low branch growing East and reduction of 3 branches growing West (1) and South (2), as shown on the annotated photographs. We

consider this agreeable as these branches are small in diameter and their removal will not impact the overall amenity value of the tree.

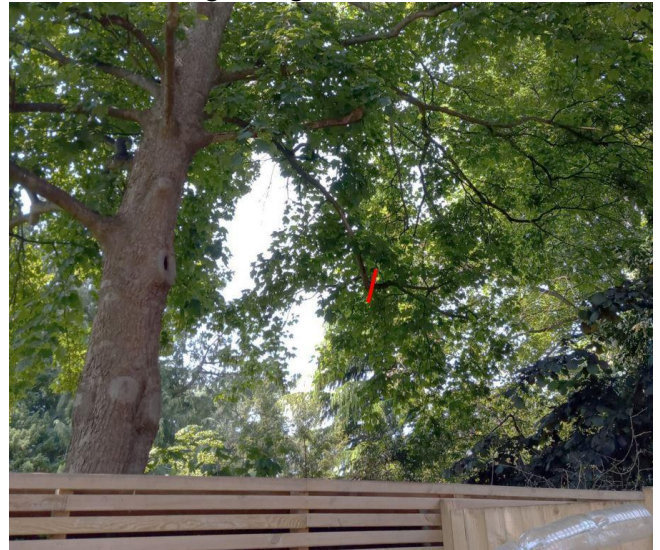
In addition, the reduction of branches growing towards the houses at Dovedale Close by 0.5-1m (from the out extremity) is also agreeable as this will avoid conflict between the tree and the buildings and is considered reasonable management.

The intention to remove dead branches is noted. You do not need the Council's permission to remove dead or dangerous branches, but we welcome a 5 days' notice in advance of carrying out their removal.

1. Branches growing East and South

and

branch growing West



Branches growing south (as above)



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 are aggrieved by any of the conditions attached to your consent, you may appeal to The Planning Inspectorate (PINS). Because of coronavirus (COVID-19), you currently can only make a planning appeal online. You cannot currently apply by post.

For more information go to:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/tree-preservation-order-appeal-form>

Telephone: 0303 444 5500 or e-mail it to:

treeandhedgeappeals@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Your appeal should be received within one month of receipt of this decision or any such longer period as the Planning Inspectorate may allow.

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
On behalf of Sarah Hanson, Natural Environment Officer

C.c. Dr T Howard, Treetops Caversham Management (via e-mail)