



Ms S Duckworth
Duckworths Arboriculture Ltd
Glebelands Cottage East
Mildenhall
Marlborough
SN8 2LR

Emma Gee
Interim Executive Director for
Economic Growth and
Neighbourhood Services

Bridge Street, Reading RG1 2LU
☎ 0118 9373787

Our Ref: 230638/TPO
Your Ref:

Direct: ☎01189 374294
andrei.nazare@reading.gov.uk

13 June 2023

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

Dear Ms Duckworth,

RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO SEVEN TREES AT 58 CRAWSHAY DRIVE, EMMER GREEN, READING - T3, T4 AND PART OF G1 OF TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 125/05.

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

Further to my visit on 22 May 2023, I can confirm that the following works, as described in your application, are approved subject to the conditions below and with reference to the annotated photographs accompanying the application:

- 1x Beech tree (T3 on TPO):
 - T001 on application - light reduction of two extended branches on northeast side of canopy by 2m
 - T002 on application - reduce northwest-northeast quadrant of canopy by 1-2m and reduce overextended branches in upper canopy by 2-3m, leaving a natural looking canopy shape
- 1x Maple tree (T003 on application, T4 on TPO):
 - Remove sucker/epicormic growth from around the base
- 6x Maple trees (part of G1 on TPO):
 - T007 on application - Remove small branch in upper central crown with wound.
 - T009 on application - reduce height by 3m and lateral spread on north and east side by 2m to reduce weight and wind loading above decayed stem, leaving a natural looking canopy shape
 - T010, T011, T012 on application - fell to ground
 - T013 on application - crown lift to create 4m clearance above ground level

Your application correctly identifies two Beech trees growing closely together on the frontage - your T001 and T002 - where the Tree Preservation Order only shows one. As the

trees cannot be treated as individuals (as your proposed works show, any intervention to either one will affect the other), I can confirm that we consider both as included as one tree in the TPO under the designation of T3. The proposed works to these trees will reduce weight on weak forks (T002) and reduce new exposure to wind profile (T001) and are, as such, agreeable.

Minor works proposed to two Cappadocian Maple (T003 and T007) amount to removal of sucker/epicormic growth and, respectively, one small branch in upper central crown, are part of reasonable maintenance and are agreeable.

With regards to the condition of T009 Norway Maple tree, you note a cavity with audible decay around it at 2.5m on the south side of the tree. To reduce weight and wind loading above this point, you propose a 3m height reduction and 2m lateral spread reduction on north and east side. As the works are aimed to manage the tree in a safe manner, these are agreeable.

Three Norway Maple trees part of G1 of TPO are trees of very low vitality (T010, T012) or remnants of partially failed trees (T011) and all show states of advanced decline and are not expected to recover or to provide any amenity to the area in the future. Their removal is agreeable subject to a replacement planting condition - see condition 5 below.

I note the specifications for their approved removal is 'fell to ground level', but if there is any opportunity to retain any of them as a standing high stump (3-4m), given their decaying state, this will provide important habitat for biodiversity. The Council encourages the retention of high stumps where this does not pose a safety risk and the owner is willing to do so.

The proposed crown lifting of the T013 Norway Maple tree is agreeable, but it does not include the large branches growing north at 2-3m on the trunk, which should be retained. I note that various materials are stored at the base of this tree, directly onto the ground (with only some stored on some stone slabs), which can lead to ground compaction or damage the shallow roots of the tree. Material storage should be avoided near protected trees, and where this is not possible, it should be contained within the stone slabs which spread the load on the ground. In particular, the compactor on the east side of the trunk should be removed from the base of the tree. Unless these are removed, it will be difficult to assess if any future decline of the tree is caused by pathological, physiological causes or by the damage made by materials stored at its base.

Ivy growth is present on a number of trees, and you have recommended severing it where it is the case. This does not require the Council's permission but please note Informative 6 below for your information.

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 reductions to your T001 & T002 (T3 of TPO) and your T009 (part of G1 of the TPO) 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 3 Norway maple trees authorised by this consent, three broadleaved trees a minimum of 10-12cm girth and 2.75m tall (at the time of planting) shall be planted within the area shown as G1 on TPO 125/05, the species of which shall be agreed with the Natural Environment Team.

The trees shall be planted as close as possible to the removed tree's location, in order to replace the lost amenity, during the planting season (Nov-March) following or at the time of the felling of the tree, whichever is soonest.

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.

6. Crown cleaning should not include the removal of fused natural braces (branches or stems), or the removal of entwining branches or rubbing branches (where they may be forming a natural brace) from the crown of a semi-mature to fully mature tree without carrying out an assessment of any junctions formed below such natural braces.

Reason: Removal of natural braces may lead to failure of weak unions.

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. Trees not considered to be protected by the current Tree preservation order: Work can be carried out to this tree without the formal consent from this Council.

6. 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 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

C.c. Mr R Julleekkea (via e-mail)