



Mr D Fernandes
34 Colliers Way
Tilehurst
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RG30 2QT

Frances Martin
Executive Director for
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19 January 2023

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

Dear Mr Fernandes

**RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO ONE SYCAMORE TREE AT 34 COLLIERS WAY, READING -
SUBJECT TO TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 189/06.**

Thank you for your application of 3 January 2023, seeking approval to re-pollard the Sycamore. As per the acknowledgement email of 5 January 2023, we have taken your proposal to be 're-pollarding back to the original, historic pollard points' (indicated in the photograph at the end of this letter for clarity).

I note from your application form that you are concerned about the condition of the tree, i.e. that it is diseased or that it may break or fall, however you have not provided arboricultural evidence to support those concerns.

As also indicated in the acknowledgement email, and confirmed during my visit of 10 January 2023, the Sycamore is a 'lapsed pollard', i.e. a tree which was pollarded a long time ago but the re-pollarding cycle has not been maintained. As such, good arboricultural practice (in BS3998:2010 'Tree work - Recommendations') advises against re-pollarding back to previous pollard points and instead recommends a crown reduction. As no evidence has been provided to indicate that the tree / pollard points are in such poor condition that re-pollarding back to those original points is justified, this is not acceptable hence re-pollarding back to the original pollard points is refused.

It is appropriate to reduce the crown to account for previous management (pollarding) to alleviate the weight of the regrowth. In determining the degree of reduction, good arboricultural practice has been considered in forming an appropriate amount. Again, referring to BS3998, it is appropriate to consider the species, size of wounds and condition. In relation to the latter, you have provided no information to suggest that the tree is in poor condition and as it was not in leaf at the time of my visit, the crown

condition could not be properly assessed. Sycamore, as a species, is not particularly tolerant of pruning, being prone to decay at pruning points, hence the need to minimise wound size is important. Timing will also be important, as this genus (Acer) is not appropriate to prune in the spring (due to 'bleeding') and reductions, in general, are best confined to particular times of year to minimise the impact on the tree's health.

In conclusion, re-pollarding back to the original pollard points is refused, however I can confirm that the following, lesser works are approved with reference to the photograph, and subject to the conditions, below:

- Sycamore (rear garden) - crown reduction by a maximum of 2m off the height and maximum of 2m off lateral spread in each direction (measured from the outer extent), back to appropriate growing points, leaving a following crown line, ensuring no wounds greater than 100mm are created; removal of re-growth from the low branch growing over the garden of 35 Colliers Way.
Officer note: lateral reduction may be of a lesser extent than 2m in order to leave a well-shaped crown with a flowing crown line



Low branch regrowth to be removed

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 reduction 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

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

If you wish to appeal against the refusal of consent for re-pollarding or 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: 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 you suffer any loss or damage as a result of this refusal of consent, you may be entitled to recover compensation from the Council. If you wish to make a claim you must do so within 12 months from the date of this decision (or, if you 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



For clarity - previous pollard points considered and refused.



For reference: tree's current size