



Mr S Smith
Deans Farm Management Company
20 Deans Farm
The Causeway
Reading
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Frances Martin
Executive Director for
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Your Ref:

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4 April 2023

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

Dear Mr Smith

RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO TREES AT DEANS FARM & PICNIC AREA, READING - SUBJECT TO TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 6/17.

Thank you for your application of 27 February 2023, regarding the above, with accompanying tree survey dated 18 November 2022 from Tree Surveys.

Your application included work to T1 Willow to *'form into a pollard knuckle at 6-7m 50mm stubs to be left to aid regrowth'*, whereas the tree survey suggested no work was currently required. As you are aware, following our site meeting of 9 March, I contacted Tree Surveys directly to query this as you were unaware where the application specification had originated. Paul Billin of Tree Surveys advised in his email of 11 March that the specification has come from Beechwood Tree Care but given the concern raised about the extent of the work and the impact on the appearance of the tree, he suggested alternative, lesser works. Some reduction of this specimen tree is reasonable given its species and lean into the river, but it is important to balance that against harm to the future health and amenity of the tree.

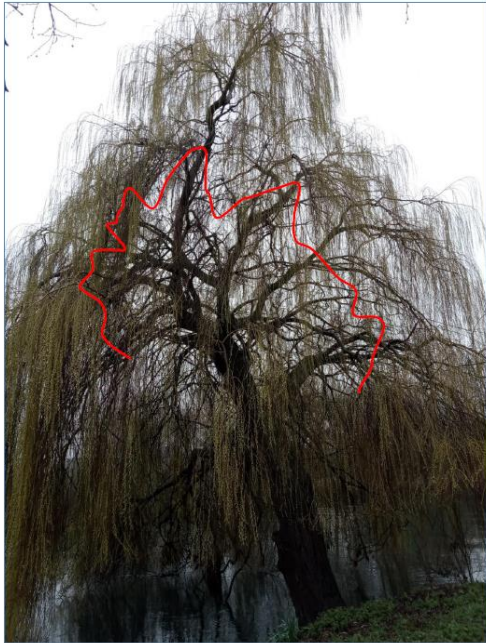
The works to the other trees proposed appeared reasonable management to prevent collapse / limb failures.

I can confirm that the following proposed works, as detailed in your application, are approved subject to the conditions below:

Trees within W1 of the TPO (T numbers as per the tree survey):

- T40 Crack Willow- Pollard remaining two stems at 4-6m, 50mm stubs to be left to aid regrowth
- T41 Crack Willow - Pollard stem over river at 4-5m

- T43 Crack Willow - Pollard stem over river at 2-2.5m (This does not include the upright stem)
- T47 Crack Willow - Fell to ground level & cut down adjacent stumps as close to ground level as possible (tree is dead)
- Willow (T1 of TPO; T29 of survey) - prune to secondary growth points to achieve height of 8-10m AGL and canopy width 3-3.5m according to the annotated indicative photograph below:



With regard to T42 Sycamore, the intention to sever ivy (as it is obscuring stems and now reaching the canopy) is noted.

As discussed on site, it would be beneficial for the management company to promote natural regeneration and/or plant new trees of a suitable, native species (for damp conditions) to maintain the tree coverage and habitat adjacent to the river. As you mentioned, appropriate protection for new trees (whether planted or self-seeded) would be prudent to prevent mammal damage.

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 live trees 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

4. 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.

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.

If you wish to appeal 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 it to: treeandhedgeappeals@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Website: [Tree Preservation Orders and trees in conservation areas - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

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