

Mr J.H. Edwards
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Frances Martin
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25th October 2022

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

Dear Mr. Edwards,

RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO 5 TREES AND FELLING OF 2 DEAD TREES AT 32 REDLANDS ROAD, READING - SUBJECT TO CONSERVATION AREA STATUS.

Thank you for your notification of 13 September 2022, regarding the above.

Further to your notice accompanied by tree works specifications by Beechwood Tree Care Ltd, I can confirm that the Council have no objections to the following proposed tree works:

- T1 Magnolia - Reduce by approximately 1-1.25m, leaving a finished height of approximately 3.5-4m
- T2 Sweet chestnut - Re pollard at previous pollard knuckles, leaving 25-50mm stubs to aid regrowth (please note Informative 3)
- T3 Purple maple - Crown lift to approximately 3.5-4m by removing secondary growth only where possible. (Some small primary stems will be removed)
- T4 Himalayan birch - Lightly reduce the two lowest stems growing towards the greenhouse by approximately 1m
- T5 Beech - Lightly prune by approximately 1.25m to re shape
- T6 Turkey Oak - fell to ground
- T7 Almond tree - fell to ground

The annotated photographs received on 14 September 2022 aid in understanding the extent of the proposed works. As such, the 1-1.25m reduction to T1 Magnolia tree applies only to the top of the crown and should taper off to a lesser reduction to the sides. T6 on

the annotated photographs is actually T5 Beech and the photograph showing T6 dead Turkey oak is not annotated.

I note that notice of re-pollarding of the Sweet chestnut was given on two previous occasions in 2014 and 2018, which means the 4 year pollarding cycle is currently due. It is commendable that you arrange re-pollarding at regular intervals as allowing a pollard tree to lapse makes future management of the tree difficult and possibly more expensive.

Works to the live trees are aimed at maintaining the trees' crown shape (T1, T3, T5), mitigating trees' conflict with nearby structures (T4) and carry out regular re-pollarding (T2), all of which is in line with good arboricultural practice and agreeable. Two dead trees, T6 Turkey Oak and T7 Almond will also be removed.

Under Section 213 (1) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, a landowner is under a duty to replace a tree which is removed because it is dead or dangerous. The duty on the landowner is to plant another tree of an appropriate size and species at the same place as soon as he or she reasonably can.

In this case the Council would expect two replacement trees for the dead Turkey oak and Almond, of a minimum 8-10cm girth and 2.5m high, to be planted within the curtilage of the property in the planting season (Nov-March) following or at the time of felling, whichever is soonest. Please ensure the species is agreed with the Council prior to purchase and planting.

It would be beneficial for wildlife to leave a tall stump of the Turkey oak tree, perhaps 3-4m high, as a standing habitat - your tree surgeon should take a view on an appropriate height depending on the condition of the wood.

The agreed works should not be carried out before six weeks from the date of your notification, i.e. before 25 October 2022.

This decision is valid for two years from the date of this letter, after which it lapses.

Informatives

1. 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'.

2. 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 060 3900; enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk

3. 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

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