

Mr. John Murdoch
23 Fernbrook Road
Caversham
Reading
Berkshire
RG4 7HG

Our Ref: 220861/TPO
Your Ref:

Direct: ☎01189 372440
sarah.hanson@reading.gov.uk

22 July 2022

Your contact is:

Sarah Hanson, Planning

Dear Mr. Murdoch,

**RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO ONE NORWAY SPRUCE AT 23 FERNBROOK ROAD CAVERSHAM
READING RG4 7HG - T2 OF TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 144/06.**

Thank you for your application dated 12th June 2022, regarding the above.

You have applied to remove part of a large lower branch which extends a considerable way from the trunk of T2 (Norway Spruce).

On 18th July 2022, the Council's Arboricultural Consultant visited and viewed the tree and agreed with you that there are a number of concerns regarding the formation, strength and long-term viability of this large, low branch.

This branch has grown beyond the suppressive control / dominance of the upper canopy and is now assuming vertical growth, rather like a second leader than a well-formed sub-dominant branch structure. Such a growth form is not unusual for the species; however, the uneven diameter and rapid-growth bark splits along the branch indicate that the tree is having to adapt to support the excessive weight of the branch. As the branch continues to grow vertically, this will put increased weight and wind loading on a weaker branch structure and will increase the risk of the branch breaking.

You have applied to reduce the vertical length of this branch and the Council agrees that this would reduce the weight of the branch and resolve the problem. The work would not impact on the wider amenity of the tree (and is therefore acceptable in arboricultural terms), however it may leave the tree unsightly to you as viewed from your property.

With this in mind, the Council has granted consent for the works insofar as it is acceptable under the TPO, but we have also provided consent for an alternative specification which would also alleviate the weight and wind loading of the branch but create a more aesthetically pleasing outcome. Whichever option you decide to carry out is up to you and your tree surgeon, however, please note that only one of the following pruning works operations is permitted under the TPO, not both.

I can therefore confirm that you are permitted to carry out (one of) the following tree works specifications, subject to the conditions below:

Approved Works:

OPTION 1 - as detailed in your application

T2 - Norway Spruce

- Remove the vertical part of a large lower branch which extends a considerable way from the trunk of the tree as per the annotated photograph submitted in support of your tree works application.



Proposed cut to T2 to remove very extended bough whilst retaining overall shape of the tree

Photo 1 - Annotated Photo showing permitted pruning cuts under option 1

OPTION 2 - as discussed at the site visit (with reference to photographs below)

T2 - Norway Spruce

- Remove two low secondary pendulous branches from low horizontal branch (Branch 1) over the garden of 23 Fernbrook Road.
- Selectively thin out and reduce branch tips from this low, large branch (1) and branch 2 (above) by approximately 25% to reduce the weight and wind loading on these branches and to check their apical (vertical) growth against that of the remaining tree. Cuts should be made selectively to maintain some needle coverage and to preserve the amenity of the tree as viewed from the property as far as reasonably possible.

Under both options, the removal of dead and dangerous branches is also recommended, and this does not require the formal consent of the Council.



Photo 2 - Identification of branches 1 & 2



Photo 3 - View of branches from under tree canopy

Conditions:

1. Where practicable 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

2. 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 (either option 1 or option 2 as per the approved specifications - not both) 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. 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 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 5570 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

Sarah Hanson

Sarah Hanson
Natural Environment Officer