



Ms S Duckworth
Duckworths Arboriculture
Glebelands Cottage East
Mildenhall

Frances Martin
Executive Director for
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12 December 2022

Your contact is:

Andrei Nazare, Planning, Development & Regulatory Services

Dear Ms Duckworth,

RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO TEN TREES AT DUNLEARY COURT, WESTCOTE ROAD, READING - T1, T2, T3, T6, T7, T10, T11, T14, T17 AND T19 OF TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 4/01.

Thank you for your application of 2 October 2022, regarding the above.

We have recently approved works to protected trees at Dunleary Court under application reference 220900. Some of the approved works, as noted in your application, overlap to some extent works proposed by the application at hand. In addition, while other proposed works do not overlap approved works, these refer to the same trees as the previously approved works, effectively compounding the extent of approved works on the trees. Please refer to the section I included further down in this letter that clarifies which of the previously approved works are superseded by this decision.

Further to my visit at the above address on 24 November 2022 to view the trees, accompanied by my colleague Sarah Hanson, we had a number of queries regarding the proposed works to T010 European Lime and T018 Common Beech. The subsequent e-mail exchange between you and Sarah clarified the final work specifications for which approval is sought, as agreed in your e-mail of 28 November 2022 and detailed in the Additional Notes accompanying the e-mail.

The application proposes the felling of one Red Oak (T14 on TPO) due to basal decay. This is deemed agreeable as it mitigates the risk of the tree falling over in incremental weather or otherwise, on condition that a replacement tree is planted in due course (refer to condition 5 below). I understand this is outside of the applicant's ownership hence I would be grateful for confirmation of whether this letter will be shared with the owner, and indeed your survey.

Significant height reduction and lateral spread reduction, as detailed in the approved works list below, are proposed for three trees (T1, T17 and T19 of the TPO). The reasons for these works are to reduce weight above a sub-optimal branch fork (T1), to reduce weight due to lower stem wounding and decay (T17) and to reduce windsail area of canopy due to new wind pattern following permitted reduction of a near-by tree (T17, T19). These works are, as such, agreeable.

Pollarding to previous pollarding knuckles is proposed to four trees (T2, T3, T10, T11 on TPO). As these trees have been pollarded or heavily reduced before, it is considered good arboricultural practice to repeat the operation at regular intervals in order to manage weight and the works are, therefore, agreeable.

The works proposed for two common Beech trees (T6 and T7 on TPO) are insignificant (or lesser) variations on the works already approved under application 220900. On the basis that these works supersede the previously approved works, they are deemed agreeable.

In conclusion, I can confirm that the following amended works, as shown on the annotated photographs contained in the Arboricultural Report Ref SCD 05897 / 2022 R1 and in the Additional Notes received on 28/11/22, are approved subject to the condition below:

- 1x European lime tree (T005 on application; T1 on TPO) - Selectively reduce canopy height by 3m and 1-3m in lateral spread, keeping cuts below 100mm in size.
- 2x European lime trees (T003 and T002 on application; T2 and T3 on TPO) - pollard back to main trunk without removing or damaging existing pollard knuckles
- 1x Common Beech tree (T022 on application; T6 on TPO)
 - crown lift smaller secondary branches to 4-4.5m above ground level
 - remove one low forked branch in contact with garage roof
- 1x Common Beech tree (T018 on application; T7 on TPO)
 - crown lift to 4-4.5m above ground level
 - selective reduction of individual branch tips which extend beyond the main canopy by up to 1-1.5m
 - cutback west side close to neighbouring property to increase canopy clearance to dwelling by 1-2m (permitted under previous application 220900)
- 1x Sycamore tree (G017 on application; T10 on TPO) - pollard at previous reduction points, approx. 5.5m, without removing or damaging existing pollard knuckles
- 1x Lime tree (G017 on application; T11 on TPO) - pollard at previous reduction points, approx. 5.5m, without removing or damaging existing pollard knuckles
- 1x Red Oak tree (T015 on application; T14 on TPO) - fell to ground level
- 1x Hornbeam tree (T012 on application; T17 on TPO) - canopy reduction: 3m off height and up to 2m lateral spread
- 1x European Lime tree (T010 on application; T19 on TPO) - selective reduction of upper canopy by 2-3m removing overly slender branches

For clarity, I am listing here all the previously approved works under ref 220900 that relate to the same trees subject to this application. Please note that the majority of

these approved works are superseded by this decision but some of them remain valid and can be carried out in addition to those approved at present.

Works approved under ref 220900 that are superseded by the present decision:

- Lime (T1 on TPO) - crown reduced by 2m
- Beech (T6 on TPO) - crown lift to 1-2m above the garages and crown reduced by 3m
- Beech (T7 on TPO) - crown reduced by 3m; crown lift 1-2m above garages; prune back branches to provide 1-2m clearance from neighbours
- Hornbeam (T17 on TPO) - crown lift all around to 3-4m above ground level
- Lime (T19 on TPO) - crown reduce by 2m

Works approved under ref 220900 that remain valid but where the present decision approves additional, compounding, works:

- Sycamore (T10 on TPO) - crown lift to 5.5m over drive
- Lime (T11 on TPO) - crown lift to 5.5m over drive

Please inform your client that the Council awaits contact about the required replacement planting at their earliest convenience once the tree removal has been carried out.

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 re-pollarding and canopy reductions 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 Red Oak tree authorised by this consent, one broadleaved specimen tree a minimum of 10-12cm girth and 3m tall shall be planted within the Monck Court curtilage, the species of which shall be agreed with the Natural Environment Team.

The tree 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.

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. 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.

6. Crown lifting of trees over the footpath and carriageway: If the clearance of vegetation overhanging the highway only involves the removal of branches to give a ground clearance to the statutory heights of 2.7m over the footpath and 5.5m over the road, this does not require formal consent from the Council. You are advised, however, to give notice to the Council of these intended works in order that they can be agreed.

7. 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 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 5000 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 A Patel, Dunleary Court, Westcote Road, Reading