



Mr K Taylor
102 Lower Henley Road
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RG4 5LE

Frances Martin
Executive Director for
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Your Ref:

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19 December 2022

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

Dear Mr Taylor

**RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO BEECH TREES AT 102 LOWER HENLEY ROAD, READING -
SUBJECT TO TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 18/14.**

Thank you for your application of 31 October 2022, regarding the above.

During my visits on 15 November and 16 December 2022, we discussed the proposed work to the trees on your application form which proposed the following:

The tree nearest to the property - prune the overhanging branches so they are 2m clear of the edge of the building.

The rest of the trees - crown reduction of all trees on one side that hangs over the garden area by 1/3 - approx 3.3m reduction.

We discussed an appropriate level of reduction which need to further consideration, in terms of wording, given that the branch lengths of the different trees are all different, i.e. to avoid misunderstanding in the implementation. It was agreed that taking the trees individually was the best approach. We also discussed inclusion of crown lifting (removal of lower branches) to give greater clearance above ground level - this is included but it is up to you whether you crown lift to the full extent approved, or at all, balancing this with the privacy the lower branches afford.

I can confirm that the following proposed works, as detailed in your application, as amended and agreed on site, are approved subject to the conditions below and with reference to the attached, annotated photographs:

[Trees are numbered counting from the property heading south]

- 1st tree, Beech, tree closest to the house - prune to provide 3m clearance from the property (taken to be horizontal clearance from the nearest part of the dwelling)
- 2nd tree, Beech - remove low, previously reduced branch back to source, reduce lateral branches growing west over the garden back in line with the previous reduction point identified on a branch above the one to be removed
- 3rd tree, Poplar - *non-TPO tree. Potential removal discussed.*
- 4th tree, Beech (3rd Beech) - remove two lowest branches over the garden
- 5th tree, Beech (4th Beech) - reduce lateral branches growing west over the garden to appropriate growing points approx. 1m past the fork
- 6th tree, Beech (5th Beech) - reduce canopy overhanging the garden to appropriate growing points within the area identified.
- 7th tree, Beech (6th Beech) - no works required
- 8th tree, Beech (7th Beech) - reduce canopy overhanging the garden by 1-2m to appropriate growing points
- All Beech trees - crown lift to 4-5m above ground level (of each individual tree)

We discussed keeping the Ivy in check in order that trees can be inspected more easily, i.e. that the Ivy does not hide defects. The severing of Ivy does not need formal approval and should be done with care to avoid damage to the tree bark. Please also note Informative 5 below.

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 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. 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.

5. Prior to the severing of well-established Ivy at the base of the tree, it would be prudent to carry out an assessment of whether any of the stems of the Ivy are forming a natural brace above a suspected bark-included union

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/government/topics/trees-and-woodland/tree-preservation-orders)

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

