



Mrs M O'Donnell
4 Russet Glade
Emmer Green
Reading
RG4 8UJ

Frances Martin
Executive Director for
Economic Growth and
Neighbourhood Services

Bridge Street, Reading RG1 2LU
☎ 0118 9373787

Our Ref: 221023/TPO
Your Ref:

Direct: ☎01189 374294
andrei.nazare@reading.gov.uk

30 September 2022

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

Dear Mrs O'Donnell,

RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO ONE OAK TREE AND THREE ASH TREES AT 4 RUSSET GLADE, READING - PART OF WOODLAND TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 33/02.

Thank you for your application of 12 July 2022, regarding the above. I apologise for the delay in processing your application, particularly the initial delay due to our team not becoming aware of the application until 8 August 2022.

You applied to carry out works on one Oak tree - 'trim the lower branches and pruning of 2 L shaped branches'.

Further to my visit of 27 September 2022 with my colleague Sarah Hanson, I have the following comments:

We discussed the proposed works to the Oak to clarify the extent of crown lifting proposed.

You took the opportunity to express concern about the condition of a number of Ash trees in your garden - part of the same Tree Preservation Order. Specifically, you told us about a fungus fruiting body which could be seen until recently high on the stem of one tree. We found the blackened fruiting body, which we identified as *Inonotus hispidus* (Shaggy bracket), fallen at the base of the tree. On Ash, this fungus weakens the wood at the attachment point and can facilitate stem and limb failure of the host tree, therefore the tree is deemed to fall under the 'dangerous' exemption and felling is agreed. You don't need permission to fell a dangerous tree.

It was also noted that 2 more Ash trees are in poor condition, with the majority of their crowns already dead. During our discussion you agreed to amend the application to include felling of these 2 Ash trees in addition to the works already proposed to the Oak.

In conclusion, I can confirm that the following amended works, as discussed during our visit, are approved subject to the conditions below and as shown on the attached annotated photographs:

- 1x Oak tree (part of W1 of TPO) - crown lift to first large branch; retain the lateral growth on said large branch as shown by the annotation.
- 2x Ash trees (part of W1 of TPO) - fell due to poor condition.

Felling of 1 additional Ash tree (part of W1 of TPO) due to presence of *Inonotus hispidus* at 7-8m on the main trunk (next to first fork) doesn't require permission, as noted above.

As discussed, it would be beneficial for wildlife to leave tall stumps of the Ash trees, perhaps 4-5m high, as a standing habitat - your tree surgeon should take a view on an appropriate height depending on the condition of the wood.

Following our brief discussion regarding appropriate tree species for replacement, I checked our records and found that we previously secured common Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*) as replacement in neighbouring locations (within the same woodland TPO). As such, while open to discussion, we prefer this tree for consistency - please note the requirement of condition 4.

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. 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

4. Following the felling of the 2x Ash trees authorised by this consent, 2x broadleaf native specimen trees a minimum of 8-10cm girth and 2.75m tall shall be planted within the rear garden of 4 Russet Glade, the species of which shall be agreed with the Natural Environment Team.

The tree(s) shall be planted within the rear garden 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

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 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,

Andrei Nazare

Andrei Nazare, Assistant Natural Environment Officer