



Neil Wilson
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Frances Martin
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11th July 2022

Your contact is:

Sarah Hanson, Planning

Dear Mr. Wilson,

RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO A LIME TREE AT 11 RIDGE HALL CLOSE, READING, BERKSHIRE RG4 7EP - T14 OF TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 2/09.

Thank you for your application of 13th June 2022, regarding the above, with supporting tree work specifications and reasons.

Your application follows directly from the recent appeal dismissal of 10 May 2022 (APP/TPO/E0345/8541) in which reference is made to the Council's willingness to consider a sympathetic reduction of the tree.

Further to the Council's Arboricultural Consultants site visit on 6th July 2022, I can confirm that the following proposed works, as detailed in your application, are approved subject to the conditions below:

Approved Tree Works:

Lime (T1 of application; T14 of TPO)

- Sympathetically reduce the canopy by up to 1.5-2m of the radial crown spread and the 2.5-3m in height (as per the annotated photograph submitted in support of the tree works application; reproduced at the end of this letter). Works will be graded around the canopy to leave a natural- looking canopy shape for the species in line with BS 3998.
- Following the permitted works, the tree's dimensions after pruning will be approximately 4-4.5m (radius) and the height to approximately 19-22m (based on the estimated current height being 22-25m)
- Crown lift to approximately 6m by removing secondary growth only.

Officer Notes:

Reading Borough Council would not usually consent to the overall reduction of a healthy, protected tree unless it is required for health and safety reasons. A canopy reduction removes all the apical tips and energy / hormones stored within them causing a rapid drop in the tree's physiological health. Furthermore, the numerous pruning cuts can act as entry points for decay pathogens which can undermine the structural integrity of the trees. However, on this occasion, the Borough Council is aware that the tree's location is exceptional given its size and proximity to 11 Ridge Hall Close.

The proposed reduction of the tree's canopy will go some way to improving the relationship of the tree's canopy to the adjacent residential property and garden, whilst keeping the size of the pruning cuts and the loss of photosynthetic (leaf) area to a minimum in order to preserve the health and wider amenity of this visually significant, specimen tree.

Conditions

1. All tree surgery shall be in accordance with BS 3998: (2010) Tree Work - Recommendations. In accordance with BS 3998: (2010)

Reason: To ensure that all works are carried out in an acceptable arboricultural manner

2. The approved canopy reduction 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.

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

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

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

cc. Mr. Burcham, 11 Ridge Hall Close, Caversham, Reading RG4 7EP

