



Ms. Michelle Chantry
The Tree Care Company
87 Ash Road
Woking
Surrey
GU22 0BJ

Frances Martin
Executive Director for
Economic Growth and
Neighbourhood Services

Bridge Street, Reading RG1 2LU
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Our Ref: 220305/TPO
Your Ref:

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

3rd May 2022

Your contact is:

Sarah Hanson, Planning

Dear Ms. Chantry,

RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO ONE BEECH TREE AT ELVIAN CLOSE, READING - SUBJECT TO TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 93/03.

Thank you for your application of 3rd March 2022, regarding the above.

Further to the Council's Arboricultural Consultant's visit on Monday 2nd May 2022, I can confirm that the following proposed works, as detailed in your application, are approved subject to the conditions below:

Approved Tree Works:

T1 - Beech

- Reduce side of Beech Tree (T1) closest to building (West to East face) by approx. 2m - as confirmed in your email of 11/3/22, this equates to providing clearance from the building of approx. 5m.
Please refer to annotated photograph at the end of this correspondence.

Officer Notes:

The proposed works are minor works and reasonable in order to reduce the asymmetry of the crown and provide reasonable clearance to property.

T1 is a prominent mature Copper Beech which was retained during the development of the Elvian Close. During this development it is evident that the ground around the tree was raised to level the lawn area and which now obscures the tree's natural root flare.

Allowing soil to build up around the lower trunk of the tree is very harmful to tree health particularly on Beech which are highly susceptible to damage following changes within their rooting areas.

The higher soil level reduces a tree's ability to take up water and prevents oxygen reaching tree roots causing roots to dieback over time. Deprived of water and oxygen, the tree will become stressed and more vulnerable to disease. Soil built up directly at the base of the tree will also block pores on the trunk and allow decay causing pathogens and *Phytophthora* fungal infection into the lower trunk.

In order to prevent long-term damage to this tree you are required to carefully remove soil using hand tools around the base of the tree to reveal the natural root flare and taking care not to damage the tree bark. This should create a basin at least 1m radius around the tree (1m in all directions from the trunk) but more if possible.

Please ensure this is carried out within the next 4 weeks, i.e. before 4 June 2022, confirm when this has been carried out and provide photographic evidence - a tree officer will visit to review if necessary.

As advised in my acknowledgement email of 7 March 2022, the Ash and Eucalyptus trees included in your application are not subject to the TPO hence approval is not required for works to these.

Conditions

1. All tree surgery shall be in accordance with BS 3998: (2010) Tree Work - Recommendations. Cuts should be graded as per the attached, annotated photograph to create a natural-looking canopy outline and pruning cuts shall not exceed 100mm diameter.

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 (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 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.

Please ensure your client receives a copy of this letter without undue delay.

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



Photo 1) Indicative line of approved lateral reduction