



Frances Martin
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Mrs. Hannah Williams
Heights Tree Care
Mayfield
Hazelmoor Lane
Gallowstree Common
Reading
RG4 9DJ

Our Ref: 220807/TPO
Your Ref:

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

7th July 2022

Your contact is:

Sarah Hanson, Planning

Dear Mrs. Williams,

**RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO A CEDAR (T3) AT TREETOPS THE MOUNT READING RG4 7RE,
SUBJECT TO TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 165/01.**

Thank you for your application dated 31st May 2022, regarding the above.

You have applied to carry out a reduction of the over-extended limbs of a Cedar (T3 of TPO 165/01 'to prevent further limb failure'. On 1st June I wrote to you requesting further information in support of your application because, although your application form states that you are not concerned about the condition of the tree, i.e. that it might break or fall; the proposed works and reasons given for them in your application indicates that you must have some concern. Further clarification was requested on this matter, and I also asked that you annotate the photographs in order to identify the particular limbs which you consider 'overextended' and in need of reduction.

To date no further information has been provided in support of your application regarding previous branch failure nor have we received any annotated photographs showing the extent of the proposed reduction. Your application has therefore been determined on the information available to date and I have attached conditions to specify and limit the extent of the reduction to works which the Borough Council considers to be appropriate, reasonable and in accordance with good tree management.

Further to the Council's Arboricultural Consultant's site visit on 6th July 2022, the Council has identified that the Cedar is a healthy mature specimen tree which makes a significant contribution to the amenity provided by trees in the local area. The tree has a broad canopy with a number of longer branches, the tips of which are growing beyond the apical control of the upper canopy, and which are now beginning to grow vertically.

Although the tree appears structurally sound and in good physiological health, the Council is aware that as a species, Cedars are prone to drop over-extended branches, particularly during extreme weather events and there is evidence that the tree has dropped branches in the past.

For this reason, I can confirm that the following proposed works, as detailed in your application, are approved subject to the conditions below:

Approved Tree Works

Cedar (T1 of application; T3 of TPO 165/01)

- 360° Reduction of over-extended limbs on cedar by approximately 2m to prevent further limb failure. (Please note Condition 1 and refer to Photo 1 below)

Conditions

1. All tree surgery shall be in accordance with BS 3998: (2010) Tree Work - Recommendations. In accordance with BS 3998: (2010) pruning cuts will not exceed 100mm. The the approved works does not equate to a complete reduction of the entire tree's canopy (all growth tips) but only the selective individual branches which grow beyond the general canopy profile. The works are intended to create a more compact but natural looking Cedar canopy outline which has a smaller sail area and is therefore less exposed to wind loading on over-extended individual branches. For an indicative outline of the approved works, please refer to the attached annotated photographs 1 & 2 overleaf.

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. 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.

Please ensure you provide your client with a copy of this letter.

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 lines of permitted canopy reduction.