



Frances Martin  
Executive Director for  
Economic Growth and  
Neighbourhood Services

Civic Centre, Reading, RG1 2LU  
☎ 0118 937 3787

David White  
Whiteknight Tree Care & Consultancy  
5 Cressingham Road  
Reading  
RG2 7RS

Our Ref: 211254/TPO  
Your Ref:

Email: [lee.garner@reading.gov.uk](mailto:lee.garner@reading.gov.uk)

25<sup>th</sup> August 2021

Your contact  
is:

Lee Garner, Planning

Dear Mr White

**RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO AN OAK (T1) LOCATED WITHIN THE REAR GARDEN OF AT 17 ROWALLAN CLOSE, CAVERSHAM, READING - SUBJECT TO TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 18/06**

Thank you for your application of 31<sup>st</sup> July 2017 and accompanying photos, regarding the above.

Further to our meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> August 2021, I have the following comments:

During my visit I noted the large prominent Oak located within the rear garden of the above property. On inspection I could see that the Oak's canopy was becoming thin, with several dead branches within the tree's canopy. Both indications that this tree is experiencing a level of stress.

There was visual evidence of remains of an old fungal bracket that was attached to the lower base of the trunk. As this had broken off, with little remaining bracket attached, it is difficult to identify and therefore consider its significance. The decay at the base of the tree can also be seen, however without evidence showing the extent of decay it is again not possible to consider its significance.

As you are unlikely to identify the fungus, due to its current condition, it may be prudent to satisfy safety concerns by undertaking further investigation in the form of decay detection.

Notwithstanding the above, with regards to the trees health, the tree is experiencing a level of stress that has resulted in the canopy thinning and some deadwood production within its crown. However, the level of canopy thinning or deadwood production isn't to such an extent that I would consider that the tree requires extensive pruning works, such as a the proposed monolith works. No evidence has been provided, which determines the cause of the stress placed on the tree and therefore substantiating works.

Managing the concerns that we can see, I would suggest crown reduction works (see approved works) and deadwood removal. These works would help to contain the tree's canopy whilst managing the risk of deadwood falling from the tree and damaging person(s) or property. A follow up of further investigation as discussed above is recommended to satisfy any outstanding safety concerns.

This Oak is a prominent tree, provides significant visual amenity for the local area (seen from public vantage points such as Northbrook Road, & Caversham Park Road) and is one of a number retained when Caversham Park Village was constructed. At this time without sufficient evidence provided, undertaking such extensive works (monolith) as requested would be deemed premature and unsubstantiated.

In conclusion, the proposed works to undertake a monolith is refused.

However, the following works are approved and specified below:

Oak (T1 of TPO 18/06/0

- Selectively prune by undertaking a crown reduction of the height and width by up to 2.5m (as shown within provided annotated photo 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. 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. 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.

#### Informative(s)

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 the refusal of consent to monolith the Oak or against any of the conditions attached to the consented works, 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 5570

E-mail it to: [treeandhedgeappeals@planninginspectorate.gov.uk](mailto:treeandhedgeappeals@planninginspectorate.gov.uk)

If you suffer any loss or damage as a result of this refusal of the consented works, you may be entitled to recover compensation from the Council. If you wish to make a claim you must do so within 12 months from the date of this decision (or, if you appeal to the Secretary of State, within 12 months from the date of his decision). Claims should be made in writing to the Insurance Section, Reading Borough Council, Civic Centre, Bridge Street, Reading, RG1 2LU. If you require any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me on the above number.

If you require any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me on the above number.

Yours sincerely

*Lee Garner*

Lee Garner Bsc (hons) Arboriculture  
Consultant Assistant Natural Environment Officer

C.c. Ms Ashton, 17 Rowallan Close



Annotated photo showing proposed crown reduction pruning line (approved works)