



Rachel Cole
Oakland Tree Services

Via email
Rachel@oaklandtreeservices.co.uk

Frances Martin
Executive Director for
Economic Growth and
Neighbourhood Services

Civic Centre, Reading, RG1 2LU
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Our Ref: 211020/TCA
Your Ref:

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

20 July 2021

Your contact is: Sarah Hanson, Planning and Building Control

Dear Ms Cole

RE: PROPOSED FELLING OF ONE TREE AT 19 MAITLAND ROAD, READING - SUBJECT TO CONSERVATION AREA STATUS.

Thank you for your email of 21 June 2021 giving notice of the intention to fell one Douglas fir in the rear garden of the above property.

Further to my site visit of 13 July 2021, I have the following comments:

The tree in question is not a Douglas fir but is a Wellingtonia.

The tree is highly visible from Maitland Road and from Lima Court to the east, therefore providing amenity value to the surrounding area as an individual tree but also contributing to the verdant character of the Downshire Square Conservation Area. Its felling would result in the loss of that amenity and would remove a tree that forms part of the historic landscape of the area, having originally stood in the grounds of Castle Hill Lodge (now Lima Court).

It appears to be in good condition, albeit the shape of the top indicates that it may have been pruned or lost its leader at some point in the past, but this does not detract significantly from its appearance or value.

The reasons given in your notice for felling were: *'Due to suppression and largely overgrown'* and in a previously email you stated: *'The tree is extremely large is oversized the garden'*. There is some degree of suppression from the mature Cedar that used to

stand next door in Lima Court (felled in 2018) but not significant and it is now free of further suppression from nearby trees. In terms of 'largely overgrown', I'm not clear what this means but the tree is considered to be a suitable size for the garden.

For the reasons given above, the Council therefore intend to place a Tree Preservation Order on this tree as the proposed felling is not considered acceptable.

The TPO will be served prior to 2 August 2021, i.e. before the end of the six-week period from the date of your email notice. For clarity, any felling before the end of that 6-week period would be a contravention of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 and any persons responsible for such felling would be open to formal legal proceedings.

Once the TPO is served, there is an objection period should Ms Vivian wish to comment or object to the TPO (details will be provided). Following service of the TPO, an application for works under the TPO will then need to be submitted for formal consideration if felling is still desired. If the felling is subsequently refused, the appeal process can be followed, details of which will be given at the time. Further information can be found in our Guide to Tree Preservation Orders at www.reading.gov.uk/trees

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

C.c. Miss T Vivian, 19 Maitland Road