



Mr Stephen Richards
SDR Arborists
173 Whitley wood Lane
Reading
Berkshire
RG2 8PW

Frances Martin
Executive Director for
Economic Growth and
Neighbourhood Services

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

Our Ref: 211358/TPO
Your Ref:

Email: lee.garner@reading.gov.uk

21st September 2021

Your contact
is:

Lee Garner, Planning

Dear Mr Richards,

RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO TWO DOUGLAS FIRS WITHIN THE REAR GARDEN OF 2 SCHOLARS CLOSE, READING - SUBJECT TO TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 135/001

Thank you for your application of the 17th August 2021 regarding the above.

Further to my site visit on the 6th September 2021, I have the following comments:

The Douglas fir trees (T15 & T16) are located sustainably within the rear garden of the above property and provide significant amenity to the area.

The requested pruning works to lift the lower crown and prune a damaged limb stub back to appropriate pruning point will not impact significantly on the health and condition of the trees and therefore deemed acceptable, however I have concerns for the impact on the health and condition of the trees as a result of undertaking a crown reduction.

You have applied for consent for an *'all over reduction on both trees by approximately 10% which is approximately 1-1.5metres'*. Taking into account the form of this species, I have concerns about the impact on the appearance, hence amenity value, of trees from this works.

Undertaking a crown reduction to a tree places considerable stress on a tree's health and condition. It is important that when considering these works that the benefits of the pruning works outweigh the impact placed on the tree's health.

A crown reduction creates multiple pruning wounds throughout the canopy that are open to pathogens and decay. The trees will need to use considerable energy to contain the spread of decay and callus over the wounds, which will place considerable stress on the tree's health.

Within the application there were no reasons provided specifically for the requested reduction works, including concerns of safety a nature. Therefore, in considering the requested works for the crown reduction I consider the detrimental impact on the tree's health (as noted above) and amenity to be unacceptable.

In conclusion, the proposed works to undertake reduction works to the two Douglas fir trees is **refused**.

However, the following works are **approved** and specified below:

Douglas Fir (T14 of TPO 135/01)

- Lift lower canopy by 2 metres, ensuring that only branches no greater than 25mm in diameter are pruned. Also prune back damaged branch stub back to a suitable pruning point inline with current best practices.

Douglas Fir (T15 of TPO 135/01)

- Lift lower canopy by 2 metres, ensuring that only branches no greater than 25mm in diameter are pruned.

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

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. 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 reduce the the two Douglas fir 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 Hedge
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

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.

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Yours sincerely

Lee Garner

Lee Garner BSc (Hons) Arboriculture
Consultant Assistant Natural Environment Officer

Cc Jeanette Taylor, 2 Scholars Close, Caversham, RG4 7DN