



Mrs Nicole Marsh
South Hill
Upper Warren Avenue
Caversham
Reading
RG4 7EB

Frances Martin
Executive Director for
Economic Growth and
Neighbourhood Services

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

Our Ref: 210965/TPO
Your Ref:

Email: lee.garner@reading.gov.uk

25th August 2021

Your contact
is:

Lee Garner, Planning

Dear Mrs Marsh

RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO A HOLM OAK TO THE FRONTAGE OF SOUTH HILL, UPPER WARREN AVENUE, READING- SUBJECT TO TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 319

Thank you for your application of the 11th June 2021 regarding the above with supporting letter from Mike Thomas.

Further to my site visit on the 16th August 2021, I have the following comments:

During my visit I noted the large prominent Holm oak located to the front of the above property. On inspection the tree appeared to be an outwardly healthy individual displaying good crown density. I noted the staining (lesions) on some scaffold branches within the crown and visual signs of decay at the base of the trunk.

Inspecting the base of the tree I can see a small pocket of decay, with significant sound wood growing around the decay pocket. The extent of the decay appeared contained to a small area, however in order to determine the exact extent of decay that would allow us to determine its significance, you will be required to undertake further investigation in the form of decay detection. Reading through the report and looking through the provided documentation there has not been any decay detection information provided, which would substantiate any concerns for the stability of this tree.

With regards to concerns raised for the lesions in the crown, I have noted them during my visit and they can be seen limited to a couple of main scaffold branches. The significance of the staining is currently unknown, no evidence has been provided within the arboricultural report, other than noting their presence.

It is not untypical to see mature trees living unhindered with staining on their trunk/scaffold branches, however it may be prudent to take the observations further by instructing a detailed investigation of the lesions in the crown in order to satisfy any concerns.

Within the arboricultural report provided there are concerns that the tree has a “weight imbalance”. Although the tree has a minor growth bias, this has not occurred as a result of root-plate movement. There are no visual signs of root-plate heave or soil cracking, which would indicate possible recent movement. The canopy of the tree has corrected the minor growth bias of the main trunk and is growing upright and balanced as expected.

The Holm oak is a prominent tree and provides good visual amenity for the local area. At this time without sufficient evidence provided, its removal would be deemed premature and unsubstantiated.

In conclusion, the proposed for the removal of the holm oak is refused. If you wish to appeal against the Council’s decision on this matter, 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

If you suffer any loss or damage as a result of this refusal of consent, 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.

Yours sincerely

Lee Garner

Lee Garner
Consultant Assistant Natural Environment Officer