



Mr S Arnold
Tree Solutions Arboriculture Ltd
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Finchampstead
RG40 4RN

Frances Martin
Executive Director for
Economic Growth and
Neighbourhood Services

Bridge Street, Reading RG1 2LU
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Our Ref: 211486/TPO
Your Ref:

Email: lee.garner@reading.gov.uk

1st November 2021

Your contact is:

Lee Garner, Planning

Dear Mr Arnold,

**RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO THE ASH TREE TO THE FRONT OF THE ROEBUCK PH, 37
AUCKLAND ROAD, READING - SUBJECT TO TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 21/16.**

Thank you for your application dated 7th September 2021 and supporting Proposed Schedule of Works document dated 4 September 2021, regarding the above.

Further to my visit on the 26th October 2021, I can confirm that the following proposed works, as detailed in your application, are approved subject to the conditions below:

Common Ash (T2 of TPO 21/16)

- Fell

During my visit I noted the tree to provide significant visual amenity to the area and it appeared outwardly healthy. However, your arboricultural report (Proposed Schedule of Works) provided highlighted concerns over the presence of a young fruiting body (fungus) located on the main trunk of the tree. I can confirm during my visit the presence of a decay fungi identified as being a Shaggy Polypore / Velvet Fungus (*Inonotus hispidus*). This is a known decay fungi which causes the degradation of wood tissues, ultimately causing the tree to be undermined at the fruiting point.

The fungus is located on a main scaffold branch around 3 metres above ground level. The canopy above the point of infection extends to a height of around 15 metres, resulting in considerable canopy which is exposed to failure. As the tree to be located within an urban environment surrounded by property and adjacent to a public highway, this is an

unacceptable risk.

Alternative pruning works is not considered an option, as there would need to be considerable reduction works undertaken to the trees canopy in order to alleviate the safety concern. Such extensive works undertaken would have considerable negative impact on the tree's future health and amenity in the area.

It is agreed that the tree is removed, for safety reasons, and room made available for a replacement tree. See planting condition number 2, which must be adhered to.

Please also note that the felling of the second tree (T1 - a Pine) covered by the same TPO was agreed in 2017 under the 'dead, dying' exemption and your client was reminded of the duty to replant - we have no record of a replacement having been agreed or planted and as such this is outstanding. It would therefore be helpful for both replacements to be discussed and agreed together.

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. Following the felling of the tree authorised by this consent, it is required that a replacement tree of a minimum 10-12cm girth and 3m in height is planted within the land of The Roebuck PH, 37 Auckland Road; the location and species of which is to be formally agreed by Reading Borough Council Natural Environment Team prior to purchase and planting.

The replacement tree shall be planted during the planting season (**Nov-March**) following or at the time of the felling of the Ash tree, whichever is soonest.

Planting should be carried out in accordance with clause 10 (Planting) of BS 8545:2014 'Trees: from nursery to independence in the landscape - Recommendations'

Should the replacement tree be removed, die or become severely damaged or seriously diseased, all within 5 years of planting, it shall be replaced by a tree of a similar size and species to that originally planted. Modifications to the requirements of this condition must be agreed in writing with Reading Borough Council Natural Environment Team.

PLEASE NOTE: The requirement to replant is the responsibility of the tree owner even if the application was submitted by another person.

Reason: To retain the present visual amenity value of the area and ensure continuity of tree coverage.

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

3. The duty to replant previously felled T1 Pine remains outstanding and should be complied with.

If you wish to appeal against any of the conditions attached to this consent, 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 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

C.c. Mr D Rigg, The Roebuck PH, 37 Auckland Road