



Mr N Cantell
Beechwood Tree Care Ltd
2 Playhatch Farm Cottages
Playhatch
RG4 9QX

Frances Martin
Executive Director for
Economic Growth and
Neighbourhood Services

Bridge Street, Reading RG1 2LU
☎ 0118 9373787

Our Ref: 211674/TPO
Your Ref:

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

6 December 2021

Your contact is:

Sarah Hanson, Planning

Dear Mr Cantell

**RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO TREES AT READING SCHOOL, ERLEIGH ROAD, READING -
SUBJECT TO TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 15/11.**

Thank you for your application of 11 October, accompanying 2020 Tree Safety Audit & Management Strategy Report and subsequent tree works specification provided on 13 October 2021, regarding the above.

Further to my visit on 24 November 2021, I have the following comments:

The works proposed differs in some instances from those suggested in the 2020 Tree report submitted with this application. Where it differs, this was discussed and assessed on site. I think it is helpful to record the following:

- Cherry (T26 of survey) - this is not included in the TPO. T31 of the TPO (which you state to be this tree) is a Yew. I note that the tree survey recommended felling this tree due to terminal decline, but your proposal is to remove the dead top. I assume therefore that you are happy with the safe condition of the remainder of the tree.
- Limes (G8 of survey; G2 of TPO and also G5a of the survey; G1 of TPO) - the survey stated: *'Previously topped out and have now put on 8m to 10m of regrowth from these points with weak points of attachment'* with the recommendation to: *'Check out the old pruning points/cavities to see if they are safe - IF NOT then re-pollard below these points. IF SOUND - Thin out the regrowth removing the larger diameter stems by preference for safety reasons - reduce and reshape the remaining stems'*. Your proposal is to re-pollard with the comment that the *'trees have put on vigorous regrowth since the survey and now require re-pollarding'*. From my visit, I noted that the regrowth was extensive and that re-pollarding, due

to the likely decay at the pollard knuckles, and due to the crowded nature of the regrowth is reasonable. Further work was discussed and the removal of epicormic growth (to crown lift) added to G8.

- Norway maple (T28 of survey; T28 of TPO) - the tree survey recommended removal of dead wood and dieback along with light reshaping of the crown for safety reasons. Your proposal is to fell the tree and you advise that it has declined significantly, now posing a threat. The poor condition of the tree was noted during my visit, with significant dead wood, areas of bark loss and a group of mushrooms at the base on the south side (not identified due to very young age). The removal of the tree was therefore deemed as appropriate.

I can confirm that the following proposed works, as detailed in your application, are approved subject to the conditions below:

- Lime (G8 of survey; G2 of TPO) - remove epicormic growth from the main stem; Re-pollard at previous pollard knuckles, leaving 50-100mm stubs to aid re-growth or if the pollard heads are extensively decayed that pollard at the highest suitable point below these points. Please particularly note condition 3.
- 4 No. Limes (southern end of G5a of your application; G1 of the TPO) - Re-pollard at previous pollard knuckles, leaving 50-100mm stubs to aid re-growth or if the pollard heads are extensively decayed that pollard at the highest suitable point below these points. Please particularly note condition 3.
- Norway maple (T28 of survey; T28 of TPO) - Fell
- Lime (T29 of survey; T29 of TPO) - removal basal growth
- Purple beech (T30 of survey; T27 of TPO) - prune to provide 2m clearance from bus shelter on Craven Road.

I note the intention to remove the broken, hanging branches of the Dawn redwood (T3 on survey; T15 of TPO), which was included in the 2020 report and noted on site. It would also be prudent to sever the Ivy, as per the recommendation in the report.

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. The approved re-pollarding of the Limes 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.

4. 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

5. Following the felling of the Maple tree authorised by this consent, one replacement tree of a minimum 10-12cm girth and 3m in height shall be planted on the same boundary during the planting season (Nov-March) following or at the time of the felling of the tree, whichever is soonest, the species of which shall be agreed with the Council.

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.

Informatives

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

4. It is best to avoid works in the period immediately before or during bud burst and leaf fall to minimise the effect on the long-term health of the tree

5. Tree work consents on land not owned by the applicant: It is strongly recommended that the owner of the tree be advised of any proposed works. The owner's permission must be sought if the tree works involve work past the boundary line. This consent does

not in any way imply that this Council has informed the owner of sought permission or will condone the use of consents to force any landowner to grant such permission.

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

Sarah Hanson

Sarah Hanson
Natural Environment Officer