



Mr Tom Law
2 Sovereign Road
Tilehurst
Reading
RG31 5PD

Frances Martin
Executive Director for
Economic Growth and
Neighbourhood Services

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

Our Ref: 211854/TPO
Your Ref:

Email: lee.garner@reading.gov.uk

6th December 2021

Your contact
is:

Lee Garner, Planning

Dear Mr Law,

**RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO AN OAK WITHIN THE REAR GARDEN OF 2 SOVEREIGN PARK,
WESTWOOD ROAD, READING- SUBJECT TO TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 51/13**

Thank you for your application dated the 9th October 2021, received by the Natural Environment Team on 15 November 2021, regarding the above.

Further to my visit of the 29th November 2021 I have the following comments:

During my visit I noted the Oak tree to be an outwardly healthy individual, successfully retained during the development of Sovereign Park, which provides significant visual amenity to the area.

The Oak is a mature individual that would have reached its potential in respects to its ultimate height and width with any future potential growth being deemed as negligible.

Undertaking the requested works to prune canopy away from the house and crown lift the lower canopy, will alleviate some concerns and can be undertaken without significant impact to the tree's future health and condition. The works will help to clear the property from future damage and crown lifting works will help to improve clearance around the garden and allow natural light to penetrate beneath.

However, there are concerns in relation to crown reducing the sides of the tree, in particular, pruning the canopy back in-line with the boundary fence. Undertaking these works will create multiple larger wounds within the canopy, which will be exposed to infection and decay. The reasonings provided does not help to justify these works and therefore placing the tree under pruning stress to the extent requested is not deemed appropriate.

In conclusion, the proposed extent of crown reduction of the southern and northern lateral canopy is refused.

However, the following works is **Approved**.

Oak (T3 of TPO 51/13)

- Crown lift to 3 metres above ground level - all round.
- Selectively prune by tip-reducing lateral branches that extend toward the house (2 Sovereign Park) by creating up to 3 metres clearance.
- Selectively prune by tip-reducing lateral branches that extend over the rear garden of 1 Sovereign Park (south side) by up to 2 metres
- Selectively prune by tip-reducing lateral branches on the north side to give 3 metre clearance from 3 Sovereign Park

The above lateral reductions should ensure that a natural, flowing crown line is left post-pruning.

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. 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

If you wish to appeal against the refusal of consent to reduce the southern and northern canopy of the Oak 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