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Our Ref: 201614/TPO
Your Ref:

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7 December 2020

Your contact is:

Sarah Hanson, Planning

Dear Rupert

RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO TWO OAK TREES AT SHERFIELD HALL, SHERFIELD CLOSE, READING - SUBJECT TO TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 109/03.

Thank you for your application of 16 November 2020, condition survey of Oak 02UW (T13) and subsequent photographs of Oak 02UF (G1).

I note the content of your survey for the Oak at the rear of 32-34 Stanhope Road. It is unfortunate that fly tipping of garden waste has contributed to the decline in the condition of this protected tree. Quite apart from being unacceptable for waste to be dumped into University land, the continuation of this once linked to the decline of a protected tree can, in the future, be deemed as 'wilful damage' under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, hence any persons responsible for this could be liable to prosecution. Any other works, such as excavations, that could potentially harm the roots/root systems should also be avoided without formal agreement from the Council given that roots are protected in the same way as the above ground parts of a tree. I also note reference to branches having been cut at the boundary. As a protected tree, approval is required for such works and we have no record of such work having been applied for or approved, hence this work is unauthorised and is a criminal act under the aforementioned legislation. Any persons responsible for unauthorised works are, again, open to prosecution.

I also note reference to the owner of No. 34 Stanhope Road potentially wishing to erect a shed near the rear boundary. As you will be aware, this should be installed on top of the

existing ground level, with no excavations for foundations. Whilst such a structure may be 'permitted development' (depending on the size), this does not override the TPO hence the owner should liaise with the Council on the details of this. You will note I have copied this letter to No.34 for their reference (and to No. 32 for completeness).

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

- Oak 02UW (T13 of TPO) to the rear of 34 Stanhope Road - reduce height and spread to between 2-3m from the main trunk at suitable pruning points to produce a pollard like structure, as indicatively shown on the photograph within the survey document
- Oak 02UF (part of G1 of TPO) - fell due to the presence of Honey fungus.

I note the intention not to replant due to the difficulty in establishing a replacement in this area, which is agreed. Given the treed nature of Sherfield Close (and Sherfield Drive), replacement planting is more difficult, however I am aware that the University do undertake tree planting across their estate hence I am at this point not concerned about tree coverage loss.

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 canopy reduction 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

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

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

C.c. 34 Stanhope Road
32 Stanhope Road