



Mr J Pullum
Ground Control Ltd
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Frances Martin
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Your Ref:

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17 July 2020

Your contact
is:

Sarah Hanson, Planning and Building Control

Dear Mr Pullum

**RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO TREES AT WINSLET PLACE, OXFORD ROAD, READING -
SUBJECT TO TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 59/13.**

Thank you for your application of 29 June 2020, regarding the above.

As per my acknowledgement of 29 June 2020, your TVH000279 (Rowan) is not included in the TPO.

Your application seeks consent for:

TVH000278 - Group - Lime x2, Silver birch - Crown Reduce by 30% and Shape - Reduce both Limes (2m in height) to alleviate the risk failure at included unions. Reduce height of Birch by 2m.

During my site visit of 8 July 2020, I noted the multi-stem nature of the Limes, with tight unions. It is unfortunate that the trees were not formatively pruned following planting in order to avoid this sub-optimum form. This has resulted in the need to confine the size of the trees to manage the weight of each limb, hence the trees will not be able to grow to their full potential with the multiple benefits they would have provided to the Oxford Road, that being a main route in/out of Reading.

In relation to the Birch (T5 of the TPO), this tree is of good shape and form. There appears to be no reason to undertake a crown reduction and no arboricultural information has been provided in the application to justify this work. Allowing this tree to reach its full potential is important on this designated treed corridor (ref our Tree Strategy) and will be even more important given the reduction required to the adjacent Limes in order to maximise the amenity value provided by this group of trees. The proposed reduction of the Birch is therefore refused.

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

- 2 No. Limes (T4 & T6 of TPO; part of TVH000278 of application) - crown reduce by 30% and shape

Conditions

1. 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

2. This decision is valid for two years from the date of this notice after which the consent lapses

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

4. The works hereby approved shall only be carried out late July-August or December-January.

Reason: To minimise harm to the future health of the trees.

Informatives

1. 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'.

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 060 3900; enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk

3. 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 or 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 the consented work or against the refusal to allow the reduction to the Birch, please contact the Planning Inspectorate within 28 days of receipt of this letter to obtain the relevant forms:

The Environment Appeals Team, The Planning Inspectorate, Room 3/25, Hawk Wing, Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Temple Quay, Bristol, BS1 6PN

Email: environment.appeals@pins.gsi.gov.uk

Tel: 0117 372 8192

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

Sarah Hanson

Sarah Hanson
Natural Environment Officer

C.c. Ms E Fullalove