



Mr. Hugo Loudon
Heritage Tree Services
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Frances Martin
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27th October 2020

Your contact is:

Andrei Nazare, Planning

Dear Mr. Loudon

**RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO TREES AT ST MICHAELS CHURCH COURTYARD, READING -
SUBJECT TO CONSERVATION AREA STATUS.**

Thank you for your Notification of 19 October 2020 regarding the above.

Further to my site visit on 26th October 2020, I can confirm that the Council have no objections to the following proposed tree work:

- TB Rowan:
 - a. Fell to ground
 - b. Remove rootball, replant with *Sorbus aria* 'Lutescens', ensure hole is adequately back filled with good quality soil and top dressed with woodland mulch
- TC Holly Tree:
 - a. Remove to ground level
 - b. Grind out resultant stump as best as possible

Notable mention for the Rowan tree:

This tree was a replacement for T11 (Horse chestnut) as required under tree works approval 152003.

Notable mention regarding the Holly Tree:

Upon our visit of the site we observed that of the multiple stems of the tree, only 2 of them are presently actively dying off. The rest of the tree is in reasonable health, providing good amenity value to the churchyard.

As such, I suggest it would be reasonable to amend the work to the felling of just the two dead (or almost dead) North-Eastern stems and removal of dead wood.

With regards to felling of the Holly (if the chosen option), the Conservation Area appraisal for the Routh Lane Conservation Area acknowledges the importance of trees and states:

‘The key features of the area are therefore:

-its focus on St Michael’s Church;

[...]

-the substantial tree cover in the area.’

As well as:

‘tree cover in and around the area adds to the green and rural feel of the area.’

The Council’s adopted Tree Strategy aims to increase canopy cover in the Borough hence replacing trees that are lost is part of this. You may be aware that the Council declared a Climate Emergency last year; tree planting being one action we can take to help mitigate the impacts of climate change.

If the Holly is felled, replacement planting is encouraged for the above reasons.

The agreed works should not be carried out before six weeks from the date of your notification, i.e. 1st December 2020

This decision is valid for two years from the date of this letter, after which it lapses.

The works to trees subject to TPO 28/07 are dealt with separately under application 201470/TPO.

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

If you require any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me on the above number.

Yours sincerely

Andrei Nazare

Andrei Nazare
Assistant Natural Environment Officer

C.c. David Bardwell