



Mr and Mrs. Clark
4 Woodlands Grove
Caversham
Berkshire
RG4 6NB

Frances Martin
Executive Director for
Economic Growth and
Neighbourhood Services

Bridge Street, Reading RG1 2LU
☎ 0118 9373787
Our Ref: 201329 / TPO
Your Ref:

Direct: ☎01189 374294
sarah.duckworth@reading.gov.uk

2nd November 2020

Your contact is:

Sarah Duckworth, Planning and Building Control

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Clark,

RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO TREES AT 4 WOODLANDS GROVE AND 8A WOODS ROAD, CAVERSHAM, READING - SUBJECT TO TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 11/03.

Thank you for your application dated 22nd September 2020, regarding the above.

Further to my visit on Monday 26th October 2020, I am writing to confirm that the Borough Council refuses consent to undertake a 45% crown reduction to three Oak trees to the rear of your property protected as T2, T3 and T4 of TPO 11/03.

The Borough Council does not usually consent to a significant reduction to the canopy of protected trees where the tree has not been heavily reduced previously. This decision is consistent with that of an earlier applications ref 12/00814/WTPO to carry out a 20% reduction and 162038/TPO to carry out a 40% reduction of the trees' canopies.

The proposed 45% reduction applied for in this recent application would create large pruning wounds which will act as entry points for decay pathogens into the structural framework of the trees. Multiple new branches can eventually grow from these pruning points which will be more prone to break out due to their weak structural form and the decay likely to be present at the pruning point.

A 45% reduction would also reduce the amenity value of the trees. Following the reduction, the trees would need to be regularly maintained in a reduced form as any regrowth will have a weaker attachment to the parent branch and be more prone to fail. Consequently, any detriment to the amenity of the trees in the local area would be long lasting.

However, the Borough Council is sympathetic to the impact of the trees on your private garden area and in view of this consent has been granted for lesser works which it is hoped will go some way to reducing the impact of the trees on your garden area whilst have no long lasting detriment to their health and amenity value.

Approved work:

T2 (Oak) - Within the garden of 8A Woods Road

- This tree is showing signs of poor vitality and decline in the canopy with a significant amount of deadwood. I have not had access to the base of the tree and the cause of this poor condition is unknown. Consent is granted to reduce the canopy by 2-3m over the garden of 4 Woodland Grove. I also recommend that the Arborist carry out a full inspection of the tree to ensure the tree is structurally sound (subject to the agreement of the tree owner with regards to access and cost).

T3 (Oak) - Within the garden of 4 Woodlands Grove

- Remove 5 or 6 lower secondary branches in order lift canopy and raise lower light levels within the garden of 4 Woodlands Grove (see attached annotated photograph)
- Selectively reduce lower canopy by up to 3m on south side (towards dwelling of 4 Woodlands Grove) and 2m on west side (over garden of 3 Woodlands Grove) using nearest suitable reduction points. Pruning cuts should be graded in to the surrounding canopy to create a natural looking canopy outline and no cut should exceed 75mm in diameter.
- Remove epicormic growth on trunk to a height of 7m above ground level.

T4 (Oak) - Within the garden of 4 Woodlands Grove

- 2-3m canopy reduction over the garden of 4 Woodlands Grove graded in to the surrounding canopy to create a natural looking canopy outline.
- Remove epicormic growth on trunk to a height of 6m above ground level.

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. 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.

3. The approved works shall be undertaken in mid-late Summer (July - August) 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 trees' phenological cycle and in order to avoid any unnecessary detriment to the trees as a result of the pruning work.

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. 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. 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 the refusal of consent to undertake a 45% reduction on these trees or 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

Email: treeandhedgeappeals@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Tel: 0303 444 5570

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'SD' or similar, written in a cursive style.

Sarah Duckworth
Consultant Assistant Natural Environment Officer



Photo 1 - Annotated photo showing lower branches of T3(Oak) to be removed under approved tree works