



Nr N Edwards
E & S Surveys Ltd
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Frances Martin
Director for Economic Growth
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Our Ref: 200478/TCA
Your Ref:

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15 April 2020

Your contact is:

Sarah Hanson, Planning & Building Control

Dear Mr Edwards

RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO TREES AT 1 NEW LANE HILL, READING - SUBJECT TO CONSERVATION AREA STATUS.

Thank you for your Notification of 25 March 2020 regarding four trees at the above address. You have given Notice of your intention to reduce three Sycamore trees (T1, T3 & T5) and one Ash tree (T2) to 11.5m in height due to the trees causing an obstruction to nearby Network equipment and thereby affecting the coverage within the local area.

We have assessed the proposed work in relation to the current heights and the proposed height to determine the degree of reduction that the proposed height would require:

T1 Sycamore is 13m high - equates to a reduction of approximately 1.5m

T2 Ash is 14m high - equates to a reduction of approximately 2.5m

T3 Sycamore in a residential garden at the top of the bank is 15m high - equates to a reduction of approximately 3.5m

T5 Sycamore is 14.5m high - equates to a reduction of approximately 3m

It is unfortunate that a telecoms mast is sited in a location where tree coverage is of such importance. The Bath Road is a main route in/out of Reading and is a designated green corridor (ref our Tree Strategy) where tree retention and planting is of greater importance. On such routes, allowing trees to grow to their optimum size and height is beneficial for both amenity value and in order that they can provide the greatest environmental benefits. The need to reduce these trees, and in consequence the benefits they provide, is unfortunate.

As this is a Section 211 Notice and the trees are not subject to a Tree Preservation Order, we offer no formal objection on the basis that the work is unlikely to cause a long-term detrimental impact on the health of the trees. We are, however, disappointed in the need for the work which is ultimately the result of poor siting of the mast and request that you carefully consider all the informatives below when carrying out the work in order to minimise its impact.

I note that no work is proposed to T4.

The works should not be carried out before six weeks from the date of your notification, i.e. before 6 May 2020.

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

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. 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

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 or sought permission or will condone the use of consents to force any landowner to grant such permission.

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