



Andrea Nias
R. Watts & Sons Ltd
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Frances Martin
Executive Director for
Economic Growth and
Neighbourhood Services

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Our Ref: 201371/TPO
Your Ref:

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

2nd November 2020

Your contact is:

Sarah Duckworth, Planning and Building Control

Dear Ms Nias,

**RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO TREES AT THE MERIDIAN, KENARVON DRIVE, READING -
SUBJECT TO TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 71/13.**

Thank you for your application dated 1st October 2020, regarding the above.

I visited the site on Monday 26th October 2020 in order to view the trees and assess your tree works application.

Along with some other pruning works, you have applied to carry out a canopy thin to T2, a large London Plane growing in a prominent position adjacent to Kenavon Drive / Gas Works Road. The reason given for this work is to improve light levels to the adjacent properties.

The proposed canopy thin would result in the reduction or removal of one in five branch tips. This will create multiple pruning cuts throughout the canopy of the tree which act as entry points for decay pathogens. The work can increase wind flow through the canopy and the increased oscillation of branches in high winds can lead to branch failure.

Plane leaves have a large surface area and even a 20% thin is unlikely to make any significant change to the light levels passing through the canopy to the adjacent properties. The loss of photosynthetic area will be replaced by the tree within the next growing season therefore any benefit to light which arises as a result of the work will be short-lived.

The Borough Council has therefore concluded that the potential harm to the tree as a result of the crown thin would not be justified by any obvious long-term gain for adjacent residents with regards to any amelioration of shade cast by the tree. In view of this your application to thin the canopy of T2 (Plane) by 20% is refused.

I can confirm that the all other proposed works, as detailed in your application and listed below, are approved subject to the conditions attached:

- T2 London Plane: Tip reduce lateral limbs back from over the property to give 2m clearance. Crown lift by 3m above ground level.
- T3 London Plane: Crown lift by 2.5metres to clear path and cut back from the road sign to give visual clearance.
- T4 Goat Willow: Crown lift by 2.5metres to clear pedestrian path.

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

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

4. 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

5. 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 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 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' with a stylized flourish at the end.

Sarah Duckworth
Consultant Assistant Natural Environment Officer

cc. Caroline Roughley Davis, Pinnacle Property Management, Unit 2, Beech Court, Hurst, Berkshire RG10 0RU