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Mr R Simmonds  
33A Eastern Avenue  
Reading  
RG1 5RU

Our Ref: 200945/TPO  
Your Ref:

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2 September 2020

Your contact  
is:

Sarah Hanson, Planning and Building Control

Dear Mr Simmonds

**RE: PROPOSED FELLING OF ONE HORSE CHESTNUT AT 33A EASTERN AVENUE, READING  
- SUBJECT TO TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 66/05.**

Thank you for your application dated 2 February 2020, received on 6 July 2020, regarding the above.

Further to my visit on 20 August 2020, I have the following comments:

As you are aware, I visited the property in November 2018 to assess proposed works to the Horse chestnut in question hence, from photographs taken at that time, I have points of comparison for the tree's current condition, specifically the spread of the bleeding (black & rusty colour areas of bark). The tree is notably affected by 'Bleeding canker of Horse chestnut' (*Pseudomonas syringae pathovar aesculin*), with significant bleeding on the lower trunk, all below the crown break. I can see from comparing the situation now with that in 2018, that the bleeding has spread marginally further up the trunk and around the trunk, with bleeding extending approximately around two thirds of the circumference in the most extensive region.

Current Government advice on this disease includes the following:

- Trees with bleeding cankers on the trunk can still have healthy-looking crowns, and might not pose an immediate safety risk.
- Some trees may survive for many years because disease progression can be very

slow. They might even show signs of recovery, thanks to vigorous callus development at the margins of cankers when bark has been killed by the disease.

- Removing affected trees unless they pose a safety hazard is unnecessary. It will not prevent disease spread on a site where some trees already show symptoms. Also, significant numbers of trees do recover.

During my visit, the crown of the tree, aside from the impact from Horse chestnut leaf miner, appeared to be in fair condition and, as noted above, there were no bleeding cankers in the crown. Based on that and the above advice, it may be reasonable to suggest that the removal of the tree is currently premature. However, I am conscious of the fact that the extent of bleeding has increased since 2018 and is unusually extensive, increasing the likelihood that the cankering lesions will extend around the whole trunk circumference in time. This would have the potential to impact the structural integrity of the main stem and physiological function, and will most probably then result in the decline and death of the tree. As such, on balance, the removal of the tree, at this point in time, is considered reasonable.

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

- Horse chestnut (T11 of the TPO) - fell.

#### Conditions

1. Five days notice in writing shall be given to the Council prior to undertaking the approved works.

Reason: To ensure that the Local Planning Authority is given sufficient notice of the works to enable the effective monitoring of tree work within the Borough.

2. 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

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

4. Following the felling of the trees authorised by this consent, one broadleaf native or wildlife friendly tree of a minimum 10-12cm girth and 3m in height shall be planted within the rear garden during the planting season (Nov-March) following or at the time of the felling of the tree, whichever is soonest. The species should be agreed with the Council prior to purchase and planting.

Planting should be carried out in accordance with clause 10 (Planting) of BS 8545:2014 'Trees: from nursery to independence in the landscape - Recommendations'

Should the replacement tree be removed, die or become severely damaged or seriously diseased, all within 5 years of planting, it shall be replaced by a tree of a similar size and species to that originally planted. Modifications to the requirements of this condition must be agreed in writing with Reading Borough Council Natural Environment Team.

PLEASE NOTE: The requirement to replant is the responsibility of the tree owner even if the application was submitted by another person.

Reason: To retain the present visual amenity value of the area and ensure continuity of tree coverage.

### Informatives

1. 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](mailto:enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk)

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](mailto: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

*Sarah Hanson*

Sarah Hanson  
Natural Environment Officer