



Frances Martin
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Mr G Abbott
61a Bath Road
Reading
RG30 2BB

Our Ref: 190628/TPO
Your Ref:

Direct: ☎01189 372440
Email: sarah.hanson@reading.gov.uk

7 May 2019

Your contact
is: Sarah Hanson, Planning and Building Control

Dear Mr Abbott

**RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO TREES AT 61A BATH ROAD, READING - SUBJECT TO TREE
PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 93/03.**

Thank you for your application of 16 April 2019, regarding the above.

During my visit on 2 May 2019, we discussed the works as listed in the quote from Future Tree and some amendments to your application.

The application (based on the quotation) sought approval to fell one Maple (one of the group of three trees closest to the south-east corner of the property) and fell one Sycamore with squirrel damage (in the group closer to the school boundary).

The Maple closest to the house had been the subject of limited pre-application discussion and due to the basal wounding and associated bacterial slim flux, its felling is reasonable. We discussed the Sycamore with squirrel damage – this damage was evident in multiple bark wounds throughout the canopy, however the tree was in full leaf and appeared healthy in that respect. A longitudinal basal wound, with associated decay, was also noted along with an embedded wire in the trunk (see attached photos). I advised that felling of this tree was reasonable given the combination of issues however you advised that you wished to retain the tree and were not overly concerned about potential hazard from this tree. Hence the felling of this tree was removed from the application.

You advised that you would like to carry out works around the perimeter of the raised lawn area (on which the group of three trees closest to the house stand) to create timber edging, as has been done elsewhere around the parking area. The works to create this is likely to damage the roots of these trees hence would be a concern. However, the two trees closest to the house (within the group of three) appear to be growing on the top of a rockery/made up ground, hence their stability is questionable. Neither tree is a specimen; their value being as a group, one of which (the Maple) is to be removed. Given that the Maple is to be removed, the removal of the remaining two trees in group is reasonable subject to replacement planting.

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

- Fell one group of three trees, closest to the south-east corner of the house as identified in the attached photographs

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 three trees authorised by this consent, two (2) replacement native broadleaved trees or a minimum 8-10cm girth and 2.75m in height shall be planted on the same raised lawn area during the planting season (Nov-March) following or at the time of the felling of the tree, whichever is soonest.

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. 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 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:

The Environment Appeals Team, The Planning Inspectorate, Room 3/25, Hawk Wing, Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Temple Quay, Bristol, BS1 6PN

Email: environment.appeals@pins.gsi.gov.uk

Tel: 0117 372 8192

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