



Mr D Burdon
Environment Agency
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James Crosbie
**Acting Head of Planning,
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4 April 2019

Your contact
is:

Sarah Hanson, Planning and Building Control

Dear Burdon

**RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO BEECH TREES AT MEADOW WAY, READING - G1 OF TREE
PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 14/004.**

Thank you for your application of 22 March 2019, regarding the above.

It was established during our site meeting of 20 March 2019 that some branches had been removed from the south side of the Beech trees. It was explained to me that this had inadvertently been done during the EA's scrub clearance, with the scrub adjacent to the Meadow Way boundary being high, hence branches being mechanically removed along with the scrub. The resulting branch removal was, as a result, done poorly, leaving branch stubs, i.e. not pruning back to appropriate points, and leaving tears in those stubs.

It was decided that remedial work was required to 'tidy up' the pruned branches, i.e. to prune them back to appropriate growing points in line with good arboricultural practice, hence your current application seeking approval for this work.

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

- Group/line of Beech trees on the southern boundary of Meadow Way – prune any

branches affected by the unauthorised work back to the next appropriate growing point. This may be back to its point of origin or back to a growing point, whichever is the lesser reduction.

In relation to Informative 4 below, as you are aware I have established the owner through a land registry search and given you their details and have written to them in relation to the condition of the Beech. Please note that through responses received to my letter, the relevant person to contact is:

Joe Mallon, Managing Partner, JFM Block & Estate Management, Middlesex House, 130 College Road, Harrow, HA1 1BQ
Email: joe@jfm-management.co.uk
Tel: 0203 8657789

As you are aware, the works undertaken to the Beech tree were unauthorised as no approval for branch removal had been given. However, my site visit confirmed that the branches removed were small and remedial work was possible to ensure pruning was to appropriate points without long-term harm to the trees. As such, the Council will not be taken any formal action in this instance.

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. 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. 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 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