



Miss R Munro-Sale
Ground Control Ltd
Kingfisher House
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Billericay
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Frances Martin
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Your Ref:

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24 May 2019

Your contact
is:

Sarah Hanson, Planning and Building Control

Dear Miss Munro-Sale

**RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO ONE WELLINGTONIA AT BUPA, 2 PARKSIDE ROAD, READING -
T1 OF TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 63/03.**

Thank you for your application of 3 May 2019, regarding the above.

You have applied for permission to carry out the following works:

- T1 Wellingtonia – crown clean removing any dead or failing branches within the canopy to prevent further incidences of limbs failing in high winds

Further to my visit on 14 May 2019, I have the following comments:

The tree appears to be in average condition for its age. It appears that the tree may have been struck by lightning in the past with scorch marks present running up the trunk. The point of recent branch failure was noted (the branch still laying on the ground), a further failed (but still attached) branch was noted on the south-west side and a number of crossing/rubbing branches were observed. Please refer to the attached photographs to illustrate these points.

The removal of dead wood would be prudent along with failed branches in order to remove the hazard they present to the adjacent highway and parking area. Both of these operations are exempt from requiring formal approval under the TPO – your application has been taken as the required formal Notice of the intention to remove such branches.

As you will be aware the term 'crown cleaning' can include further work where specified: *'Removal of dead, dying, diseased, broken, crowded (crossing/rubbing), weakly attached and low-vigour branches'*. On site I did note that due to the nature of branch growth in the crown there are a number of crossing/rubbing branches, however determining which is the branch to remove whilst leaving a safe/good condition branch may be difficult and removal of all branches that are crossing/rubbing would not be prudent as that it likely to represent a significant thinning of the crown. It would be prudent whilst undertaking the removal of dead and failing branches, to carry out a climbing inspection to determine whether any other branch removal is required. Formal approval will be required for this unless the branches are dead or imminently dangerous.

In conclusion, the Notice to removal dead and failing branches is noted and agreed.

We request that five days notice in writing be given to the Council prior to undertaking the agreed works.

We would expect all tree surgery to be in accordance with BS 3998: (2010) Tree Work - Recommendations.

Climbing spikes should not be used as these can cause extensive long-term damage.

It would be prudent to undertake annual inspections of the tree given its location, or more frequently if deemed necessary following your inspection.

Please ensure your client receives a copy of this letter.

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. 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 agreement 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.

4. Crown lifting of trees over the footpath and carriageway: If the clearance of vegetation overhanging the highway only involves the removal of branches to give a ground clearance to the statutory heights of 2.7m over the footpath and 5.5m over the road, this does not require formal consent from the Council. You are advised, however, to give notice to the Council of these intended works in order that they can be agreed.

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