

Mr. Andy Routledge
9 Queensborough Drive
Caversham
Reading
Berkshire
RG4 7JA

Alison Bell
Head of Environment &
Neighbourhood Services

Civic Offices, Reading, RG1 2LU
☎ 0118 937 3787

Our Ref: 182183/TPO
Your Ref:

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

21st January 2019

Your contact is:

Sarah Duckworth, Planning and Building Control

Dear Mr. Routledge,

**RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO AN OAK AT 9 QUEENSBOROUGH DRIVE, CAVERSHAM
PROTECTED AS T1 OF TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 82/08.**

Thank you for your application dated 10th December 2018, regarding the above.

You have applied to carry out the following works:

- Crown reduction back to previous reduction points.
- Crown thin by a maximum of 15%
- Crown lift to provide 9m clearance above ground level
- Remove dead and diseased branches

This is a healthy, mature Beech tree. The tree has a twin stem with a tight fork around 2m long on the main trunk with slight helical growth. I have noted that the tree has been previously reduced in the past with regrowth up to 2m long. Although it is rarely appropriate to reduce a protected tree, the twin stem fork with a tight union is a potential weak spot for the tree and I agree that it is expedient to maintain the tree's canopy in a reduced form.

However, the canopy reduction is considered to be major pruning works and should not be undertaken in addition to other crown pruning operations as this would add to the amount of wounding and leaf loss. Your application to carry out a crown thin in addition to the canopy reduction is therefore unacceptable in principle and is refused.

You have also applied to carry out a canopy lift to give 9m clearance ground level. As I advised you on site, this would be approximately half the height of the tree and such work would create multiple large pruning cuts to the detriment of both the health and amenity of the tree. Your application to crown lift the canopy to give 9m clearance from

ground level is therefore also refused. A lesser canopy reduction of up to 4m has been approved subject to conditions below.

I can confirm that the following lesser works, as amended from your tree works application, are approved subject to the conditions below:

Approved Works

T1 Beech

- Crown reduce back to previous reduction points (approximately 2m off the canopy radius).
- Crown lift canopy to give 4m clearance from ground level around canopy.
- Remove deadwood and diseased branches.
- Remove 2 slightly pendulous lower branches over the garden of 9 Queensborough Drive (see attached photograph).

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

3. The approved canopy reduction shall be undertaken in mid-late Summer (July - September) when the tree's energy reserves are at their height or during the Winter months of December - January during the period of dormancy.

Reason: Taking into account the tree's phenological cycle and in order to avoid any unnecessary detriment to the tree as a result of the pruning work.

Informatives

1. You are advised that this decision is valid for one pruning operation 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. Disturbance of wildlife: It is an offence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) to disturb roosting bats or nesting birds. Wildlife and habitat controls are administered by Natural England who can be contacted on 0300 030 6000.

3. Crown cleaning should not include the removal of fused natural braces (branches or stems), or the removal of entwining branches or rubbing branches (where they may be forming a natural brace) from the crown of a semi-mature to fully mature tree without carrying out an assessment of any junctions formed below such natural braces.

Reason: Removal of natural braces may lead to failure of weak unions.

If you wish to appeal against the Council's refusal of consent to thin the canopy of the tree or crown lift to 9m or against any of the conditions attached to the permitted works, please contact the Planning Inspectorate within 28 days of receipt of this letter to obtain the relevant forms:

The Environment Appeals Team
Trees and Hedges
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: 0303 444 5584

If you suffer any loss or damage as a result of this refusal of consent, you may be entitled to recover compensation from the Council. If you wish to make a claim you must do so within 12 months from the date of this decision (or, if you appeal to the Secretary of State, within 12 months from the date of his decision). Claims should be made in writing to the Insurance Section, Reading Borough Council, Civic Centre, Bridge Street, Reading, RG1 2LU.

If you require any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me on the above number.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Duckworth

Sarah Duckworth
Assistant Natural Environment Officer



Image 1. Identification of two low and pendulous branches to be removed.