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Our Ref: 190050/TPO
Your Ref:

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25th February 2019

Your contact is:

Sarah Duckworth, Planning & Building Control

Dear Ms Fallon,

**RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO TREES ON LAND AT 8 RUSSET GLADE, EMMER GREEN -
SUBJECT TO TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 33/02**

Thank you for your application dated 10th January 2019 regarding the above.

You have applied to carry out a number of tree works operations to three Oak trees within the rear garden of 8 Russet Glade, Emmer Green.

The work you have applied for is as follows:

- T1 Oak - reduce back to fence line and reduce the entire canopy by 2-3m.
- T2 Oak - reduce back to fence line and reduce the entire canopy by 2-3m.
- T3 Hawthorn - Ivy clad, fell to ground level.

I went to view the trees on Wednesday 13th February. I have identified that T1 and T2 are mature Oaks growing on the edge of a woodland group. As such the trees have an asymmetrical canopy the result of competition with adjacent trees and phototropic growth (growing towards the light). The proposed work to cut the canopies of these would be a significant reduction, particularly for T2 where the works would remove around 4m from the canopy of the tree creating pruning cuts up to 150mm diameter.

As a result the trees would be left overly slender and in a weakened physiological condition. The trees would be disadvantaged when growing in competition with the adjacent woodland and would need to put on rapid growth to recover the lost photosynthetic area. Following the work, the trees which currently appear to be in a health and stable condition, would be more prone to branch breakage and would

potentially cause a greater nuisance for neighbours in the future as a result of this work.

In view of this your application to reduce the canopies of T1 and T2 (Oaks) as per your application is refused. Consent for lesser works to these trees and the removal of T3 has been approved subject to the conditions below:

Approved works

- T1 Oak - Reduce north side of canopy over the garden of 17 Tower Close by 1.5-2m using nearest suitable reduction points. Crown clean removing any dead, diseased or structurally undermined branches.
- T1 Oak - Reduce north side of canopy over the garden of 17 Tower Close by 1.5-2m using nearest suitable reduction points. Crown clean removing any dead, diseased or structurally undermined branches.
- T3 Hawthorn - Poor condition tree, ivy clad. Fell to ground level.
- T4 Oak - Tree with decayed buttress roots as identified at our meeting. Fell to ground level or to 4m monolith and leave for habitat value.

Site Plan (locations are approximate)



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.

4. 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.

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. 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'.

3. 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 030 6000

If you wish to appeal against the Council's refusal of consent to reduce T1 and T2 (Oak) as per your application, 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

cc. Ms Nicole Fallon, 8 Russet Glade, Emmer Green, Reading, RG4 8UJ