



Mr Nick Johnson
Treescape Arborists
Orchard Cottage
The Street
North Warnborough
Hook
RG29 1BD

Giorgio Framilicco
**Head of Planning,
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Services**
Civic Offices, Reading, RG1 2LU
☎ 0118 937 3787

Our Ref: 181894/TPO
Your Ref:

Direct: ☎01189 372440
Sarah.hanson@reading.gov.uk

5th December 2018

Your contact is:

Sarah Hanson, Planning & Building Control

Dear Mr. Johnson,

**RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO A CEDAR ON LAND AT MONKLEY COURT, CAVERSHAM
PROTECTED AS T1 OF TREE PRESERVATION ORDER 161/05**

Thank you for your application of 31st October 2018 regarding the above.

You have applied to remove the four lowest branches on the Cedar in order to raise the canopy and create a view from the building, to let more light into the grass areas below the tree and to prevent branches from blocking light from the street light over the pathway behind the flats.

Having viewed the tree, I have noted that the lowest branch on the tree is a sizeable branch with a diameter over 1/3 that of the main trunk. BS 3998:2010 advises that when pruning, '*the diameter of the final cut should generally not exceed one-third of that of the parent stem or branch.*' Removing this lower branch which grows away from the apartments would create a large pruning cut on the main trunk which would act as an entry point for decay pathogens. Although it is acknowledged that the three branches above this one are much smaller, removing these and retaining the lower branch would result in an asymmetrical and unbalanced lower canopy to the detriment of the health and amenity of the tree.

In view of these concerns, your application to remove the four lower branches on the Cedar (T1 of TPO 161/05) is refused. However, the following lesser works are approved to prune the tree and give reasonable clearance to the property and streetlight (subject to the following conditions) and may now be undertaken should you wish to do so:

Lesser Approved Works to T1 (Cedar) of TPO 161/05

- Reduce branches to give 1.0m clearance to the tree light and column and reduce branches on the north side of the canopy to give up to 2.5m clearance to property.

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

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. 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 allow the removal of the four lowest branches, or against any of the conditions attached to the approved 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 Hanson

Sarah Hanson
Natural Environment Officer

cc. Mr Pedersen, 1 Monkley Court, Caversham, Reading, Berkshire RG4 8EW