

Mr Richard Lamb
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Our Ref: 181660/TPO
Your Ref:

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25 October 2018

Your contact is:

Sarah Duckworth, Planning and Building Control

Dear Mr. Lamb,

RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO FELL A WESTERN RED CEDAR ON LAND AT 54 GROSVENOR ROAD, CAVERSHAM, PROTECTED AS T2 OF TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 40/11

Thank you for your application dated 20th September 2018, regarding the above.

You have applied to fell T2, a large Western Red Cedar due to the proximity of the tree to your property. You have advised that the tree fills your gutters with debris, leans towards the dwelling, causes excessive shade and water removal from the garden and causes an ongoing nuisance.

We met on Wednesday 17th October when I visited to assess the tree. The tree is a large and healthy mature specimen 2.6m from the property but with a canopy spread of 3.41m. As a result many branches are in direct contact with the property. The trunk diameter is currently 840mm at 1.5m with potential for future growth. The lower trunk has a slight lean to the east (garden area) but the upper canopy resumes vertical growth and the tree is considered stable. The base and roots are causing some damage to the adjacent path which is not uncommon given the shallow foundations expected on such structures.

Western Red Cedar are potentially large growing trees in terms of both stem girth and height and T2 has potential to grow larger. In addition, as Western Red Cedar trees mature, their leaders lose apical dominance and side branches can assume vertical growth taking the form of multistem tree and greatly increasing the canopy width. This growth pattern is already evident on the southern side of T2. Such branches are difficult to reduce or remove without causing significant wounding on the tree.

I note that in 2012, the Borough Council approved works to crown lift the tree to 3m and prune back where necessary to give 1m clearance to the property. Over the past 6 years

since the work was undertaken the tree has put on over 1.5m growth and works to provide similar levels of clearance would require a significant reduction and be potentially harmful to the amenity of the tree.

Although the Borough Council would not usually support the removal of an otherwise healthy tree, on this occasion I have found that the predicted future growth of the tree to be unsustainable given the close proximity of the tree to your property.

I have also noted that your garden contains a number of potentially large growing trees including Aspen, Pines, Plane, Cedar, Indian Bean Tree, Norway Maple, Birch, Beech, Hornbeam and Sweet Chestnut any of which will when they reach maturity be able to replace the amenity lost by the removal of this tree.

In view of these considerations I can confirm that your application to fell T2 (Western Red Cedar) is **approved** subject to the conditions below:



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

Informatives

1. 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 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 Duckworth

Sarah Duckworth
Consultant Assistant Natural Environment Officer