



Mr. Stephen Richards,
SDR Arborists
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Our Ref: 181233/TPO
Your Ref:

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19th September 2018

Your contact is:

Sarah Duckworth, Planning and Building Control

Dear Mr. Richards,

RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO TREES ON LAND ADJACENT TO THE BEECHES, BOUNDARY LANE, AND SUBJECT TO TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 98/05.

Thank you for your application 15th July 2018, regarding the above.

You have applied to fell an ivy clad Hawthorn tree to ground level to gain light into the garden of The Beeches, Boundary Lane. I must advise you that Reading Borough Council would not usually permit a protected tree to be felled in order to improve light levels to property as shade is an inevitable consequence of living near trees. Permitting such an application would set an unacceptable precedent for dealing with similar applications in the future.

The tree in question I believe is actually a Field Maple which is set back from the western boundary to the side of the property. The height of this tree means that shade cast over the garden of The Beeches would not be unreasonable and no further information has been provided to support the need for the removal of the tree at this time.

In view of this, your application to fell the Hawthorn (Field Maple) is refused. Please note that you do not need the consent of the Borough Council to sever ivy from the base of this tree.

I can confirm that other tree works proposed in your application, are **approved** subject to the conditions below:

- Ash - Reduce by 20% using suitable reduction points (please refer to Condition 3 and Informative 1).
- Hazel coppice stools - Coppice to ground level

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 20% reduction to the Ash has been confirmed in your email correspondence (Wednesday 12th September) as being a reduction in canopy height and spread of 2-3m to suitable reduction points. The reduction hereby approved shall not exceed a reduction of 3m of the canopy height and radial spread. Final pruning cuts should not exceed 100mm.

Reason: To preserve the health and amenity value of a protected tree

Informatives

1. The Borough council would not usually permit the reduction of a protected tree, however on this occasion the upper branches of the Ash (T1) are showing loss of vitality. It is therefore agreed that the permitted reduction (2-3m) would help address some of the concerns of the property owner without having any detriment to the long term amenity of the tree.

2. 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.

3. Removal of dead or dangerous wood: This does not require the formal consent of the Council. 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'.

4. 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

5. 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 consent does not in any way imply that this Council has informed the owner of sought permission or will condone the use of consents to force any landowner to grant such permission.

If you wish to appeal against the Council's refusal of consent to fell the Field Maple or any of the conditions attached to your consent, 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

Consultant Assistant Natural Environment Officer

cc. Mrs. E. Adlem, The Beeches, Boundary Lane, Caversham, Reading RG4 7TD