



Mr Nicholas Gunner
Forest and Garden Timber Services
Hollow Farm
Holly Lane
Worplesdon
Guildford
GU3 3PB

Alison Bell
Head of Environment &
Neighbourhood Services

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

Our Ref: 181288/TPO
Your Ref:

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

27th July 2018

Your contact is:

Sarah Duckworth, Planning and Building Control

Dear Nicholas,

**RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO TREES ON LAND AT READING BRIDGE HOUSE, GEORGE STREET
READING - SUBJECT TO TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 97/05.**

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

Further to my visit on 26th July, I can confirm that the following proposed works, as detailed in your application, are approved subject to the conditions below:

Approved tree works

- T9 Horse Chestnut - Fell tree to ground level. The Borough Council agrees that this tree is dead / dangerous (please note Informative 5).
- G1 London Plane - Canopy reduction of 2-4m (please note condition 2)
- T10,T11 London Plane - Canopy reduction of up to 2-4m (please note condition 2)
- T1-T5 London Plane - Canopy reduction of 2-4m (please note condition 2)
- T6, T7, T8 Poplar - Selective reduction of individual extended lateral branches by up to 2-4m over the car park area only.

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 (with particular reference to section 7.2.4 '*Deciding where and how much to prune*' of this document). The permitted canopy reductions shall be undertaken in proportion to the regular tree shape in order to leave a natural-looking, reduced canopy outline. The reduction shall not exceed 1/3 the total branch length or 2-4m whichever is less. Pruning cuts should be kept as small as possible and shall not exceed 100mm diameter.

Reason: To ensure that all works are carried out in an acceptable arboricultural manner

3. Trees can now be pruned either i) as approved under an earlier application 161574 which is valid until 25th August 2018 or ii) as per this tree works consent ref. 181288. Undertaking both pruning operations in conjunction would increase the extent of the canopy reductions to the detriment of the trees' health and is therefore prohibited.

Reason: To prevent harm to the long term health and visual amenity of the trees which can arise from over frequent pruning operations.

4. 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

5. The reduction works hereby approved shall be undertaken in mid-late Summer (June - August) when the tree's energy reserves are at their height or during the Winter months of December - January during the period of dormancy only.

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

Informatives

1. You are advised that this consent is valid for one pruning operation to be undertaken within a two year period from the date of this correspondence, following which the consent will lapse and a new application will be required.

2. 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'.

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

4. 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.

5. Removal of any dead or dangerous protected tree: Once felling of a dead or dangerous tree has been carried out, the owner has a duty under Section 201(b) of the Town & Country Planning Act to replant another tree of an appropriate size and species in the same place as soon as they reasonably can. This replacement tree will be covered by the existing Tree Preservation Order. The new tree will be subject to the same requirements for a tree works application if you intend to carry out works upon it in the future.

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