



Alison Bell
Director of Environment &
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Ms Joanna Moriarty
8 Darell Road
Caversham
Berkshire
RG4 7AY

Our Ref: 171549/TPO
Your Ref:

Direct: ☎01189 372440
sarah.duckworth@reading.gov.uk

4th October 2017

Your contact is: Sarah Duckworth, Planning & Building Control

Dear Ms Moriarty,

RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO A HORSE CHESTNUT TREE PROTECTED AS T7 OF TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 5/05

Thank you for your application of 30th August 2017 regarding the above.

You applied to crown-lift the Horse Chestnut tree to 5.5m, thin by 20% and remove deadwood because the tree overhangs the road.

Further to our meeting of Friday 22nd September 2017 you informed me that this work was applied for following recommendations for tree work given by your local arborist.

Although the Borough Council has no objection in principle to the proposed crown lift of the tree, I do have concerns regarding the 20% crown thin. Thinning the canopy of a mature tree which has not been historically reduced is not always appropriate.

Such work is of no benefit to the health and stability of the tree as it creates multiple pruning cuts throughout the canopy. Thinning of a tree's canopy can increase the oscillation of longer branches in high winds increasing the risk of branch failure. The tree would put on denser foliage the following year in order to recover the loss of (photosynthetic) leaf area following the thinning work and any tangible benefit to light would be short lived.

For these reasons the 20% crown thin proposed for the tree has been refused.

The proposed crown-lift to 5.5m, as detailed in your application, is approved subject to the conditions below:

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 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

4. It is best to avoid works in the period immediately before or during bud burst and leaf fall to minimise the effect on the long-term health of the tree

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 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