

Mr. John Chiles
10 Barbrook Close
Tilehurst
Reading
Berkshire
RG31 6RT

Alison Bell
Head of Environment &
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Civic Offices, Reading, RG1 2LU
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Our Ref: 171481/TPO
Your Ref:

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19th September 2017

Your contact is:

Sarah Duckworth, Planning and Building Control

Dear Mr Chiles,

RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO T6 (ASH) ON LAND AT 10 BARBROOK CLOSE, TILEHURST, READING - SUBJECT TO TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 31/003.

Thank you for your application of 22nd August 2017, regarding the above.

You have applied to undertake the following tree work:

Ash (T6) - Thin branches to the north-west part of the canopy to allow light into the garden. Branches also to be lifted from nearby conifer and Oak to give clear separation.

You did not state the extent of the tree works on site therefore we met at your property on 7th September 2017 to discuss the works and to quantify suitable reduction points where required.

The Borough Council has no objections in principle to a light reduction of the northwest side of the tree's canopy, however an additional thin following this work is not considered to be appropriate at this time.

The British Standard 3998 'Tree Work Recommendations' advises that '*Due to its potentially negative effects, crown reductions should not usually be carried out in addition to other crown pruning operations which would add to the amount of wounding and leaf loss.*'

Ash, as species, are not dense canopied trees having fewer small and terminal twigs than for many other species. The opposite bud formation makes it difficult to achieve a natural looking canopy form as a result of this work. Excessive thinning of a tree's canopy can increase the oscillation of longer branches in high winds increasing the risk of branch failure. As such, thinning an Ash canopy is rarely appropriate, particularly following in

conjunction with a canopy reduction.

I also consider that such work would result in very little amelioration of the shading issues you have raised. The tree would put on denser foliage the following year in order to recover the loss of (photosynthetic) leaf area following the reduction and thinning work and any tangible benefit to light would be shortlived.

For the reasons given, the application to thin of the northwest side of T6 is not considered appropriate works to this protected tree at this time and this aspect of your application is refused.

I can confirm that the following works, as per your application and as quantified at our site visit, are approved subject to the conditions below:

Approved work

T6 (Ash) - Selectively reduce canopy on the northwest side of the canopy as required to give 1.5-2m clearance to the adjacent canopies of a conifer and Oak tree.

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 consent is valid for two years following which date it will expire and a new TPO application will need to be submitted.

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. Due to the codominant (twin) stem form of this tree, it would be appropriate to

remove the ivy on the lower trunk where it prevents regular visual inspection of the lower trunk and branch forks. Prior to the severing of well-established ivy at the base of the tree, it would be prudent to carry out an assessment of whether any of the stems of the ivy are forming a natural brace above a suspected bark-included union.

If you wish to appeal against the refusal of permission to undertake the canopy thin, or 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