

Miss Fiona Findlater
Calibra Tree Surgeons
20 Mooredale Avenue
Bracknell
Berkshire
RG42 1RS

Our Ref: 161534/TPO
Your Ref:

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

31st August 2016

Your contact is: Sarah Duckworth, Planning & Building Control

Dear Miss Findlater,

PROPOSED WORKS TO 5X MAPLES AT THE REAR OF CAVERSHAM PLACE, RICHFIELD AVENUE - PROTECTED AS TREES T9 - T13 UNDER TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 19/10

Thank you for your application of 16th August 2016 regarding the above.

Following our telephone conversation last week, I am writing to confirm that I have been to Caversham Place to assess your application to undertake a crown thin of 35% on these trees identified as T9, T10, T11, T12 and T13 of TPO 19/10. I have identified that these are very large specimen trees with broad and low canopies which in several areas are coming into direct contact with the apartments at Caversham place to the north and touching and resting on sheds and fencing of properties to the rear (south) of Caversham Place.

As we discussed on the phone, I consider that the 35% crown thin as applied for would not reduce the size of the canopies only the canopy volume and therefore it not provide adequate clearance between the trees with the adjacent properties. Any benefit to the lower light levels in the garden from the crown thin would be short lived. The trees have numerous slender branches throughout the canopy and a canopy thin as proposed may change the wind loading and oscillation of branches in high winds making the trees more prone to drop branches.

I consider that this application could be potentially damaging to the trees without addressing any of the nuisances which these trees are causing as a result of the proximity of their canopies to adjacent properties and the garden spaces. As such your application to undertake a 35% thin of the canopies has been refused.

However I do agree that work is required to provide adequate clearance to property and to lift the canopy to improve light and access in the garden areas around the trees.

Following consultation with your client Mr James Gillate of Roots, Shoots and Leaves, I can confirm that the following works are approved subject to the conditions below:

Approved Work

- T9,T10,T11,T12,T13 - Crown lift low level branches to give 4m clearance to ground level removing branches under 60mm diameter back to source where appropriate.
- T9,T10,T11,T12,T13 - Undertaken a crown clean / formative prune of the trees removing no more than 20% of the canopy volume. The crown clean and formative prune will remove any dead, dangerous or dysfunctional wood and include the removal of snags and any tertiary crossing / rubbing branches and the re-pruning of branch stubs.
- T9 and T11 - Prune lateral branches to give 4m clearance to Caversham Place using suitable reduction points.
- T13 - Prune lateral branches to give 3m clearance to Caversham Place using suitable reduction points.

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

3. The approved works shall be undertaken in mid-late Summer (July - September) when the tree's energy reserves are at their height or during the Winter months of December - February during the period of dormancy.

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

4. Crown cleaning should not include the removal of fused natural braces (branches or stems), or the removal of entwining branches or rubbing branches (where they may be forming a natural brace) from the crown of a semi-mature to fully mature tree without carrying out an assessment of any junctions formed below such natural braces.

Reason: Removal of natural braces may lead to failure of weak unions.

5. 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. 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

2. This decision is valid for two years from the date of this notice after which the consent lapses

If you wish to appeal against any of the conditions attached to this consent or the Council's refusal of a 35% crown thin of the trees as applied for in your application, 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 the refusal of consent to crown thin the trees, 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
Assistant Consultant Natural Environment Officer

cc. James Gillate, Roots Shoots and Leaves - james@rootsshootsleaves.co.uk