



Mr J Dart
Fernoak Tree Surgeons Ltd
South Lodge
Beenham
RG7 5LR

Emma Gee
Acting Executive Director for
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3 April 2024

Your contact is: Sarah Hanson, Planning, Transport & Public Protection

Dear Mr Dart

RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO ONE ASH TREE AT UTC READING, CRESCENT ROAD, READING - T2 OF TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 37/11.

Thank you for your application of 2 January 2024, regarding the above. As you are aware, following my visit of 26 January 2024 I emailed you to seek clarification over the works. Through exchange of emails, we were unfortunately unable to resolve this, hence we met on 21 March 2024 to discuss the works. During our site discussion, the proposed works were amended to reduce the extent of reduction.

I can confirm that the following proposed works, as detailed in your amended application, are approved subject to the conditions below and with reference to the annotated photograph at the end of this letter:

- **T2 Ash:**
Reduce the lower elongated canopy (on north-west side) by 1-2m to sound secondary growth points to alleviate branch tip weight over high risk areas; reduce lower limb with decay (on south-side) by 2-3m to alleviate branch tip weight to sound secondary growth points; crown lift canopy to 5m (including removal of epicormic growth on main stem to first major branch break) to create clearance over the car park and neighbouring school. Natural profile shape to be maintained, leaving top. Remove all deadwood.

Whilst on site we discussed the potential for improving the rooting environment of the tree in order to try and improve its health and response to pruning. It was noted that the roots have impacted the tarmac surfacing (laid right up to the trunk) and that cars avoided parking in the spaces closest to the tree (under its canopy). If these closest spaces are not required, the careful removal of the tarmac and replacement with an area

of mulch up to the boundary wall would be beneficial. Not having the car parking directly under the tree would also help manage the risk the tree presents. If UCT can consider this, it would be positive for the tree. It would be prudent to provide advice on the removal of the tarmac, preferably under arb supervision, to minimise damage to any exposed roots.

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 canopy reduction 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 - January 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. 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, in accordance with Part 4, 17 (4) of The Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation)(England) Regulations 2012, this decision is valid for one pruning operation (as per the approved specifications) to be undertaken within 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 is encouraged, 5 working days in advance of removing dead wood in order that we are aware of such works. 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' or in any other case, at least five working days prior to the date on which the works are to be commenced.

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.

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:

Trees and Hedges

Room 3A Eagle Wing, Temple Quay House

2 The Square, Temple Quay

Bristol, BS1 6PN

Telephone: 0303 444 5000

E-mail it to: treeandhedgeappeals@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Website: [Tree Preservation Orders and trees in conservation areas - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk/government/topics/trees-and-hedges)

If you require any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me on the above number.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Hanson

Sarah Hanson

Natural Environment Officer

C.c. Sarah Dawson, Louise Owen & Nikki Strange, UTC



North-west (red circle) and south side (yellow circle) to be reduced - circle NOT indicative of amount of reduction but for clarity of crown areas only.