



Mr D White
White knight Tree Care and Consultancy
5 Cressingham Road
Reading
RG2 7RS

Emma Gee
Acting Executive Director for
Economic Growth and
Neighbourhood Services

Bridge Street, Reading RG1 2LU
☎ 0118 9373787

Our Ref:240197/TPO
Your Ref:

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

21 March 2024

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

Dear Mr White

RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO TREES AT 2 GRASS HILL,CAVERSHAM, READING - SUBJECT TO TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 98/05.

Thank you for your application of 14 February 2024, regarding the above, and latter explanation of works on 18 February 2024 via email.

During my visit on 29 February 2024, accompanied by Mr Wheatman, I discussed my concerns about the extent of limb removal, as indicated on your application photographs, and we also discussed the addition of works to another Sycamore adjacent to the hot tub.

In relation to T1 Sycamore, your annotated photograph appears to show the removal of 3 branches, confirmed by Mr Wheatman. I have no issue with the lower 2, however the highest branch of the 3 is more upright and forms part of the upper crown structure, the loss of which would detrimentally impact the crown hence this is not agreeable.

In relation to T2, it would appear that the removal of the entire branch indicated would likely cause a large wound, albeit this could not be confirmed due to the extensive Ivy present. In any case, its removal would result in the loss of a significant portion of the tree. Given this, and to alleviate the issue with nuisance from the overhang of the decking, a reduction of this branch is approved instead.

In conclusion, the removal of the highest branch (of the 3) from T1 Sycamore and the removal of the whole limb indicated from T2 Sycamore is refused.

I can confirm that the following proposed works, as detailed in your application (as amended on site), are approved subject to the conditions below and with reference to the attached photographs:

- T1 Sycamore - remove two low limbs overhanging the decking
- T2 Sycamore - reduce one limb overhanging the decking (as indicated)
- T3 Ash - fell
- T4 Sycamore - crown lift to 2-3m above the hot tub shelter; reduce remaining branches to leave 1-2m overhanging the hot tub shelter
- G1 (mixed species) - re-pollard trees along the path (cut back of other vegetation noted)

It is recommended that the Ivy be severed and allowed to die off to then enable tree inspection, reduce shading, reduce weight in the crown and to reduce 'sail area'.

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. 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. 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

5. 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 refused works or against any of the conditions attached to the consented works, 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

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

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

If your client suffers any loss or damage as a result of the refused works, he may be entitled to recover compensation from the Council. If you/he wish to make a claim you/he must do so within 12 months from the date of this decision (or, if you/he 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 Hanson

Sarah Hanson
Natural Environment Officer

C.c. Mr Wheatman, 2 Grass Hill