



Mr N Cantell
Beechwood Tree Care Ltd
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Emma Gee
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Our Ref: PL/24/1006
Your Ref:

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10 October 2024

Your contact is:

Sarah Hanson: Planning, Transport & Public Protection

Dear Mr Cantell

RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO TREES AT GEOFFREY FIELD JUNIOR SCHOOL, EXBOURNE ROAD, READING - SUBJECT TO TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 7/17.

Thank you for your application of 6 August 2024, regarding the above.

To assist with the reference to TPO trees in this letter, I attach a copy of the TPO plan.

During my visit on 4 October 2024, I viewed the proposed works included in your survey (alongside the work included on your application form), the majority of work consisting of dead wood removal and severing of Ivy (note Informative 5) which does not require approval, but is noted. In relation to protected trees, this relates to the following (TPO reference in brackets): T022 (T8) Acer, T023 (T9) Lime, T026 (T12) Lime, T029 (T14) Lime, T030 (T15) Maple, T032 (T16) Sycamore, T034 (T18) Sycamore, T037 (T21). T19 Lime of the TPO is not included in your survey but significant dead wood was noted which I assume you will also remove.

The exceptions were the proposed felling of your T035a Maple, T036 Maple, T059 Leyland cypress and T060 Larch. Only T036 Maple is included in the TPO (T20) - for clarity, the tag number on the tree (assumed to be from a previous survey) is 742.

Whilst on site, it was noted that multiple trees had branches low over the field and it was agreed with Jeanette Winsor that crown lifting should be added to the application as a general lift to 3m. T10 Maple, T11 Sycamore and T17 Lime of the TPO are not included in your survey or application but are included in the crown lifting.

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

- Maple (T036 of survey; T20 of TPO, tag No.742) - fell.
- Sycamore (T032 of survey; T16 of TPO) - Crown reduce by approximately 20% of leaf area (this equates to reducing the existing crown by up to approximately 1.5m of the radial crown spread and up to approximately 1.5m of the height), leaving tree with natural crown shape for species in line with BS3998
Officer note: the intention to install cable bracing is noted and confirmation and photographs of this once installed would be welcome for the TPO file.
- All trees - crown lift to 3m above ground level over the school field.
Officer note: this work is expected to largely include reduction of minor branches only, but in some cases, it is reasonable to take minor branches back to the trunk, e.g. T10 & T11 (of TPO) to provide the 3m, even where the origin of the branches is above 3m.

The TPO Maple to be removed is located in the wooded area in the south-west corner of the field. As such, a condition has not been attached to require a replacement tree.

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 to Sycamore (T032 of survey; T16 of TPO) 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. 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

3. 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.

4. Trees not considered to be protected by the current Tree preservation order: Work can be carried out to this tree without the formal consent from this Council.

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 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-woodland/tree-preservation-orders)

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 Jeanette Winsor, Geoffrey Field Junior School