



Ms Alexander
Heritage Trees Ltd
Unit 3b Orchard Cottage
Thorney Mill Road
Iver
SL0 9AN

Emma Gee
Interim Executive Director for
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Our Ref: 231199/TPO
Your Ref:

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22 September 2023

Your contact is: **Andrei Nazare, Planning, Transport & Public Protection**

Dear Ms Alexander,

RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO FOUR TREES AT EASTGATE COURT, READING - T1, T3, T5 AND T6 OF TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER 38/13.

Thank you for your application of 21 August 2023 and the annotated photograph e-mailed on 22 August 2023, regarding the above.

You applied for permission to carry out the following works:

- 1x Sweet gum (T4576 on application, T3 of TPO) - crown lift to approx. 2.5m where needed to clear parking bays.
- 1x Yew tree (T4578 on application, T1 of TPO) - reduce lateral branches to provide approx. 1m clearance to neighbouring property.
- 1x Prunus (T7508 on application, T5 of TPO) - reduce lateral branches to provide approx. 1m clearance to telegraph pole.
- 1x Prunus (T7509 on application, T6 of TPO) - target prune to balance removing up to 1m and crown lift to approx. 2.5m

On 1st September 2023 I visited the premises and I made the following observations:

The works proposed to the Sweet Gum tree (T3 of TPO) and Yew tree (T1 of TPO) will mitigate conflict with vehicles and, respectively, adjacent properties and are, as such agreeable. The crown lift on the Sweet Gum tree should be limited only above the parking bays, removing secondary and tertiary growth only, but including 2 main branches as indicated on the annotated photo included.

With regards to the Prunus tree (T5 of TPO), the proposed reduction to provide clearance to the telegraph pole is also agreeable. However, the reduction should only apply to branches growing directly towards the pole and immediately around it, and not to those

growing at an angle away from it.

You state the reason for the proposed pruning (crown reduction in effect) of the Prunus (T6 of TPO) is to balance the crown and for general maintenance purposes. Similar works have been previously approved in 2019 under tree works application ref. 190077. Formative pruning, only to balance the shape of the canopy - removing up to 1m (but only where necessary in order to do this) is agreeable as it will maintain the desired form and improve the structure and amenity value of the tree long term. The annotated photograph is helpful in indicating the intended pruning, but as it was taken some 10 months prior (Nov 2022), I'm including an annotated recent photograph taken during my visit.

I can confirm that the following proposed works are approved subject to the conditions below and with reference to the comments above and annotated photographs below:

- 1x Sweet gum (T4576 on application, T3 of TPO) - crown lift to approx. 2.5m where needed to clear parking bays.
- 1x Yew tree (T4578 on application, T1 of TPO) - reduce lateral branches to provide approx. 1m clearance to neighbouring property.
- 1x Prunus (T7508 on application, T5 of TPO) - reduce lateral branches to provide approx. 1m clearance to telegraph pole.
- 1x Prunus (T7509 on application, T6 of TPO) - target prune to balance removing up to 1m and crown lift to approx. 2.5m

During my visit I noted a swing is attached to one of the Yew tree's low branches. Your client, or their tenants, should avoid attaching any ropes, swings, or any other objects to trees in general and to protected trees in particular, in order to prevent damaging the branches and to mitigate the risk of branch failure and potential injuries to those using these attachments. I await confirmation that the swing is removed from the tree.

I also noticed the Sweet Gum tree appears to have a girdling root, as such it would be prudent to check this at each tree inspection to ensure it is not impacting the base of the trunk.

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 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. 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. 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.
6. Crown lifting of trees over the footpath and carriageway: If the clearance of vegetation overhanging the highway only involves the removal of branches to give a ground clearance to the statutory heights of 2.7m over the footpath and 5.5m over the road, this does not require formal consent from the Council. You are advised, however, to give notice to the Council of these intended works in order that they can be agreed.

If you wish to appeal against the refusal of the proposed crown reduction or 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

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

Yours sincerely,

Andrei Nazare

Andrei Nazare
Assistant Natural Environment Officer

C.c. Peabody Housing Trust, Ealing Gateway, 26-30 Uxbridge Road, W5 2AU

1. Annotated photograph indicating the approved formative pruning





2 Branches growing downwards towards the parking area to be removed from base.