



Mrs R Wasylciw
41 Surley Row
Emmer Green
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Emma Gee
Acting Executive Director for
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Your Ref:

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3 February 2025

Your contact is:

Sarah Hanson: Planning, Transport & Public Protection

Dear Mrs Wasylciw

RE: PROPOSED FELLING OF ONE BEECH TREE AND ONE ROW OF CONIFERS AT 41 SURLEY ROW, READING - SUBJECT TO CONSERVATION AREA STATUS.

Thank you for Tree Works Notice of 6 January 2025, relating to the above.

Further to my visit of 23 January 2025, I have the following comments:

The row of conifers is an unremarkable feature, not worthy of a Tree preservation Order, but provides a useful screen between your property and 43 Surley Row. You advised that the neighbours wished to see a height reduction to allow more light into their property. It was evident that reducing them to a useful height would not be possible without leaving as an attractive tree row; conifers being more difficult to hard prune whilst leaving them as aesthetically pleasing. You further advised that you are intending to replace them to re-provide screening but of something more attractive, similar to the beech 'hedge' between your front drive and 37 Surley Row. Replacement planting will be important to provide screening and to avoid further canopy cover loss on your property; trees being an important part of the character of the conservation area with your property also being bordered on two sides by listed properties.

I can confirm that the Council have no objections to the following proposed tree work:

- Row of conifers in the front garden / drive on boundary with 43 Surley Row - fell.

These works can now be carried out - this decision is valid for two years from the date of this letter, after which it lapses.

Your Notice also included the removal of the Beech tree at the edge of the driveway (close to the boundary with 37 Surley Row). This mature specimen appears in good health and is a prominent tree, clearly visible from Rotherfield Way due to the raised level at which your property sits. Pruning of this tree has been agreed under previous tree work notices in order to try and alleviate your concerns about bird droppings on cars, but this would not be a reason to fell a healthy tree of amenity value. In addition to this concern, you wish to remove the tree to create further parking space. I understand that you need to accommodate multiple vehicles and are carrying out ground works to assist with this. The tree sits right on the edge of the driveway with the trunk being on the sloped ground where no cars could park anyway. As such, removal is not required for parking space and, in any case, is not considered to be a valid reason to fell a specimen tree, particularly given the amount of space already available.

In addition, our records show that you have felled 18 trees over the last 10 years, and pruned others. Further tree loss is undesirable and would be detrimental to the conservation area.

The Council therefore object to the felling of the Beech tree and will be serving a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) in the near future. Following service of the TPO, a tree works application will then be required seeking consent for the alternative works we discussed on site. Information on how to submit a tree works application via the Planning Portal can be found on our website under 'works to protected trees': [Trees - Reading Borough Council](#)

You will have the opportunity to object to the service of the TPO if you considered it appropriate to do so; details will be given in the covering letter accompanying the TPO document. For clarity, any works taking place to the Beech tree within the 6-week notice period would be unauthorised - the TPO will be served before this period ends.

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