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Your Ref:

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27 May 2025

Your contact is:

Sarah Hanson: Planning, Transport & Public Protection

Dear Ms Frampton

**RE: PROPOSED WORKS TO ONE SYCAMORE AND ONE HOLM OAK AT MAITLAND HOUSE,
11 MAITLAND ROAD, READING - SUBJECT TO CONSERVATION AREA STATUS.**

Thank you for Tree Works Notice of 15 April 2025, valid as of 22 April 2025, relating to the above.

You confirmed in correspondence that the proposal was to pollard both trees. During my visit of 23 May 2025, with my colleague Amy Daly, it was noted that whilst the Holm oak has been pollarded before, the Sycamore has not. As per my email to you of 23 May, pollarding now (in line with that already started without authorisation) would go against good arboricultural practice and be detrimental to the future health and appearance of the tree. I understand that you have received complaints about overhanging branches from your neighbour, albeit you do not give the details of the complaint. If is, of course, neighbourly to try and alleviate concerns from neighbours but there is often a balance to be achieved in doing this whilst not being detrimental to the tree. The phone wires were noted, and it is appreciated that pruning to clear these is necessary, but the proposed works appear excessive, albeit I appreciate the difficulty in always ensuring clearance when wires pass through tree crowns. Whilst no formal objection is offered regarding this work as the tree is not considered to be worthy of a TPO, it would be prudent to consider if there are more reasonable alternatives to deal with issues raised.

The re-pollarding of the Holm oak is considered as reasonable management, having been done before hence no objection is offered to this work.

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

- Sycamore on frontage - pollard
- Holm oak on frontage - re-pollard back to previous pollard/reduction points

This decision is valid for two years from the date of this letter, after which it lapses.

The works can now be carried out.

As you are aware, it was noted during our visit that work had already started on the Sycamore without authorisation, and this had been dealt with separately.

Informatives

1. 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 060 3900; enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk

2. Removal of dead or dangerous wood: This does not require the formal consent of the Council. However you are encouraged to give 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', please give notice to the Council 'as soon as practicable after the works become necessary'.

3. 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 2.75m over the footpath and 5.5m over the road, this does not require formal notice to the Council.

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