



White Knight Tree Care & Consultancy
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Rationale

In support of proposed works to a TPO'd tree at
16 Squirrels Way, Reading, RG6 5QT

Prepared by David White, Level 4 Diploma in Arboriculture, LANTRA-approved Professional Tree Inspector, Arboricultural Association Technician member TE6980.

As can be seen from the photographs submitted as part of this application, the robinia was historically topped/pollarded some years ago with distinct pollard knuckles evident throughout the entirety of the crown. As a result of this the epicormic regrowth will be relatively weakly. Due to this weakness, pollarded trees should be repollarded on a cyclical basis (2-5 years) in order to mitigate the increased risk of failure. There is also some evidence of fibre buckling at the unions of some of the major limbs, as well as compression forks between the main stems (although these are not deemed significant at this time). The overall silhouette/profile of the crown is significantly unbalanced, leaving the significantly extended portions exposed to much higher windloading than is ideal and further increasing the potential for limb failures. Although the overall vitality of the trees appears acceptable, there are some very large dead stems within the crown.

Given the tree's prominent roadside location and the severity of the overhang over the occupied property, it is deemed prudent to repollard the tree back to the old knuckles (it appears this would have last been done over 5 years ago).