

Trees Planning

From: Daniel Atkinson
Sent: 23 February 2024 09:03
To: Trees Planning; Jack Dunn
Subject: RE: FAO Tree Officer regarding Tree works required at Slaithwaite Reservoir - Canal & River Trust

From: Caitlin Hayman
Sent: Thursday, February 22, 2024 2:52 PM
To: Trees Planning
Subject: FAO Tree Officer regarding Tree works required at Slaithwaite Reservoir - Canal & River Trust

FAO Tree Officer

Hello,

I am an Ecologist working for the Canal & River Trust (CRT). The Canal & River Trust is the statutory undertaker responsible for the UK's inland navigations and reservoirs including the Slaithwaite Reservoir in your area.

Slaithwaite Reservoir has recently been subject to external inspections assessing the safety on the reservoir (as per Reservoir Act 1975). The most recent inspection identified necessary improvements to Slaithwaite Reservoir (also referred to as MIOS or Measures in the Interest of Safety) within a section 10 (S10) inspection report. One of the MIOS measures has identified the requirement to improve the spillway channel.

To inspect the condition of the spillway structure and down stream channel we need to undertake some tree works within the TPO area (**ID:37/95/w1**). Work includes:

- Coppicing a Mature Crack Willow - this involves the removal of 5 stems all of which have failed, 4 of which have failed across the channel and one within the wooded area. (Green dot on plan)
 - Felling a Early Mature Sycamore which is growing in the river channel. (Green dot on plan)
 - Clearing a 0.5m path behind the retaining wall of the channel within the TPO woodland - this is mainly ground flora and saplings under 75mm. (purple area on plan)
 - Clearance of a path within the woodland to winch out the Willow. This is once again mainly bramble, saplings but it will require the removal of 2 small Hawthorn (blue area on plan).
 - The yellow and orange area on the plan is just clearing general vegetation from the walls and spillway channel e.g. grasses, bramble etc.
 - The winch will be positioned outside of the TPO area on a grassed section of the reservoir dam. The woodland will be accessed via foot.
 - The arisings will be either chipped or left on site as deadwood habitat.
 - Following the spillway scheme, replacement planting will be undertaken on site including in the TPO woodland.

Works are planned for the **29th February - 1st March 2024**.

As these works are to enable the inspection of our asset and to aid in the development of the spillway replacement scheme in the interest of safety, thus delivering our statutory responsibility in the interests of the safe operation of the Trust's undertaking, we wish to proceed with these works under the exception in Regulation 14(1)(a)(iii)(aa& bb).

Exception under Regulation 14.

(1) Nothing in regulation 13 shall prevent

(a) the cutting down, topping, lopping or uprooting of a tree—

(iii) by or at the request of a statutory undertaker, where the land on which the tree is situated is operational land of the statutory undertaker and the work is necessary—

(aa) in the interests of the safe operation of the undertaking

(bb) in connection with the inspection, repair or renewal of any sewers, mains, pipes, cables or other apparatus of the statutory undertaker;

(cc) to enable the statutory undertaker to carry out development permitted by or under the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995(5);

We will of course not carry out any tree works until we have had further discussions with yourselves and we recognise that despite our Regulatory Authority status we still need to notify and consult with you on these programmes of work. For other work to trees in Conservation Areas or with TPO's that fall outside our statutory powers we will continue to work closely with you, seeking formal approval where required.

We do understand the concern that statutory undertakers may stretch their powers to get as much tree work done as possible. Please be assured this is not the case with CRT, we value the trees on our estate and appreciate the enhancements they bring to the canals both for our users and for the wildlife. The work we do is kept to a minimum to ensure the safety of our users and the integrity of our assets.

We look forward to hearing from you, please feel free to call me on my mobile if you wish to discuss this matter in more detail.

Kind regards,
Caitlin

[Caitlin Hayman MSc, TechArbA](#)

Ecologist, North West

[Canal & River Trust](#)

canalrivertrust.org.uk

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