

Tel: (0118) 974 6000
Email: development.control@wokingham.gov.uk
Date: 18 September 2024
My ref: CY/TPO/737/1995/241868



WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

Mr David White
White Knight Services Ltd (Trading name:
White Knight Tree Care & Cons
5 Cressingham Road
Reading
RG2 7RS

Place and Growth
Development Management Team
P.O. Box 157
Shute End, Wokingham
Berkshire RG40 1WR
Tel: (0118) 974 6000

Dear Mr White,

TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER: 737/1995

APPLICATION NUMBER: 241868

**SITE ADDRESS: ROAD VERGE ADJACENT TO 16 SQUIRRELS WAY, EARLEY,
WOKINGHAM, RG6 5QT**

I am writing to you regarding your application to carry out works to protected tree(s) which was received on 20 July 2024 and validated on the 24 July 2024, and following the Council's Arboricultural Officer's site visit on the 5 August 2024.

I can confirm Wokingham Borough Council **consents with conditions**, to the following works, being carried out to tree(s) included in the above-mentioned Tree Preservation Order (TPO):

Approved Tree Works A1 of TPO 785/1996:

T1, Robinia (T2 on TPO)

- Pollard back to historic pollard knuckles

Reasons for proposed tree works:

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.

The consent is granted subject to the following conditions:

1. The above works must be completed before **18 September 2026** and in the event of the works not being completed by that date, further consent will be required.
2. Work must be carried out in accordance with British Standard 3998 – 2010 'Tree work - Recommendations'. Pruning cuts should only be made at historic pollarded points.
3. Climbing spikes shall not be used whilst undertaking any form of works on living trees, except on trees to be felled.

Reasons for conditions 1-3

1. To ensure that our records remain accurate.
2. To ensure the health, safety and visual amenity of the tree(s) and ensure works are undertaken in accordance with recognised arboricultural good practice.
3. Spikes can cause extensive long-term damage to trees.

Informative:

If you are aggrieved by any of the conditions attached to your consent, you may appeal to The Planning Inspectorate (PINS). Because of coronavirus (COVID-19), you currently can only make a planning appeal online. You cannot currently apply by post.

For more information go to:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/tree-preservation-order-appeal-form>

Telephone: 0303 444 5570 or e-mail it to: treeandhedgeappeals@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Your appeal should be received within one month of receipt of this decision or any such longer period as the Planning Inspectorate may allow.

You are advised that this letter is in respect of the **Tree Preservation Order only** and it does not imply that consent would be forthcoming from the owner of the tree(s) or any such other persons from whom consent would be required.

If we can be of any further assistance, please contact the Tree and Landscape Officer via email to: development.control@wokingham.gov.uk

Yours sincerely,



Chris Hannington
Trees and Landscape Team Manager

cc. Mr Mahal, 16 Squirrels Way, Earley, Wokingham, RG6 5QT

Please note that your attention is drawn to the following information:

Bird Nesting Season and Presence of Bat Roosts

In accordance with the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) and Countryside Rights of Way Act (2000), consideration must be given to the timing and type of tree work operations, to avoid causing disturbance to any nesting birds or bat roosts that may be present within the tree(s).

The Act makes it an offence (subject to exceptions) to intentionally kill, injure, or take, possess, or trade in any wild animal listed, and prohibits interference with places used for shelter or protection, or intentionally disturbing animals occupying such places.

It is advised that all non-urgent major tree work and hedge cutting operations are undertaken at a time to avoid disturbing nesting birds during the breeding season (to which the bird nesting season is considered to be from March to July). Where bats are suspected to be present, it is recommended that advice first be sought from a licenced bat specialist and if appropriate, the relevant licence(s) be obtained before any major tree work or hedge cutting commences.

Further information can be found at the following:

DEFRA (Department for the Environment Food and Rural Affairs)
Tel: 08459 33 55 77 or by email at helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk
Website: www.defra.gov.uk/

Natural England
Tel: 0845 600 3078 or by email at enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk
Website: www.naturalengland.org.uk

Bat Conservation Trust
Tel: 0845 1300 228 or by email at enquiries@bats.org.uk
Website: www.bats.org.uk

Forestry Act 1967 and Felling Licences

If it proposed to fell a tree or trees greater than 5 cubic metres or sell more than 2 cubic metres of timber in any calendar quarter, a Felling Licence from the Forestry Authority may be required.

Please note that Felling Licences are not required to remove trees from domestic (residential) gardens. Where you are the landowner of large pieces of land with numerous trees, clarification from the Forestry Commission may be required as to whether a Felling licence is needed.

For more information on Felling Licences, please speak to the Woodland Officer at the Forestry Commission on 01296 696543

Further Information can be found on the Forestry Commission Website:
www.forestry.gov.uk