

Tel: (0118) 974 6000
Email: development.control@wokingham.gov.uk
Date: 4 December 2025
My ref: TF/TPO/786/1996/252354



WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

Mrs Theresa Ridgers
Calibra Tree Surgeons Ltd
Lane End Cottage
Warfield Street
Warfield
RG42 6AR

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

Dear Mrs Ridgers,

TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER: 786/1996

APPLICATION NUMBER: 252354

LOCATION: 2 HEATHERMOUNT DRIVE, CROWTHORNE, WOKINGHAM, RG45 6HN

I am writing to you regarding your application to carry out works to protected tree(s), which was received on 08 October 2025 and validated on the 09 October 2025.

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

Approved works to A1 of TPO 786/1996:

T1, Silver Birch:

- Reduce height by 4m from 14m to 10m; tip reduce spread towards house by 2-3m to approx. 4m.

Reasons stated for works:

To reduce the growth towards the house as tree is leaning due to an adjacent mature Silver Birch

Officer comments:

The tree is protected as part of an Area Tree Preservation Order rather than by an individual designation. In assessing this application, the Local Planning Authority has considered both the individual merit of the Silver Birch and its contribution to the wider amenity of the area.

The tree is located within the interior of the site and cannot be seen from the public highway or any publicly accessible viewpoint. Its contribution to public visual amenity is therefore very limited. While it falls within an Area TPO, its individual characteristics are not considered to be of sufficient prominence or quality to justify individual TPO protection.

The tree exhibits a pronounced lean, which appears to be the natural result of long-term suppression beneath the crowns of adjacent, taller specimens. This has led to asymmetric growth and a form that is not typical of the species. Although the applicant has not asserted that the tree is dangerous, the growth pattern does present management challenges and creates a justification for proportionate intervention to improve the tree's structural balance and long-term viability.

The proposed reduction is considered reasonable arboricultural management in this context. The works will reduce the mechanical leverage on the leaning stem, lessen the likelihood of future structural issues arising from its distorted growth habit, and help to maintain the tree at a size more in keeping with the constraints of the site.

As the tree has negligible visibility from public viewpoints and is not a key contributor to the collective amenity provided by the tree group/area, the proposed works will not materially harm the purposes of the original Area TPO designation.

The consent is granted subject to the following conditions:

1. The above works must be completed before **04 December 2027** 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'.
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 maintain the tree's aesthetic value, structural integrity, and physiological health, and to ensure that the works do not result in detriments likely to impair the tree's long-term vitality or visual amenity.
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 may 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Hannington". The script is cursive and fluid.

Chris Hannington
Trees and Landscape Team Manager

cc. Applicant - Ms Lorraine Bobb, 2 Heathermount Drive, Crowthorne, Wokingham, RG45 6HN

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