

Tel: (0118) 974 6000
Email: development.control@wokingham.gov.uk
Date: 28 January 2025
My ref: TF/TPO/788/1996/243019



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: 788/1996

APPLICATION NUMBER: 243019

SITE ADDRESS: 1 GREENSIDE, CROWTHORNE, WOKINGHAM, RG45 6EX.

I am writing to you regarding your application to carry out works to protected tree(s), which was received on 28 November 2024 and validated on the 02 December 2024. Please accept my apologies for the delay in determining this application.

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

Proposed tree works to A1 of TPO 788/1996:

T1, Silver Birch:

- Fell to ground level.

Reasons stated for works:

Severely leaning towards road.

Officer comments:

When looking to undertake works to a protected tree it is the responsibility of the applicant to supply adequate proof with the TPO application, in the form of 'written arboricultural advice or other diagnostic information from an appropriate expert.' To date, no detailed arboricultural information has been submitted to demonstrate that the tree is dangerous or diseased or that the proposed work is in the interests of health and safety and no overriding arboricultural reason for the proposed work was apparent.

The subject Birch tree is a mature specimen which is clearly visible from the public highway contributing significantly to the character and amenities of the local and wider landscape. The tree appeared to be in a relatively sound condition and, although the crown is showing signs of dieback, no outward signs of any significant defects or decay were apparent and no further diagnostic information was submitted with the application to demonstrate the tree is likely to fail in whole or part, furthermore the application states that there are no fears that the tree might break or fall.

Evidence suggests the lean of the tree is historical as the upper crown has corrected to vertical and no mounding of soil on the opposite side of the lean, or depression of the ground on the inside of the lean, was apparent. Additionally, no radial cracking within the soil or newly exposed surface roots were visible.

However, there are no guarantees in nature, and it is recommended the tree is inspected regularly, particularly after significant weather events or construction activities, to identify any changes in stability.

On balance the information submitted with the application is not sufficient justification for the complete removal of a prominent tree. However, the Council would welcome a further Tree Work Application with sufficient diagnostic information to check the stability of the tree's root system i.e. Static load test and root collar excavation to carefully expose the buttress roots to check for root damage or decay and demonstrate the fracture safety of the tree has been compromised such that there is no reasonable option other than removal of the tree.

Due to the reasons stated above the proposed removal of T1 Silver Birch has been refused.

I can confirm that Wokingham Borough Council **consents, with conditions**, to the following lesser work being carried out to the tree(s) included in the aforementioned Tree Preservation Order (TPO):

Approved Tree Work to A1 of TPO 788/1996:

T1, Silver Birch:

- Crown clean to remove all dead, broken and significantly decayed branches.

The consent is granted subject to the following conditions:

1. The above works must be completed before **28 January 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'. Ensuring all branches are taken back to a suitable growth 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 can currently 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 Officer via email to: development.control@wokingham.gov.uk

Yours sincerely,



Chris Hannington
Trees and Landscape Team Manager

cc. Applicant - Mr Mike Daniels, 1 Greenside, Crowthorne, Wokingham, RG45 6EX

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