

Tel: (0118) 974 6000
Email: development.control@wokingham.gov.uk
Date: 31 March 2025
My ref: CY/TPO/19/1973/250252



WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

Nathan Cantell
Beechwood Tree Care Ltd
2 Playhatch Farm Cottages
Playhatch
RG4 9QX

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

Dear Nathan Cantell,

TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER: 19/1973

APPLICATION NUMBER: 250252

LOCATION: FOXLEY HOUSE, CLARE AVENUE, WOKINGHAM, RG40 1EB

I am writing to you regarding your application to carry out works to protected tree(s), which was received and validated on 3rd February 2025, followed by the Council's arboricultural officer's visit on 20th March 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 TPO 19/1973:

T2 (T4 of TPO), Holm oak

- Crown lift to approx. 5.3m over the road and to approx. 4m on the garden side by removing secondary growth only where possible
- reduce two overextended sections by approx. 1m

T4 (T2 of TPO), Tulip tree

- Crown lift to approx. 5.3m by removing secondary growth over Clare Avenue only
- remove major deadwood (exempt)

Reasons stated for works:

- The proposed works to T2 and T4 are to maintain statutory clearances over the highway. The end weight reduction to T2 is to lessen end weight and therefore the increasing potential for a failure into the carriageway
- The proposed works to T2 and T4 are to maintain statutory clearances over the highway. The end weight reduction to T2 is to lessen end weight and therefore the increasing potential for a failure into the carriageway
- The pruning will allow more light into the garden and property

- The target area of T2 should a portion of it fails is a main carriageway. Any failure has the potential to lead to significant damage to property and/or serious injuries.
- The trees have grown significantly since the TPO was placed on it and I don't not see it as unreasonable for the homeowners to request pruning to contain the size and spread of the tree.

Officer's comment

The proposed works are considered reasonable to maintain statutory clearance over highways and the garden. The Council therefore raises no objection to the proposed works.

Please note that T3, Western red cedar is not protected and the council's consent is not needed for the proposed works.

The consent is granted subject to the following conditions:

1. The above works must be completed before **31 March 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'. All pruning cuts to be taken back to suitable growth points.
3. Climbing spikes shall not be used whilst undertaking any form of works on living trees to be retained.

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. Climbing 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,

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

Chris Hannington
Trees and Landscape Team Manager

cc. Rosie MacMillan, Foxley House, Clare Avenue, Wokingham, RG40 1EB

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