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Email: development.control@wokingham.gov.uk
Date: 04 February 2026
My ref: TF/TPO/759/1995/253009



WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

Miss Carmila Gittens
46A Robin Hood Lane
Winnersh
Wokingham
Berkshire
RG41 5NQ

Place and Growth
Development Management Team
P.O. Box 157
Shute End, Wokingham
Berkshire RG40 1WR

Tel: (0118) 974 6000

Dear Miss Gittens,

TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER: 759/1995

APPLICATION NUMBER: 253009

SITE ADDRESS: 46A ROBIN HOOD LANE, WINNERSH, WOKINGHAM, BERKSHIRE, RG41 5NQ

I am writing to you regarding your application to carry out works to protected tree(s), which was received and validated on the 10 December 2025.

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 Single 1 of TPO 759/1995:

T1, Hornbeam:

- Crown reduction by 1.5m in height and spread; crown thin by 15%.

Reasons stated for works:

I have a large Hornbeam tree in my garden covered under TP 759/1995, and while the tree is absolutely lovely it is far too big for a garden of my size, and I would like to have it slightly pruned, I am not asking for any major reduction of the tree just a slight pruning and shaping. I have consulted with local arborist/tree surgeon Scottscape Tree Surgery, and his recommendation is to apply for a 1.5-meter reduction of the canopy height and spread and a 15% crown thin within the canopy. I have recently had my garden planted up with generous borders, with many herbaceous perennials for pollinators, grasses, Acers etc and the Hornbeam is not allowing enough light for many of the plants. I love the tree it has so many wonderful benefits for the garden, but it does need pruning, it also overhangs several of my neighbours' gardens.

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 work is in the interests of health and safety or based on any arboricultural need and no overriding reason for the proposed work was apparent.

The proposed 1.5m reduction in height and spread, combined with a 15% crown thin, would constitute excessive pruning for a Hornbeam of this size, form and condition. Such works would be likely to result in an unnatural crown profile, adversely affecting the tree's appearance and amenity value.

The proposed extent of reduction and thinning would remove a significant proportion of the tree's functional leaf area. This would be likely to place the tree under physiological stress, increasing the risk of excessive epicormic regrowth, poor wound closure, long-term structural imbalance. These impacts would be detrimental to the tree's long-term health and longevity.

While the application refers to shading of garden planting and the size of the tree relative to the garden, these matters do not provide sufficient arboricultural justification for the scale of works proposed. Hornbeam is a long-lived species, and the tree appears to be performing as expected for its age and species.

The desire to increase light levels within the garden and to manage overhanging branches does not justify a substantial canopy reduction and crown thinning. The proposed works would result in harm to the protected tree that would outweigh the perceived private amenity benefits.

Due to the reasons stated above the proposed 1.5 metre crown reduction and 15% crown thinning are refused.

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

Approved Tree Work to Single 1 of TPO 759/1995:

T1, Hornbeam:

- Minor crown reduction of up to 0.5–1m, limited to tip-reducing over-extended branches only, back to suitable growth points.
- Works shall retain a natural and balanced crown profile, appropriate to the species.
- Crown lift to a height of 2.5 metres above ground level, achieved by tip-reducing lower branches only, rather than removing primary limbs.

The consent is granted subject to the following conditions:

1. The above works must be completed before **04 February 2028** 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 ensure the health, safety and visual amenity of the tree(s) and ensure works are undertaken in accordance with recognised arboricultural good practice. Ensuring all pruning cuts are made back to suitable growth points.
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 may 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

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