

Tel: (0118) 974 6000
Email: development.control@wokingham.gov.uk
Date: 11 November 2025
My ref: TF/TPO/737/1995/252217



WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

Mr David White
8 Nicholson Drive
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: 252217
SITE ADDRESS: 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 and validated on the 16 September 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 2 of TPO 737/1995:

T2, False Acacia:
Remove 2 limbs on southeast side of crown to collar cuts.

Reasons stated for works:

To prevent the tree from significantly overhanging the property. The two limbs in question have fibre buckling at their base.

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 proposed work is in the interests of health and safety or based on any arboricultural need.

The tree was subject to significant reduction and pruning near the end of 2024, as evidenced by the current condition of the crown. Given the extent of those works, further pruning is not considered necessary or appropriate at this time.

No detailed arboricultural report or structural assessment has been submitted to demonstrate that the alleged fibre buckling, or associated branch defects pose an immediate or significant risk of failure. The available evidence does not substantiate the claim that the proposed works are required on safety grounds.

The proposed removal of additional limbs would further diminish the overall form and amenity value of the tree, which contributes positively to the character and visual amenity of the surrounding area. Given the recent heavy pruning and the lack of verified risk, the extent of the proposed works is considered excessive and unjustified at this stage. Routine monitoring and periodic inspection would be a more appropriate management approach.

If there are concerns over the trees structural integrity the Council would welcome a further Tree Work Application supported by appropriate levels of arboricultural evidence i.e. full VTA, aerial inspection (with photographs of all bio-mechanical defects) and results of any internal decay detection investigations of the lower main stem and/or scaffold branches (i.e. Sonic Tomograph and/or Resistograph Drill) to justify the proposed reduction works.

Due to the reasons stated above the proposed works to T2 False Acacia have been refused.

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 Mahal, 16 Squirrels Way, Earley, Wokingham, RG6 5QT