

Tel: (0118) 974 6000
Email: development.control@wokingham.gov.uk
Date: 19 December 2024
My ref: TF/TPO/785/1996/242523



WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

Mrs Linda Griffin
Out There Trees Ltd
Windlecroft Farm
Windlesham Road
Chobham
GU24 8SN

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

Dear Mrs Griffin,

TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER: 785/1996
APPLICATION NUMBER: 242523
SITE ADDRESS: 16 HIGHWAY, CROWTHORNE, WOKINGHAM, RG45 6HE

I am writing to you regarding your application to carry out works to protected tree(s), which was received and validated on the 03 October 2024.

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 785/1996:

T1 Oak:

- Crown reduction by 2.5m overall and crown lift by selectively removing secondary branches up to 6.5m

Reasons stated for works:

- Tree has become too large - work will maintain size and shape for location.

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 trees are dangerous or diseased or that the proposed work is in the interests of health and safety.

The subject Oak tree is situated in a prominent location clearly visible from the adjacent public highway making a significant contribution to the street scene and appearance of the local area.

The tree is mature with a full crown that exhibits good vigour and vitality indicative of high energy levels and a healthy physiological condition.

The reasons given for the proposed work were 'the tree has become too large'. However, the subject Oak tree has a history of minor pruning to lateral growth and low hanging branches to maintain adequate clearance to built structures and over the adjacent gardens and is situated adjacent the rear boundary of the property. The continuation of appropriate cyclical pruning when necessary and the lifting of the crown would ensure that the overall garden is not so constrained by the presence of the tree to result in an unacceptable quality of outdoor space.

Whilst the Council appreciates that a certain amount of pruning is justified to provide adequate clearance, the submitted work specification of 'Crown reduction by 2.5m overall and crown lift by selectively removing secondary branches up to 6.5m' will have a detrimental effect on the health and visual appearance of the tree. It would result in extensive loss of leaf and live material and cause multiple pruning wounds which would impair the trees' ability to produce carbohydrates and sustain itself making it susceptible to disease and decay. This type of operation should only be considered where there would otherwise be a risk of failure due to a significant structural defect.

On balance the reasons and information submitted with the application are not sufficient justification for an overall crown reduction. However, if there are concerns over a 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 works.

Due to the reasons stated above the proposed works to T1 Oak tree have been refused.

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

Approved Tree Work to A1 of TPO 785/1996:

T1 Oak:

- Tip reduce lateral spread only by up to 1.5m concentrating on overextended branches initially whilst maintaining a natural crown profile.
- Crown lift to no more than 5m above ground level. Only minor tertiary and secondary branch ends should be reduced to create some vertical lift of the tree canopy and must avoid the removal of main structural branches back to the main stem.

T1 Pine:

- Reduce 2 no. lowest limbs to the east by 1.5m to leave finished limb length of 5.5m

The consent is granted subject to the following conditions:

1. The above works must be completed before **19 December 2026** 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 point.
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 Roger Skinner, 16 Highway, Crowthorne, Wokingham, RG45 6HE

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