

Tel: (0118) 974 6000
Email: development.control@wokingham.gov.uk
Date: 23 October 2025
My ref: TF/TPO/1813/2021/251906



WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

Mrs Rachel Rotherham
8 Nicholson Drive
Wokingham
RG41 1AG

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

Tel: (0118) 974 6000

Dear Mrs Rotherham,

TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER: 1813/2021
APPLICATION NUMBER: 251906
SITE ADDRESS: 8 NICHOLSON DRIVE, WOKINGHAM, WOKINGHAM, RG41 1AG

I am writing to you regarding your application to carry out works to protected tree(s), which was received and validated on the 07 August 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 1813/2021:

T1, Oak:

- To prune the tree on the east side by three metres.

Reasons stated for works:

We would like to seek permission to prune this tree on the east side by three metres. Parish environmental and tree surgery, Wokingham have provided a quote and if permission is granted, they will undertake the work. Our reasons for this request are safety as the branches are large and heavy and overhang the patio area, where people sit and the garden where children play. There are also branches overhanging in our neighbour's garden, (number six,). Our neighbours grandchildren also play in their garden and we have safety concerns.

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 such an extensive reduction is in the interests of health and safety or based on any arboricultural need. While it is acknowledged that some of the trees large major scaffold branches overhang the residential garden, deadwood and minor limb failure, while undesirable, are manageable through appropriate and routine crown inspection and maintenance rather than crown reduction.

The proposed reduction by 3m would result in multiple large diameter pruning wounds which would increase the trees predisposition to the ingress of pathogens causing decay and dysfunction. A reduction of branch length on this scale should only be considered where there would otherwise be a risk of failure due to a significant structural defect.

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 T1 Oak 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