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DUCKWORTHS
ARBORICULTURE LTD.

17th March 2025
Ref: 06673/2025

Dear Mr. Hannington,

APPLICATION TO PRUNE PROTECTED TREES TO THE REAR OF 15 TIFFANY CLOSE, WOKINGHAM RG41 3BN, ON LAND AT 174 BEARWOOD ROAD, WOKINGHAM RG41 4SH

I am writing to you with information to support an application to prune an Oak and Holly tree growing on the edge of woodland to the rear of 15 Tiffany Close and within Woodland Tree Preservation Order no. 0020/1973.

This application is submitted on behalf of residents of the neighbouring property 15 Tiffany Close – Mr. and Mrs. Matthews who have instructed me to assess the condition of one Oak tree as viewed from their garden as they had concerns regarding the size and risk posed by the tree as it relates to their residential property.

There are a number of slender conifers within the woodland to the rear 15 Tiffany Close which have fallen. This means that the Oak which is growing directly on the rear boundary of the property, is more exposed to the southwesterly prevailing winds.

Having viewed the tree from the garden of 15 Tiffany Close I have noted that the tree is an early mature specimen tree in good health. However, whilst there are no obvious structural defects, the tree has been reduced in the past and there are visible, established pollard points around the crown. Currently the mature regrowth is approximately 2-4m long around the canopy from the previous reduction (pollard) points. This new growth is more prone to fail when it grows excessively large due to an inherently weaker attachment to the parent branch.

The British Standard 3998 (Tree Work Recommendations) advises that:

Once initiated, a pollard should be maintained by cutting the new branches on a cyclical basis. The frequency of the cycle should be decided according to site management objectives, species, age, condition and/or any product that might be required. Selective cutting, whereby some of the pollard branches are retained within each cycle, should be chosen if this would help to prevent dieback and decay in the stem.

Branches that grow after pollarding should normally be cut at their bases in order to encourage the formation of a knuckle after a number of cycles. If, however, the pollard cycle has been

allowed to lapse over many years, the crown should instead be reduced to the minimum necessary to fulfil current objectives. These could include the relief of any mechanical stress that would otherwise be likely to cause the stem to split apart.

Even if the stress on an old pollard branch is severe, it should not be cut back to the knuckle, since the removal of all its attached foliage would probably lead to physiological dysfunction and decay. It should instead be shortened by cutting just above a suitable lateral branch, or failing that, by retaining a live stub from which new shoots could grow.

For this reason it is appropriate to manage the growth of the tree, however, the tree has an asymmetrical canopy due to the adjacent woodland and any further reduction of the crown need only be undertaken on the northern half of the crown where there is longer growth which overhangs the higher-occupancy neighbouring residential gardens.

Consent was most recently granted to reduce the tree by 30% in 2013 as per TPO consent TPO/20/1973/2013.

Due to the time which has lapsed since the previous reduction, in re-pruning the tree, I have recommended that cuts should be made 1m beyond the previous pruning points to ensure pruning cuts are kept small and to minimise the impact or the reduction works on tree health. The tree is in good health and is expected to respond well to the pruning operation.

Minor trimming works are also requested to a small Holly to clip the crown to recreate the compact canopy shape. The proposed work is minor pruning works to branch tips. This is a small tree to the rear of the property and the proposed trimming of branches will not affect the wider visual amenity of the tree as viewed from the public highway.

The trees are growing on privately owned land. If you would like access to view the trees from the garden of neighbouring property 15 Tiffany Close please contact Mr. & Mrs. Matthews via email: robmatthews31@ntlworld.com or call 07759344645 and they would be happy to show you the trees.

Mr. and Mrs. Matthews are aware that any works to prune beyond the property boundary will be subject to the consent of the tree owner.

I trust this information is of use to you. Please contact me if you have any questions regarding this notice.

Kind regards,

Sarah Duckworth – Arboricultural Consultant
Dip Arb (RFS), MArborA, Tech. Arbor.A, BA Hons
LANTRA Professional Tree Inspector



TREE PRESERVATION ORDER PLAN

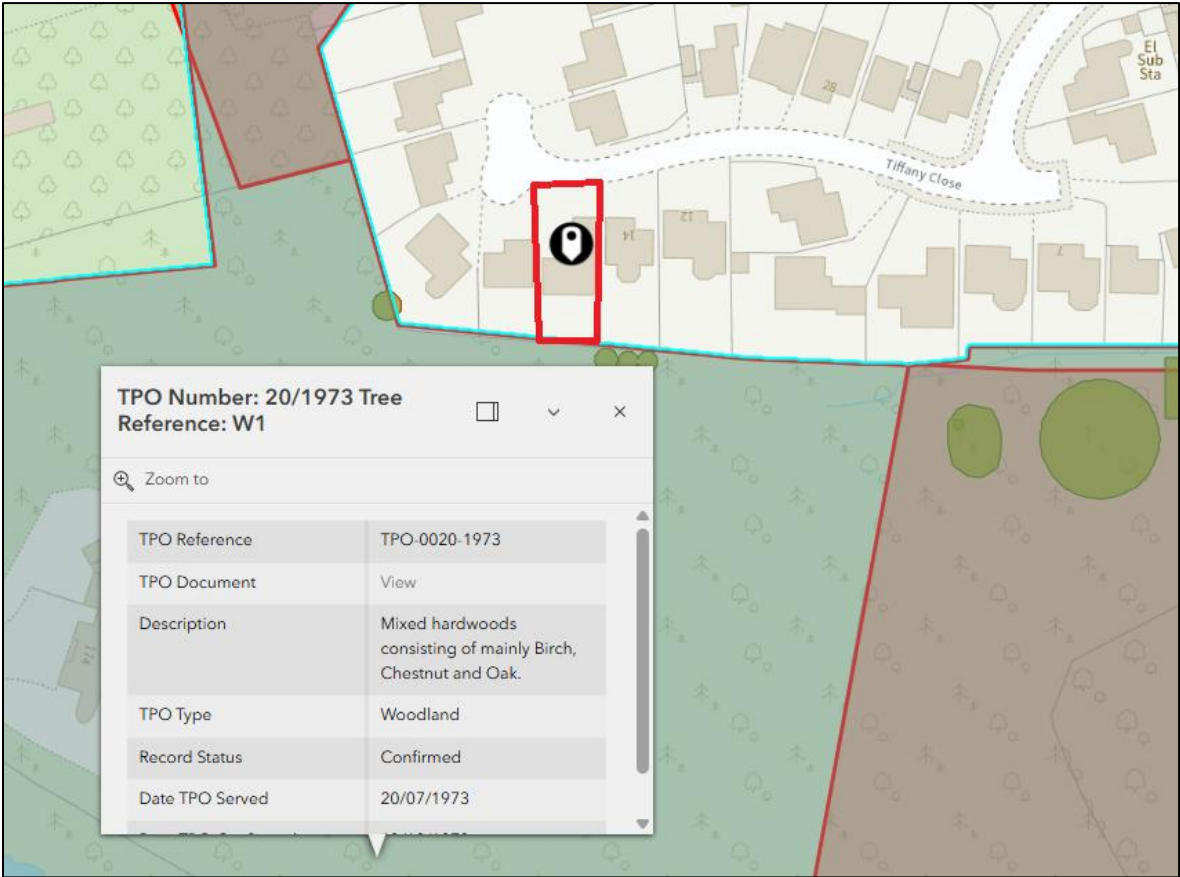


Figure 1 – Wokingham Borough Council Tree Preservation Order Map

SURVEY DATA

Ref.	Species	Measurements	Survey Notes	Works
T001	Oak (<i>Quercus robur</i>)	Height (m): 19 Stem Diam(mm): 640 Crown Clearance (m): 7 Life Stage: Mature Rem. Contrib.: 40+ years	Off-site tree. No direct access to base. Where accessible, base clear and bark intact. No fungal fruiting bodies visible. Single stem to just under 6m. Canopy previously reduced in 2013 with 2-4m regrowth on previous reduction points. Occasional dead branch stumps in canopy. Bud density on live growth dense and healthy, reasonable vitality. Small cavity at base of short branch on northeast side of the tree, 7m above ground level.	Reduce canopy height and lateral spread on northern half of the crown by 2-3m to 1m above previous reduction points. Cuts will be graded into the surrounding canopy to leave a natural looking canopy shape. Reason: The work is appropriate re-pruning of a previously reduced tree. The work will reduce the exposure of the upper crown in high winds and associated risk of branch breakage. Cuts will be made 1m beyond the previous reduction points to keep cuts small. The tree is in good health and expected to respond favourably to the proposed works. In order to limit the harm to the Oak, pruning work will be undertaken in the summer months (July and August) avoiding periods of drought or winter (November to January during the period of dormancy). No tree pruning work will be undertaken during the period immediately before or after leaf break (February to June) when the trees' energy reserves are most depleted.
T002	Holly (<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>)	Height (m): 7 Stem Diam(mm): 300 Crown Clearance (m): 2.5 Life Stage: Mature Rem. Contrib.: 40+ years	Three stems from ground level. Multiple historic trunk wounds and cavities on the trunk. Good wound wood formation. Tree has been heavily crown-lifted in the past with multiple pruning cuts on the trunk – small wounds and not significant. Canopy previously clipped to form a tight canopy. Foliage dense and even, good vitality. Small tree with no wider visual amenity value.	Trim elongated shoots around the crown removing 0.5-1m new growth beyond previous reduction points to create a more compact oval canopy shape. Crown lift by shortening smaller, pendulous branches to create 3-3.5m canopy clearance as part of the aforementioned canopy trim. The proposed work is minor pruning works to clip outer small branch tips and the work is likely to be undertaken with a hedge trimmer rather than a saw. The health and wider visual amenity value of the tree will not be affected.

SITE PLAN

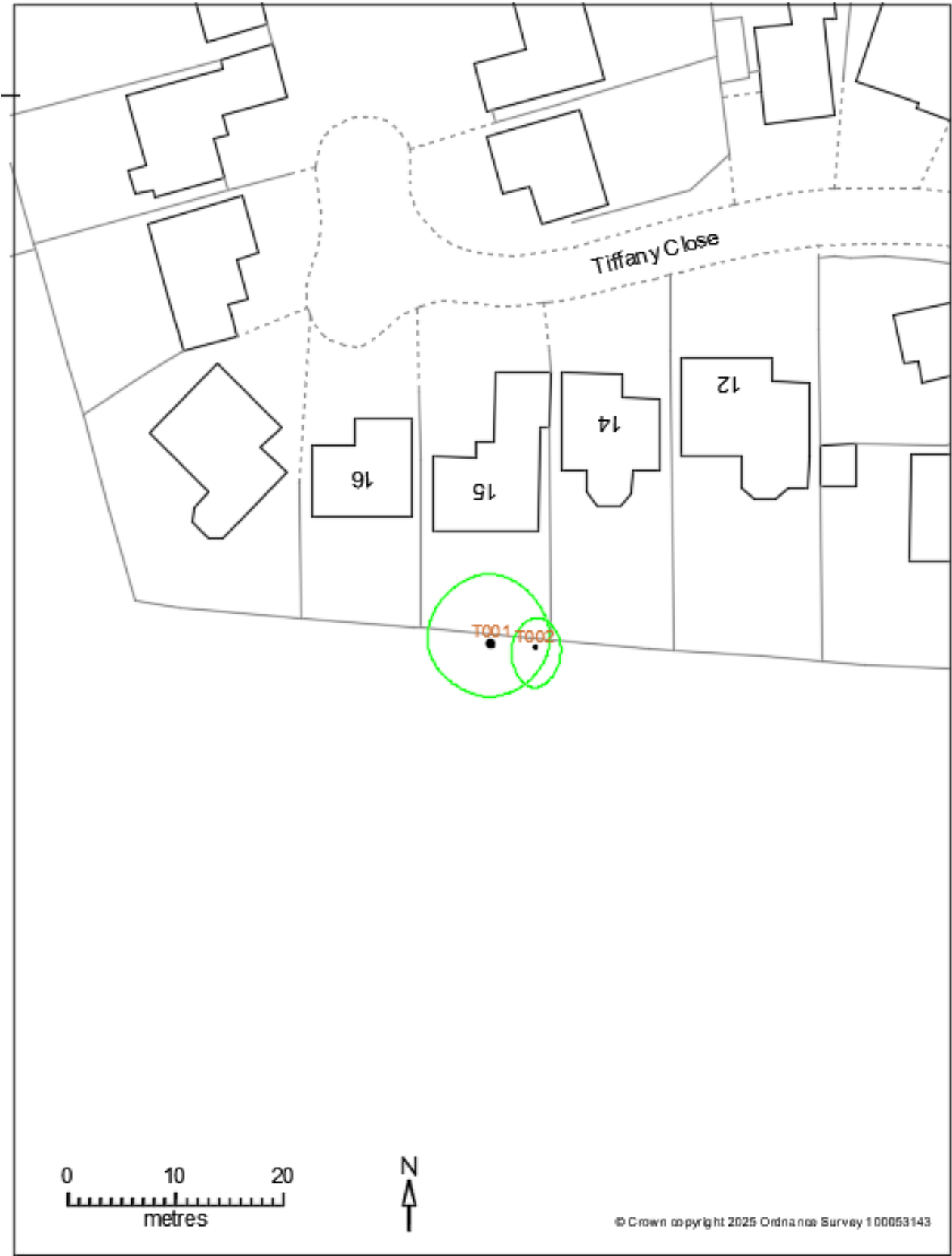




Photo 1 – Indicative line of proposed reduction to T001 back to 1m above previous reduction points.



Photo 2 – Regrowth on previous reduction points (T001).



Photo 3 – View of T001 (Oak) from the public highway.



Photo 4 – Indicative line of proposed reduction to T002 (Holly)



Photo 5 – Historic wounding at the base of T002 (Holly)