

Tel: (0118) 974 6000
Email: development.control@wokingham.gov.uk
Date: 30 April 2026
My ref: CY/TPO/231/1983/260606



WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

Jonathan Sheridan
Ruscombe House
Ruscombe Road
Twyford
Wokingham
RG10 9JL

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

Tel: (0118) 974 6000

Dear Jonathan Sheridan,

TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER: 231/1983

APPLICATION NUMBER: 260606

SITE ADDRESS: RUSCOMBE HOUSE, RUSCOMBE ROAD, TWYFORD, WOKINGHAM, BERKS, RG10 9JL

I am writing to you regarding your application to carry out works to protected tree(s), which was received and validated on the 12 March 2026.

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 231/1983:

T1, Atlantic Cedar

- Reduce lower lateral branches which extend east over neighbouring gardens by approx. 2.5-3m.

Reasons stated for works:

This will maintain visual balance of the canopy and reduce the oversail above the neighbours garden.

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 branch reduction is in the interests of health and safety or based on any arboricultural need.

The proposed reduction of lower lateral branches by 2.5 to 3m would result in large diameter pruning wounds that would become entry points for disease and decay causing organisms. While it is acknowledged that some of the tree's lower branches overhang the neighbour's garden,

reduction of these branches would also have negative impact on the natural growth form of the species. 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 Atlantic Cedar 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