

Mr. C. Hannington
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DUCKWORTHS
ARBORICULTURE LTD.

24th December 2024
Ref: 06349 / 2024

Dear Mr. Hannington,

**APPLICATION TO PRUNE A PROTECTED YEW TREE ON LAND AT THE CASTLE INN
PUBLIC HOUSE, CHURCH HILL, HURST RG10 0SJ,**

I am writing to you with information in support of my application to carry out light pruning works to a Yew Tree at The Castle Inn, Hurst. The tree is protected as T1 of Tree Preservation Order no. 1855/2022.

This application is submitted on behalf of the members of Hurst Bowling Club who occupy land adjacent to the tree.

T1-Yew is a small tree with a dense, oval and low canopy. The stem is hollow. The tree's canopy is split into three distinct physiological areas, each area with evident different levels of vitality which vary from dense and good to foliage slightly sparse and showing signs of physiological stress.

The area of the crown over Hurst Bowling Club is dense and vigorous. There are a number of low secondary and tertiary branches over the pedestrian route to the clubhouse which makes it difficult for older members to negotiate particularly when the ground gets wet and slippery. The canopy is also in direct contact with the clubhouse roof.

Under planning application ref: 240976 the club has received permission to demolish the existing clubhouse and erect a replacement. The new clubhouse will be moved northeast to be further away from the Yew. The design brief was to improve the overall growing condition for the tree. The tree will be fully protected throughout the permitted works.

On completion of construction, the compacted rocky soil in the raised bed around the tree will be decompacted and mulched. The exposed footprint of the original clubhouse will be reverted to soft landscaping with much, topsoil and a slow-release fertiliser to increase the viable rooting volume for the tree.

Ahead of these works, we are seeking consent to raise the canopy tips up to 3-3.5m over the pedestrian access and by 0.5m clearance over the existing clubhouse to ensure the tree is not damaged when the building is demolished and to create room for contractor access in the construction of the replacement clubhouse.

The proposed work is minor pruning works and only very small secondary and tertiary branches will be cut with sharp hand tools. The overall appearance of the tree will not change, and I am satisfied the works will not cause lasting harm to the tree.

The tree is on privately owned land but accessible and can be seen without an appointment.

If you would like to discuss the works with a member of Hurst Bowling Club, please use Paul Barnes as a contact. Paul can be contacted on 07857866370.

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

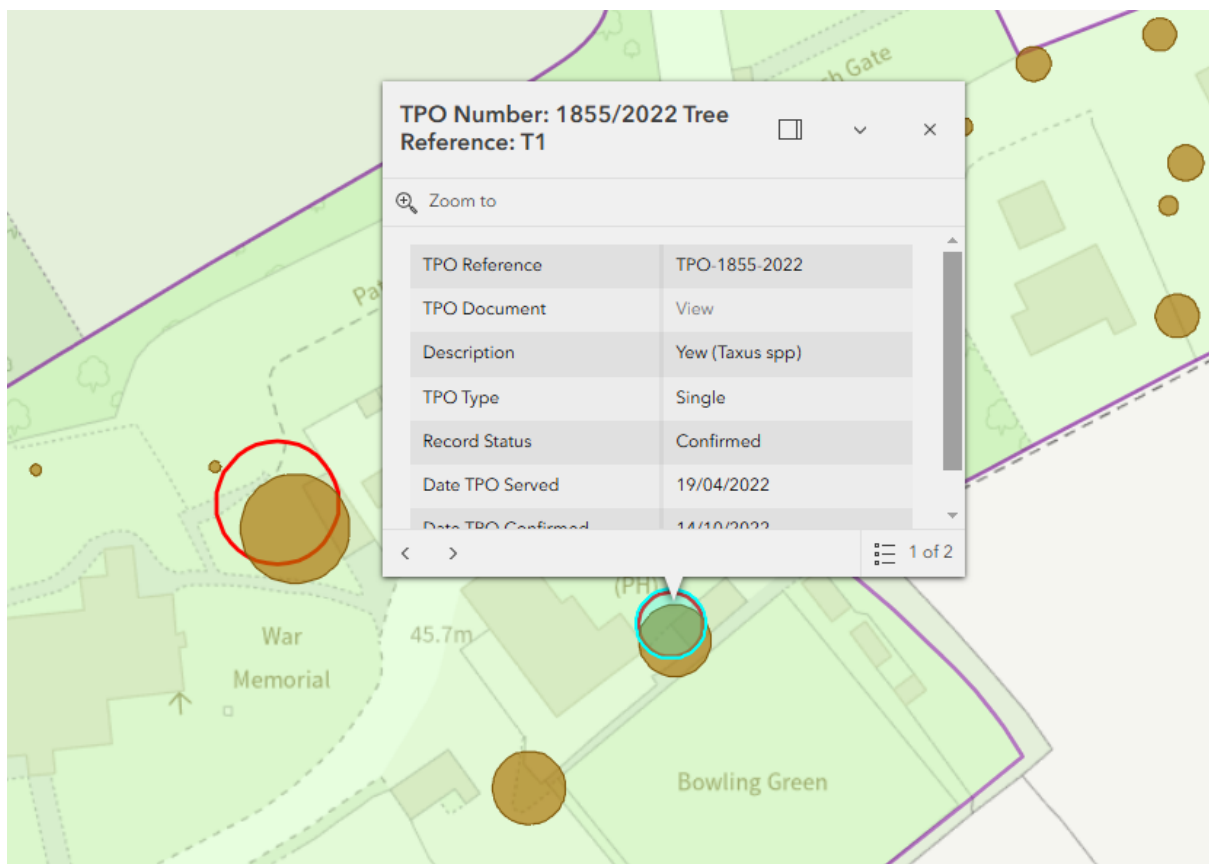


Figure 1 – Wokingham Borough Council Tree Preservation Order Map

SITE PLAN

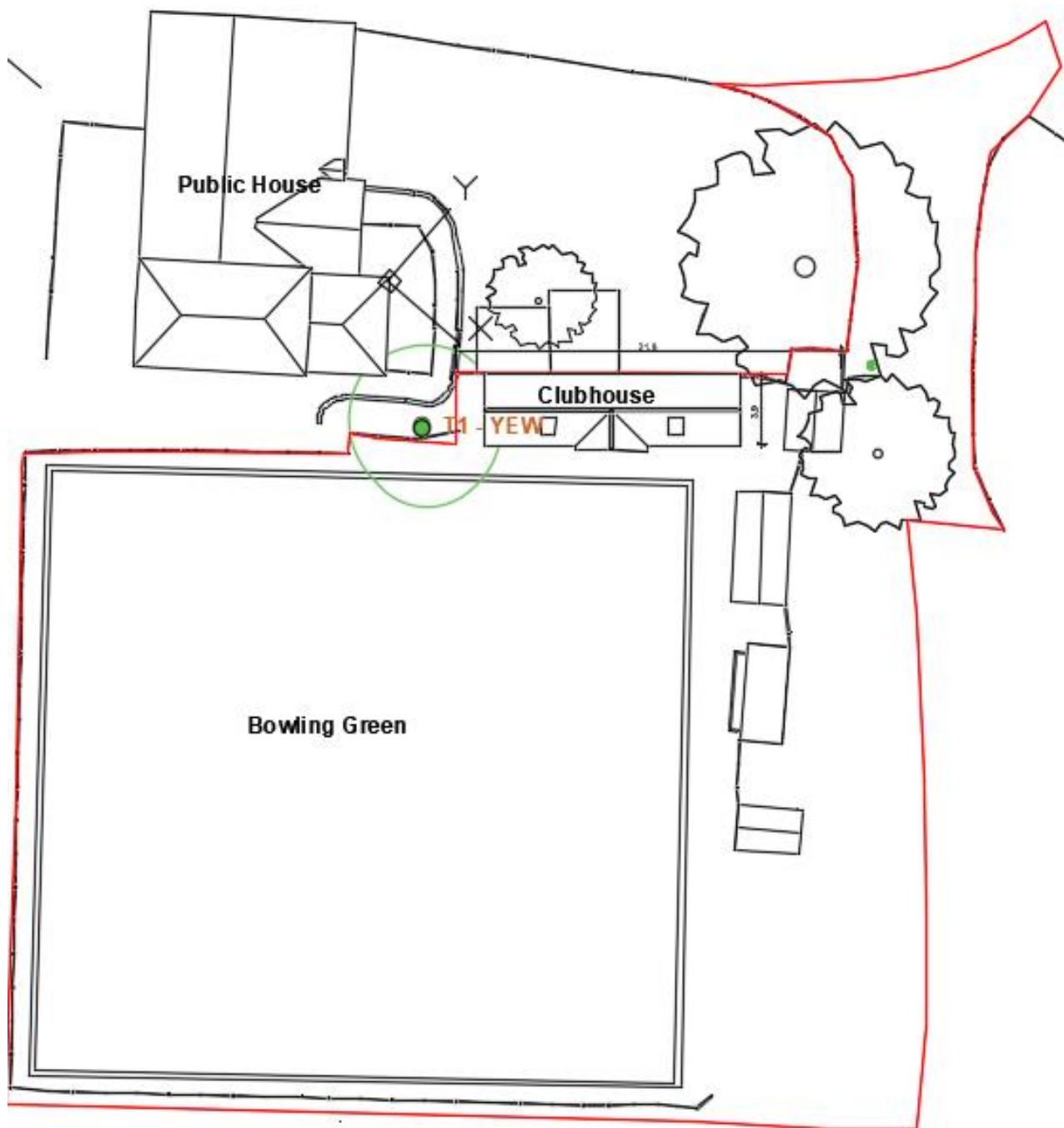




Photo 1 – T1 (Yew). Indicative height of proposed canopy lift over pedestrian walkway.



Photo 2 – Indicative height of proposed canopy lift as viewed from the south