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Email: development.control@wokingham.gov.uk
Date: 25 June 2025
My ref: CY/TPO/1196/2007/250999



WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

Mr Liam Willer
Pinehill Tree Services
8 Whaley Road
Wokingham
RG40 1QA

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

Dear Mr Willer,

TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER: 1196/2007

APPLICATION NUMBER: 250999

LOCATION: 26 FARNESDOWN DRIVE, WOKINGHAM, BERKS, RG41 1LD

I am writing to you regarding your application to carry out works to protected tree(s), which was received on the 24 April 2025 and validated on the 30 April 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 5 of TPO 1196/2007:

T1, Oak (T5 on TPO)

- Reduce 2 no. lowest branches on southeastern side by approx. 4m to suitably strong growth points.

Reasons stated for works:

"Overhanging rear garden"

Reasons stated for refusal:

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 and other diagnostic information from an appropriate expert.' To date, no detailed arboricultural information has been submitted to demonstrate that the work is in the interests of health and safety or based on any arboricultural need.

Whilst the Council appreciates that a certain amount of pruning is justified to provide adequate clearance beneath the crown and to adjacent built structures, this was not the reason provided

for the proposed tree work to T1, and branches of T1 is not growing close to the property at 26 Farnesdown Drive.

The subject oak has a full crown that exhibit good vigour and vitality. It was observed at the Council's Tree Officer's site visit on 25 June 2025 that the northeastern side of the tree is heavily reduced due to its proximity to railways. Most of the tree crown is located on its southeastern side and would be desirable to create a more symmetrical crown for structural stability.

However, the proposed 4m reduction of two lower branches would result in large pruning wounds that would become entry points for disease and decay causing organisms, and are difficult to compartmentalise. They are deemed excessive for the health and wider visual amenity of the tree.

On balance the reasons and information submitted with the application are not sufficient justification for the proposed branch reductions. However, 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 to justify the proposed works.

Due to the reasons stated above your application has been refused.

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

Approved Tree Work to Single 5 of TPO 1196/2007:

T1, Oak

- Reduce 2 nos. lowest branches on the southeastern side by a maximum of 2m to suitable growth points
- Crown clean to remove all dead, diseased and dysfunctional branches

The consent is granted subject to the following conditions:

1. The above works must be completed before **25 June 2027** 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. Ensuring all pruning cuts are made back to suitable growth points.
3. Spikes can cause extensive long-term damage to trees.

Informative:

If you are aggrieved by the refusal of works or any of the conditions attached to your consent, you may appeal to The Planning Inspectorate (PINS). You can only submit a planning appeal online.

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.

You are advised that dead wood may be removed from a living tree without the need to formally notify/seek consent from the Local Authority under an exemption of the Town and Country Planning - Tree Preservation (England) Regulations 2012 (6 April 2012).

If we can be of any further assistance, please contact the Tree and Landscape Officer via email to: development.control@wokingham.gov.uk

Yours sincerely,



Chris Hannington
Trees and Landscape Team Manager

cc. Owner/Occupier, 26 Farnesdown Drive, Wokingham, RG41 1LD
Owner/Occupier, 24 Farnesdown Drive, Wokingham, RG41 1LD

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