

Tel: (0118) 974 6000
Email: development.control@wokingham.gov.uk
Date: 27 February 2026
My ref: TF/TPO/245/1983/253062

Mr Simon Bartlam
Wokingham Borough Council
Dinton Pastures Country Park
Davis Street
Hurst
Wokingham
RG10 0TH



WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

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

Tel: (0118) 974 6000

Dear Mr Bartlam,

TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER: 245/1983

APPLICATION NUMBER: 253062

LOCATION: HEATHLAKE LOCAL NATURE RESERVE, NINE MILE RIDE, WOKINGHAM

I am writing to you regarding your application to carry out works to protected tree(s), which was received on 16 December 2025 and validated on the 18 December 2025.

I can confirm Wokingham Borough Council **consents with conditions**, to the following work being carried out to tree(s) included in the above-mentioned Tree Preservation Orders (TPO):

Approved works to W1 of TPO 245/1983:

T1-6, Mixed Species:

- Fell 3 x Silver Birch, 1 x Oak and 2 x Pine. T7

Silver Birch:

- Pollard.

Officer comments:

The proposed works relate to the restoration of the oligotrophic lake, which is the nationally important feature of the site and forms part of a designated Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), recognised for its rare and sensitive aquatic plant communities. The lake is currently assessed by Natural England as being in an 'unfavourable' condition, primarily due to elevated pH levels and nutrient enrichment, which are adversely affecting acid-loving species.

A comprehensive restoration programme, led in partnership with Natural England, Thames Water and Wokingham Borough Council, has been developed to address these issues. Key elements include the removal of accumulated silt to reduce nutrient levels, the installation of silt interception measures at the lake inlet to prevent further pollutant input, and the selective removal of tree canopies along the lake margins. The latter is necessary to reduce the input of leaf litter and organic matter, which contributes to rising pH levels, and to increase light availability, thereby enabling the recovery of marginal and aquatic plant community's characteristic of oligotrophic conditions.

Whilst the removal of TPO trees is regrettable, it is considered justified in this instance given the overriding need to restore the ecological integrity of the SSSI. The works will deliver significant long-term biodiversity benefits by reinstating conditions suitable for priority aquatic habitats and species.

It is recommended that mitigation and enhancement measures form an integral part of the scheme. Native species planting should be introduced around the wider perimeter of the site, including species such as Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*), Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) and Bird Cherry (*Prunus avium*). This planting will increase habitat diversity, strengthen ecological connectivity, and provide valuable foraging, nesting and shelter opportunities for a range of fauna. In addition, the establishment of a more appropriate riparian buffer will contribute to long-term water quality improvements and help safeguard the restored condition of the lake.

The consent is granted subject to the following conditions:

1. The above works must be completed before **27 February 2028** 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’.

Reasons for conditions 1-2...

1. To ensure that our records remain accurate.
2. To ensure that tree removal and associated operations are carried out in a manner that minimises avoidable damage and accords with recognised best practice.

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 currently can 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 may be required.

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

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