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Email: development.control@wokingham.gov.uk
Date: 26 May 2026
My ref: LA/CA/261025



WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

Mr. David Derrick
4a Crescent Road
Wokingham
RG40 2DB

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

**SECTION 211 NOTIFICATION OF WORK TO TREES WITHIN THE MURDOCH ROAD
CONSERVATION AREA
APPLICATION NUMBER: 261025
LOCATION: 4A CRESCENT ROAD, WOKINGHAM, RG40 2DB**

With reference to your notification which was received and validated on the 27 April 2026, I am writing to advise you that Wokingham Borough Council raises **no objections** to the proposed tree works being undertaken as specified within the Murdoch Road Conservation Area.

Proposed works:

T1 Silver Birch

- Fell and replace.

Reasons stated for works:

From application: "Silver birch tree at the bottom of my garden has grown with two trunks. The trunk on the left is dead, and the one on one right is clearly dying. The tree will be removed by Paul Akery of PA Treecare and then replaced with a liquid amber tree."

Officer comments:

The Officer visited the Site on 18th May 2026 and observed a multi-stemmed silver birch tree with one failed stem out of two total stems. The Officer notes the likelihood of the other stem failing in the future, so finds the proposed works of felling and replacing T1 to be acceptable. The removal planned for T1 will not adversely affect the character or visual amenity of the Conservation Area. This tree does not meet the criteria for inclusion in a Tree Preservation Order at this time. The Wokingham Borough Council therefore raises no objections to the proposed works.

Whilst on Site, the Officer observed that T1 is situated in a confined location within the rear garden with fencing and other elements likely to constrict its root zone as well as the root zone of any future replacement tree. The replacement planting should be carried out in a more appropriate location on Site in order to offset the loss of the tree to be removed.

Typically, the tree should be planted within 5m of the stem of the original tree and at least 2m away from any boundary fence or built structure, however given the limited space available within the applicant's garden the replacement tree should be planted in a location within the garden most beneficial to its health and growth. The tree should be planted in accordance with good horticultural practice, maintained to ensure establishment and planted within two months from the removal of the original tree or by the end of 2026 during the typical planting season (October to March).

While on site, the Officer also discussed the type of replacement tree with the applicant/householder, who referenced a 'liquid amber tree.' This species was also referenced in the application. Presumably, the applicant/householder is referring to an American Sweet gum tree, or *Liquidambar styraciflua*. Whilst this specimen offers spectacular autumnal colour displays, the American sweet gum can grow up to 20m tall and is likely to be incompatible in the location of the existing tree and given the size of the existing garden. (Ref: [Royal Horticultural Society's website](#)) As an informative, the Officer would like to recommend that the applicant/householder consider planting a small ornamental native tree such as the Hawthorne (*Crataegus laevigata*) 'Paul's Scarlett' (showy pink spring blossoms, slow growing so needs staking but height usually 4-8m over 20-50 years) or a large native shrub, such as Guelder Rose (*Viburnum opulus*) (Autumn colour, usually to 5m). These plants are merely suggestions to the applicant; other native planting recommendations can be found on the RHS website (Ref: [RHS: Choosing Native Trees and Shrubs](#)).

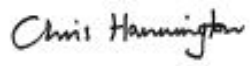
During the Site visit, the Officer did **not** observe a nest within T1 however, works to trees during the nesting season (generally March – August) may result in disturbance to nesting birds. All birds' nests that are either in use or being built, eggs and chicks are protected by the 1981 Act. Nevertheless, works can take place to trees and hedgerows during bird nesting season after a thorough inspection has taken place on the site by a qualified specialist, e.g., tree surgeon or ecologist before any works commencing to ensure nesting birds or other wildlife are not disturbed. However, it is strongly recommended to undertake vegetation or tree works outside this period to prevent the risk of disturbing nesting birds or other wildlife.

Informatives:

- 1) You are advised that, in accordance with Part 4, 17 (4) of The Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation) (England) Regulations 2012, this decision is valid for **one pruning operation** (as per the approved specifications) to be undertaken **within two years** from the date of this notice, after which date the consent lapses and a new Section 211 Notification will be required.
- 2) You are advised that this letter is in respect of the **Conservation Area 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 development.control@wokingham.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Hannington". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Chris" and last name "Hannington" clearly legible.

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