

Tel: (0118) 974 6000
Email: development.control@wokingham.gov.uk
Date: 19 September 2025
My ref: TF/TPO/1429/2012/251788



WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

Mr Stuart Webster
Webster's Arboricultural Services Ltd
13 Nightingale Gardens
Sandhurst
Berkshire
GU479DQ

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

Tel: (0118) 974 6000

Dear Mr Webster,

TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER: 1429/2012

APPLICATION NUMBER: 251788

**SITE ADDRESS: LAND TO THE REAR OF 41 FLEMING CLOSE, ARBORFIELD,
WOKINGHAM, RG2 9NS**

I am writing to you regarding your application to carry out works to protected tree(s), which was received and validated on the 25 July 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 3 of TPO 1429/2012:

T3, Field Maple:

- Crown reduction of north side of canopy by 2m from the branch tips back to suitable growth points to just within the boundary whilst maintaining a balanced crown.

Reasons stated for works:

The Northern side of the canopy is overhanging the rear boundary of 41 Flemming and is suppressing the 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 work is in the interests of health and safety or based on any arboricultural need and no overriding reason for the extent of the proposed work was apparent.

The proposed 2m reduction as shown within the submitted annotated photographs would extend into larger diameter primary scaffold branches that do not constitute secondary or tertiary growth. This degree of pruning would result in wounds that could compromise the tree's long-term health and structural integrity. It is likely to lead to physiological stress and increase the risk of decay and dysfunction at the pruning points. In addition, a reduction of this extent on one side of the crown would significantly alter the tree's natural form, leading to an unbalanced canopy and have a detrimental impact on the visual amenity provided by the tree.

Due to the reasons stated above the proposed works to T3 have 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 3 of TPO 1429/2012:

T3, Field Maple:

- Tip reduce lateral branches on north side only by up to 1m maintaining natural crown profile.
- Ensure a crown clearance above ground level of 2.5m
- Pruning should be restricted to smaller diameter, secondary and tertiary growth only.

The consent is granted subject to the following conditions:

1. The above works must be completed before **19 September 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 points.
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.
3. Spikes can cause extensive long-term damage to trees.

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

cc. Applicant: Mrs Natalie Farrell, 41 Fleming Close, Arborfield, Wokingham, RG2 9NS

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