

Tel: (0118) 974 6000
Email: development.control@wokingham.gov.uk
Date: 31 December 2024
My ref: SCD/TPO/0004/1960/242670



WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

James Webb
47 Frog Hall Drive
Wokingham
Berkshire
RG40 2LE

Dear Mr. Webb,

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

Tel: (0118) 974 6000

TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER: 0004/1960
APPLICATION NUMBER: 242670
SITE ADDRESS: 47 FROG HALL DRIVE WOKINGHAM RG40 2LE

I am writing to you regarding your application to carry out works to tree(s) at 47 Frog Hall Drive Wokingham RG40 2LE, which was received on 22nd October 2024 and validated on the 23rd October 2024.

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

Approved Tree Works to T1 & T2 of TPO 0004/1960:

T2, Hornbeam

- Crown thin by a maximum of 20%
- Remove deadwood.

T3, Hornbeam

- Crown thin by a maximum of 20%
- Remove deadwood.

Reasons for proposed tree works:

To maintain both trees in the best possible health bearing in mind the prevalence of Honey Fungus disease on my property (ref attached photos Honey Fungus 1 and 2). In the 40 plus years I have lived here I have lost at least 5 trees to Honey Fungus and am anxious to maintain my remaining trees in the best possible condition in close liaison with my tree surgeon PA Treecare.

The consent is granted subject to the following conditions:

1. The above works must be completed before **31st December 2026** 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'.
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.

Officer Advisory:

Photos submitted in support of this Tree Preservation Order Application show the fungal fruiting bodies of Honey Fungus (*Armillaria sp.*) associated with both trees. The trees therefore have a limited safe useful life expectancy and for this reason there is no justification to refuse the TPO application. However, the applicant is advised that the proposed canopy thin would remove a percentage of a tree's photosynthetic area and create multiple pruning cuts throughout the canopy will act as entry points for decay pathogens.

In response the trees will need to divert resources away from their natural defences which are currently resisting the spread of fungal pathogens - over to restoring regrowing the leaf area which has been removed (and which is essential for growth and to keep a tree healthy). The proposed canopy thin is therefore likely to hasten their decline and is not recommended if you intend to maintain the health of the trees for as long as possible.

The best way to protect trees from fungal pathogens is to improve their overall health and growing conditions by:

- Avoiding stress and wounding which can occur from unnecessary pruning or the crown or damage to roots.
- Do not use weed / feed chemicals within the trees' rooting areas.
- Irrigate the trees during periods of drought, to minimize moisture stress.
- Mulching: provide 80-100mm of well-rotted organic mulch over the critical root zone conserve soil moisture and moderate soil temperature to promote root and soil health.
- Use a slow release fertilizer to maintain optimal fertility & pH.

Informative:

If you are aggrieved by any of the conditions attached to your consent, you may appeal online to The Planning Inspectorate (PINS).

For more information go to:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/tree-preservation-order-appeal-form>

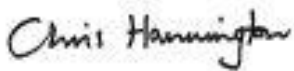
Telephone: 0303 444 5570 or e-mail it to: treeandhedgeappeals@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

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 and Landscape Officer via email to: development.control@wokingham.gov.uk

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Hannington". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large 'C' and a long, sweeping tail.

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