

Tel: (0118) 974 6000
Email: development.control@wokingham.gov.uk
Date: 12 September 2025
My ref: TF/CA/251874



**WOKINGHAM
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Mr Scott West
Scottscape tree Surgery
407a Finchampstead Road
Finchampstead
Wokingham
RG40 3RL

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

Dear Mr. West,

**SECTION 211 NOTIFICATION OF WORK TO TREES WITHIN THE FINCHAMPSTEAD CHURCH
CONSERVATION AREA
APPLICATION NUMBER: 251874
LOCATION: ST JAMES CHURCH, CHURCH LANE, FINCHAMPSTEAD, WOKINGHAM, RG40
4LU**

With reference to your notification which was received on 04 August 2025 and validated on the 05 August 2025, I am writing to advise you that Wokingham Borough Council raises **no objections** to the proposed tree works being undertaken as specified within the Finchampstead Church Conservation Area.

Proposed works:

G001, Multi-stemmed Ash:

- Fell to ground level.

Reasons stated for work:

Ash tree G001 to be felled to ground level which has a defect at the base & early signs of Ash die back, and a defect in the unions at crown break.

Officer comments:

The subject Ash tree displays significant structural and physiological decline. Upper scaffold limbs and main stems are visibly colonised by the wood decay fungus *Inonotus hispidus*, which is known to cause a white rot in the heartwood, resulting in progressive degradation of the tree's structural integrity. Notably, the main scaffold limb weighted over the adjacent highway poses a particular risk, as decay and associated dysfunction have compromised its ability to withstand dynamic loading, increasing the likelihood of partial or whole stem failure.

Further concerns relate to the trifurcation point of the main stem, where decay is present, and the union is compromised by included bark. This combination represents a common mode of failure in mature ash trees, particularly when compounded by fungal colonisation and associated internal decay.

Given the tree's condition, location adjacent to the public highway, and the elevated risk of structural failure, it is considered that the proposed felling is justified on the grounds of public safety and arboricultural best practice.

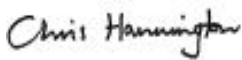
No objection is raised to the proposed works. The Council will not be making a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) in this instance.

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 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 would 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,



Chris Hannington - Trees and Landscape Team Manager

cc. Applicant - Joy Scovell, St James Church, Church Lane, Finchampstead, RG40 4LU

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