

Tel: (0118) 974 6000
Email: development.control@wokingham.gov.uk
Date: 6 November 2025
My ref: CY/TPO/1646/2018/252627



WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

Mr Andre Dubourg
The Treeple Arborists
28 Westcotts Green
Warfield
Berkshire
RG42 3SG

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

Dear Mr Dubourg

TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER: 1646/2018
APPLICATION NUMBER: 252627
LOCATION: SOUTHLAKE PRIMARY SCHOOL, CAMPBELL ROAD, WOODLEY,
WOKINGHAM, BERKS, RG5 3NA

I am writing to you regarding your application to carry out works to protected tree(s), which was received and validated on the 28 October 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 Woodland 1 of TPO 1646/2018:

T1, Beech

- Reduce to 8m monolith

T3, Scots pine

- Remove dead tree

Reasons stated for works:

T1, Beech

- *Previously, we had been granted permission by the tree officer to reduce this tree by 3 meters; however, today, whilst climbing up the tree, we have noticed some unseen damage at the main crown break. We also noticed some rather severe decay on multiple large limbs. Upon examining the pictures, the extent of the rot is evident; it was very spongy, and there is clearly some structural loss. When climbing up the tree, we could really feel a lot of movement that simply didn't feel normal and was rather unnerving. The tree has grown at an angle (due to a larger beech that was previously removed). The problem here is that the damage to the crown break is on the backside of the lean, which severely increases the likelihood of future failure, as much of the tension/ holding wood has rotted away.*

There is one large limb that grows out and up into the top of the canopy, which was severely decayed, so much so that we felt it too dangerous to proceed with the reduction. We also noticed a few badly included unions. It would also be wise to note that this beech looks very sparse in leaves when compared to any of the other neighbouring beech trees; it seems like it is sadly in decline. In conclusion, we feel that this tree is too unsafe to just reduce and would strongly advise removal to avoid the possibility of future failure, and with this being an outdoor area that children frequent, it simply isn't worth the risk.

T3, Scots pine

- *This tree has been dead for some time, as is clear in our picture. The tree is in the corner of a nursery and also hangs over two other gardens*

The consent is granted subject to the following conditions:

1. The above works must be completed before the **7 November 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'. All pruning cuts to be taken back to 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 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 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 script is cursive and fluid.

Chris Hannington
Trees and Landscape Team Manager

cc. Applicant: Mr Robert Mckenzie, Southlake Primary School, Campbell Road, Woodley, Wokingham, RG5 3NA

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