

Tel: (0118) 974 6000
Email: development.control@wokingham.gov.uk
Date: 29 January 2026
My ref: CY/TPO/1789/2021/252956



WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

Mr Ollie Micallef
Bartlett Tree Experts
Pigeon House Farm
Sheepridge Lane
Marlow, Buckinghamshire
SL7 3SG

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

Dear Mr Micallef,

TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER: 1789/2021

APPLICATION NUMBER: 252956

LOCATION: WHITEHOUSE FARM, BEECH HILL ROAD, SPENCERS WOOD, WOKINGHAM, RG7 1HR

I am writing to you regarding your application to carry out works to protected tree(s), which was received and validated on the 4 December 2025. Reduction of the monolithic height of T6, Oak, to 3m was agreed on site with Dr. Luke Hailey and the Council's Tree Officer Colette Yan on 20 January 2026.

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 1789/2021:

- T1, Oak – Fell to ground level.
- T2, Oak – Fell to ground level.
- T3, Oak – Fell to ground level.
- T4, Oak – Fell to ground level.
- T5, Oak – Fell to ground level.
- T6, Oak – Reduce to leave a monolith approx. 3m in height.

Reasons stated for works:

T1 – Oak

Remove to ground level due to its declining condition from fire damage.

T2 – Oak

Remove to ground level due to its declining condition from fire damage.

T3 – Oak

Remove to ground level due to its declining condition from fire damage.

T4 – Oak

Remove to ground level due to its declining condition

T5 – Oak

Remove to ground level due to its declining condition

T6 – Oak

Reduce in height leaving a monolith at a height of approx. 8m. This tree has a large wound in the main stem.

Officer comments:

Where trees and dead branches have been identified for removal, it is recommended that a percentage of the wood (particularly wood already decayed) should be stacked and left on site for habitat value, where possible.

Dead and decaying trees are a vital component of a properly functioning woodland ecosystem and play a key role in sustaining biodiversity and soil fertility. A healthy woodland ecosystem features deadwood in various locations. It is therefore undesirable to remove all areas of dead or decaying wood from the woodland as this would harm the natural ecosystem. It is recommended that any standing deadwood, dead branches, and other defects with ecological value are retained, where it is considered reasonable and safe to do so.

The consent is granted subject to the following conditions:

1. The above works must be completed before **29 January 2028** 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’.

Reasons for conditions 1-2

1. To ensure that our records remain accurate.
2. To ensure that tree removal and associated operations are carried out in a manner that minimises avoidable damage and accords with recognised best practice.

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 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.

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