

Tel: (0118) 974 6000  
Email: [development.control@wokingham.gov.uk](mailto:development.control@wokingham.gov.uk)  
Date: 15 May 2026  
My ref: CY/TPO/1715/2020/260813



## WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

Mr Edward Butler  
Future Tree  
14 Harcourt Drive  
Earley  
RG6 5TJ

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

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Tel: (0118) 974 6000

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Dear Mr Butler,

**TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER: 1715/2020**

**APPLICATION NUMBER: 260813**

**SITE ADDRESS: 58 WHEBLE DRIVE, WOODLEY, WOKINGHAM, BERKS, RG5 3DT**

I am writing to you regarding your application to carry out works to protected tree(s), which was received and validated on the 1 April 2026.

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 Area 1 of TPO 1715/2020:**

T1, Sycamore – Fell to near ground level; replace

**Reasons stated for works:**

*Sycamore T1 is a large, but otherwise unremarkable, tree within a narrow rear garden. This species has the potential to become significantly larger than it is currently. The broad spreading canopy, typical of the species as it matures, already spreads West almost the full width of the rear garden and above the roofline of the Garden Office. The canopy also oversails the neighbouring garden to the East.*

- *Typical of the Species, the tree rains down a prolific number of seeds annually which germinate in the garden, and in the gardens of adjacent properties.*
- *Honeydew drift, from associated aphids, is also a constant issue during the Summer months causing a sticky film over the surfaces (including doors and windows) of the garden office.*
- *In summary the reasonable use and enjoyment of the gardens is greatly compromised.*

**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 proposed tree removal is in the interests of health and safety or based on any arboricultural need.

Fallen leaves and other debris from trees are a natural part of the ecosystem, helping return nutrients to the soil as they decompose, and is rarely a valid reason for tree removal.

If there are concerns over the trees structural integrity the Council would welcome a further Tree Work Application supported by appropriate levels of arboricultural evidence i.e. full VTA, aerial inspection (with photographs of all bio-mechanical defects) and results of any internal decay detection investigations of the lower main stem and/or scaffold branches (i.e. Sonic Tomograph and/or Resistograph Drill) to justify the proposed tree removal.

**Due to the reasons stated above the proposed works to T1 Sycamore have been refused.**

**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](mailto: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](mailto:development.control@wokingham.gov.uk)

Yours sincerely,



Chris Hannington  
Trees and Landscape Team Manager

cc. applicant: Mr John Matthews, 58 Wheble Drive, Woodley, RG5 3DT