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Date: 04 August 2026
My ref: TF/TPO/782/1996/261369



WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

Mrs Theresa Ridgers
Calibra Tree Surgeons Ltd
Lane End Cottage
Warfield Street
Warfield
RG42 6AR

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

Dear Mrs Ridgers,

TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER: 782/1996

APPLICATION NUMBER: 261369

SITE ADDRESS: 20 EDGCUMBE PARK DRIVE, CROWTHORNE, WOKINGHAM, RG45 6HX

I am writing to you regarding your application to carry out works to protected tree(s), which was received and validated on the 09 June 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 A1 of TPO 782/1996:

T1 - 1 x Pine Tree at rear - Removal of the four lowest primary limbs back to their points of origin, raising the crown from approximately 3 metres to 6 metres above ground level.

Reasons stated for works:

The proposed works are limited to the removal of the four lowest limbs only and are intended to provide increased ground clearance beneath this mature Pine tree. The low limbs extend into the usable space below the canopy and restrict safe access and movement around the tree. Crown lifting to approximately 6 metres will improve clearance for pedestrians, maintenance activities, and general site management whilst retaining the tree's overall form, amenity value, and long-term health. The works will be carried out in accordance with good arboricultural practice, removing the selected limbs back to suitable growth points at their source without affecting the structural integrity of the main stem or the wider crown. The proposed crown lift represents a minor intervention relative to the overall size of the tree and will maintain its contribution to the landscape and local amenity.

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 and other diagnostic information from an appropriate expert.' To date, no detailed arboricultural information has been submitted to demonstrate that the removal of the lower four primary branches is in the interests of health and safety or based on any arboricultural need.

Having carefully considered the application, consent is refused for the following reasons:

The application does not provide any sound arboricultural justification for the proposed works. The information submitted confirms that there are no concerns regarding the structural condition or safety of the tree, no fears that the tree may break or fail, and no evidence of damage to adjacent structures or property. In the absence of a demonstrable arboricultural need, the proposed works are considered unnecessary.

The current crown clearance of approximately 3 metres above ground level is considered sufficient for a tree situated within a private residential garden. No evidence has been provided to demonstrate that the existing clearance is causing an obstruction, preventing reasonable use of the garden, or creating a safety hazard. Raising the crown to approximately 6 metres would result in an excessive clearance that is not justified by the tree's location or circumstances.

The removal of four primary limbs back to the main stem would represent a significant alteration to the tree's natural crown structure. These lower branches form an important component of the tree's overall shape and character and contribute positively to its visual amenity. Their removal would create an unnaturally elevated crown, adversely affecting the appearance of the tree and diminishing the amenity value.

The proposed works involve the complete removal of four primary limbs. Such branches constitute major structural components of the tree, and their removal would result in large pruning wounds on the main stem. Wounds of this size can take many years to occlude and may increase the risk of decay organisms entering the stem tissues. The proposal therefore has the potential to adversely affect the long-term health and physiological condition of the tree and its main supporting structure.

Lower primary branches contribute to the distribution of foliage and the overall balance of the crown. Their removal would substantially reduce canopy volume in the lower crown and alter the tree's natural weight distribution. While not necessarily resulting in immediate structural defects, such a significant modification to crown architecture is considered undesirable and contrary to good arboricultural practice where no clear management objective has been demonstrated.

The proposed works would result in a material loss of amenity and would not provide any corresponding arboricultural, safety, or property-related benefit. As such, the proposal conflicts with the purpose of the Tree Preservation Order, which is to protect trees that make a significant contribution to local visual amenity and environmental quality.

The Council is not satisfied that the proposed removal of the four lowest primary branches is necessary or justified. The works would result in an unacceptable and unnecessary loss of amenity, create large wounds to the main stem, and adversely affect the form and character of the protected tree.

Due to the reasons stated above the proposed removal of the four lowest primary branches has 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

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 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, slightly slanted style.

Chris Hannington
Trees and Landscape Team Manager

cc. Applicant - Ms Gabrielle Palmer, 20 Edgcumbe Park Drive, Crowthorne, Wokingham, RG45 6HX