

Tel: (0118) 974 6000
Email: development.control@wokingham.gov.uk
Date: 20 February 2025
My ref: TF/CA/250104



**WOKINGHAM
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Mr. Chris Dabreo
13 Milton Road
Wokingham
RG40 1DE

Place and Growth
Development Management Team
P.O. Box 157
Shute End, Wokingham
Berkshire RG40 1WR
Tel: (0118) 974 6000
Minicom No: (0118) 974 6991
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Dear Mr. Dabreo,

**SECTION 211 NOTIFICATION OF WORK TO TREES WITHIN THE WOKINGHAM TOWN
CENTRE CONSERVATION AREA
APPLICATION NUMBER: 250104
LOCATION: 13 MILTON ROAD, WOKINGHAM, RG40 1DE**

With reference to your notification which was received and validated on the 20 January 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 WOKINGHAM TOWN CENTRE Conservation Area.

Proposed works:

4 x Leyland Cypress:

- Fell.

Officer comments:

The subject trees are Leyland Cypress and not Pine as stated within the submitted application. The trees form a composite crown and are of poor asymmetric form and fair physiological condition. This species is non-native and does not contribute significantly to local biodiversity, as it provides limited ecological benefits for native wildlife. Leyland Cypress can reach a mature height of 20m or more and as such are unsuitable when space is limited and there is a need to balance scale and character with the surrounding environment.

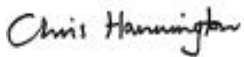
The group of trees does not meet the criteria for inclusion in a Tree Preservation Order and if they are left to grow to a mature height will eventually dominate the location, requiring frequent maintenance to prevent encroachment over the adjacent highway and become a constant source of complaint, ultimately any positive benefits are lost. Therefore, it is considered that the proposed work to remove them would not adversely affect the character and amenities of the Conservation Area and the serving of a TPO is considered unnecessary and inappropriate on this occasion.

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 date 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,

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

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 meters or sell more than 2 cubic meters 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