Tel: (0118) 974 6000
Email: development.control@wokingham.gov.uk
Date: 24 November 2026
My ref: LA/CA/262529

WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

Place and Growth
Development Management Team
P.O. Box 157
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Mrs Hannah Williams
Heights Tree Care
Mayfield
Hazelmoor Lane
Gallowstree Common
RG49DJ

Dear Mrs Hannah Williams,

SECTION 211 NOTIFICATION OF WORK TO TREES WITHIN THE SONNING CONSERVATION AREA
APPLICATION NUMBER: 262529
LOCATION: BISHOPS CLOSE, SONNING LANE, SONNING, WOKINGHAM, RG4 6ST

With reference to your notification which was received and validated on the 27 October 2026, I am writing to advise you that Wokingham Borough Council raises **no objections** to the proposed tree works being undertaken as specified within the Sonning Conservation Area.

Proposed works:
T1, Holly:
- Remove stems to improve access to compound area.

T2, Sycamore
- Crown reduction over towpath by 3m in height; remove major deadwood.

T3, Holly:
- Remove and grind stump.

Reasons stated for works:
T1 works are improve access to compound area. *T2 works are due to dieback through crown. No reason given for T3 works.*

Officer comments:
The Council's Tree and Landscape Officer visited the Site on Monday 23 November 2026 and viewed T1 Holly, T2 Sycamore, and T3 Holly. T1 Holly is located within a maintenance compound largely used for managing compostable leaf litter waste on-site. It is a healthy but low-quality tree in terms of form and obscured within a small group of trees screening the maintenance compound. T2 Sycamore is located along the edge of the River Thames within the Site with some overhang along the adjacent public towpath (SONN7). There is significant deadwood through its canopy with dieback in the top of its crown. T3 is multi-stemmed Holly located in a planting bed near the Site's entrance. It is performing poorly in its current location and shading out nearby trees, hedging and herbaceous plants. James, the head gardener, notes that this

entrance planting bed will be converted to lawn. The Officer recommends that replacement tree planting be considered for T3. The tree species should ideally be native and appropriate for the Site, aiming to provide long-term ecological benefit and contributing to local tree coverage. The Officer is available to discuss this matter further, should the applicant require additional information on specific tree-related matters.

The proposed work to T1, T2, and T3 is acceptable. The proposed work will not adversely affect the visual amenity of the Conservation Area. T1, T2, and T3 do not meet the criteria for inclusion in a Tree Preservation Order at this time. The Wokingham Borough Council therefore raises no objections to the proposed works.

The applicant should note:
The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 protects wild birds, their eggs and nests. Trees with hollow crevices, for example, provide important natural roost sites for many bat species covered by the 1981 Act. Anyone proposing to carry out work on a tree which may be used as a roost site for bats or by other protected species should first consult Natural England Berkshire, Office Block A, Government Buildings, Coley Avenue, Coley Park, Reading, Berkshire, RG1 6DT. Tel: 0118 958 1222, fax: 0118 939 2183 or http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/.

Works to trees during the nesting season (generally March – August) may result in disturbance to nesting birds. All birds' nests that are either in use or being built, eggs and chicks are protected by the 1981 Act. Nevertheless, works can take place to trees and hedgerows during bird nesting season after a thorough inspection has taken place on the site by a qualified specialist, e.g., tree surgeon or ecologist before any works commencing to ensure nesting birds or other wildlife are not disturbed. However, it is strongly recommended to undertake vegetation or tree works outside this period to prevent the risk of disturbing nesting birds or other wildlife.

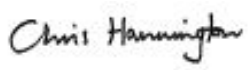
Informatives:

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 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,



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