

Tel: (0118) 974 6000  
Email: [development.control@wokingham.gov.uk](mailto:development.control@wokingham.gov.uk)  
Date: 11 July 2025  
My ref: CY/TPO/1508/2015/251101



## WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

Mr Phil Hyatt  
JDB Contractors & Son Ltd  
Timber Mill Yard  
Fleet Road  
Eversley  
RG27 0PY

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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 Hyatt,

**TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER: 1508/2015**  
**APPLICATION NUMBER: 251101**  
**SITE ADDRESS: 17 FIELD PLACE, WOKINGHAM, RG41 4EU**

I am writing to you regarding your application to carry out works to protected tree(s), which was submitted and validated on the 8 May 2025, following the council's arboricultural officer's visit on 11 July 2025. Please accept our apologies for this delayed reply.

For ease of communication, an annotated plan showing the approximate tree locations is included at the end of this letter for reference.

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 G1 of TPO 1508/2015:**

5 x Oak – Crown reduction by 2m

**Reasons stated for works:**

*Reduce the canopy of all Oaks by 2m to prevent them encroaching onto the property and over the garden.*

**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 work is in the interests of health and safety or based on any arboricultural need and no overriding reason for the proposed work was apparent.

Works to trees can usually be justified if parts of a tree are actually or can (for example through wind movement in the canopy) come into contact with people and/or structures. These works would be undertaken to prevent damage to the tree and to the person and/or structure. However at the time of the site visit, T1 and T2 already had a clearance of about 3 metres from the property, which is considered a safe distance between tree crowns and properties. T3, T4 and T5 are not interfering with any structures.

The proposed crown reductions would result in loss of leaf and live material on all sides of the tree crown and create multiple large pruning wounds that would become entry points for disease and decay-causing organisms, in view that the trees all have full crowns with natural growth forms that exhibit good vigour and vitality, and are not interfering with any structures, the proposed crown reductions are deemed unnecessary and excessive.

On balance the reasons and information submitted with the application are not sufficient justification for the proposed crown reduction. However, 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 reduction works.

**Due to the reasons stated above the proposed crown reductions has been refused.**

I can confirm that Wokingham Borough Council **consents, with conditions**, to the following lesser work being carried out to the tree(s) included in the aforementioned Tree Preservation Order (TPO):

**Approved Tree Work to G1 of TPO 1508/2015:**

**T1, Oak**

- Reduce over-extending branch indicated in Figure 1 by up to 2m, back to suitable growth points
- Crown clean to remove any dead, diseased, or dysfunctional branches back to suitable growth points

**T2, T3, T4 and T5, Oaks**

- Crown clean to remove any dead, diseased, or dysfunctional branches back to suitable growth points

**The consent is granted subject to the following conditions:**

1. The above works must be completed before **11 July 2026** 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’. Ensuring all branches are taken back to suitable growth points.

3. Climbing spikes shall not be used whilst undertaking any form of works on living trees, except on trees to be felled.

#### **Reasons for conditions 1-3.....**

1. To ensure that our records remain accurate.
2. To ensure the health, safety and visual amenity of the tree(s) and ensure works are undertaken in accordance with recognised arboricultural good practice.
3. Spikes can cause extensive long-term damage to trees.

#### **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: Mrs Kim Murray, 17 Field Place, Wokingham, RG41 4EU

## Location Plan

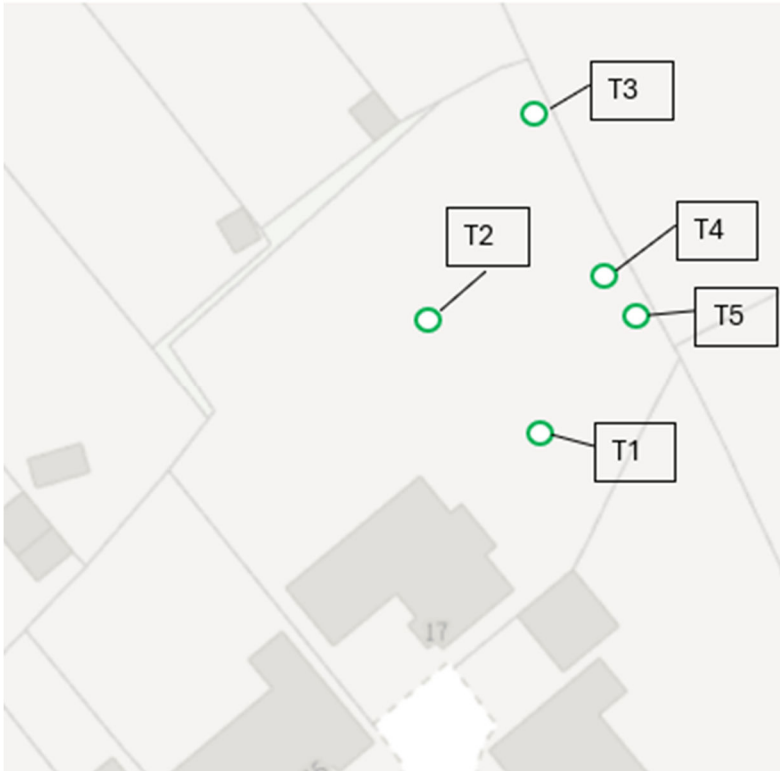


Figure 1



Private: Information that contains a small amount of sensitive data which is essential to communicate with an individual but doesn't require to be sent via secure methods.

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](mailto:helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk)  
Website: [www.defra.gov.uk/](http://www.defra.gov.uk/)

Natural England  
Tel: 0845 600 3078 or by email at [enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk)  
Website: [www.naturalengland.org.uk](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk)

Bat Conservation Trust  
Tel: 0845 1300 228 or by email at [enquiries@bats.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@bats.org.uk)  
Website: [www.bats.org.uk](http://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](http://www.forestry.gov.uk)