

Tel: (0118) 974 6000
Email: development.control@wokingham.gov.uk
Date: 15 July 2025
My ref: CY/TPO/861/1975/251090



WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

Arboricultural Stephen Arnold
Tree Solutions Arboriculture
23 Springdale
Finchampstead
Wokingham
RG40 4RZ

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

Dear Arboricultural Stephen Arnold,

TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER: 861/1975

APPLICATION NUMBER: 251090

SITE ADDRESS: 25 WILTSHIRE DRIVE, WOKINGHAM, BERKS, RG40 1TQ

I am writing to you regarding your application to carry out works to protected tree(s), which was submitted and validated on the 6 May 2025, following the council's arboricultural officer's visit on 14 July 2025. Please accept our apologies for this delayed reply.

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 Single 8 of TPO 861/1975:

T1, Oak (T8 on TPO) – Fell to ground level.

Reasons stated for works:

*This tree has a significant dead strip or possible crack projecting up the stem on the southern side to major branch break indicated by *Coriolus versicolor*. This is a saprobic fungus which breaks down deadwood. There is audible decay present. This necrotic strip starts below ground level and has decayed the main buttress on that side. There has been a persistent *Ganoderma* infection, fruiting body removed by the gardener. The southern quadrant has completely died off with major deadwood in excess of 4m in length.*

Officer comments:

The subject tree is located in a cul-de-sac and provide significant amenity to the local residents. While the Wokingham Borough Council agrees with the agent's findings that dysfunction wood is present in the main trunk, and branches on the southern side of the canopy had mostly died off, we are of the view that risks posted by the tree can be mitigated by crown reduction and removal of major dead wood. The tree will continue to provide amenity and ecological benefits to the area with risks managed at an acceptable level.

Wokingham Borough Council declared a climate emergency in July 2019 which commits us to playing as full a role as possible in reducing our carbon footprint to be net carbon zero by 2030. The Borough Council aims to increase the levels of carbon sequestration through greening the environment. Consequently, the preservation and enhancement of tree canopy cover in the Borough will play an important role in this. Council policy CP7 'Biodiversity' of the adopted Core Strategy commits Wokingham Borough Council to conserve and enhance such areas and retaining mature trees, even damaged ones, aligns with biodiversity net gain principles and climate resilience goals.

On balance the reasons and information submitted with the application are not sufficient justification for the proposed tree removal. 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 tree removal.

Due to the reasons stated above the proposed tree removal 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 Single 8 of TPO 1508/2015:

T1 (T8 on TPO), Oak

- remove south facing dead and dysfunctional branches
- Crown reduction by up to 3m in height and up to 2m in lateral spread
- 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 **16 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

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

Yours sincerely,



Chris Hannington
Trees and Landscape Team Manager

cc. Applicant: Mr Jones, 25 Wiltshire Drive, Wokingham, RG40 1TQ

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