

Tel: (0118) 974 6000
Email: development.control@wokingham.gov.uk
Date: 13 March 2025
My ref: CY/TPO/18/1968/250126



WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

Mrs Hilary Carless
Arborfield & Newland Parish Council
Arborfield Parish Office
The Pavilion At Arborfield Park
Swallowfield Road, Arborfield
RG2 9JR

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

Mrs Carless,

TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NUMBER: 18/1968

APPLICATION NUMBER: 250126

LOCATION: POUND COPSE, GREENSWARD LANE, ARBORFIELD, WOKINGHAM, BERKS

I am writing to you regarding your application to carry out works to protected tree(s), which was received and validated on 21st January 2025.

I can confirm Wokingham Borough Council **consents with conditions**, to the following work being carried out to tree(s) included in the above-mentioned Tree Preservation Orders (TPO):

Approved works to Woodland 1 of TPO 18/1968:

G1, Holly

- Coppice to ground level 1 in 5 holly bushes with a trunk diameter of less than 100mm.

Reasons stated for works:

"The sole species identified as requiring attention is Holly which is present in volume throughout the Copse. No standard or specimen trees will be touched.

Pound Copse is a linear belt of ancient woodland containing a variety of mixed age native trees with a shrub and wildflower (many bluebells) understorey. The dominant species are Oak and Ash but there are also Wild Service trees of which there are a number of small saplings trying to grow at the far end of the Copse.

Holly is currently dominating the area and detracting from its identity as an ancient woodland. It is also competing vigorously for light, water and nutrients with those younger trees of more rare variety, that we would like to conserve, as they try to establish themselves. The dominance of the Holly also negatively impacts the ground floor level particularly wildflowers and British bluebells, which are a key indicator of ancient woodland.

The benefits of completing this work are:

- improved light to the ground floor area of the woodland
- retains 80% of the Holly so that it can provide food/habitats for wildlife
- pedestrians will feel less enclosed while walking along the paths
- will allow all species to benefit
- female walkers will feel safer being able to see ahead more clearly and feeling less enclosed
- promote the growth of a larger variety of species
- allow the seasonal pond to thrive more effectively

Officer's comment

The site is heavily dominated by hollies and the proposed works are considered reasonable to maintain diversity of plant species on site. The Council therefore raises no objection to the proposed works.

It is recommended that the removed plant materials should be left on site for habitat value, where possible.

The consent is granted subject to the following conditions:

1. The above works must be completed before **13 March 2027** 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'. Removed branches to be left on site and woven into dead hedging.
3. Climbing spikes shall not be used whilst undertaking any form of works on living trees to be retained.

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. Climbing 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 currently can 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 and Landscape 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 style with a large 'C' and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

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