Felling Licence Application DRAFT FOR TRAINING PURPOSES ONLY

Tree Health Emergency Intervention

Application Reference: FL/2025/0892
Application Date: 22nd September 2025
Applicant: [Woodland Owner Name]
Agent: [Forestry Consultant Name], BSc MSc MIFM
Site: Oakwood Copse
Location: [Location], [County]
Grid Reference: SU 456789
Total Woodland Area: 8.4 hectares
Area Subject to Felling: 6.2 hectares

SECTION 1: APPLICANT DETAILS

1.1 Landowner Information

Name: [Woodland Owner Name]
Address: [Owner Address]
Postcode: [Postcode]
Telephone: [Phone Number]
Email: [Email Address]
Land Ownership: Freehold owner since 2018
Previous FC Contact: WTHG-2025-003 (Tree Health Grant approved)

1.2 Agent Information (if applicable)

Company: [Forestry Consultancy Name] Ltd
Agent Name: [Consultant Name], BSc MSc MIFM
Address: [Consultant Address]
Postcode: [Postcode]
Telephone: [Phone Number]
Email: [Email Address]
Professional Qualifications: Member Institute of Foresters, Chartered Forester

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SECTION 2: SITE DETAILS

2.1 Location and Access

Woodland Name: Oakwood Copse
Parish: [Parish Name]
District: [District Name]
County: [County Name]
OS Grid Reference: SU 456789
What3Words: [three.random.words]
Nearest Postcode: [Nearest Postcode]

Site Access:

Primary Access: Via farm track from [Road Name] (B-road)
Access Rights: Established right of way for forestry operations
Gate Width: 4.5 metres (suitable for forestry machinery)
Surface: Hardcore farm track, all-weather access
Restrictions: None - no weight restrictions on access route
2.2 Site Description

Total Woodland Area: 8.4 hectares
Compartments: 3 compartments (2A, 2B, 3A)
Topography: Gently sloping (5-15% gradient) south-facing
Elevation: 95-140m above sea level
Soil Type: Well-drained chalky boulder clay over chalk
Aspect: Predominantly south-facing with some east and west aspects

2.3 Current Woodland Composition

Before Disease Impact:

Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) - 35% (180 trees)
Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*) - 40% (210 trees)
Field Maple (*Acer campestre*) - 15% (85 trees)
Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) - 8% (understory)
Other species - 2% (wild cherry, birch)
Age Structure: Predominantly mature woodland (60-80 years), with some younger trees (20-40 years)

SECTION 3: PROPOSED FELLING OPERATIONS

3.1 Felling Justification - PLANT HEALTH EMERGENCY

Primary Reason for Felling: TREE HEALTH - Plant Health Emergency

Detailed Justification: This application is submitted under the plant health emergency provisions due to confirmed and widespread impacts of:

1. Ash Dieback (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*) - statutory plant health concern
2. Oak Processionary Moth (*Thaumetopoea processionea*) - regulated quarantine pest

Supporting Evidence:

- Professional tree health assessment completed 15th-17th August 2025
- Disease confirmed by Forest Research laboratory analysis (Ref: FR-2025-1456)
- OPM infestation reported to APHA (Ref: OPM-2025-789)
- Public safety risk identified on public footpath

3.2 Trees Proposed for Felling

3.2.1 Ash Trees - Disease Removal

Total Ash Trees to be Felled: 142 trees
Volume: Estimated 95 cubic metres

By Disease Category:

- Category 4 (Severe): 40 trees (30 m^3) - *Immediate removal required*
- Category 3 (Moderate): 46 trees (35 m^3) - *High priority removal*
- Category 2 (Early symptoms): 56 trees (30 m^3) - *Precautionary removal*

Justification by Category:

- Category 4: Severe dieback >60%, public safety risk, structural failure imminent
- Category 3: Significant crown damage, compromised structural integrity
- Category 2: Early symptoms but removal necessary to prevent spread and for access

3.2.2 Oak Trees - Pest Management

Oak Trees Requiring Intervention: 65 trees affected by OPM
Proposed Treatment: Crown reduction and pest nest removal (NOT full felling)
Estimated Volume from Crown Reduction: 15 cubic metres

Intervention Details:

- Light crown reduction (10-20%): 45 trees
- Moderate crown reduction (20-30%): 15 trees
- Intensive crown work: 5 trees (severe defoliation)
- Full removal: 0 trees (OPM treatment only requires crown work)

3.2.3 Other Species

Field Maple and Other Species: No removal planned
Hazel Coppice: Some cutting required for access (2 cubic metres)
Total Volume All Species: Approximately 112 cubic metres

3.3 Felling Schedule and Phasing

Phase 1: Emergency Safety Works (October-November 2025)

Priority: IMMEDIATE
Trees: Category 4 ash trees (40 trees, 30 m^3)
Location: Trees posing immediate public safety risk
Justification: Cannot wait for full licence processing due to safety risk
Notice: 5-day notice submitted separately for emergency works

Phase 2: Disease Management (December 2025-February 2026)

Priority: TBC