

## Protected Trees

### Preserving our city's trees

Whilst redevelopment provides the opportunity for new tree planting, there is a steady loss of older trees. Trees serve five important roles in our environment: -

- Trees can soften a hard urban landscape
- Trees add to the character of an area
- Trees make an important contribution to the air we breathe
- Trees provide shade and a home for wildlife
- Trees are living history.

The Town and Country Planning Acts allow Local Councils to protect visually important trees by making them subject to a **Tree Preservation Order (TPO)**. Some 4000 trees in Portsmouth are protected in this way.

### It is our duty

Local Authorities have a duty to make TPOs, where appropriate. You can help by drawing to the Council's attention other trees which are considered of value to an area and therefore worthy of protection.

### How do I know if my trees are protected?

It may not be apparent whether a tree within the boundary of your property is protected. Therefore it is vitally important, if in doubt, you contact the Planning Services at the Civic Offices who will be pleased to advise you.

### What is the significance of a TPO?

A Tree Preservation Order (TPO) is made by the City Council to protect trees which have a significant impact on their local surroundings. Once a TPO is made, the landowner remains responsible for the trees, their condition, and any damage they may cause. But the City Council's permission is required before carrying out work, (inc. felling), on the protected trees

### Works to trees under a TPO

In the case of protected trees, should the owner consider that tree surgery or felling is required, that person should apply to Planning Services to gain the necessary consent. An application form is available from Planning Services. Should consent be granted, a period of 1 year is allowed for those works to be carried out. In the event that consent is refused an appeal can be lodged with the First Secretary of State for the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister who would appoint an impartial inspector to review the application.

In the case of the felling of a TPO tree, it is a legal requirement to plant a replacement tree, unless the City Council states otherwise.

### Trees in Conservation Areas

Currently 23 areas throughout the city are designated under the Town and Country Planning Acts as "Conservation Areas". Having this status provides a measure of protection for trees within them subject to them not already having a TPO status.

When the owner of a tree that is not protected by a Tree Preservation Order **but** is located within a Conservation Area, proposes to carry out works (inc. felling), that person must give six weeks' written notice to the Planning Services. This arrangement gives the City Council the opportunity to inspect the tree to decide whether to make a TPO.

The notice must be in writing or in a prescribed form available from the Planning Service.

### What I am supposed to do about dead, dying or dangerous trees?

If a tree appears to be dead, dying or dangerous or its limbs appear to be diseased, contact the City Council's Arboricultural Officer by telephone on **023 9283 4150** to arrange an inspection.

If the Arboricultural Officer recommends that the tree should be topped, lopped or felled because of its dangerous condition, no formal consent is required.

Any tree felled under this section must be replaced. Replacement trees in such circumstances are automatically protected by the original TPO, where such an order applies

**You should notify the Council before you take any action, giving us reasonable opportunity to have the tree inspected by a qualified officer.**

### Check list

If you are contemplating carrying out any works to any trees, follow the steps below.

**1** Contact the Planning Services and check whether the tree in question is either, subject to a Tree Preservation Order or within a Conservation Area.

**2** If the tree is protected by a TPO or Conservation Area Status, make a formal application/notification to the Planning Services.

**3** When looking into quotations for works you may be proposing, approach **only** qualified and reputable tree surgeons. This way you can be ensured that the work done meets **British Standard Specification 3998:1989**. Before employing a tree surgeon ask to see his/her current certificate of insurance.

### Independent advice

For independent advice on your trees, you may find the following address useful in obtaining a local list of contractors.

**Arboricultural Association  
Ampfield House  
Romsey  
Hants  
SO51 9PA  
Tel: (01794) 368717  
e-mail: [admin@trees.org.uk](mailto:admin@trees.org.uk)**

### Get in touch

These informal notes are for guidance only, if in doubt please contact a planning officer

You can contact a planning officer at:

Planning Services  
Directorate of Environment & Transport

City Council Offices  
Civic Offices Square  
Portsmouth  
PO1 2AU

Telephone: 023 9283 4334  
Fax: 023 9283 4660  
e-mail: [planning@portsmouthcc.gov.uk](mailto:planning@portsmouthcc.gov.uk)  
web: [www.portsmouth.gov.uk](http://www.portsmouth.gov.uk)

If you need this information in large print, Braille or tape,  
Call: 023 9283 4334

For translated information please call:  
Bengali answerphone service: 023 9284 1651 or  
Cantonese answerphone service: 023 9284 1652

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樸茨茅斯市政府的一切資料，均備有翻譯本、大字書刊或映音帶，如有需要，請致電... 023 9284 1652