

Further information and advice

Further advice can be found in the council's *Tree Policy*. Additionally the Department of Communities and Local Government produce a helpful leaflet '*Protected Trees - A guide to preservation procedures*'. Copies are freely available from Neighbourhood Development (contact details at bottom of page).



**Basingstoke
and Deane**

Useful contacts

Arboricultural Advisory and Information Service (AAIS)

(A registered charity that carries out research and disseminates information to the arboricultural and forestry industries on behalf of the Government)

Alice Holt Lodge, Wrecclesham, Farnham, Surrey GU10 4LH

Tel: 01420 22022 Tree Helpline 09065 161147 (calls charged at £1.50 per minute)

Arboricultural Association

(A registered charity concerned with raising the standards of tree care in the UK)

Ullenwood Court, Ullenwood, Cheltenham, Gloucester GL53 9QS

Tel: 01242 522152 – Fax: 01242 577766

E-mail: admin@trees.org.uk

Website: www.trees.org.uk

Borough of Basingstoke and Deane (Contact Centre)

Civic Offices, London Road, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 4AH

Tel: (01256) 844844

Fax: (01256) 845200

www.basingstoke.gov.uk

Neighbourhood Development (Protected trees)

Civic Offices, London Road, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 4AH

Telephone: (01256) 844844

Fax: (01256) 845200

E-mail: neighbourhood.dev@basingstoke.gov.uk

Website: www.basingstoke.gov.uk

Guide to preserving trees



Introduction

Tree preservation orders are documents that give legal protection to specified individual trees, groups of trees or woodlands of public amenity value. With groups or woodlands, it is the collective amenity value of the trees that it is important rather than the individual merits of each tree. Section 197 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 gives Local Planning Authorities the discretion to serve tree preservation orders.

TREE PRESERVATION ORDER REQUEST FORM

When is a tree worthy of protection?

Current Government advice is that tree preservation orders should be used with discretion to ensure that appropriate trees are protected in the interests of amenity and that the council can fully justify its reasons for serving an order. In other words, tree preservation orders should not be used to protect every tree in every situation.

The council's *Tree Policy* sets out the main criteria for assessing whether it may be appropriate to serve a tree preservation order as follows;

- The trees are of public amenity value. Primarily, this will be interpreted as meaning that they are clearly visible from a public place and add value to the streetscene or local landscape. However, evidence of strong cultural, historical, wildlife or rarity value can also be considered
- The loss of the trees or damage to them would have a significant impact on the local environment and its enjoyment by the public and there is a significant risk of this happening if a tree preservation order is not made
- The trees are in reasonable health and condition, have a reasonable life expectancy and are not known to be causing damage to buildings
- The trees do not cause excessive problems that unreasonably affect the quality of life of tree owners or their neighbours.
(See the *Tree Policy* for further guidance www.basingstoke.gov.uk/services/envhealth/trees).

It may not always be expedient to serve a tree preservation order, for example where there is no discernable threat to the tree or good tree management is already undertaken.

Trees growing in a conservation area automatically become protected once they measure more than 75mm diameter, measured over the bark at a point 1.5 metres from the ground. Following receipt of a Notice of Intent to remove a tree growing in a conservation area the council will normally only serve a tree preservation order where the above criteria are met and particularly where the proposed work would have a significantly adverse impact on the character of the conservation area.

If there are trees that you think should be formally protected please complete the following request form. All requests are considered on their own merits in conjunction with the council's *Tree Policy* and current Government advice. A plan, which can be a simple sketch plan would be helpful to identify the tree(s) in question.

Name;
Address;
Post Code
Day time telephone number (optional);
Location and species (if known) of the trees; (Please mark the location of the tree[s] on a plan)
Ownership of the land on which the trees are growing (if known);
Reasons to support your tree preservation order request; (Please use an additional sheet if necessary)

The form and plan should be returned to the freepost address below:
Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, Neighbourhood Development, Freepost
BZ97/1, Basingstoke, RG21 4GA