

Trees and wildlife



Basingstoke
and Deane

Trees and wildlife

Trees provide an important habitat for wildlife and it is important to be aware of protected species if you are planning to carry out work to trees.

In simple terms, you should make sure that there are no wild birds nesting in or bats roosting in or adjacent to the tree that you are proposing to work on. Emergency tree work can proceed, although measures should be taken to mitigate any harm that is caused.

Birds

The law protects all wild birds, their eggs and nests and these must not be harmed by tree work.

Natural England advises that the bird nesting season is from February until August, although it should be noted that sometimes birds can nest outside this period.

Wherever possible, you should not carry out any tree work between these dates. However, if this is unavoidable you will need to ensure that the tree you are working on does not have an active bird nest.



Bats

It is more difficult to determine whether there is a bat roost in a tree and you should ensure that your tree surgeon is aware of the signs to look out for.

Works to trees with potential for bats is best done from late August to early October when young bats are mobile, female bats are unlikely to be pregnant and the hibernation season has not yet begun.

If bats or signs of bats are found, no work should start and Natural England should be contacted for further advice. If work is already in progress, then it should stop immediately if it is safe to do so.

Dormice

Dormice are traditionally found in coppiced woodland, although they can also be found in hedgerows and other areas of scrub. It is illegal to harm dormice, including their breeding and resting sites.

Tree work in these areas should be planned carefully with mitigation and compensatory measures to prevent or offset any harm. Before carrying out work in potential dormice habitat, you should contact Natural England for further advice.

Notifying a breach

If you witness a suspected wildlife crime in action call 999 immediately and ask for the police. For all other enquires call your local police on 101.

Where can I get more help?

Natural England has a 24 hour emergency response service and can be contacted by telephoning **0300 060 6000**. If it is less urgent, you can telephone **0300 060 3900** or email enquiries@naturalengland.co.uk

The Arboricultural Association has a list of independently approved arboriculturists who can advise you on tree maintenance. They have a website at www.trees.org.uk or you can contact them by telephoning **01242 522152**.

If you would like to enquire about a council-owned tree or to find out if a tree is protected, you should contact us by emailing communityservices@basingstoke.gov.uk or telephone **01256 844 844**.

www.basingstoke.gov.uk | 01256 844844

customer.service@basingstoke.gov.uk

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