

Getting Work Done on Protected Trees

In most cases it is advisable to employ the services of a suitably qualified person to both assess and undertake necessary work.

A register of Tree Preservation Orders and Conservation Orders is held at each area planning office and is available for public viewing. For application forms and all enquiries regarding work to protected trees please contact the relevant office:

Banff & Buchan, Buchan and Formartine (North)

Environment Planner (Natural Heritage),
Planning & Environmental Services,
Aberdeenshire Council,
Town House, Low Street,
BANFF AB45 1AY
Tel: 01261 813219

Garioch, Formartine (South) and Marr (North)

Environment Planner (Natural Heritage),
Planning & Environmental Services,
Aberdeenshire Council,
Gordon House, Blackhall Road,
INVERURIE AB51 3WA
Tel: 01467 628254

Kincardine & Mearns and Marr (South)

Environment Planner (Natural Heritage),
Planning & Environmental Services,
Aberdeenshire Council,
Viewmount, Arduathie Road,
STONEHAVEN AB39 2DQ
Tel: 01569 768293

www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk

email: planning@aberdeenshire.gov.uk



Trees and woodlands enhance the environment of our towns and villages and make a positive contribution to the quality of life. In certain situations they are protected by legislation. This leaflet has been designed to give guidance about this protection.



Tree Preservation Orders

A Tree Preservation Order (TPO) is a legal procedure used by the local authority to protect individual trees, groups of trees or woodland areas which are considered to have significant ecological, recreational, historical, shelter or landscape value.

Members of the public can also request that a TPO be made. You should initially contact the Planning & Environmental Services in your area to discuss your request. The physical condition of the trees, whether or not they are under threat and their visual contribution to the surroundings are some of the considerations which determine whether a TPO is appropriate.

To carry out work on a protected tree you must apply to Aberdeenshire Council for permission before starting. In exceptional circumstances work can be carried out for safety reasons without prior consent, for example where there is imminent danger to life or property and the local authority cannot be contacted. However, the local authority should always be notified as soon as possible afterwards and photographic evidence will be required to justify the work.

If permission is granted for a tree to be felled replacements will usually be required. Anyone can apply for work on a protected tree although permission will obviously be necessary from the owner to carry out the work.



Conservation Areas

Trees within Conservation Areas are also protected by legislation. Six weeks notice in writing must be given to Aberdeenshire Council prior to carrying out any work to a tree in a Conservation Area. If you do not hear from them within this time period, the proposed work can go ahead.

Other Forms of Protection for Trees

Conditions attached to planning permissions can be used to protect trees; these will be specific to the individual permission. The local area planning office should be contacted for advice at the address shown overleaf.

The felling of trees outwith garden ground may require a felling licence from Forestry Commission Scotland, who can be contacted on 01466 794542 at the Grampian Conservancy Office in Huntly for advice.

Please note it is an offence to fell, lop, top or carry out any work on protected trees without permission. The offence normally carries a fine of up to £20,000.

