

## Choosing a tree contractor



If you need a tree surgeon or consultant the information below may help you.

- ◆ Tree Surgeons carry out tree maintenance (pruning, bracing operations), tree felling (including dismantling of dangerous trees or trees in confined spaces). They also provide general advice on tree management and maintenance.
- ◆ We would advise that you obtain a written specification for the work and agree the specification and price prior to obtaining the relevant permissions and commissioning the contractor.
- ◆ Tree Advisors/Arboriculturists provide specialist opinion on tree health, safety, preservation, trees and buildings, planning and other law.
- ◆ The Arboricultural Association [www.trees.org.uk](http://www.trees.org.uk) provides a guidance leaflet on the questions to ask when selecting a tree contractor.

**Consultation:** The consultation process for tree applications/notices is a change from the Statement of Community Involvement 2006 in order to improve service



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**WRITE TO:** The Sustainability Team, Forest of Dean District Council, Council Offices, High Street, Coleford, GL16 8HG.

[www.fdean.gov.uk](http://www.fdean.gov.uk)

## Guidance for works to protected trees



**Forest of Dean**  
— DISTRICT COUNCIL —

## Applications for Works to Protected Trees:

There are now 2 options:

**STANDARD**

**OR**

**ENHANCED**

### 1. **STANDARD** No change (Same process/timings as previous)

- ◆ An application form must be completed and sent to the Sustainability Team at Forest of Dean District Council.
- ◆ The application/notice should be accompanied by a plan showing the location of the trees.
- ◆ Once this has been validated you the applicant or agent will receive a letter detailing the ref no. and determination date.
- ◆ Consultations are undertaken with various consultees
- ◆ Determination Times:
  - Tree Preservation Orders—8 weeks
  - Trees in Conservation Areas—6 weeks (maximum)

### 2. **ENHANCED** Use for a quicker decision

**Application Requirements:** For an Enhanced application/notice the following have to be completed:

- Application forms must be fully completed.
- A detailed & to scale location plan and to scale block plan showing tree(s) location.
- The proposed works must be clearly detailed.
- Annotated & recently dated photographs of the tree(s) must be submitted.

**Application/Notice Types:** Application/Notices will be classified as either MAJOR or MINOR dependant on the works proposed.

#### **MAJOR:**

- Felling
- Crown Reduction over 15%
- Crown Thinning over 15%
- Pollarding
- Coppicing
- Removal of a single branch of more than 120mm diameter at trunk meeting point
- Removal of multiple branches

#### **MINOR:**

- Crown Reductions under 15%
- Crown Thinning under 15%
- Removal of a single branch under 120mm diameter at trunk meeting point.

Multiple works that would be independently classed as MINOR may be reclassified as MAJOR, if the overall impact is likely to be greater. In this case the applicant will be informed at the validation stage.

#### **Application/Notice Timings:**

##### **MAJOR:**

- Aim to issue a decision within **4 weeks**
- Consultation with Parish/Town Councils
- Site Notice displayed & Neighbours consulted:

##### **MINOR:**

- Aim to issue a decision within **5-10 days**
- No consultation with Parish/Town Councils (see reverse)
- No consultation with members of the public (see reverse)

Objections/concerns may be raised from consultees, additional time will be needed to address issues, the time limit is a guide time and not guaranteed (maximum time limit for consideration of S.211 Notices—Trees in Conservation Areas is 6 weeks).