



DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



DRAFT TREES AND WOODLANDS POLICY 2015 – 2020

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Part 1 - Welcome to the Dacorum Borough Council Trees and Woodlands Policy

This Trees and Woodlands Policy 2015/20 considers the rich heritage of trees within Dacorum Borough, addresses the concerns expressed by residents and outlines our approach to management especially when people, their property and trees are in close proximity.

The policy relates only to those trees for which Dacorum Borough Council owns or has a direct responsibility for. It describes where publicly owned trees are situated and our approach to managing them within the constraints of public sector funding.

The policy describes in detail how we give each tree a 'Life' rating according to its condition and situation.

Where people, their property and trees come into conflict, the policy will describe the possible solutions and against a background of limited public finances will detail a system of priorities which will guide residents, elected members and employees.

David Austin
Assistant Director – Neighbourhood Delivery
December 2014

The trees and woodlands which are spread around the Borough are a cherished asset which needs to be nurtured and maintained.

This document, which has been compiled by our expert tree officers, gives the essential and necessary guidance to ensure we are able to preserve and enhance our trees and woodlands.

I appreciate all the attention to detail that has gone into producing this document, which gives me confidence that it will ensure the wonderful vibrant green lungs trees provide will continue to thrive in years to come.

Cllr Julie Laws
Portfolio Holder Environmental Services and Sustainability
December 2014

A Summary of the Trees and Woodlands Policies

Policy 1 The Council will value our heritage of trees, both those retained from past agricultural land use and those planted as part of our townscapes.

Policy 2 The Council will, wherever possible, retain and enhance tree cover within the Dacorum Borough landscape.

Policy 3 The Council will undertake and record routine tree inspections, to the tree stock for which it has a responsibility.

Policy 4 The Council will undertake such works as considered necessary to maintain public safety within areas of public access

Policy 5 The Council will endeavour to take some action in response to residents' concerns about trees, however, felling or pruning work will be constrained by:

- Good practice as defined by BS 3998: 2010 – 'Tree work – Recommendations'
- Available Funding
- The Council's system of prioritising work
- Existing site management plans

Policy 6 Where major programmed works are proposed the Council will provide information to local residents.

Policy 7 Management of Borough woodlands will be undertaken to achieve the following objectives:

- Public safety and access
- Nature conservation

Policy 8 On land for which it has responsibility, the Council will, where able, plant a new tree to replace one that has been lost.

Policy 9 In order to provide residents with excellent value, the Council will procure the highest quality of tree work services at the most competitive rates.

Policy 10 On land for it has responsibility, the Council will identify ancient trees and undertake any work needed to retain or restore their historic, aesthetic and conservation value.

The Landscape of Dacorum

The Borough of Dacorum was formed in 1974. Its name comes from 'the original hundred' (an old geographic division) and covers the same area. Dacorum includes the long established towns of Hemel Hempstead, Berkhamsted and Tring as well as many villages distributed throughout the area.

The Chilterns landscape is evident in many parts of the Borough with the National Trust's Ashridge Estate dominating the north-west and a network of country lanes and old drovers' routes threading their way through an undulating topography, towards the transportation routes of canal, rail and road.

The spine of Dacorum is punctuated by the Grand Union Canal, railway and old route of the A41 (now A4251) that run close together, through the Borough. Much of the Borough's industry was located close to the canal, including the paper mills of Nash Mills and Kings Langley, home of the world's first mechanised paper mill. Most sites have now been redeveloped for industry or housing

The central area between Hemel Hempstead, Bourne End and extending to Bovingdon and Felden is dominated by the open spaces and woodlands owned and managed by the Box Moor Trust (est.1594). These 480 acres are public open space and currently feature a large herd of Belted Galloway cattle.

To the west, following the main Grand Union Canal and the two smaller Wendover and Aylesbury Arms are the settlements of Long Marston, Puttenham and Astrope, the landscape here is much flatter being part of the Vale of Aylesbury.

The Vale of Aylesbury (shared with Aylesbury Vale DC) is almost entirely agricultural and has a greater concentration of native Black Poplar trees than anywhere else in the UK. Black Poplar is one of Britain's rarest native trees.

The old market towns of Tring, Berkhamsted and the New Town of Hemel Hempstead have all expanded greatly since the Second World War. Most of the expansion has been to provide housing and so all three towns have networks of streets, public housing areas and amenity spaces.

These three towns contain many thousands of planted trees in highway verges, estates and parks. In Hemel Hempstead the old agricultural landscape of fields and boundaries dictated the layout of the New Town development. Within the road network, housing estates and private gardens there are over 400 oak trees which date from the former agricultural land use. Dacorum's logo contains seven oak leaves and so this legacy is particularly significant.

People and Trees

Evidence of a relationship between man and trees goes back to Neolithic times. Timber track ways have been found in Plumstead and Somerset, dating back nearly 6000 years. Early man learnt how to cut and fashion tree material in order to create walkways across bog land.

Early man also relied heavily on the nutritional value of hazel nuts. Ease of harvesting and ability to store through the winter months, made them particularly useful. Man's relationship with Hazel went on to make it the most versatile and useful tree that grows in Britain.



Hurdle Fence (Hazel)



Sweet Chestnut fencing material

Before modern materials and on line energy, trees were felled for construction timber, such as building frames, ships or church towers, while smaller (non-timber) trees were cyclically cropped (coppiced) on a rotational basis to provide material for firewood, charcoal, small construction wood (wattle & daub), tool handles and wattle fencing/hurdles.

There are still many thousands of buildings throughout Britain built with oak timber frames with Hazel wattle infill. The great medieval church spires such as Chesterfield and Salisbury have huge circular rings and uprights of oak timber that bear the weight of the stonework.



Church spire, oak frame



Tithe Barn roof, oak frame

As Britain colonised and traded with the rest of the world, so an elite ruling class emerged. During Victorian times it became fashionable for wealthy land owners to send plant explorers abroad to discover and bring back exotic trees in the hope they could be established in parkland and formal gardens which surrounded their large country houses.

This practice which became a game of one-upmanship explains our rich heritage of exotic trees such as Swamp Cypress, Giant Redwood, Corsican Pine and Cedar of Lebanon that can still be seen in the gardens of large country houses and now copied into our modern parks and gardens. This period marked the beginning of trees being planted as an amenity as opposed to their value for material or fuel.



Cappadocian Maple, Bennetts End Road, Hemel Hempstead

Pre and post war expansion of towns and cities led to the creation of suburbs and New Towns. New networks of highways, houses, estates, schools, parks and open spaces sprang up to accommodate an expanding population. To add to the framework of retained trees which existed from former land uses, new trees were planted in roads, estates and parks for the purpose of providing an amenity.

For the first time this brought people and their properties into close proximity with trees. While the majority of residents appreciate living in a green and well treed Borough, this sometimes close relationship between people and trees is not always enjoyed and on occasions leads to conflict.

Current Management Structure

Dacorum's Trees & Woodlands Management Team

Within the Council's Environmental Services Group, the Clean, Safe and Green [CSG] section is responsible for all aspects of Green Space management and Street Care. The Trees, Woodlands & Countryside Access Team [TW&CA] are part of CSG.

On behalf of Dacorum Borough Council the Trees & Woodlands team provide the following services:

- management of the Borough's estimated 33,000 publicly owned trees, mainly situated on the highway network (HCC owned), parks & open spaces and housing estates
- provision of best value for Borough residents in respect of tree management and maintenance
- management of woodlands and other areas set aside for informal recreation and nature conservation
- development of Council Housing landscape areas
- management and maintenance of the Borough's network of public rights of way
- advice to the Council's Development Management Team in respect of Tree Preservation Orders, Conservation Areas and new developments



Part 2 - Dacorum Borough Council Trees and Woodlands Policy - A Quick Guide



Japanese Cherry (Shirofugen) Memorial Gardens, Tring

Management of Dacorum's Trees

Policy 1 - *The Council will value our heritage of trees both those retained from past agricultural land use and those planted as part of the development of our towns.*

Policy 2 - *The Council will, wherever, possible retain and enhance the tree cover within the Dacorum Borough landscape.*

Policy 3 - *The Council will undertake and record routine tree inspections to the tree stock for which it has a responsibility.*

Inspections and Enquiries

Dacorum Council is responsible for approximately 33,000 trees. These trees are situated in three main areas:

- Highway land
- Parks and Woodlands
- Public Housing land

The Council holds historical records for all trees it manages and makes regular safety inspections. Records are all held on a standard industry system data base designed specifically for tree management.

Policy 4 - *The Council will undertake such works as considered necessary to maintain public safety*

There is a presumption that established trees will remain and not require any attention however the Council recognises that trees sometimes cause inconvenience to residents, become diseased, dangerous or occasionally outgrow their locations.

In order to assist the management of our large tree population a ranking system called 'Life' has been introduced. 'Life' looks across the treescape, considers a wide range of factors and on a 1 – 6 score, rates how far a tree has progressed through its life in a given site (**see Part 3 'Life'**).

Policy 5 - *The Council will endeavour to take some action in response to residents' concerns about trees, however, pruning or felling work will be constrained by:*

- ***Good practice as defined by BS 3998: 2010 – Recommendations for Tree Work***
- ***Available Funding***
- ***The Council's system of prioritising work***

In order to maintain public safety or to improve the relationship between a householder and nearby tree, tree work is sometimes commissioned. It may be pruning, making the tree less dense and/or smaller or in some circumstances, felling.

Tree work to maintain public safety will always take priority over work to deal with minor inconvenience. Public funding is also limited and so a system of priorities has been developed. On a score of A – F, priority is given to trees which are a threat to public safety (rated A) with minor trees causing inconvenience being (rated F).

Policy 6 - Where major programmed works are proposed, the Council will provide information to local residents.

Trees in Public Housing Areas

Residents living in properties without individual gardens but surrounded by community grounds, usually grassed areas containing trees, can expect tree inspections and works in accordance with this policy. However, residents living in tenanted individual properties with their own gardens do not benefit from routine inspections and will have to request an inspection should they have concerns.

Management of Borough Woodlands

Policy 7 - Management of Borough woodlands will be undertaken to achieve the following objectives:

- ***Public safety and access***
- ***Enhancement of nature conservation interest***

The Council is responsible for 19 separate areas of woodland throughout the Borough. One is a Site of Special Scientific Interest, one has a Green Flag award and two are designated Local Nature Reserves.

Management work is designed to maintain reasonable levels of public safety and to provide safe access along rights of way, paths and boundaries. Works are also designed to maintain the nature conservation interest and where possible to increase site bio-diversity and as a result might be removing trees to create glades and other features.

New Trees

Policy 8 – The Council will, where appropriate, plant a new tree to replace one that has been lost.

In order for future generations to enjoy the rich heritage of trees which are enjoyed by the present, we will endeavour to keep pace with tree loss by planting new trees.

Finance and Value for Money

Policy 9 - In order to provide residents with excellent value, the Council will procure the highest quality of tree work services at the most competitive rates.

Funding for tree work is cash-limited and comes mainly from three different sources:

- Highway Trees – Hertfordshire County Council
- Parks & Woodlands – Environmental Services, DBC
- Public Housing Land – Housing Services, DBC

Demand for tree work is now and will, for the foreseeable future, be greater than available funding. Tree work will therefore be undertaken on the basis of the priorities set out in detail in Part 3, **Priorities**.

The Council commissions' tree work through both external contractors and a small workforce of its own; we endeavour to provide Borough residents with excellent services.

Trees and the Law

There are some laws that have a direct impact on trees alone however there are a number of both statute and common law which have implications for trees. They include:

- Town & Country Planning Act 1990
- Town & Country Planning (Tree Preservation)(England) Regulations 2012
- Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981
- Conservation of Habitats & Species Regulations 2010
- Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976
- Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003: Part 8 2005
- Right to Remove Overhang from Trees
- Right to Light
- Television Signals
- Solar Panels

Ancient Trees

Policy 10 - On land for which it has responsibility for, we will identify ancient trees and undertake any work needed to retain or restore their historic, aesthetic and conservation value.

Compared to many historic environment features, the living history embodied in our ancient trees are often forgotten parts of our cultural heritage, many are not recorded or actively managed. Britain has more ancient trees than most countries in Europe and their conservation is of international interest.

Dacorum has many old trees of historical interest, many of them situated on old boundary banks. Chipperfield Common has a number of sweet chestnuts that are estimated to be around 350 years old.

Trees in Private Ownership

Trees on private land at all times are the responsibility of the property owner.

Owners have a duty of care to others and are strongly recommended to have mature trees regularly inspected and to be in receipt of a written report by a competent tree worker or consultant.

Many of the important trees and woodlands are protected by Tree Preservation Orders and inclusion within Conservation Areas.

Part 3 – Dacorum Borough Council Trees and Woodlands Policy - Information



English Oak, Great Elms Road, Hemel Hempstead

Tree Management

Tree Records

Dacorum Borough Council is responsible for approximately 33,000 trees. These trees fall into three main areas:

Highways

Hertfordshire County Council is the controlling authority for the Borough's road and footways network. Through an agency agreement, Clean, Safe & Green [CSG] undertakes various aspects of highway management including grass cutting and tree management. There are approximately 10,000 trees situated on roundabouts, grass verges and footways.

There are a mixture of trees which have been planted since the 1960s when the towns were expanded including limes, maples and cherries. There is also a framework of trees which have remained since the land was being farmed, these are mainly oaks, some of which are very large and in excess of 250 years old.

Parks and Open Spaces

Dacorum has a rich variety of formal parks, open spaces, wildlife sites and woodlands. Within the traditional parks there are a wide variety of trees some dating back to when the land used to be part of a Country House or part of a larger estate such as Tring Memorial Gardens, Dundale Woods in Tring and Northridge Park in Hemel Hempstead.

Bunkers Park, Shrubhill Common and Tring Park (on lease to The Woodland Trust) are among a number of informal areas in Dacorum, usually distinguished by meadow and wooded areas with a network of paths and a greater emphasis on nature conservation.

Public Housing Land

Residents living in properties without individual gardens but surrounded by community grounds, usually grassed areas containing trees, may expect tree inspections and works in accordance with this policy. There are in excess of 9,000 trees growing on land surrounding flats and sheltered housing. However, residents living in tenanted individual properties with their own gardens do not benefit from routine inspections and will have to request an inspection should they have concerns about a tree. The cost of on going tree work will be in accordance with the Tenants' Handbook or at the discretion of the local Housing Officer.

Tree Inspections

The Council holds historical records for all trees for which it has responsibility and employs a full time Tree Inspector. The records are held on a standard industry data base specifically designed for tree management.

Data recorded includes:

- Tree species
- Size
- Distance to property
- 'Life' (see below)
- Inspection record
- Tree work recommended
- Priority

Trees are inspected in accordance with their 'Life' rating and any change in their condition noted. Trees that attract a 'Life 4' rating are inspected annually while 1,2 & 3 s tri-annually.

There is a presumption that established trees do not require any attention however the Council recognises that trees sometimes cause inconvenience to residents, can cause property damage, become diseased, dangerous or occasionally outgrow their positions. Our first consideration will always be public safety.

Each year we receive many enquiries from residents about trees ranging from concerns about the safety of a tree, to concerns about tree root damage to property, to daylight exclusion, to wildlife associated with trees.

Members of the Trees & Woodlands team will inspect trees when residents have expressed concerns and will try to find a solution which will help to improve the relationship between the resident, their property and the tree (s).

Life

The purpose of 'Life' is to be able to indicate how far a tree is through its life in any given location with the application of a single number. The assessment cuts across species, size, location, condition and ultimately gives a projection of tree cover for a given site for the present, looking ahead to the medium term and helps with management priorities.

For example – a 15 year old established tree with good form and health, in the middle of a park may attract a '2' – 'vigorous, not affecting its surroundings', 'should remain for the rest of its natural life'. However take exactly the same tree which has seeded itself next to and is damaging a wall would attract a '5' – 'having a serious effect on the built environment and most likely be removed'.

'Life 3' will make up the main body of tree cover in any given area. Young and semi mature trees at 'Life '1' & '2' are the future '3s', while 'Life '4' & '5' are towards the other end of their lives with moderate to serious issues identified.

Using the 1-6 scoring method the entire tree cover of an area can be assessed as follows:

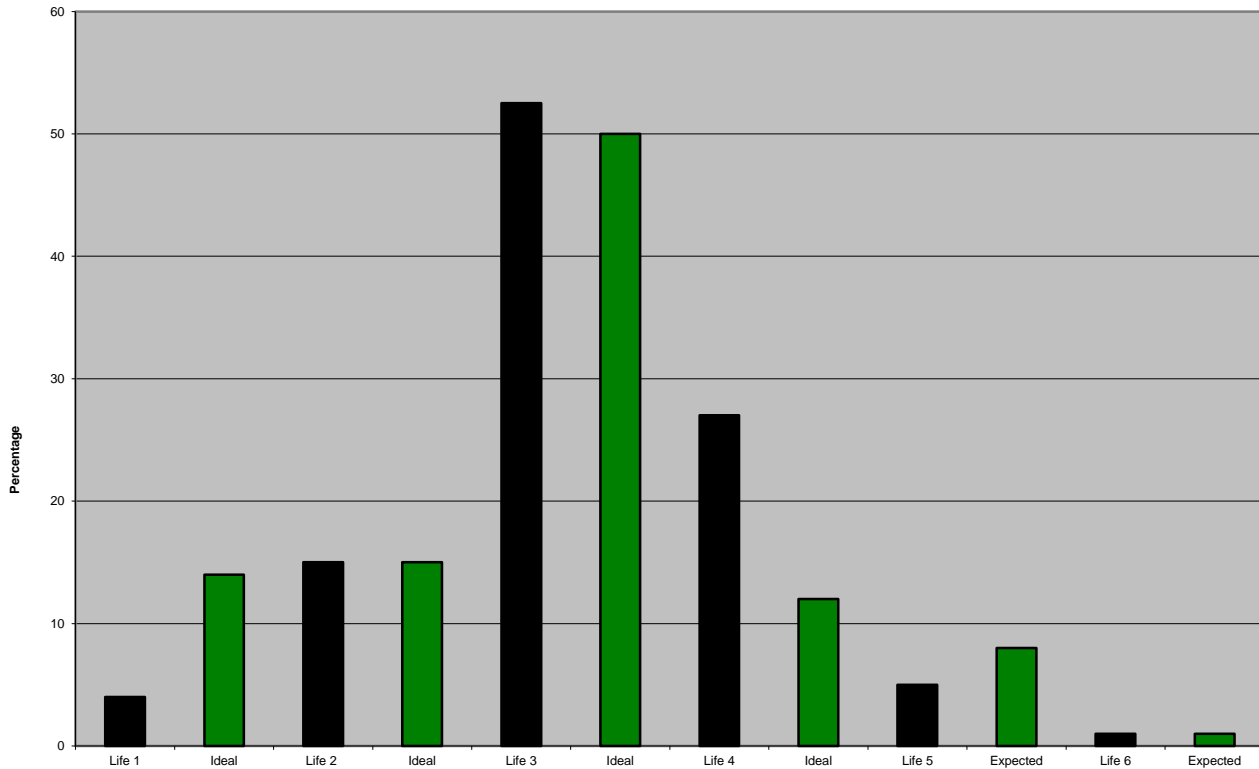


Chart showing an example of trees within a defined area. The green bars provide an approximate ideal percentage of tree cover per Life category and the black bars are the results of a survey. The chart shows that there are a number of Life 5 trees that need addressing without delay, more Life 4 trees than expected, (these must be inspected annually) and that Life 1 numbers are low and some investment is needed in young trees.

#	Description	Examples	Typical Action	Deadline
1	<p>Young tree.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Under ten years old, still establishing 	<p>1 – 3 years since planting</p> <p>5 -10 years since planting</p>	<p>Watering, weed control or</p> <p>Stake removal, formative pruning</p>	<p>As required</p> <p>As required</p>
2	<p>Semi mature tree.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ No visible defects or conditions ➤ Unaffected by any condition either environmental or human caused ➤ Not affecting or likely to affect structures, services or surfaces ➤ Is an excellent choice for the site ➤ Long term retention 	<p>Structurally excellent</p> <p>Good leaf colour and size</p> <p>Positioned so not currently or ever likely to cause any problems to the built environment</p> <p>Expectation is that tree will fully mature without problems</p> <p>Should remain for the duration of its natural life</p>	<p>Generally none</p> <p>Generally none</p> <p>Generally none</p> <p>Generally none</p>	
3	<p>Semi mature or mature tree.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Has minor structural defects or non serious condition 	<p>Twin or multi-stemmed tree with stable joints or minor leaf blight e.g. mildew</p> <p>Slight thinning of crown, minor leaf discoloration</p>	<p>Generally none</p> <p>Generally none</p>	

#	Description	Examples	Typical Action	Deadline
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Is being slightly affected by environmental conditions either natural or human caused ➤ Beginning to slightly affect minor structures or surfaces ➤ Is now a mature tree ➤ Is a good choice for the site ➤ Medium to long term retention 	<p>Caused by drought stress or minor changes to surface near tree.</p> <p>Slight cracking to tarmac path or garden wall</p> <p>Mature for its species, no longer vigorous</p> <p>Expectation is that tree will mature without further problems and may only need minor attention</p> <p>Should remain for the majority of its natural life</p>	<p>Generally none</p> <p>Generally none</p> <p>Occasional crown lift or other minor work</p>	<p>As needed</p> <p>Inspect on a three year rotation</p>
4	<p>Semi mature or mature tree.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Has moderate structural defects or moderately serious condition ➤ Is being moderately affected by environmental conditions either natural or human-caused 	<p>Twin or multi-stemmed tree with potentially unstable joints or leaf condition such as Horse Chestnut leaf minor</p> <p>Moderate thinning of crown, leaf discoloration/premature defoliation cause - drought stress or surface changes</p>	<p>Take such action as needed to ensure public safety and retain the tree as an amenity</p> <p>Take such action as needed to ensure public safety and retain the tree as an amenity</p>	<p>Inspect annually</p> <p>Inspect annually</p>

#	Description	Examples	Typical Action	Deadline
4	➤ Is moderately or seriously affecting minor structures. A property (house) is within its zone of influence.	Moderate or serious disruption to footpath, patio garden wall	Liaise with Herts Highways, possible root prune/removal	As required
		The Council is advised of a subsidence claim in respect of nearby property	Liaise with DBC insurance section, possible prune/remove	As required
	➤ Is only a fair choice for the site	For example, a medium to large species of tree growing in a residential street	May need intervention pruning to ensure a reasonable relationship between people/tree and or property/tree	As required
	➤ Is a poor choice for the site	May be a relatively young tree but totally in the wrong place	Fell most likely	As required
	➤ Promoted from 5 to 4	May have an otherwise serious condition but following management has been promoted to 4	Annual inspection	Inspect annually
	➤ Short to medium term retention	Tree will usually need some form of intervention prior to reaching maturity.	Prune or remove as needed	As required
	➤ Trees situated in high risk positions such as school routes or major roads	May have otherwise attracted a Life 3 rating but because of its position and potential risk is given a Life 4	Prune or remove as needed	Inspect annually

#	Description	Examples	Typical Action	Deadline
5	Semi mature or mature tree			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Has serious structural defects or serious health condition 	Twin or multi-stemmed tree with visibly unstable joints or fungal bodies, decay or movement at ground level	Management plan required, either investigate further, and decide that pruning is required after which tree can become a Life 4 or decide to down grade to a Life 6 and fell	Without delay
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Is being seriously affected by environmental conditions either natural or human caused 	Severe thinning of crown, leaf discoloration/premature defoliation caused by drought stress or changes to surface near tree	As above. Tree must be either managed back to a 4 or promoted to a 6	Without delay
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Dead or collapse imminent 	Dead or dangerous tree	Fell (unless being retained for conservation reasons)	Without delay

Priorities

Requests for tree work are numerous, the available funding is cash limited and therefore demand is greater than our ability to meet requests from residents. In order to address this issue a system of prioritisation exists within our tree data base. On a score of A - F, priority is given to trees which are a threat to public safety and property:

- A. Failure to act to a foreseeable problem which places life in danger or risks injury
- B. Failure to act to a foreseeable problem which puts property at risk (loaded structures, house subsidence)
- C. Failure to act to a foreseeable problem which puts property at risk (fences, roofs, other unloaded structures)
- D. Community concerns
- E. Large tree causing inconvenience
- F. Small tree causing inconvenience

Enquiries

Following a routine enquiry from a Borough resident about trees, usually situated nearby their property, an additional inspection will be made and we will endeavour to find a solution to improve the relationship between the resident and nearby tree or provide reassurance.

It is a reasonable presumption that not all work which has been identified as a solution can be carried out because of budget limitations, in these circumstances, work will be considered as set out in 'Priorities'.

Priority A - work will be undertaken on an urgent or emergency basis

B, C & D - work will only be commissioned where the budget allocation allows.

Priority E & F - work will be undertaken as programmed works, where the budget allows.

Programmed tree work will conform to current British Standards 3998.

Where major tree work, pruning or removals is planned, we will advise local residents of what is proposed and provide an opportunity for enquiries and clarification.

The Council will from time to time undertake tree work that is part of another project and for which alternative or external funding has been secured.

Tree Work Types

Pruning – the removal of selected branches

Where a pruning solution has been identified to improve the relationship between householder and tree it will take one or a combination of the following forms: crown lifting, thinning, reduction, cutting back selected branches or re-pollarding.

Tree pruning is the most frequently practised form of tree work and often considered to be something undertaken for the good of the tree however this is infrequently the case.

While pruning can be undertaken to address residents' concerns, any work that exposes the internal woody tissue is a form of damage which can be detrimental to the tree in the long term.

Well planned and properly executed pruning can reduce the probability of structural failure and so reduce the risk to people and their property, while often prolonging the tree's safe life. However, pruning is a form of damage which removes foliage and disrupts the network of living cells. The amount of pruning and size of the resultant wounds therefore needs to be kept to the minimum required for the particular objective.

Crown Lifting

Crown lifting involves the removal of lower branches in order to achieve vertical clearance from ground level.

The purpose of crown lifting includes:

- Giving clearance for passing traffic or pedestrians
- Giving clearance to a property
- Allowing more light to pass under the main tree crown and into a property
- Re-establishing a desirable view

Crown Thinning

Crown thinning involves the removal of selected branches throughout the tree crown, which reduces density while retaining the tree's overall height and width. The percentage of leaf bearing material to be removed should be kept to the minimum and in any case should not exceed 30%.

The purpose of crown thinning includes:

- Allowing more light to pass through the main tree crown and into a property
- Reduces wind resistance while maintaining natural crown form

Crown Reduction

Crown reduction involves the shortening of branches/limbs throughout the tree crown and reduces the tree's overall height and width by an appropriate percentage combined with finished height, width or branch length. Crown reduction should not usually exceed 30%, which is equivalent to approximately 12% of branch length. Not all species or individual trees are suitable candidates for crown reduction.

The purpose of crown reduction includes:

- alleviating stress by reducing leverage and sail area
- managing crown structures of mature trees
- allowing retention of a tree in a confined space

Re-Pollarding

Re-pollarding is only undertaken to those trees which have been previously managed on a pollarding regime and involves the removal of all branches back to the historical cutting point. Re-pollarding is a cyclical operation, the basis of the frequency to be decided according to site objectives, age or condition of the tree.

The purpose of re-pollarding includes:

- maintaining a tree which otherwise may be too large for its position
- retaining an ancient tree
- retaining a tree for its historical or nature conservation interest



Felling

In some circumstances, a tree may need to be felled completely and in certain circumstances, the roots removed. Reasons for complete removal of trees include:

- tree is dead, dying, diseased
- tree can no longer be viably managed
- tree has caused serious damage to property
- tree is causing disruption to a footway which cannot be repaired
- removal is part of a programme of renewal where existing trees are unsuitable and have now become out of scale with their surroundings.

New Trees

The planting of a tree, especially one of the long living hardwood trees, is a gift which you can make to posterity at almost no cost and with no trouble, and if the tree takes root it will far outlive the visible effect of any of your other actions, good or evil
George Orwell, author

In order for future generations to enjoy the rich heritage of trees which are enjoyed by the present generation we will endeavour to keep pace with tree loss by planting new trees.

Where possible, a new tree will be planted in a similar position to the old one. However as a general rule, not in the exact same position because of the original root system which may have become colonised with decay fungus that could infect the new tree.

We will choose appropriate species for the chosen location, blending seasonal attractions such as blossom or autumn colours with practical considerations such as proximity to buildings or street lights.

We will select a lesser number of high quality container grown trees in favour of high numbers of lesser quality stock and through our term tree work contract, will ensure that new stock is cared for and replaced if necessary.

We will work with any resident wishing to fund a memorial tree, suggesting a suitable species and location. Plaques are discouraged because of disturbance sometimes experienced in public areas.

A preservationist seeks to preserve every tree and achieves nothing, a conservationist cuts down selected trees, creating light and space for people and wildlife to enjoy
Colin Chambers

Borough Woodlands

Some of our woodlands, such as Kings Langley and Chipperfield Commons, have only emerged in the last 80 – 100 years since stock grazing ceased. In the case of Chipperfield Common there was an existing framework of trees including eight sweet chestnuts all estimated to be in excess of 350 years old, making them the Borough's oldest trees.

Most of the woodlands in Hemel Hempstead have the remains of flint (for house building) or clay (for brick making) mining quarries in the form of craters now mostly covered by trees that have colonised the site since the mining ceased.

Howe Grove, Hemel Hempstead is a local nature reserve and Tring Woods are a designated Site of Special Scientific Interest.

Management work is designed to maintain reasonable levels of public safety and to provide safe access along rights of way and paths. Works are also designed to maintain the nature conservation interest and where possible to increase site bio-diversity.

Many of our woodlands have become dark and overgrown especially adjacent to main access paths. In order to provide a more secure place to walk and increase light levels, many paths in Borough woodlands now have a 4 metre 'edge' where trees and undergrowth have been removed.



Borough Woodlands

Name	Road	Town	Hectares	Acres	Designation
Chipperfield Common	The Common	Chipperfield	47.5	118	Green Flag Award, Wildlife Site
Chambersbury Wood	Chamberbury Lane	Hemel Hempstead	10.6	26.1	
Dunster Copse	Dunster Road	Hemel Hempstead	0.6	1.4	
Gravel Hill Spring	Warners End Road	Hemel Hempstead	1.9	4.6	
Hanging Wood	Bourne End Lane	Hemel Hempstead	7.0	17.2	
High Wood	Shenley Road	Hemel Hempstead	0.75	1.8	
Howe Grove	East West Link Road	Hemel Hempstead	8.3	20.5	Local Nature Reserve
Hunting Gate Wood	Marlborough Rise	Hemel Hempstead	0.9	2.2	
Little Wood	Chambersbury Lane	Hemel Hempstead	0.75	1.8	
Maylands Wood	Briery Way	Hemel Hempstead	4.7	11.6	Wildlife Site
Rant Meadow Wood	Acorn Road	Hemel Hempstead	2.9	7.1	Wildlife Site
Shrub Hill Common	Jocketts Road	Hemel Hempstead	2.5	6.1	Local Nature Reserve, Wildlife Site
Warners End & Home Wood	Galley Hill	Hemel Hempstead	6.1	15	Wildlife Site
Widmore Wood	High Street Green	Hemel Hempstead	2.7	6.6	Wildlife Site
Woodhall Wood	Redbourn Road	Hemel Hempstead	2.2	5.4	Wildlife Site
Yew Tree Wood	Redbourn Road	Hemel Hempstead	1.1	2.7	
The Beeches	Chiltern Park Estate	Berkhamsted	2.2	5.4	Wildlife Site
Tring Woods	West Leith	Tring	24.6	60.78	Site of Special Scientific Interest, Wildlife Site
Woodland Close Wood	Woodland Close	Tring	0.1	0.24	

Ancient Trees

'The man of science and of taste will... discover the beauties in a tree, which the others would condemn for its decay...'

Humphry Repton, landscape gardener, 1803

Compared to many historic environment features, ancient/ancient trees are often forgotten parts of our cultural heritage and many are not recorded or actively managed. Many trees are indicators of past land management and use. They vary widely in species and physically take many forms such as coppice, pollard, stubb or maiden. However, unlike most other heritage features, these trees also have an added ecological value. Ancient trees may support a wide range of fauna and fungal bodies, many of which are only associated with long periods of continuity in their habitat. Britain has more ancient trees than most countries in Europe and their conservation is of international interest. Ancient trees do not have an even distribution throughout Britain, in some areas they can be very sparse. Conversely, in areas of historic parkland, estates, and some royal forests, high densities are still found. Many forest districts are now mapping their ancient trees onto GIS (Geographical Information System). Whilst the mapping and management of ancient trees is not as comprehensive as archaeological features, there are several organisations holding and collating data and providing management advice. Other ancient tree data is also held by organisations such as The Ancient Tree Initiative or The Ancient Tree Forum.

The term ancient tree is not precisely defined, as various criteria may determine the ancient status of an individual tree when compared to others. For example, a tree may be regarded as a ancient due to great age; great age relative to others of the same species; existing in an ancient stage of life or due to its biological, aesthetic or cultural interest. Size alone is a poor indicator of ancient status, as different species may have different rates of growth or natural life spans. Management practices such as coppicing may also belittle the true age of the coppice stool. For this reason, the species, relative ages, management practice, aesthetic, cultural and biological importance should all be taken into account when surveying or assessing potential ancient trees.



The Importance of Ancient Trees

- They have a high landscape/amenity value.
- Cultural and historical heritage; ‘working trees’ pollarded to produce a supply of fuelwood or fodder. They provide continuity in a changing world and are often associated with historical events or characters.
- Ecological importance (last remnants of deadwood habitats that once existed throughout the ‘wildwood’); providing habitats for rare fungi, invertebrates, lichens, birds and bats. Their structural complexity provides many niche habitats that do not co-exist on younger trees.
- The places where ancient trees are found: Britain has more ancient trees than most other countries in northern Europe. They are found on wooded commons, rural parklands, wooded Royal Forests, as individual trees or clumps on farmland, upland grazed woodlands, parish and other boundaries, avenues within the designed landscape, churchyards, on river banks and urban streets.

For more information see <http://www.ancient-tree-forum.org.uk>

Trees in Private Ownership

Trees on private land are the responsibility of the property owner. Properties situated within Conservation Areas and trees which are the subject of Tree Preservation Orders are, in the event of proposed tree works, subject to a Planning Application or notice of intention to undertake works (Section 211). The Miscellaneous Provisions Act, which gives the right to remove overhanging branches, and high hedges legalisation, may all have implications for private trees.

Owners are strongly recommended to have mature trees regularly inspected and to be in receipt of a written report by a competent tree worker or consultant.

Finance

Tree management in Dacorum is funded mainly from three different sources.

- Highway Trees – Hertfordshire County Council
- Parks & Woodlands – Environmental Services, DBC
- Public Housing Land – Housing Services, DBC

Funding levels between the three sources vary and so the potential exists for different levels of treework to be undertaken on trees which may be close to each other. For example, parks or woodland trees are better funded than trees on the highway network.

Hertfordshire County Council have principle responsibility for the adopted network of roads, pavements and footpaths. Through an agency agreement, Dacorum Borough Council manages all aspects of vegetation control from grass to shrubs to trees. On behalf of the Council, Clean, Safe & Green undertake the majority of this work with a combination of employed and contract labour.

Parks and woodland management is funded directly by Environmental Services and covers formal parks, open spaces and woodlands. Located throughout the Borough, there are 19 different areas of woodland covering a total of 127 hectares or 314 acres. Management focuses on public safety, access and nature conservation.

All aspects of vegetation control, including tree management in public housing areas throughout the Borough is funded by Housing Services. Work is undertaken by Clean, Safe and Green on behalf of Housing Services and controlled through a Service Level Agreement.

A monthly meeting takes place between Housing Services and Clean, Safe and Green to discuss services requests and to convey concerns and issues raised by tenants.

Value for Money

Since the Government's introduction of Compulsory Competitive Tendering (CCT) in the 80s, local councils have refined methods employed to procure excellent services on behalf of local residents. When CCT was first introduced it concentrated on who would provide services for the cheapest price and tended to ignore things like work quality, staff training and environmental considerations.

In keeping with Dacorum Borough Council's current procurement process a tendering procedure was undertaken to ensure value for money. A specification was written detailing all aspects of tree work, Health and Safety, requirements for machinery and plant, environment standards, staff training and customer care. A number of local tree work companies were invited to tender for a contract lasting up to four years (ends 2017)

After detailed tender analysis based on price, quality and environmental standards, two Hertfordshire based companies have been awarded contracts one for Dacorum north, the other for Dacorum south.

Monthly contract meetings are held between members of the Trees & Woodlands team and the two companies to review performance, standards, safety and any customer care issues.

Trees and the Law



Many enquiries are received each year about trees in both public and private ownership. There are frequent misconceptions such as the right to light or television signal while others may be blighted by, for example, a tall evergreen hedge growing in an adjacent property.

There are some laws which have a direct impact on trees alone and their management however there are a number of both Statute and Common laws which have implications for trees. Statute law includes those passed by an Act of Parliament whereas Common Law is based on a court judgement.

Woodman spare that tree! Touch not a single bough. In youth it sheltered me, and now I'll protect it.

Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Philosopher 1712-1778

The Town & Country Planning Act 1990 and The Town & Country Planning (Tree Preservation)(England) Regulations 2012

This legislation provides a framework of regulation whereby local Councils can

- protect trees by making them the subject of a Tree Preservation Order (TPO).
- allows Councils to designate Conservation Areas that protect the infrastructure of buildings and trees.

- owners or agents of trees that are the subject of TPO or within a Conservation Area must make a planning application (currently free) or give notice under section 211, prior to undertaking any form of work to a protected tree.
- within a Conservation Area trees of less than 75mm diameter measured 1.5 metres from ground level are exempt. The Local Planning Authority (LPA) has 6 weeks to respond to a Conservation Area notification.
- in the event of permission to prune or fell a tree which is the subject of a TPO being refused, owners or agents can appeal directly to the Secretary of State and an independent inspector will conduct a hearing and determine a final outcome.
- in the event of the LPA wishing to refuse permission to fell or prune a tree in a Conservation Area, the tree in question must be made the subject of a TPO. Owners or agents may appeal against the imposition of a TPO and in such instances a panel of Borough Councillors will determine the appeal.
- forms to make an application for work to a tree subject to a TPO or to issue a notification for trees in Conservation areas, can be found on the Dacorum Borough Council website

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

The Wildlife and Countryside Act provides a high level of protection for wildlife including birds, animals and plants. Trees provide places for many species to feed, roost and breed.

- tree work is particularly liable to disturb birds and bats, it is unlawful to disturb the nest, eggs or young of a breeding bird. Prior to undertaking any form of tree or hedge work between March and September, a survey should be undertaken, ideally by someone qualified and independent, to ensure that no breeding birds are present.
- bats can be present in trees all the year round and it is unlawful to disturb bats, destroy their habitat or handle them. Prior to undertaking any form of tree work, particularly on older trees, a visual survey should be undertaken for evidence of the presence of bats. If it is suspected that bats are using a tree that is due to be worked on then a licensed bat worker should be engaged.

For more information see, <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-1377>

Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976

Section 23 Dangerous Trees and Excavations

The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act gives Local Authorities the powers to enter private land and deal with dangerous trees.

- the powers given to local councils are discretionary
- before the Council gives consideration to acting in respect of an allegedly dangerous tree the enquirer must prove they have done everything reasonable to persuade the tree owner to take action
- the Council will give a higher priority to trees which may endanger the public at large

For more information, see <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1976/57/section/23>

Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003: Part 8 in 2005

High Hedges

Following a number of high profile cases highlighted on television and in newspapers, the Government made laws empowering Local Authorities to consider high hedges that are alleged to be causing a nuisance. The legislation was included in the Anti-Social Behaviour Act.

An aggrieved party can make a complaint about a high hedge to the Council.

The Council can only take action if the hedge is:

- 2 or more mostly evergreen or semi-evergreen trees or shrubs
- over 2 metres tall
- affecting your enjoyment of your home or garden because it is too tall

If the hedge is in any of these categories residents may ask the Council to take action and should contact Dacorum Borough Council's Environmental Health Section, 01442 228000.

Local Authorities make a charge to the complainant for administration.

The Council will look at the height of hedge, distance to property and level of daylight exclusion, and in certain cases may serve a notice on the owner to reduce the height of their hedge and maintain it at a specified height. The owner of the hedge will have to pay for the work required.

For more information see, <https://www.gov.uk/how-to-resolve-neighbour-disputes/high-hedges-trees-and-boundaries>

Overhanging Trees

Property owners have a Common Law right to remove those parts of the tree which overhang their boundary from a neighbour's tree.

- in law the branches may only be cut back to the boundary and this must be done without crossing or placing equipment into the neighbour's land or air space.
- if the tree is the subject of a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) or situated within a Conservation Area then the Common law right is removed and application or notice (section 211) to remove overhanging branches must be made to the Local Planning Authority.
- permission to remove overhang is not required from the tree owner however it is advisable to inform your neighbour of your intentions and should ask them whether they want the cut material returned to them. If they do not want it, then it is your responsibility to dispose of it.
- removal of overhanging tree branches cannot be re-charged to the tree owner.
- financial gain by converting the cut material into a saleable product, for example, logs, could result in an actionable case against you.

Right to Light

Householders generally enjoy sun and light to their property but this is not an absolute right. However under the Prescriptions Act 1832, a right to light can be acquired provided the light has been uninterrupted for 20 or more years, this is known as an easement.

- this right applies most commonly to a building and more particularly, to a window through which light enters. For the right to be infringed, the loss has to be substantial.
- the right to light has not been established in respect of trees blocking out light and nor is there any right in law to a view.



Television Signals

Trees can interrupt television signals particularly in summertime when leaves are present and conditions are wet and windy. Television pictures can be seriously affected with ghosting and blurred images. The Council recognises that home television is a valued form of entertainment for most households, receiving a signal is a reasonable aspiration and in such cases will, within the constraints already outlined, look for possible solutions.

- the TV license is a permit to operate a television receiver. It does not guarantee any reception and it therefore follows that there is no legal right to reception. There are no court precedents in respect of trees interfering with TV reception. Householders do not have the right to receive television signals.
- tree owners are under no obligation to prune or remove trees in order to provide a signal to nearby properties.
- there will be parts of the Borough where because of trees, possibly combined with land form, receiving satisfactory television signals via a conventional aerial will not be possible.
- possible solutions include signal boosting equipment, aerial raising or tree management. The advice of an aerial specialist should be sought.

Solar Panels

The supply and installation of solar panels has increased significantly in recent years, especially in the south of England. Trees adjacent to a solar array could present a potentially significant impact on solar photovoltaic panels or even solar thermal panels.

Most solar panels in UK residential installations will experience power reduction or loss through shade and can be overly sensitive to even partial shade.

The installation surveyor should point out any potential problems with existing or future shading and explain to you the potential loss in generated electricity due to existing or potential shading.

There is no legal requirement to prevent or negate the shading of solar arrays by trees and this is not at present a legal 'nuisance' as defined in law. The one exception is the High Hedges legislation (see Anti-Social Behavior Act (2003) High Hedges).

Glossary of General Terms

Crown – the upper leafy part of the tree

Prune – the removal of selected branches to achieve a pre-determined objective

Fell – remove a tree down to ground level

Native tree – those tree species that were present in Britain before the English Channel cut us off from the rest of Europe, e.g. oak

Naturalised tree – a tree that was introduced by settlers, grows and reproduces happily in the UK, e.g. horse chestnut

Exotic tree – a tree that has been introduced to these shores or has been produced by plant breeders, grows here but does not reproduce, e.g. Japanese cherry

Ancient tree – A tree that is old, special or dates back to previous land use

Contacts

Dacorum Borough Council – <http://www.dacorum.gov.uk/>

- 01442 228000

Arboricultural Association – <http://www.trees.org.uk/>

- 01242 522152



Frequently Asked Questions

1. Does the Council inspect its trees?
2. How will the Council respond to my enquiry about a tree?
3. How will the Council prioritise tree work?
4. I believe that my property has been damaged by a Council owned tree – What do I do next?
5. Will the Council plant new trees?
6. Can I request that a tree be planted?
7. I think my neighbour's tree is dangerous – What can I do?
8. Branches are overhanging my property– What can I do?
9. Every autumn my property becomes full of leaves from adjacent trees – What can I do?
10. My view has been blocked by tree growth or natural light is now restricted by the tree growth from Council owned trees - What are my rights?
11. My television reception is poor as a result of signal loss caused by nearby Council owned trees – What can I do about it?
12. My neighbour has planted a large tree near my property – What can I do about it?
13. My neighbour has a very tall hedge – Is there anything I can do about it?
14. What is a Tree Preservation Order (TPO)?
15. Do I live in a Conservation Area?
16. Does my tree need pruning?
17. How do I find a tree work contractor
18. Engaging a tree work contractor?
19. Does ivy kill trees?

Q1 - Does the Council inspect its trees?

A - Yes, the Council employs a full time tree inspector. All inspections are recorded on the Council's tree database. Trees are inspected on a frequency of between 1 and 3 years depending on the risk rating given to each tree. See **Policy 3**, Part 2, Management of Dacorum's Trees – **Inspections & Records**, Part 3, Management of Dacorum's Trees – **Life**.

Q2 – How will the Council respond to my enquiry about a tree?

A – The Council will inspect the tree in the light of the issues raised. A solution may be identified however before any work is undertaken the following criteria will apply.

- Good practice as defined by BS 3998: 2010 – Recommendations for Tree Work
- Available Funding
- The Council's system of prioritising work

See **Policy 5**, Part 2, Management of Dacorum's Trees – **Inspections & Records**,

We will endeavour to respond to your enquiry however at any time you can check up on progress yourself by contacting

Q3 – How will the Council prioritise tree work?

A – Tree work will be prioritised in order, to address: persons, property and inconvenience, as follows.

- A - Failure to act to a foreseeable problem which places life in danger or risk of injury
- B - Failure to act to a foreseeable problem which puts property at risk (loaded structures, house subsidence)
- C - Failure to act to a foreseeable problem which puts property at risk (fences, roofs, other unloaded structures)
- D - Community safety
- E - Large tree causing inconvenience
- F - Small tree causing inconvenience

See **Policy 4**, Part 3, Management of Dacorum's Trees – **Priorities**

Q4 – I believe that my property has been damaged by a Council owned tree – What do I do next?

A - If you believe that your property has been damaged by a tree belonging to the Council and you wish to make a claim, you or your appointed agent must obtain two quotes for repair to the damage you feel has occurred.

There is no automatic right to compensation; it is not sufficient for an incident simply to have occurred, the claimant must show that the Council has been negligent in order for it to be found legally liable.

Claims must be sent to: the Insurance and Risk Manager, Civic Centre, Marlowes, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, HP1 1HH.

Q5 – Will the Council plant new trees?

A – Yes, as trees are lost the Council will endeavour to replace with new trees. Not every site that currently has trees is automatically suitable for replacement trees. Sometimes the original trees were planted too densely, sometimes circumstances have changed and so replacement trees may be planted elsewhere in the locality.

See **Policies 2 & 8**, Part 2, Management of Dacorum's Trees – **New Trees**, Part 3, Management of Dacorum's Trees – **New Trees**

Q6 – Can I request that a tree be planted?

A – Yes and your request will be placed on a list to await assessment. Proposed tree planting sites have to be checked for their suitability and whether there are underground services that may prevent safe digging. Species selection will take account of available space and endeavour to provide some seasonal interest such as flowers or autumn colour.

See Part 3, Management of Dacorum's Trees – **New Trees**

If you wish to pay for a special tree to be planted, please say at the time of your request.

To make a tree planting request please contact 01442 228000

Q7 – I think my neighbour's tree is dangerous – What can I do?

A – In the event of a tree being in a dangerous condition, whereby it could cause death or serious injury to somebody in a nearby garden, park or road, contact the Council.

While the Council is unlikely to have any lawful interest in a privately owned tree, it may wish to investigate the matter in the interests of public safety.

See, Part 2, Management of Dacorum's Trees – **Trees in Private Ownership**, Part 3, Management of Dacorum's Trees, Trees and the Law, **Trees in Private Ownership**

To report a tree that you feel is dangerous, please contact 01442 228000.

Q8 – Branches are overhanging my property – What can I do?

A – The right to remove overhanging vegetation has been established in Common Law. Occupiers may remove those parts of tree that overhangs their property. Its always a good idea to communicate your intentions to the tree owner and you should provide the opportunity for them to take back the wood you propose to cut off, they are not bound to take nor are they bound to meet any associated costs.

The Common Law right to remove overhang from trees does not apply when:

- the tree in question is the subject of a Tree Preservation Order
- the tree in question is situated within a Conservation Area

If either of the above apply then a normal tree work application or notice (section 211) needs to be made, forms are available through the Dacorum website.

See Part 3, Management of Dacorum's Trees, Trees and the Law - **Overhanging Trees**

Q9 – Every autumn my property becomes full of leaves from adjacent trees – What can I do?

A – Leaf fall is considered normal and unavoidable. Currently tree owners may not be held liable for leaves that fall off their trees in Autumn or for any consequences of those leaves falling. Leaves can be placed in the re-cycling bin for collection (Green Bin, February to November) or composted in the garden.

Q10 – My view has been blocked by tree growth or natural light is now restricted by the tree growth from Council owned trees - What are my rights?

A – The Council appreciates that views are desirable and that residents generally appreciate a reasonable amount of natural light, however there is no right in law to either. Solutions are sometimes possible, these are governed by the same criteria as all other enquiries made about trees.

See **Policy 5**, Part 2, Managing Dacorum's Trees – **Inspections and Records**, Part 3, Trees and the Law – **Right to Light**

Q11 – My television reception is poor as a result of signal loss caused by nearby Council owned trees – What can I do about it?

A – The Council accepts that television reception is a reasonable expectation however there is no right in law to a television signal. Solutions are sometimes possible however these are governed by the same criteria as all other enquiries made about trees.

See **Policy 5**, Part 2, Managing Dacorum's Trees – **Inspections and Records**, Part 3, Trees and the Law – **Television Signals**

Q12 – My neighbour has planted a large tree near my property – What can I do about it?

A – With the exception of tall conifer hedges there is no law that governs what can or can't be grown in a garden nor is there any law that governs the height of a garden tree.

Q13 – My neighbour has a very tall evergreen hedge – Is there anything I can do about it?

A – Yes, under the Anti-Social Behaviour Act an aggrieved party can make a complaint about a high hedge to the Council. Using a set formula the Council may order the hedge owner to reduce its height.

The owner of the hedge will have to pay for the work required.

Local Authorities make a charge to the complainant for administration.

See Part 3, Trees and the Law – **High Hedges**

Q14 – What is a Tree Preservation Order (TPO)?

A - A TPO is used by the Local Planning Authority to provide statutory protection for important trees in the landscape. Local Councils place TPOs upon trees, and owners must apply to Local Planning Authorities before undertaking any type of tree work. A form to make an application is available through the Dacorum website. See Trees and The Law - **The Town & Country Planning Act 1990 and The Town & Country Planning (Tree Preservation) (England) Regulations 2012**

Q15 – I think I live in a Conservation Area?

A – Conservation Areas are designated by local authorities and are designed to protect the landscapes both the built and natural form. Through the Town & Country Planning Act all trees over 75mm in diameter (measured at 1.5 metres from ground level) are protected. Prior to undertaking any form of tree work, owners must notify the Local Planning Authority

(LPA) of their intentions. The LPA must respond within 6 weeks and if it wishes to object to the proposal must then place a TPO on the tree in question.

A form to give notice is available through the Dacorum Borough Council website. See Part 3, Trees and The Law - **The Town & Country Planning Act 1990 and The Town & Country Planning (Trees) Regulations 1999.**

Q16 – How can I have a TPO placed on my tree ?

A – In principle any tree can be given the legal protection of a TPO, however the tree in question must be:

- visible from a public place
- make a significant impact in the landscape

It must also be expedient to make a TPO, this may be the case if the Local Council thinks the tree is at risk of be cut down.

To report a tree that you feel needs protecting, please contact 01442 228000.

Q17 – I think my tree should be pruned?

A – It is a popular misconception that trees need pruning in order to keep them in a healthy condition. Tree pruning is injurious to trees and should be kept to the minimum. When people, their property and trees come into close contact, tree pruning is sometimes needed in order to make an adjustment to its height, width or density. Before engaging a tree work contractor be sure that the pruning work you are planning achieves your required objectives. If you are unsure, you may wish to develop a plan with the help of a tree work contractor or a consultant.

See Part 3, Information – **Tree Work Types**

Q18 – I want to find a tree work contractor

A – The professional body for tree management is the Arboricultural Association (AA). The AA vets tree work contractors and a consultant publishes a county by county listing. A friend or contact who can recommend a company or individual is also a valuable source of information.

Q19 – Engaging a tree work contractor

A – Before engaging a tree work contractor ensure that they are fully insured and have a clear idea of what you want to achieve as a result of the tree work you are proposing. Consider obtaining more than one estimate or quotation and that you receive the estimate or quote in writing.

Q20 – Does ivy kill trees?

A – English Ivy is Britain’s only native evergreen climbing plant, growing to 20–30 m (66–98 ft) high where suitable surfaces (trees, cliffs, walls) are available, and also growing as groundcover where there are no vertical surfaces.

Ivy is sustained by its own root system and uses trees or built structures to climb up. The stems attach themselves to the bark and have no ability to strangle the tree.

Ivy - The Good

- provides evergreen winter cheer
- provides nesting sites for wrens, robins and long tailed tits
- provides sheltered roosting for birds and bats
- provides late season nectar source for hibernating insects
- protects the woodland floor from freezing which benefits foraging birds such as the blackbird

Ivy - The Bad

- covers up defects and makes tree inspections difficult
- the combined leaf area puts stress on existing defects
- overruns small trees such as hawthorn, eventually smothering them
- can spoil the winter silhouette of a large stately tree



Black Poplar, Vale of Aylesbury