



The countryside charity
Sussex

Tree Preservation Orders

A Tree Preservation Order can be made by a local planning authority in Sussex to protect specific trees, groups of trees or woodlands in the interests of amenity.

What does a Tree Preservation Order do?

An Order can be used to protect individual trees, trees within an area, groups of trees or whole woodlands. Protected trees can be of any size or species.

An Order prohibits the cutting down, topping, lopping, uprooting, cutting of roots, wilful damage or wilful destruction of trees without the local planning authority's written consent.

If consent is given, it can be subject to conditions which have to be followed.

Who can apply for an order?

Authorities can start the process themselves or respond to a request made by anyone. Contact your local authority's tree officer.

What are a tree owner's responsibilities?

Owners of protected trees must not carry out, or cause or permit the carrying out of, any of the prohibited activities without the written consent of the local authority. As with owners of unprotected trees, they are responsible for maintaining their trees.

What are the relevant laws?

The law on Tree Preservation Orders is in [Part VIII of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990](#) as amended and in the [Town and Country Planning \(Tree Preservation\) \(England\) Regulations 2012](#) which came

into force on 6 April 2012. Orders made before 6 April 2012 continue to protect the trees or woodlands they cover.

Find out more

See the Woodland Trust's guide to Tree Preservation Orders:
www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/protecting-trees-and-woods/campaign-with-us/campaign-in-your-community/tree-preservation-orders/

See full details about Tree Preservation Orders including: legislation, the process of making an Order; what 'amenity' means; how local authorities inform people about an Order; how an Order can be changed; work allowed on protected trees at:

www.gov.uk/guidance/tree-preservation-orders-and-trees-in-conservation-areas