

## APPLYING FOR & COMMENTING ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Works to trees protected by Preservation Order or on trees within a Conservation Area fall within the remit of the planning system and the procedure for applying for approval or notifying the LPA of intended works is discussed at

<https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/conservation-1/tree-preservation/3>.

In addition, trees are frequently present on or near sites where new buildings, extensions and other built structures are the subject of planning applications, applications that do not *always* give sufficient consideration to the trees involved.

Planning applications are all published on the Herefordshire Council Website before they are determined, giving an opportunity for members of the public to respond with support or an objection to the proposal, or simply to offer a comment. With particular regard to the protection and well-being of trees within the County, it would be helpful for everyone with an interest to keep an eye on the planning applications that must be made to the local authority when works likely to impact trees are proposed

In the case of trees protected by TPO this involves making a formal application to the local authority requesting permission to carry out the work specified in that application. With regard to trees in Conservation Areas, six weeks' notice must be given (a so-called 'section 211 notice') before any work is carried out, thereby giving the authority an opportunity to consider if the tree deserves a TPO.

All tree work applications are published on the Council's website and you can search for them by address or, if you wish, you can sign up for a 'personalised RSS feed' enabling you to receive a notification of all planning applications (including for TPOs and Conservation Area notices) made in any specified parish. This would enable you to keep track of TPO applications and S211 notices being made in your area(s) of interest; it would also keep you informed of other planning applications that may affect trees. To subscribe to this service see:

<https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/planning-services/planning-feed-builder>

To find a specific application use the Planning Search page:

[https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200142/planning\\_services/planning\\_applications\\_on\\_search](https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200142/planning_services/planning_applications_on_search)

Comments, objections or support for a proposal may be made via the link '[Make a comment on this application](#)' at the top of the Planning Search page; guidance on making representations is also provided.

To provide more detailed comments and observations it may be better to email [planning\\_enquiries@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:planning_enquiries@herefordshire.gov.uk) or write to: Planning Services, PO Box 230, Hereford HR1 2ZB. Be sure to include the planning application reference number.

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Having successfully submitted your comments you should receive confirmation of their receipt.

Be aware that all comments and written representations will be open to public inspection and will be published on this website. Your name and address will be shown, but your signature, telephone number and email address will all be redacted.

Comments and particularly objections to tree work proposals should be based on well-founded justification rather than on personal feelings. A certain amount of subjectivity may be fine, such as describing a tree as a fine specimen, or indeed as a poor one; but *justification* is the thing. In particular it will be helpful to frame them around Best Practice documents such as **BS 3998 (Tree Work: Recommendations)** and **BS 5837 Trees in relation to Design, Demolition and Construction - Recommendations\*)**

- \* These are documents that provide guidance as to how tree work and trees in relation to construction should be carried out. They are available for purchase from the BSI. However copies are available online: see <https://is.gd/DB4ct4> for BS3998 (2010) and <https://is.gd/ck6KRz> for BS5837 (2012)

Note that BS5837:2012 is in the process of being revised: a new edition is expected to be published in 2025