

What to do now information for land owners

Potentially dangerous trees adjacent to the public highway

1. Identify the tree(s) in question from our survey

In addition to the maps and photographs, where safe to do so, the surveyor will have fixed a note to the tree and spray painted X or O on it. Trees marked X are recommended to be felled. Trees marked O are recommended for other remedial action, for example removing dead wood. The remedial action will be clearly identified on the survey report we sent you.

If a stand of trees has been identified for remedial work, a prominent tree in the group will have the note attached. All trees in the group will be marked.

Our tree surveys only consider trees with a diameter of 18cm and above. You may own smaller trees or vegetation alongside the highway, which you should consider for appropriate maintenance work. This is particularly the case with stands of small dead Elm trees.

2. Tell us whether you are the landowner responsible for the identified trees

Complete the reply document and return it us as soon as possible. You may already have a tree inspection programme in place and if this is the case then fill out the reply document and return it to us.

3. Before starting work

a) Check if you need permission from other authorities

You need to check whether the trees are protected, either as the subject of a **Tree Preservation Order** or because they grow in a **conservation area**, as you may need to get formal consent to work on the tree. Your local district council will be able to provide information and further advice. www.gov.uk/find-your-local-council

If you will be carrying out work that may affect a **Site of Special Scientific interest**, or if any works are likely to disturb protected species, or damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place of a **protected species**, contact Natural England on **0845 601 4523** for information on how to proceed.

You may need a European Protected Species Licence from Natural England to work on the tree. Failure to follow the procedures can result in criminal prosecution under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 and European Habitats Directive. It can take a number of weeks to get a licence. www.gov.uk/wildlife-licences

To carry out work that may affect a **scheduled Ancient Monument** contact English Heritage: <http://historicengland.org.uk/advice/planning/consents/smc/>

The Forestry Commission has detailed information which will help you in following the correct procedures when undertaking works to trees. They can advise you about felling licences, which are required if the volume of timber to be felled exceeds five m³: www.forestry.gov.uk

b) Instruct a competent contractor to do the work

It is recommended that tree works are carried out by a competent, fully-qualified and insured arborist to the standards set out in *BS: 3998 Recommendations for Tree Work*. You may wish to contact relevant authorities including the Arboricultural Association at www.trees.org.uk or **01242 522152** to select a local contractor approved by their accreditation scheme, although other contractors are available.

c) Ensure public safety during the work

Your contractor will need to be qualified and insured to work on the public highway, to ensure the safety of highway users when carrying out the remedial work. The contractor will need to get our agreement for the the timing of the work and the traffic management arrangements (such as traffic lights and road closure). The contractor will probably pass the traffic management costs incurred on to you. Even if you believe you can undertake the work without going onto the highway, you will still need to ensure public safety while the work is in progress, which may need appropriate traffic management.

d) Check if electricity power lines are in the vicinity

If there are power lines in the work area, ring Western Power Distribution on **0845 601 2989** as soon as possible, as you will need to liaise with them to make sure the work is carried out safely.

e) Check if telephone lines are in the vicinity

If there are telephone lines in the work area, ring BT Openreach on **0800 023 2023** and select option 1.

If you have any further questions call us on
01392 385084 quoting your reference number.