



DEADWOOD ARBORISTS | TREE CARE SPECIALISTS

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TREE PROTECTION POLICY

Deadwood Arborists is aware that trees can be protected by statute legislation in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, similar measures apply in Republic of Ireland. We acknowledge that breach of these laws is a criminal offence and could result in the business entity and/or business owner being prosecuted for our action or inaction associated with a breach.

Legislation includes:

- Town and Country Planning Act or similar administered by a Local Planning Authority:
 - Any individual tree, groups of trees, areas of trees or woodland could be subject to a **Tree Preservation Order**.
 - Trees over certain sizes included in a **Conservation Area** designation.
 - **Planning Conditions** made in relation to trees and sites granted **Planning Permission**
- Forestry Act or similar administered by the Forestry Commission or comparable devolved nation administration. Works to trees outside of gardens, such as those located in woodland, may require a **Felling Licence** (or Felling Permission in Scotland).
- Wildlife and Countryside Act or similar (e.g. Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act) - Can be used to designate Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) or ASSIs in Northern Ireland to conserve their wildlife, habitat or geological assets. They are administered by the relevant authority of the Nations such as Natural Resource Wales or Natural England. Some work requirements may require the relevant authority's **Consent** e.g. access for machinery or vehicles. Similar controls exist for Local Nature Reserves, Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas and RAMSAR sites.

Note: Other wildlife legislation has been included in our Wildlife and Ecology Policy.
- Hedgerow Act - A countryside hedgerow is a boundary line of bushes which can include trees and may be protected due to its length, location and importance. A **Hedgerow Retention Notice** served by the Local Planning Authority may be in place or a notice of written permission to remove the hedge may exist.
- Other protections may exist, for example Forestry Commission or Regional Park Authority Byelaws or Estate Management Scheme under The Leasehold Reform Act.

Some sites or individual trees may be subject to some or all of these measures, in any combination. Exemptions/exceptions to the process of notification or application may apply.

This policy is a statement of the intent of the directors/owners and shall apply to all operations and work sites attended and managed by **Deadwood Arborists Tree Care Specialists Ltd.**

- We are committed to planning and managing our business activities to ensure the possibility of our business breaching statute tree protection legislation is kept to a minimum.
- As applicable, prior to undertaking any works on site, we commit to undertaking all necessary checks with tree owners and relevant authorities, and if necessary and instructed by our client, we shall submit applications, notifications, notices, and supplementary paperwork.

- We shall ensure only permitted work specifications are executed and any stated working methodologies are followed.
- We are committed to complying with all legal requirements applicable to the role of the contractor, such as a planning condition.
- We take no responsibility for matters relating to the tree owner such as a legal duty to replace a tree. However, we will issue the tree owner with relevant documentation received by us acting on their behalf e.g., decision notice.
- Appropriate advice shall be sought from specialists if complex or unusual circumstances arise. Where we deem this is still beyond our expertise we shall refer the tree owner to the relevant authority or a specialist.
- We shall cooperate with any investigation in to an alleged breach so far as the law requires it and we shall seek legal advice should we deem it appropriate.
- The necessary personnel, procedures and financial resources will be allocated to assist the company in meeting these objectives.

In order to meet these commitments, **Deadwood Arborists** shall implement the following measures:

- The company will work to good industry practice and will ensure we are aware of any changes or updates to tree protection legislation.
- Those quoting work will hold sufficient basic knowledge about tree protection measures to advise clients and tree owners including exemptions to the relevant legislation.
- Clients will be asked during quotations if trees or the site are protected by legislation or if the site has gained planning permission.
- Quotations will include information on the contractor's role in checking tree protection information or this will be included in Terms and Conditions issued to the client.
- Those administering the business will hold basic knowledge on tree protection measures to search public registers or enquire to the relevant Authority.
- A record of a tree protection status check with an authority will be documented to include:
 - I. a note of the time and date the check was made or confirmation received
 - II. The type of check undertaken i.e. online mapping, telephone call, email, review of register.
 - III. A copy of the check will be kept for online mapping (screen shot), a reference number will be kept if provided for checks by telephone.
 - IV. The result will be documented – None known -no further action, Application, Notice/Notification.
- Work will not be undertaken to trees where the status has not been confirmed, unless the works are 'exempt'.
- If working to an exemption or exception a work specification will be documented for the operators to ensure it is not exceeded.
- Otherwise, work will not be undertaken on trees unless consent is granted:
 - I. Where clients gain their own permissions, a copy will be taken and may be checked with the relevant authority i.e. on the planning application register.
 - II. Where we undertake applications/notifications a copy of consent/permission/no objection will be kept with the site paperwork should anyone challenge the on site team.
- Correspondence associated with applications or notifications will be sent to clients e.g. decision notices.

- Tree protections are mentioned in most training courses for practical tree work, therefore the business will not provide additional training on the subject for operators but will reinforce the measures through periodic tool-box talks. However, work sites and staff will be appropriately supervised and monitored to ensure specifications for work are met and not excessive, particularly on deemed sensitive sites / trees.

This policy shall be communicated to all persons working for, or on behalf of, the company.

In our position as management of **Deadwood Arborists Tree Care Specialists Ltd**, we **Liam Hughes** and **Thomas Hughes** swear to uphold, enforce and review this policy.

SIGNED

DATE

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DATE