



Work to Trees in the Wroxham Conservation Area

We thought it might be helpful to give a summary of regulations and processes relating to tree work in the conservation area. The information relates to trees that are not already subject to Tree Preservation Orders.

Work on most trees in the conservation area has to be notified to the relevant local authority (Broadland District Council or Broads Authority) at least six weeks in advance. This obligation is imposed by Section 211 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

The main exception is trees whose main trunks are less than 7.5cm in diameter when measured 1.5 metres above ground level. This minimum diameter is 10cm if the work is for the sole purpose of improving the growth of other trees.

In the case of dead trees, the authority must be notified of intended work at least five days in advance. If the tree poses an immediate risk of serious harm, then written notice should be provided to the authority as soon as practicable after the work becomes necessary.

The notification of intended work on trees (a '211' notice) can be made through the authority's website or by post. Forms are provided on the authorities' websites. In making the notification, the work and the tree's location have to be clearly described. For any complex work you are recommended to discuss your plans with a tree surgeon/arbiculturalist or a council tree officer before giving notice. Most tree surgeons asked to do the work for you will lodge a notice on your behalf.

Notifications that have been made can be seen on the relevant local authority planning websites.

After a notification is made, a council tree officer or consultant may visit to have a look at the tree. Then the council will normally respond either by permitting the work or by putting a Tree Preservation Order on the tree. The main basis for making a Tree Preservation Order is that the tree has important amenity value. In making its decision the council must also pay special attention to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the appearance of the conservation area.

Working on a tree in a conservation area without notifying the council is an offence.

If trees are removed, uprooted or destroyed without notification, the landowner has a duty to replace them with trees of appropriate size and type.