

Dartmoor National Park Tree Procedures

Tree Works

You can check the protected status of trees on the DNP website here:

<https://www.dartmoor.gov.uk/about-us/about-us-maps/tree-preservation-orders-map>

If the tree is protected with a Tree Protection Order (TPO) or within a Conservation Area you will need to make an application to undertake works.

You can complete an online application here (preferred method):

<https://www.planningportal.co.uk/apply>

You can download a copy of the application form, from the DNP website here:

https://ecab.planningportal.co.uk/uploads/appPDF/J9497Form031_england_en.pdf

Works to Dead / Dangerous Protected Trees

If the tree is protected (by a TPO or within a Conservation Area), but is considered either dead or dangerous, DNP should be given 5 days notice before carrying out work, or as soon as reasonably possible after emergency works have been completed.

Please provide your name, address, telephone number, email address, a plan showing the location of the tree/s, and a description of and image of the tree's outlining the nature of the reason for the works. Please forward this onto sbaker@dartmoor.gov.uk.

Further information on exceptions is available on the DNP website here:

[Apply to carry out works to protected trees | Dartmoor](#)

Advise on tree management

We no longer provide informal guidance on the management of privately owned trees. The responsibility of tree management rests with the owner of the land on which the trees grow.

You can obtain independent advice on tree management from tree works contractors and consultants. We cannot recommend any individual contractor or consultancy.

You can find a list of Arboricultural Association approved contractors and consultants at:

<https://www.trees.org.uk/Find-a-professional>

A list of consultants registered with the Institute of Chartered Foresters at:

<https://icf.datawareonline.co.uk/Directory-of-Consultants>

Commenting on a Planning Application which may impact on trees

This can be done via the DNP website here:

<https://www.dartmoor.gov.uk/living-and-working/planning/search-for-an-application>

New TPO

If somebody requests a TPO be made on a tree/s, we need to collect the following information:

Tree location including closest postal address,

Map with tree/s location marked,

Reason for making the TPO (there needs to be a practical reason e.g. someone wants to cut the tree down), and

Contact details of person making request.

Please forward information onto sbaker@dartmoor.gov.uk

Trees that impact on the public highway or public footpath

These should be reported to Devon County Council Highways:

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/report-a-problem/>

Privately owned trees

The Authority is unable to help in dealing with complaints regarding trees on private property as the Authority does not have responsibility for them. This is a civil matter which would need to be resolved with the owner of the tree.

Landowners can be identified by using the on-line Land Registry service:

<https://www.landregistryservices.com/>

Legal right to prune overhanging branches

Where a branch overhangs your boundary, you have a Common Law right to prune the tree back to the boundary line. There is also a contradictory Common Law that you will not cause damage to another person's property. The courts have never been asked to decide which law takes precedence.

Before carrying out any work it would be polite to contact the owner of the tree to inform them of your intentions. You will also need to offer the pruned material back to them as it remains their property. Work should not be carried out from the neighbouring property nor extend beyond the property boundary without the landowner's specific consent.

In order to avoid claims relating to damage, it is recommended that the work should meet appropriate arboricultural standards as set out in British Standard document BS 3998:2010, Tree Work - Recommendation, and that you use a competent contractor.

Trees and overhead utilities

If trees are causing interference with overhead utility lines, you need to contact the appropriate organisation:

Telephone lines

<https://www.openreach.com/help-and-support/damage-health-and-safety>

Power lines

https://my.westernpower.com.au/contact-us/?_gl=1*vl8m7q*_ga*MTQ4NTAwOTc0OS4xNjg1MzYwNzYz*_ga_3LQZ0VHL9W*MTY4NTM2MDc2My4xLjEuMTY4NTM2MDgwMi4wLjAuMA..

The Hedgerows Regulations 1997

These Regulations protect hedgerows which are on, or adjoining land used for; agriculture or forestry, the breeding or keeping of horses, ponies or donkeys, common land, village greens, Sites of Special Scientific Interest and Local Nature Reserves. Hedges in domestic gardens are not affected by the Regulations.

You can find out more about the protected status of hedgerows on the DNPA website here:

[Hedgerows Regulations 1997 | Dartmoor](#)

Should you wish to remove all, or a section, of hedgerow protected by the Regulations, you can find out about submitting a Hedgerow Removal Notice here:

[Removing a Hedgerow | Dartmoor](#)