

CRITERIA FOR TPO CONSIDERATION

How does the Council decide which trees to protect?

The Council may make Tree Preservation Orders for the purpose of:

- Protecting trees considered to be of special value in terms of public amenity, history or rarity, which may or may not be under threat; or
- Ensuring the continuance of a woodland area which may be felled with Council consent, by securing the replanting of trees, where this is considered necessary.

To be considered for a TPO, Trees must be of high public amenity value and in reasonable condition.

The following criteria will be used when assessing the merits of a potential TPO.

1. **Potential Threat**

Priority will be given to the protection of those trees deemed to be at immediate risk from active felling or damage from development on site. All other requests will be assessed and prioritised accordingly.

2. **Visibility**

The extent to which the trees or woodlands can be seen by the general public will inform the assessment of whether the impact on the local environment is significant.

3. **Individual Impact**

The mere fact that a tree is publicly visible will not itself be sufficient to warrant a TPO. The tree's particular importance will be assessed by reference to its size and form, its future potential as an amenity should also be assessed taking into account any special factors such as its screening value or contribution to the character or an appearance of an area. In relation to a group of trees or woodland, an assessment will be made of the collective impact.

4. **Wider Impact**

The significance of the trees in their local surroundings will also be assessed, taking into account how suitable they are to their particular setting, as well as the presence of other trees in the vicinity.

5. **Historical Importance**

Certain trees because of their age, association with the setting of listed buildings or the contribution they make to the special character of a conservation area may require consideration for TPO consideration.

6. **Rarity**

There may be occasions where a tree(s) may be considered for TPO protection solely on the grounds of its rarity. The priority of the consideration will reflect the rarity of the species.

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