



## DAC Guidance

# Trees in churchyards

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Many of our churchyards have wonderful trees, often dating back hundreds of years. When work is required to existing trees, or you have plans to plant new ones, you should firstly consult the standard guidance given for all dioceses by the Church Buildings Council. This is found at [www.churchcare.co.uk](http://www.churchcare.co.uk)

Nearly all proposed work on trees can now be carried out without a faculty, under the new simplified rules introduced in 2016, and this will either come under the category of minor matters where no permission is required (List A) as follows:

### **A8. Trees**

**(1) The felling, lopping or topping of a tree the diameter of any stem of which does not exceed 75 millimetres (measured over the bark at a height of 1.5 metres above ground level)**

The works do not relate to any tree in respect of which a tree preservation order is in force or which is in a conservation area

Regard is had to guidance issued by the Church Buildings Council as to the planting, felling, lopping and topping of trees in churchyards

**(2) The lopping or topping of any tree that:**

a) is dying or dead; or

b) has become dangerous Regard is had to guidance issued by the Church Buildings Council as to the planting, felling, lopping and topping of trees in churchyards

**(3) The removal of dead branches from a living tree:** Regard is had to guidance issued by the Church Buildings Council as to the planting, felling, lopping and topping of trees in churchyards

or it will require formal written permission from the Archdeacon (List B) if it fits into the categories below:

## **B6. Trees**

**(1) The planting of trees:** Regard is had to the guidance issued by the Church Buildings Council as to the planting, felling, lopping and topping of trees in churchyards

**(2) The felling of a tree that —**

a) is dying or dead; or

b) has become dangerous In the case of any tree in respect of which a tree preservation order is in force or which is in a conservation area, section 206 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (which provides for the planting of replacement trees) is complied with Regard is had to the guidance issued by the Church Buildings Council as to the planting, felling, lopping and topping of trees in churchyards

**(3) All other works to trees (whether or not prescribed in List A) except felling**

If applicable, the law relating to the preservation of trees in respect of which a tree preservation order is in force or which are in a conservation area is complied with Regard is had to the guidance issued by the Church Buildings Council as to the planting, felling, lopping and topping of trees in churchyards

## **Faculties**

If you are wanting to do work outside these matters, which will probably be only to fell a healthy tree, you will need to apply for a faculty.

To start any request for Archdeacon's permission to carry out work or a faculty, or to check whether the proposed work to your trees is covered by these procedures, go to : <https://facultyonline.churchofengland.org>. You will first need to register for your particular parish.

It is always advisable to keep records of any work that you do in the church log with any photograph evidence.

If you have any questions about this area of work, contact DAC Secretary, Emma Bakewell ([emma.bakewell@bristoldiocese.org](mailto:emma.bakewell@bristoldiocese.org)) or telephone 0117 906 0100.

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