

Tree preservation orders (TPO)

Frequently asked questions

What type of trees can be protected?

Generally, only trees with a good level of public prominence and which are threatened with removal or excessive pruning can be protected.

Are the trees in my garden protected?

To find out if a tree on your property is subject to a TPO contact the development management team (details below).

Will the council become responsible for my tree?

No - the owner remains responsible.

What if I carry out work without permission?

You can be fined up to £20,000 for destroying or cutting down a protected tree without permission and up to £2,500 for pruning a protected tree without permission.

How to request a tree preservation order

Contact development management in writing, giving details of the trees and the reasons why you think they should be protected. Contact details below.

Does the order come into effect immediately?

Yes, however, for the trees to remain protected, the order must be confirmed within six months of issue.

Can I object to or express support for an order?

To object to or support the issuing of a TPO outline your reasons in writing and send them to development management within 28 days of the date on the order. Your comments will be considered before the council decides whether to confirm the order.

Can the council recommend a contractor?

No, but we have a list of reputable tree surgeons who can carry out the work to the required standard (see below).

How can I view a TPO?

You can request a copy of a tree preservation order by writing to development control and enclosing a cheque (Croydon Council) for £32.68. You can also arrange to view a TPO by making an appointment through development management.

What about trees on development sites

Woodlands, trees and hedgerows are important for nature conservation and their visual contribution to the landscape. The trees in the borough help make Croydon an attractive place to live, work and visit. The council will resist development proposals that result in the loss of valued trees, especially those protected by tree preservation orders and in conservation areas.

If you are involved in a development site on which there are existing trees, you should contact the development management team, details below.

Please note: it's not just the above ground parts of the tree that can be damaged by development - the root system is also extremely vulnerable.