ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS NOTE: TREES AND HEDGEROWS (1)

HalpinRobbins
Ecology & Environmental Services

Working around Trees and Hedgerows

Did you know?

Trees and hedgerows are an important part of the environment, providing vitally important habitats, shelter and pathways for insects, reptiles, amphibians, mammals, birds, plants, fungi and lichens.

Many trees and hedgerows are protected by legislation enforced by the local authority.

What do you need to do?

- Before felling, removing, trimming or excavating near to any tree or hedgerow ensure that the correct ecological checks have been completed and permissions have been obtained.
- Ecological checks should include nesting birds, roosting bats and dormice, as a minimum.
- Other checks should include Tree Preservation Orders

Do

- ✓ Check what protection is required.

- ✓ Ensure plant and machinery is kept out of exclusion areas.

- ✓ Store all fuels and other pollutants away from root systems.

- ✓ Hand dig only around root systems

Why does it matter?

Environmental harm
During certain times of the year trees and hedgerows may contain roosting bats, nesting birds or other protected species. Of particular note are nesting birds which are protected by law against disturbance.

Prosecution
It is illegal to cut down or wilfully damage trees protected by law under a Tree Preservation Order, trees in a conservation area or to pull up certain countryside hedges except with the consent of the local planning authority.

Safety risk
Damaged trees may become unstable and potential hazards with the risk of killing or injuring people or animals.

Do not

- X Never undertake tree felling or hedgerow clearance without permissions in place

- X Never fell trees or clear hedgerows during the bird nesting season, unless verified by an ecologist

- X Never burn any materials within the protection zone of a tree or hedgerow

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