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This summary is to be used in conjunction with the statutory *Guidance to Parochial Church Councils on the planting, felling and lopping of trees in churchyards*. **This guidance should always be consulted.**

Appointing an arboricultural consultant

With the List B system archdeacons may authorise certain work to trees without a faculty. Many archdeacons will hope to be assisted in some of this work by an arboriculturist, perhaps someone appointed as a member or as a consultant to the DAC. In seeking to make such an appointment, particularly when the diocese hopes the consultant will work pro bono, it may prove difficult to find someone with the necessary expertise. In addition to using the normal system of diocesan contacts, the following national organisations have expressed concern for the protection of churchyard trees and may

have local members willing to help:

Tree Council;
Arboricultural Association;
Municipal Tree Officers Association;
Ancient Tree Forum and the Woodland Trust;
Ancient Yew Group;
International Society of Arboriculture, UK and Ireland branch

In addition, a local authority may have an arboricultural officer and it may be willing for them to assist over churchyards within their authority. These local authorities should also be reminded that trees in the churchyards that they manage still fall under faculty jurisdiction.

Basic checks to applications, referring to the CBC Guidance

When an application for tree work comes in there are some checks to applications that do not require professional arboricultural knowledge. Depending on how the diocese has organised handling List B applications, these checks could be undertaken by DAC staff, although familiarity with the arboricultural industry would be a useful advantage.

- Is the tree in a Conservation Area or covered by a TPO? If so, has the law been complied with – has the local authority been contacted and given the requisite permission?



- Should any other statutory bodies be consulted?
- Is the contractor a professional arboriculturist? Has he provided sufficient evidence of insurance and health and safety competence?
- Does the specification claim to be to BS 3998:2010?
- Is it clear that the protection of birds and bats has been covered?
- In the case of felling: is the tree actually dead, dying or dangerous? The last two categories are certainly a matter of professional judgement. If a parish is applying for retrospective permission and there are any doubts over the necessity of the work, it would be appropriate to direct a confirmatory faculty is required.
- In other cases: is there sufficient evidence for the need for the work (e.g. of damage to the building)?
- Refer all cases of subsidence, potential impacts of extensions on trees, and the felling of other trees to the DAC.
- In cases of planting: has enough room been left for future burials, potential extensions, and sufficient distance from buildings and walls?
- Are there any concerns over the health and safety aspects of the work?
- Is the planting scheme wise, sensitive and attractive?
- Can you provide advice on applications going to the DAC concerning subsidence, extensions and tree felling.

Promoting good tree care

It is important for archdeacons to encourage parishes to value and care for their trees. This can be done through general announcements on occasions such as Visitations, provision of training, individual conversations about trees, and also through low-key checks over such documents as Risk Management Policies, Statements of Significance and records of tree inspections.

Professional arboricultural judgements, referring to the CBC Guidance

- Is the tree to be felled really dead, dying or dangerous?
- Are the assessments of tree safety, safe useful life expectancy and tree significance sound?
- Are the proposals for surgery etc. and the method statement sound?

