

Tree Protection Orders (TPO) in Winchelsea

A Tree Preservation Order (TPO) is issued by a local planning authority and generally makes it an offence to cut down, top, lop, uproot, wilfully damage or wilfully destroy a tree without the authority's permission. TPOs can be made on any tree or group of trees but not on hedges, bushes or shrubs.

Permission is needed for any work on a protected tree except for cutting down or cutting back a tree:

- which is dying, dead or dangerous (however, five days' notice should be given to the local planning authority, except in an emergency)
- at the request of certain government departments or other organisations specified in the TPO
- which is directly in the way of imminent development for which detailed planning permission has been granted
- which is a fruit tree cultivated for fruit
- to prevent or control a nuisance in the legal sense.

Where a protected tree is cut down, you will generally have to replant.

Breach of a TPO can lead to fines of up to £20,000 on summary conviction or an unlimited fine on indictment, and will normally require replanting.

In a Conservation Area, you must give six weeks' notice of work to a tree not covered by a TPO unless it is less than 7.5 cm in diameter (measured 1.5 metres above the ground) or 10 cm if this is help the growth of other trees.

The following TPOs have been made in Winchelsea:

St Giles Close

1971

All trees within a two-acre site formerly occupied by the Rectory, excluding that area on which Portobello is now sited.

The Armoury, Castle Street

July 1978

Evergreen oak (*Quercus Ilex*) in grounds.

Burrin House, North Street

TQ 9049 1756

September 1989

Ash tree in rear garden.

Evens, Rectory Lane

TQ 9035 1735

October 1997

Ash tree in rear garden.

Station Road

TQ 9029 1784

October 2002

All trees in a strip of land bounding the western side of Station Road, opposite Ferryfields Holiday Park, between the junction with the A259 and the sluice.

Truncheons, Rectory Lane

TQ 9038 1717

November 2002

Ash tree in southwestern corner bordering Monks Walk.

North Street

2004 (confirmed May 2005)

Ash tree on north side of North Street opposite Turners.