

**Protection and Incentive Measures for Ancient Trees
Telephone Questionnaire Survey of Local Planning Authorities**

Name(s)	
Position(s)	
Local Authority	
Contact Telephone No.	
Date of Interview	

Information on Ancient Tree Resource

1. Have you undertaken a survey of ancient trees (or a wider survey which encompasses information on ancient trees) in your district.

If not, why not?

If yes:

Did it only cover trees on land owned by the authority or for which the authority is responsible for managing?

Does it include trees on land owned by others (or managed by others)?

Please provide reasons for undertaking the survey, details of the methodology, the results and how the information has been stored.

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2. Do you have or are you aware of any other information on the ancient tree resource in your district?

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3. How do you decide what is an ancient tree? Do you have a working definition?

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Policies and Strategies for Ancient Tree Protection

4. Are there any policies in the development plan which either (a) directly address or (b) could encompass ancient tree protection. Please provide example policies.

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5. Are there any relevant policies in strategy documents e.g. countryside strategies, nature conservation strategies, LA21, community strategies, village design statements etc?

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Tree Preservation Orders

6. Do you have a definitive map of TPOs in the district? When was the survey carried out to prepare this map? What were the criteria used to determine trees subject to TPO and how did this cover ancient trees? How often is the survey updated? Is the survey information available to outside organisations and in what form?

7. How are TPOs for ancient trees distributed across the district? For example, is there a bias towards rural or urban areas?

8. Once in place, do TPOs provide sufficient protection for ancient trees?
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Development Control Process

9. When a planning application is received, how do you identify whether ancient trees are present on the site?
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10. How do you define whether these trees are ancient or assess their value (e.g. are site visits undertaken and by whom)?
Under what circumstances would an emergency TPO be used?

11. In the event of a planning application affecting ancient trees, with whom would you normally consult. Please include both internal consultation and external consultees.

12. Where permitted development may affect ancient trees (e.g. pipelines or trench work can affect tree roots), is the LPA routinely notified about works?
If yes, who is responsible for responding and how do they respond?

13. Have you dealt with an application for removal of a hedgerow under the Hedgerows Regulations, 1997, where the hedgerow contained ancient tree(s)?

If yes:

(a) How was the presence of the ancient tree identified?

(b) How was the application dealt with and what was the outcome?

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Management of Ancient Trees

14. Is the local authority responsible for managing any ancient trees? If yes,

(a) How are these trees identified as ancient?

(b) Where are they located?

(c) Are specific management tasks identified?

(d) Are management plans in place (for groups of trees or individual trees)?

(e) Is the area around the tree managed, and how?

(f) Who is responsible for management?

(g) Is there a scheme for planting and managing trees with an open grown form to provide the next generation of ancient trees?

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15. Do you refer to or request the use of British Standards in relation to works affecting trees (e.g.. BS5837)? Do you find these provide adequate protection for ancient trees?

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16. Do you provide any funding for others to manage (or undertake work to) important ancient trees? Do you know of any suitable sources of funding?

17. Do you know of any examples where ancient trees are well managed? Please provide details.

Loss of Ancient Tree Resource

18. Do you know of any examples of loss of ancient trees? Please provide details.

19. What are the principal causes of loss(felling) of ancient trees in the district. Is this due to 'development', legal felling, 'illegal' felling, agriculture/forestry or other.

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20. What are the principal causes of damage to ancient trees in the district? (NB this could include damage to the roots or crown of the tree or to the surroundings of the tree).

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Other

21. How could the protection of ancient trees be improved?

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22. Do you have any other issues to raise regarding protection of ancient trees in your district?

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