



Tree Management Policy

1. Introduction

This is a policy for the management of trees on land owned and maintained by Beetham Parish Council (“the council”). It is intended to act as a point of reference for councillors and members of the public to ensure a clear, consistent and structured approach to the management of our trees.

Beetham Parish is largely rural, and trees play a very important role by providing many quality-of-life benefits including enhancing the landscape, reducing climatic extremes, improving air quality, and providing habitats for wildlife. Their presence can help towards creating tranquillity and reducing everyday stress.

Trees also have many other benefits - for example, they provide shelter, cool the air, stabilise soil, filter air pollution, reduce noise and create wildlife habitats.

Many of the trees in Beetham Parish are protected by Tree Preservation Orders (TPO) and work cannot be carried out on these trees without the appropriate planning permission. Planning permission is also required for work on trees in the Beetham Conservation Area (CA) and the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

2. Objectives

Whilst the presence of trees is hugely beneficial their respective growing habits can create varying degrees of inconvenience to, and conflict between, residents living nearby. The purpose of the Tree Management Policy is to adopt a balanced and even-handed approach to dealing with any identified issues of concern.

The Tree Management Policy sets out the Council’s approach to the proactive management of trees on land owned/managed by the Council and to its statutory responsibilities, under the Town and Country Planning Act, 1990 legislation, regarding land owned by others.

The legal framework does not require the elimination of risk altogether, but that the residual risk is minimized to a tolerable level. The Council’s aim is to keep as many trees as possible for future generations to enjoy.

3. Management of trees on Council Land

- Every year the Parish Council instructs a qualified arboriculturist to carry out a Tree Condition Survey
- Where trees are protected by a TPO or a CA permission in writing will be required from the relevant local authority before any works are carried out. The removal of deadwood or severing of ivy does not require permission.
- For a woodland TPO all trees irrespective of size, age or species are protected and permission is required with the exception of abatement of nuisance such as minor pruning over a footpath to remove an actual nuisance. No permission is



required for the removal of deadwood, severing of ivy, bramble and undergrowth clearance.

- A survey will be carried out using (TRBM) [Tree Risk Benefit Management] Strategy. Risk is based on a combination of factors in relation to people or property. This takes account of the likelihood of failure, potential severity of injury, target value and frequency of use and occupancy of area.
- The surveyed trees will be inspected using standard VTA (Visual Tree Assessment) techniques. If a detailed inspection is required the VALID [Vitality, Anatomy, Load, Identity, Defect] technique may be used to evaluate risk

Trees are dynamic living organisms, whose health and condition can be subject to rapid changes depending upon several internal and external factors. The observations and recommendations contained in the report are based on the trees at the time of inspection. It should be noted that even apparently sound, healthy trees can fail given sufficiently severe weather conditions. If any changes, of any kind, take place or are observed, this may have a bearing on the level of potential risk posed by any tree or group of trees. This may initiate the requirement for an early re-inspection.

4. Reporting tree problems

- If the tree exhibiting a problem is thought to be on Parish Council land [eg Sandside Railway Cutting] report to the Parish Council Clerk clerk@beetham-pc.gov.uk
- If ownership is not known or unsure, then report to Westmorland and Furness Council (WFC) who will then forward to the relevant authority or private landowner.
- To let WFC know about fallen or dangerous trees they can be contacted on their website:
<https://selfservice.southlakeland.gov.uk/renderform.aspx?t=227&k=89F20DF7209D0C673EC51454983EEFC2A8AB35D6>

Approved December 2025

Review: No later than December 2028