

The Royal Parks Tree Management

Policy Statement

Introduction

The Royal Parks manages tens of thousands of trees across our parks and in doing so seek to manage in a way that complies with current best practice and always aims to exceed legal minimum standards. The Royal Parks employs specialist Arboriculturists to inspect trees and plan works in liaison with the Park Managers in the respective parks and their teams.

In writing this policy we recognise that we have a responsibility to manage our trees, but in doing so this will also affect our visitors, near neighbours and third parties operating on our land all of whom need to understand what we do why we do it and therefore need to comply with our policies. This document is drafted as a publicly accessible document to enable a better understanding of the issues involved and is similar in structure to that used by other public bodies.

Scope

The following statements constitute The Royal Parks' (TRP's) Tree Management Policy for those Licensed Areas that form land that the Secretary of State has authorised TRP to manage pursuant to The Contracting Out (Functions relating to the Royal Parks) Order 2016 (S.I. 2016 No.1039) ("the Contracting Out Order") which include the Royal Demesnes of Hyde Park, Kensington Gardens, St James's Park and Green Park, The Regent's Park and Primrose Hill, Greenwich Park, Richmond Park, and Bushy Park and also land at Brompton Cemetery, Victoria Tower Gardens, Canning Green, Poets Corner and the Longford River (hereafter referred to as 'TRP managed land').

Tree Management Policies

Policy 1

TRP will manage trees to ensure that it meets its legal responsibilities.



Policy 2

TRP will manage trees in a manner consistent with our Charitable Objects:
royalparks.org.uk/royal-parks-charity

Policy 3

All consultants, contractors and concessionaires of TRP will comply with these policies.

Policy 4

All statutory undertakers working on TRP managed land will comply with these policies.

Policy 5

All event site management on TRP managed land will comply with these policies.

Tree Planting Policy

Policy 6

The tree planting policy is identified in the Park Management Plans
royalparks.org.uk/management-plans

Tree Protection Policies

Policy 6

TRP will seek compensation for significant damage to any tree(s) on TRP managed land to the value as calculated by **Capital Asset Value for Amenity Trees (CAVAT)**: <https://www.ltoa.org.uk/documents-1/capital-asset-value-for-amenity-trees-cavat>.

Policy 7

Construction work on TRP managed land will be in accordance with BS 5837: 2012 "Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction—Recommendations".

Policy 8

Statutory undertakers working on TRP managed land will adhere to their license conditions and will follow the recommendations of the National Joint Utilities Group (NJUG) "Guidelines for the Planning, Installation and Maintenance of Utility Apparatus in Proximity to Trees" Volume 4: <http://streetworks.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/V4-Trees-Issue-2-16-11-2007.pdf>.

Tree Maintenance Policies

Policy 9

Tree management will be consistent with best arboricultural practice. Tree works will be to British Standard (BS) 3998:2010, "**Tree work. Recommendations.**" **Management of veteran trees and associated habitat is undertaken in line with guidance in** Ancient and other veteran trees: further guidance on management" Lonsdale, D (ed) 2013 http://ancienttreeforum.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/ATF_book.pdf.

Trees on most TRP managed land are protected by Conservation Area legislation.

Tree work on TRP managed land, (including the freeboard of Bushy Park and Richmond Park) will usually require consultation with relevant Local Planning Authorities (LPAs).

Policy 10

TRP **will not** support applications to prune or remove trees for the following reasons:

- Tree affecting satellite dish TV reception;
- Tree responsible for 'excessive leaf fall';
- Tree perceived to be too large;
- Tree obstructing views or blocking direct sunlight;
- Tree perceived to pose a future risk;
- Tree affecting hard landscape features (e.g. roads, paths). In these cases, engineering solutions will be sought;
- Tree associated with mess caused by insects or birds;
- Problems associated with fruit;
- Problems associated with pollen.

TRP **may** consider supporting applications for light pruning of trees, subsequent to an assessment by the TRP arboricultural officer, for the following reasons:

- Tree overhanging land adjacent to TRP property;
- Tree branches or foliage in contact with the built environment adjacent to TRP property (e.g. walls, houses).

Policy 11

TRP **may** consider the removal of healthy trees for sound arboricultural reasons, such as when trees are:

- Proven to be causing significant structural damage to buildings;
- Removal is required as part of an agreed management programme or strategy;
- Removal is required as part of an agreed planning consent.



*Reference:

Transport for London - London Cycle Design Standards and Sustrans Guidance. The Royal Parks – Walking and Cycling Technical Design Guidance