

WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACTS 1971-74

THE WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

(THELWALL)

TREE PRESERVATION ORDER, 1976

The WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL in this Order called "the Authority" in pursuance of the powers conferred in that behalf by section 60 and section 61 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1971 (as amended by section 10(1) of the Town and Country Amenities Act 1974), and subject to the provisions of the Forestry Act 1967, hereby makes the following Order:-

1. In this Order:-

"the Act" means the Town and Country Planning Act, 1971;  
"owner" means the owner in fee simple, either in possession or who has granted a lease or tenancy of which the unexpired portion is less than three years; a lessee (including a sub-lessee) or tenant in possession the unexpired portion of whose lease or tenancy is three years or more and a mortgagee in possession; and  
"the Secretary of State" means the Secretary of State for the Environment.

2. Subject to the provisions of this Order and to the exemptions specified in the Second Schedule hereto, no person shall, except with the consent of the Authority and in accordance with the conditions, if any, imposed on such consent, cut down, top, lop, uproot or wilfully damage or wilfully destroy or cause or permit the cutting down, topping, lopping, uprooting, wilful damage or wilful destruction of any tree specified in the First Schedule hereto or comprised in a group of trees or in a woodland therein specified, the position of which trees, groups of trees and woodlands is defined in the manner indicated in the said First Schedule on the map annexed hereto which map shall, for the purpose of such definition as aforesaid, prevail where any ambiguity arises between it and the specification in the said First Schedule.

3. An application for consent made to the Authority under Article 2 of this Order shall be in writing stating the reasons for making the application, and shall by reference if necessary to a plan specify the trees to which the application relates, and the operations for the carrying out of which consent is required.

4. (1) Where an application for consent is made to the Authority under this Order, the Authority may grant such consent either unconditionally, or subject to such conditions (including conditions requiring the replacement of any tree by one or more trees on the site or in the immediate vicinity thereof), as the Authority may think fit, or may refuse consent.

Provided that where the application relates to any woodland specified in the First Schedule to this Order the Authority shall grant consent so far as accords with the principles of good forestry, except where, in the opinion of the Authority, it is necessary in the interests of amenity to maintain the special character of the woodland or the woodland character of the area, and shall not impose conditions on such consent requiring replacement or replanting.

(2) The Authority shall keep a register of all applications for consent under this Order containing information as to the nature of the application, the decision of the Authority thereon, any compensation awarded in consequence of such decision and any directions as to replanting of woodlands; and every such register shall be available for inspection by the public at all reasonable hours.

5. Where the Authority refuse consent under this Order or grant such consent subject to conditions they may when refusing or granting consent certify in respect of any trees for which they are so refusing or granting consent that they are satisfied: -

- (a) that the refusal or condition is in the interests of good forestry; or
- (b) in the case of trees other than trees comprised in woodlands, that the trees have an outstanding or special amenity value.

6. (1) Where consent is granted under this Order to fell any part of a woodland other than consent for silvicultural thinning then unless -

- (a) such consent is granted for the purpose of enabling development to be carried out in accordance with a permission to develop land under Part III of the Act, or
- (b) the Authority with the approval of the Secretary of State dispense with replanting,

the Authority shall give to the owner of the land on which that part of the woodland is situated a direction in writing specifying the manner in which and the time within which he shall replant such land and where such a direction is given and the part is felled the owner shall, subject to the provisions of this Order and section 175 of the Act, replant the said land in accordance with the direction.

(2) Any direction given under paragraph (1) of this Article may include requirements as to -

- (a) species;
- (b) number of trees per acre (hectare);
- (c) the erection and maintenance of fencing necessary for protection of the replanting;
- (d) the preparation of ground, draining, removal of brushwood, lop and top; and
- (e) protective measures against fire

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NOTE - If it is desired to fell any of the trees included in this Order whether included as trees, groups of trees or woodlands and the trees are trees for the felling of which a licence is required under the Forestry Act 1967, application should be made not to the Authority for consent under this Order but to the Conservator of Forests for a licence under that Act (Section 15(5))