

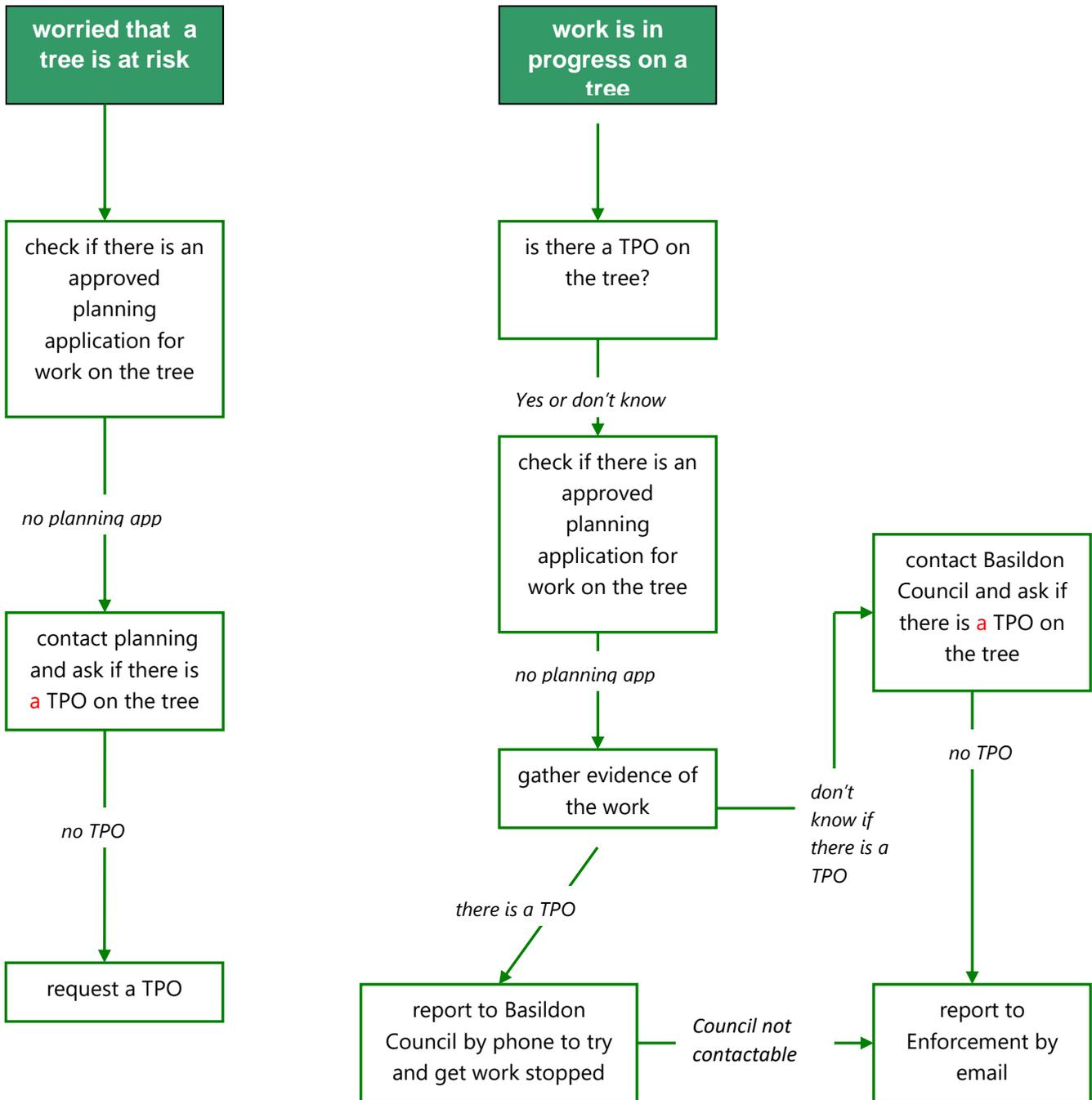


Worried about a Tree ?



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This information is for you if you are worried about what may happen, or is happening, to a tree in the local area. See over for more information. If you are worried that a tree is a Health and Safety risk or causes an issue, see our Fact Sheet 2, 'Worried about a tree being a problem?'



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Trees need management but felling is rarely necessary and a professional good tree surgeon will advise on the alternatives. However, Trees in gardens, without a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) can be felled without permission. Trees on council land, verges or in a Conservation Area require Council permission for any work.

You can check for a planning application for tree work on Basildon Council's [planning web site](#).

You can ask Planning at Basildon Council if a TPO exists on a tree, and/or to check ownership of a tree on a verge or Council land, by email planning@basildon.gov.uk. Give as much information as possible: road and house number nearby and a postcode. You can also contact the Tree Wardens who have some records of the TPOs but not all - copy the Tree Wardens on your enquiry.

You can ask Basildon Council to put a TPO on a tree. Consult the Tree Wardens if you want further advice on this. You do not have to consult the owner; trees are protected for their value to the local amenity and street scene. Urban trees are for all to enjoy.

If work is in progress on a tree and you know that there is no TPO on the tree, there is nothing further you can do, unless you have a good relationship with the owner and you can negotiate that the tree is reduced rather than felled.

If you know there is a TPO, or you are unsure, check Basildon's Council [planning web site](#) to see if there is an approved planning application for the work. If there is a TPO on the tree, then the tree surgeon will have the paperwork.

Gather evidence: make a note of the registration of any vehicles being used by the people doing the work, and any company name. You could also take photographs - *but do not put yourself at risk*.

Professional tree surgeons will not work on a tree with a TPO unless permission is given, as the penalties for doing so are high. However some casual garden maintenance workers who may act as tree surgeons will do the work outside the law. (If there is a company name on the vehicle and that name can be verified on a web site or with Companies House it is more likely that they are working legally.)

To try to get work stopped call Basildon Council: 01268 533333, option for street scene enquiries. A Tree Officer may come out immediately to stop the work. But this may not happen, especially if the work is taking place outside hours.

If you were unable to get the work stopped, then you should report it to Planning Enforcement by email planningenforcement@basildon.gov.uk. You should also do this if you find out after the work took place that there is a TPO on the tree.

If there is a TPO and an approved planning application for work then you can check that the work is in accordance with the approved planning application's description of works and report to Planning Enforcement if not.