HARPER
Tree Consulting

A step-by-step guide for homeowners and property managers in the National Park

Tree work in the New Forest National Park: a step-by-step guide

Tree work in the New Forest National Park follows the same national rules as elsewhere, but with one important difference: it is the New Forest National Park Authority (NFNPA), not New Forest District Council, that deals with it.

1. **Check who deals with your property.** Inside the National Park boundary, tree work applications and notices go to the NFNPA. Some nearby towns, including Lymington and Fordingbridge, are outside the park, where the district council deals with trees instead. If you're not sure, ask the NFNPA's tree team, or ask us to check.
2. **Check whether the tree is protected.** The NFNPA publishes an interactive tree map showing trees with Tree Preservation Orders. The park also has many Conservation Areas, and a property can be in a Conservation Area and have individual TPOs too. TPO trees need consent before most work; Conservation Area trees over 75mm in trunk diameter (measured 1.5m above the ground) need six weeks' written notice.
3. **Describe the work clearly.** Vague terms like "lop", "trim" or "cut back" are a common reason for applications being queried. Say exactly which tree, what work and how much, for example "reduce the crown of the oak marked T1 by 2m, back to suitable growth points", and mark the trees on a simple plan.
4. **Include supporting evidence.** If the work is needed because of the tree's condition, damage to a building or subsidence, include photos or an arboricultural report. Applications without it are more likely to be delayed or refused.
5. **Submit the application.** The NFNPA recommends applying online through the national Planning Portal. You can also email the completed form to trees@newforestnpa.gov.uk or post it to the Tree Team at Lymington Town Hall (01590 646660).
6. **Wait for the decision.** Don't start work until you have consent for TPO trees, or until the six-week notice period has passed for Conservation Area trees, unless the Authority has confirmed you can go ahead sooner.

Planning an extension or new build?

In the National Park, trees can carry extra weight in planning decisions, especially ancient and veteran trees. A BS5837 tree survey at the start of the design helps avoid delays. We work across the New Forest and know how the National Park Authority's process works. Prepared by Jon Harper, Royal Forestry Society Certificate in Arboriculture (with credit). Independent advice, with no ties to tree work contractors.

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Free quotes: send the address and a few photos of the tree