

Road Agreement Policy for the Protection of Highway Trees affected by New Development

Introduction

Hampshire County Council (HCC) recognises trees on highway land as public capital assets, playing a key role in the conservation of Hampshire's biodiversity as well as enhancing the environment for residents. The aim of this policy is to encourage developers to minimise the impact of new developments on all highway tree assets, especially those of high amenity value. Where tree removal is necessary, this policy and supporting Technical Guidance Note 15 – Landscaping and Trees, will outline the process for determining the compensation required for the loss of those highway assets, with the aim of streamlining the process for both HCC and developers.

Policy Statement

Hampshire County Council as the Highway Authority in Hampshire, will require compensation for the loss of highway tree assets under the road agreements process. The Capital Asset Value of Amenity Trees (CAVAT) methodology will be used as the basis for the valuation assessment.

Scope

The policy covers the removal of trees on highway land in relation to the road agreements process. To establish the value of highway trees, Hampshire County Council will use the Capital Asset Value of Amenity Trees (CAVAT) assessment methodology.

Additional Information

To ensure that developers are aware that Hampshire County Council will require monetary compensation for the loss of its highway tree assets, this policy and the procedure to be followed will be available on the Hampshire County Council website and as part of the Council's pre-application guidance. This offers the developer the opportunity to design the development works so as to avoid impacting highway trees. The Hampshire Arboriculture Team can carry out the CAVAT assessments of highway trees on behalf of developers, at the developers' cost, if requested. Developers may use their own arboriculture specialists, in which case, the CAVAT assessment will be reviewed by the County Council's Arboriculture Team. The policy will be available through HCC's Road Agreements guidance webpages and provided to local planning authorities for inclusion in pre-application guidance.