**DAC Jubilee Tree Planting Advice Note and Application Form**

In response to the numerous applications for the planting of trees as part of the Queen’s Green Canopy Project, the following advice has been put together to assist parishes with the process. This advice note, which combines Church Buildings Council advice with that of DAC members, explains the sort of things that a parish should consider when proposing the planting of a new tree. The final page of this document includes an Application Form which parishes, having given thought to the advice below, can complete and return to the Church Buildings Team at [DAC@salisbury.anglican.org](mailto:DAC@salisbury.anglican.org).

Church Buildings Council Advice for the Planting of Trees

Full CBC guidance for Works to Trees and accompanying documents can be found here: [Trees | The Church of England](https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/churchcare/advice-and-guidance-church-buildings/trees)

An excerpt from ‘Works to Trees in Churchyards’

“Before undertaking any planting, consult your churchyard plan […] on which the church and associated structures, the position and girth of each tree and the span of its branches, can be plotted. This will help you plan for the future. As opportunities arise, new trees can be planted according to this design. Such a design may benefit from the advice of a suitable landscape architect, sensitive to the history of churchyard design, as well as from the DAC, before getting archdeacon’s approval. It will also help the parish to manage requests from bereaved families who wish to plant trees, steering them away from planting on graves (which is never appropriate). Consider carefully before adding more trees to the churchyard. You will probably need to retain room for future burials and, maybe, a church extension. Growing trees can shade out rare lichens on tombs and flower-rich grassland; they can also damage archaeological evidence and seriously threaten the survival of a mature, veteran or ancient tree in the vicinity. Obviously a new tree should be kept well away from the church and neighbours’ buildings, the highway and overhead or underground services and well away from existing trees. Obviously, too, you should be certain that you have got the resources to ensure that good planting practice and after-care will be followed. This should include not only the usual staking (and the prompt removal thereof, before damage is inflicted on the tree), protecting, watering, and feeding, but also formative pruning, to secure a healthy and beautiful mature tree. Both the RHS and the Forestry Commission offer some useful straightforward advice. Most important of all – enjoy and celebrate your trees!“

DAC Advice for Archaeological Considerations

A tree should not be planted over known or suspected graves, and should ideally be located in a part of the churchyard that is known not to have previously been used for burial.

Take into account the rooting of a mature tree, which will extend beyond the initial tree planting pit. You may therefore wish to consider the species of tree to be planted and its rooting characteristics.

A mature tree may require pruning and maintenance so its location may need to be accessible, without damage to graves, memorials or other significant structures. Generally, areas that become very wet during the winter months should be avoided.

The location should consider other possible archaeological constraints beyond graves such as the proximity to the foundation of the church or graveyard monuments, tombs, and memorials, some of which might be listed. The County’s Historic Environment Record (HER) may also provide information on other archaeological remains that might be affected beyond those related to the church and its graveyard.

DAC Advice for Choosing a Tree

Scale is an important factor in the choice and positioning of new trees in relation to their mature height and spread, to their proximity to the church, the boundary wall or adjoining buildings, and to the effect of root systems on existing memorials and land for future burials as well as on underground drainage systems. Planting proposals should conform to the PCC’s wider policy for the conservation of the churchyard.

Suitable species of larger trees include yew (the spreading form taxus baccata), Scots pine, cedar of Lebanon, small leafed lime, beech, horse chestnut and field maple. Hedging species such as hawthorn, blackthorn, guelder rose, hazel and the wayfaring tree can form useful screening. The various varieties of Cupressus, willow and poplar are not recommended for churchyards.

Consider the soil conditions; these will vary throughout the country and advice on planting may be available from local stock suppliers.

Maintenance of the tree is essential with watering along with formative pruning and when necessary, the slackening of tree ties to avoid strangulation. Tree limbs should be kept clear of the church and other churchyard buildings, both to prevent damage to the buildings and to discourage squirrels from accessing and inhabiting the roofs and roof cavities. The clearing of fallen leaves etc from gutters and the ground must also be considered.

If a specimen tree is to be planted to achieve immediate impact, a standard sized specimen with a girth of 8 to 10 centimetres should be planted and suitably staked and tied.

Useful links

<http://www.trees.org.uk>

<https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/hpg/consent/treeconservation/>

<https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/countryside-hedgerows-regulation-and-management>

<http://www.ancienttreeforum.co.uk/>

<https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/planning/consents/tree/>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ancient-woodland-and-veteran-trees-protection-surveys-licences>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/wild-birds-protection-surveys-and-licences>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/bats-protection-surveys-and-licences>

<https://www.bats.org.uk/>

**Jubilee Tree – Application Form**

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| Parish: |  |
| Parish contact name & email address: |  |
| Proposed tree species: |  |
| Brief description of proposed position of tree:  (To accompany a churchyard plan) |  |
| Consideration of archaeological impact: |  |
| Accompanying plaque? | (yes/no) |
|  | An accompanying tree plaque will be \_ x \_ in size, made of ­\_ and use the following wording: |