

Guidelines for residents wishing to maintain common land on Bringsty Common in the vicinity of the periphery of their property

September 2023

Guidelines agreed by Herefordshire Council as Bringsty Common landowner for residents maintaining common land near their property.

Advance permission from Bringsty Common Manorial Court will not be required for tree felling/planting/scrub clearance within 10 metres (approximately 30 ft) of the property boundary, provided:

- a) felling is restricted to trees with a maximum diameter of 8 centimetres (the width of a baked bean can) taken at a height of 1.3m*
- b) tree work and scrub clearance is carried out after September 1st and before March 30th
- c) no bonfires or burning of the cuttings is to be permitted on common land.
- d) grass may be cut at any time of year, but residents are asked to consider the ecological benefits of encouraging wildflowers and letting grass grow during the summer months, even if only in certain patches of their boundary
- e) No trees or shrubs, other than from the native species list provided in the appendix, are permitted to be planted within 10 metres of the boundary of the property.)
- f) It is important that neighbours of the property are informed, and their comments/objections taken into consideration **in advance of any work being carried out.**

We ask that all residents be mindful of the obligations under the Wildlife and Countryside Act in carrying out any of the above work.

The use of any chainsaw or brush-cutter on land owned by Herefordshire Council is not permitted unless you possess the appropriate public liability insurance, have the appropriate qualification (eg. LANTRA or C&G) to use the equipment and are wearing the necessary PPE. A commercial, insured contractor should otherwise be used.

*Above this size the timber is recognised as contributing to a felling allowance by the Forestry Commission.

Where you wish to fell larger trees, please supply a sketch map of your property showing the position of the trees in question, their type and size and submit this to the BCMC clerk. A decision can usually be made quickly, if necessary, after a site visit.

Appendix 1: List of Native Trees & Shrubs (not exhaustive)

Plant Group	Native Trees in the Group
Alder	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>
Ash	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>
Aspen	<i>Populus tremula</i>
Beech	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>
Birch	Downy Birch, <i>Betula pubescens</i> & Silver Birch, <i>Betula pendula</i>
Blackthorn	<i>Prunus spinosa</i>
Box	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>
Buckthorn	Alder Buckthorn, <i>Rhamnus frangula</i> - Purging Buckthorn, <i>Rhamnus cathartica</i> & Sea-buckthorn, <i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i>
Cherry	Bird Cherry, <i>Prunus padus</i> & Wild Cherry, <i>Prunus avium</i>
Crab Apple	<i>Malus sylvestris</i>
Dogwood	<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>
Elder	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>
Elm	English Elm, <i>Ulmus procera</i> - Wych Elm, <i>Ulmus glabra</i> - Smooth-leaf Elm, <i>Ulmus minor</i>
Hawthorn	Hawthorn, <i>Crataegus monogyna</i> - Midland Hawthorn, <i>Crataegus leavigata</i>
Hazel	<i>Corylus avellana</i>
Holly	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>
Hornbeam	<i>Carpinus betulus</i>
Juniper	<i>Juniperus communis</i>
Lime	Large Leaved Lime, <i>Tilia platyphyllos</i> & Small Leaved Lime, <i>Tilia cordata</i>
Maple	<i>Acer campestre</i>
Oak	Common Oak, <i>Quercus robur</i> & Sessile Oak, <i>Quercus petraea</i>
Poplar	Black Poplar, <i>Populus nigra</i> & Aspen Poplar, <i>Populus tremula</i>
Rowan a.k.a Mountain Ash	Rowan / Mountain Ash - <i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>
Scots Pine	<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>
Spindle	<i>Euonymus europaeus</i>
Strawberry Tree	<i>Arbutus unedo</i>
Whitebeam	<i>Sorbus aria</i>
Wild Service Tree	<i>Sorbus torminalis</i>
Willow	Goat Willow, <i>Salix caprea</i> - White Willow, <i>Salix alba</i> - Crack Willow, <i>Salix fragilis</i> - <i>Salix triandra</i> - <i>Salix pentandra</i>
Yew	<i>Taxus baccata</i>