



xfordshire
Be Ready...



HEDGES AND TREES

A guide to rules and ownership of
hedges and trees



**OXFORDSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL**

Whose owns that hedge or tree?

Most boundary hedges and trees, almost without exception are the responsibility of the owner or occupier of the land they front. It is the landowner's responsibility to maintain boundary hedges and trees, and to undertake maintenance at the right time and in a safe way.

The dangers of overgrown hedges and trees

Overgrown vegetation and hedges not only look untidy, they can:

- pose a hazard to pedestrians and cyclists.
- restrict the amount of space available on pavements and paths which are for people, not plants.
- can restrict the available width of roads, forcing vehicles into the centre of the carriageway.
- cause damage to highway infrastructure including street lights and also road and pavement surfaces.
- lead to surfaces becoming slippery with moss.
- lead to blocked drains and drainage covers if leaves are not collected and removed.





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Action to take

Landowners should make sure that vegetation is neatly trimmed back to the back of the path or away from the carriageway edge.

The County Council will notify the property owner if any vegetation is deemed in need of attention.

The County Council does have the power under the Highways Act to cut vegetation where it is a hazard and reclaim its costs from the owner.



Considerations

When planning to trim vegetation, it is important to consider a number of issues:

Safety: ensure that work is carried out in a safe manner; that equipment is appropriate for the task; that safety equipment is available and used properly, and that those undertaking the task understand how to do so safely.

Permission: if work is being undertaken on the highway, additional traffic management permissions may be required.

Time of year: check that any activity is undertaken at the right time of the year to avoid impacting upon local wildlife. This information is available from the Environment Agency.

Disposal: please dispose of hedge, tree cuttings and vegetation properly. Consult your local council about disposal options of green waste.



Further information and help:

If you are not physically capable of undertaking necessary work, help may be available to you.

Professional contractors are available; information about selecting a contractor is available from Oxfordshire County Council's Trading Standards Team.

Organisations such as Age UK and Volunteer Link-Up may be able to offer assistance.



Need more information?



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Oxfordshire County Council

Highways and Transport Drainage Team

0845 310 1111

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk

Highwayenquiries@oxfordshire.gov.uk