

Urban Forestry Frequently Asked Questions

Solihull Council manage more than 60,000 individual trees and several hundred thousand more in woodlands and tree groups.

Our Frequently Asked Questions lists the most common enquiries we receive about trees and woodlands.

For **dangerous trees or tree emergencies**, please do not hesitate to contact us on 0121 704 8000.

A council tree is obstructing light to my property, what can the council do?

We do not cut back trees due to light. Light levels can vary based on the construction of buildings, the time of year and changing weather.

We may cut trees back from property where they are growing close to windows.

Where two or more evergreen or semi-evergreen trees grow together to form a high hedge we may review the situation under [these terms](#).

Leaves are falling onto my property from a council tree, can the tree be cut back?

We will not prune or fell trees due to falling leaves.

We clear falling leaves from highways and council owned land. You can visit our [Verge and hedge maintenance](#) page for information on how we clear leaves.

Leaves can come from many sources, not just trees on council land. You can prevent leaves collecting in gutters and drains by placing wire guards over the top of the gutter.

The tree is dropping fruit on my property/the footway, can the tree be removed or cut back?

We will generally not prune trees for falling fruit. However, trees may be felled if the risk is in line with the trees age and size.

For example, a small tree dropping hundreds of plums on the footway may be removed and replaced. A large mature horse chestnut that drops conkers is more valuable and a large risk would need to be present for us to consider its removal.

The tree is blocking my TV/Telephone/Satellite Signal can it be cut back?

We will not prune trees to improve TV signals as there's no guarantee this will improve the situation. A TV aerial engineer may be able to advise you on a better position for your aerial.

I have a view out my window which I would like to see: can't the tree be cut back or removed?

We will not prune or fell trees for this reason.

I can't see when pulling out my drive/road junction, can the tree be cut down?

We will consider pruning/felling for visibility where there is no view onto or off of a public highway. Where the highway can be viewed by moving your vehicle before or after the tree then we're unlikely to fell a tree. We may consider pruning a tree if this will reasonably improve visibility.

The tree is blocking CCTV, what can Solihull Council do?

CCTV should not be positioned where trees are growing in the field of view. We are happy to be contacted before CCTV is installed, particularly for public safety.

If CCTV was in place before a tree was planted we may remove or prune the tree. If a tree was already in place before the installation would expect the CCTV to be relocated.

Highway Obstructions

Our highways and footways are inspected either monthly (fortnightly in the Town Centre), 6 monthly or annually depending on their classification. If you feel that a council tree is causing an ongoing obstruction please contact us on 0121 704 8000.

If a private tree is causing an ongoing obstruction we can take enforcement action.

Damage to Property

If damage occurs due to a falling tree or branch it is unlikely that Solihull Council will accept liability unless it can be established that the tree was responsible. In most cases our inspections do not find that damage has been caused by a tree, but if we find a tree is responsible, we may support a subsequent claim. Your claim will not be reviewed without clear supporting evidence.

For alleged direct damage such as lifting driveways, damaged fences etc. we usually will require a simple claim with a photo of the tree(s) thought to be causing the damage and a photo of the consequences. Colleagues in our Insurance team may require further evidence (dependant on the nature of the situation).

For alleged subsidence related cases it is advisable to seek professional advice and contact your home insurer as this issue often requires detailed investigation and advice. The Forestry team cannot review subsidence claims without:

- professional geotechnical evidence; and

- a supporting Arboricultural report.

Your evidence will need to demonstrate a clear link between the damage, the subsidence, and the tree(s).

In all cases, please contact our [Insurance team](#) should you wish to make a claim as a result of the tree.

Dangerous Trees in Neighbouring Private Property

If you believe there is a dangerous tree in a neighbouring garden, you should approach your neighbour about your concerns.

If no action is taken by the private tree owner we may be able to assist. Please provide clear evidence to support the view that the private tree is dangerous.

If Solihull Council agree that the private tree is an **imminent danger** we may be able to enforce remedial works (to reduce the hazards associated with the tree). However, this enforcement action will only be possible where a private tree is causing **imminent danger**. Examples of an imminent danger would include when a tree or branch could cause significant harm or damage within a few weeks or months of us being notified.

We will not inspect a neighbouring tree due to:

- Blocked light;
- Blocked drains;
- Overhanging branches; or
- Any other non-imminent hazardous issues.