

# Tree Safety for Paths

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## Aim

It is important to keep new or upgraded paths reasonably safe from falling trees, and unobstructed by trees and branches for the full range of users.

## Eligibility

Any land is eligible.

Tree safety works must relate to upgraded or new paths.

## Requirements

Tree safety survey:

- to be undertaken in any high-risk areas of woodland.
- survey all semi-mature and mature trees within falling distance of paths and assess trees in terms of condition, health and risk to the public
- identify trees for removal, pruning or brashing, and mark trees identified for treatment

Make safe hazardous trees:

- remove trees, dangerous limbs, deadwood and other dangerous features identified in the tree safety survey as posing significant risk to users of the new or upgraded path
- you will be responsible for obtaining any felling licences that may be needed
- you must maintain a diary of photographic evidence of the tree safety works

Manual brashing:

- to be carried out along both sides of path as required to open a path corridor for all users unobstructed by vegetation; may additionally increase light levels to the path or open up views
- to be carried out using purpose-made hand or mechanical pruning saws (not chainsaws)
- cuts should be flush with stem and to a minimum height of 2 metres
- you must maintain a diary of photographic evidence of the tree safety works

## Payment

You can claim:

- tree safety survey: £33 per hectare
- make safe hazardous trees: £113 per tree
- manual brashing: £1.09 per metre of path

## Inspections

The inspectors will check:

- the location and extent of the work

Tree safety survey:

- survey was undertaken in a high risk areas of woodland
- all semi-mature and mature trees within falling distance of paths were surveyed; trees were assessed in terms of condition, health and risk to the public

- identified trees for removal, pruning or brashing, and marked trees identified for treatment

Make safe hazardous trees:

- trees, dangerous limbs, deadwood and other dangerous features were removed as identified in the tree safety survey as posing significant risk to users of the new or upgraded path
- you have obtained any felling licences that may be needed
- you have maintained a diary of photographic evidence of the tree safety works

Manual brashing:

- work was carried out along both sides of path as required to open a path corridor for all users unobstructed by vegetation; may additionally increase light levels to the path or open up views
- work was carried out using purpose-made hand or mechanical pruning saws (not chainsaws)
- cuts were flush with stem and to a minimum height of 2 metres
- you have maintained a diary of photographic evidence of the tree safety works