

Tree Safety for Paths

This is an old version of the page

Date published: 8 March, 2016

Date superseded: 1 March, 2017

To see recent changes to this guidance, [check the bottom of this page](#).

Aim

It is important that new or upgraded paths are made 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

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 two metres
- you must maintain a diary of photographic evidence of the tree safety works

Payment

You can claim:

- 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

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 two metres

- you have maintained a diary of photographic evidence of the tree safety works

Recent changes

Section	Change	Previous text	New text
Aim	Guidance amended.	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.	It is important that new or upgraded paths are made reasonably safe from falling trees, and unobstructed by trees and branches for the full range of users.
Requirements	Tree safety survey - removed	Tree safety survey: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	-
Payment	Tree safety survey - removed	• tree safety survey: £33 per hectare	-
Inspections	Tree safety survey - removed	Tree safety survey: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	-

Previous versions

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