

NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL TREE SERVICES

# Tree Services – Frequently Asked Questions



## What We Do

The Council's Tree Service manages publicly owned trees to ensure safety, sustainability, and amenity value across our communities. We respond to enquiries based on **clear priorities, legal responsibilities, and available resources**.

We will carry out work for:

- ☛ **Public Safety:** Where a tree poses a risk to people or property, as confirmed by a Tree Officer.
- ☛ **Highway Safety:** If branches obstruct roads, pavements, street lighting, or visibility of traffic signs.
- ☛ **Subsidence Claims:** If there is verified evidence that a tree is contributing to structural damage.
- ☛ **Tree Health and Defects:** If inspections reveal decay, fungal brackets, or other structural problems.
- ☛ **Dead or Dying Trees:** Removal or remedial work to maintain safety.
- ☛ **Essential Pruning:** Including crown lifting or branch tip reduction where it is:
  - ☛ Required to maintain sightlines
  - ☛ Needed for building clearance (2–3m)

**Note:** Pollarding will only be used where no other management method is suitable, and resources are available for continued upkeep.

## What We Don't Do

We will not carry out work for reasons that fall outside safety, legal duty, or good arboricultural practice.

We are unlikely to carry out work for:

- ☛ **Loss of View:** There is no legal right to a view.
- ☛ **Daylight Loss:** Unless very specific criteria are met.
- ☛ **Size or Growth:** A tree being 'too large' or 'too tall' is not a valid reason for work.
- ☛ **Shedding:** Trees naturally shed leaves, fruit, seeds, pollen, petals, or honeydew (caused by aphids). Clearing such material is considered routine property maintenance.
- ☛ **TV, Satellite or Wi-Fi Interference:** No legal right to reception exists. Engineering solutions should be explored first.
- ☛ **Obstruction to Solar Panels:** There is no legal right to direct sunlight.
- ☛ **Impact on Private Cables:** Issues with phone or power lines should be directed to your service provider.
- ☛ **Bird Droppings:** Pruning won't prevent birds from roosting.
- ☛ **Presence of Wildlife:** We do not remove trees due to grey squirrels or bird activity.



## Tree-Related Risk and Recorded Damage

Nottingham City Council recognises that trees under its management may in certain circumstances, present risks or constitute an actionable nuisance. The Council is committed to addressing these issues in a timely and responsible manner, in accordance with legal obligations and best practice.

- ☛ **Risk to Public Safety** where a Council-managed tree poses a danger to people or property, the Council has a duty to act. All such risks will be addressed as soon as the Council becomes aware of them. Scheduling work in the timescales recommended following inspections.
- ☛ A tree may cause an **actionable nuisance** if it causes a material impact on a third party—for example, physical damage to buildings. Once on notice of the issue the Council will seek to resolve such issues as promptly as is practicable, balancing the needs of affected individuals with the wider public interest.

## Daylight Loss – When We May Take Action

We will consider light-related pruning **only if** all of the following apply:

- ☛ The **trunk is closer than 6m** to a habitable room window (e.g., living room, kitchen, bedroom) for trees over 12m tall.
- ☛ For smaller trees, the **distance is less than half the height** of the tree.
- ☛ The **canopy is within 2m** of the window.

Any pruning will be **minimal and maintain the tree's natural shape**, typically involving selective branch tip reduction and crown lifting. Cases are prioritised based on proximity, window orientation, and budget availability.

## TV and Satellite Reception

Reception issues caused by trees will not usually result in tree work unless:

1. Engineering solutions (relocating or adjusting the equipment) have failed,
2. The work is in line with arboricultural best practice,
3. The tree's health or amenity value will not be compromised, and resources are available.



## Trees and Nature – Our Approach

We recognise trees as vital habitats and sources of public amenity. They are managed to balance safety with ecological and visual value.

- **Birds and Wildlife:** Trees may be home to nesting birds and grey squirrels. We do not remove trees to address wildlife concerns.
- **Honeydew and Insects:** Not produced by the tree itself, honeydew is caused by insects and is not a reason for pruning.
- **Natural Tree Functions:** Falling leaves, fruit, and pollen are seasonal and expected. Their removal is the responsibility of the property owner.

