

# Hedges – in green spaces

## Service summary:

The service is provided at the council's discretion.

You'll find hedges of various types around open spaces in both town and country. They may form the boundary to a property, or be a wildlife or amenity feature.

We maintain hedges in different ways depending on what and where they are.

## We will:

- cut hedges according to the schedule

	First Cut	Second Cut
<b>Natural type hedges</b>		
Hawthorn	Late May	August/September
Blackthorn	January/February	July/August
Beech	May/June	August/September
<b>Ornamental Hedges</b>		
Privet	May	July/September
Hornbeam	January/February	July/August
Berberis	May/June	August/September
Box	May/June	August/September
Yew	June	August/September

- usually give hedges an extra trim where they overhang public paths
- check all hedges to make sure we don't disturb nesting birds. We'll cut the hedges when the birds have left the nest
- collect trimmings from ornamental hedges.

## You can help by:

- not dropping litter – it is difficult to pick out of hedges and hedge bases
- not throwing plastic bags containing dog mess into hedges. These are difficult and unpleasant for our staff to remove.

**The service does not include:**

- collecting the fine trimmings from hedges trimmed with a flail – we leave them on the ground to rot down
- privately owned hedges.

**Contact us:**

Streets and Open Spaces **01934 888 802**  
**[www.n-somerset.gov.uk](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk)**

## Frequently asked questions

1. The hedge at X is very overgrown - when are you coming to cut it?

If the council owns it, the hedge will be cut in accordance with the schedule on the previous page. Please contact us if there is any doubt or the hedge is of a type not listed.

If you don't know who owns it, or the type of hedge is not listed in the schedule, please contact us using the details above.

2. What can you do about the hedge at X as it's growing across the pathway?

If we own the hedge, we'll cut it back within two weeks of reporting. If the hedge is in private ownership and overhangs the highway we can formally request the owner to cut the hedge back or undertake the work ourselves and recharge the owner the full costs.

3. The base of the hedge at X is full of litter. Can you get it cleared up?

Please provide us with the details as to where the hedge is and we will arrange to get the litter removed as soon as possible.

4. My neighbour's hedge is overhanging my garden - what can I do about it?

You can exercise your common law right and cut back the overhanging growth to your boundary. You should speak to the hedge owner before undertaking this work to find out if they would like the cuttings. You may need to seek professional advice if the work you propose is drastic and may affect the health or safety of the trees making up the hedge. We advise you to cut the hedge in the winter months to avoid disturbing nesting birds which is against the law.

5. Can I cut my hedge at the moment (March)?

We advise you not to cut your hedge between the beginning of March and the end of June because it will disturb birds nesting in it.

