

Trees – Council owned

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Service summary:

North Somerset Council is responsible for many thousands of trees on its land. We look after them to make sure that they continue to make a positive contribution to the environment, and that the community can enjoy them safely.

We will:

- manage our trees by:
 - giving priority to felling or pruning dead, dying or dangerous trees
 - dealing with any insurance claim that relates to one of our trees promptly and properly once we have fully examined what happened
 - removing low branches over pavements and roads
 - felling or pruning trees for any other legal reason
- when a tree is reported as dangerous, inspect it as quickly as possible
- ensure our trees make a positive contribution to the environment by following industry guidelines
- plant a new tree nearby when one of ours has to be felled (except for dead elms and depending on where it is, as some sites will not be suitable for planting a new tree)
- inspect trees about which residents have expressed concern, although we may not always undertake any tree surgery.

You can help by:

- letting us know about trees that appear to be dead, dying or dangerous
- telling us about trees that are causing a problem
- reporting vandalism to trees. If you see vandalism taking place call the police – 999 or the Ranger Service – **01934 621 802**.

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The service does not include:

- felling trees if they are casting shade, interfering with TV or satellite signals, blocking views, overhanging gardens or any other non-legal reason
- trees covered by Tree Preservation Orders – please contact Streets and Open Spaces on the number below for further guidance
- trees on private land.

Contact us:

01934 888 802

www.n-somerset.gov.uk

Streets and Open Spaces, North Somerset Council, Weston Court,
Oldmixon Crescent, Weston-super-Mare BS24 9AU

Frequently asked questions and answers on

Council owned trees

1. The tree outside my house needs attention.
Who should tend to it?

This will normally depend on who owns the land

- if it's privately owned, maintenance is the responsibility of the owner.
- if the tree appears to be on other land owned by us please speak to our Tree Officer

If you're not sure about ownership, please contact us for advice.

2. What can I do about low branches overhanging the footpath?

We trim low growing branches from trees throughout the summer. Where necessary we will also trim in winter. If you'd like to know more about our trimming programme, please speak to us.

3. When will the trees in my road be pollarded?

Trees are pollarded (top growth cut off) approximately every four years. To find out when yours are due, please speak to our Tree Officer.

4. I've noticed your tree contractor working locally - can I buy some woodchips and logs?

Woodchips and logs belong to the contractor Silvanus. You can contact them on **01275 464 466**.

5. What should I do when I see a dead or dangerous tree?

Speak to Streets and Open Spaces and tell them where it is – telephone no **01934 888 802**. They'll make sure the right person is told about it.

If the tree is blocking a road, you should report it to the police.

6. Can I plant a commemorative tree in one of your parks?

Commemorative trees can be planted in many of our parks and open spaces from November to March. The cost will vary depending on the size and type of tree. Speak to our Tree Officer on **01934 888 802** to discuss your request.