

Council contacts

Parks & Environmental Services and

Planning Services can be contacted at:

Herbert Warehouse, The Docks, Gloucester, GL1 2EQ

☎ All Council owned tree enquiries - 396396

✉ email - enviro@gloucester.gov.uk

☎ Tree Preservation Orders only - 396827

Other useful contacts

Gloucester City Council - www.glos-city.gov.uk

The Arboricultural Association - (01794) 368717
www.trees.org.uk

Arboricultural Information Exchange - www.aie.org.uk

'I love trees, but..'

**Council Trees
Advice and Guidance**



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Parks and
Environmental Services
June 2002



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The trees in Gloucester make a major contribution to its amenity. Amongst other things, they screen eyesores, frame views and form landmarks. Trees have significant environmental value, produce a habitat for many species and help provide us with cleaner, filtered air, shade in the summer and warmth in the winter.

The Council is proud of its trees and favours the retention of trees where possible. The purpose of this guide is to provide the property owner/tenant with clear and concise information with regard to what they can reasonably expect from the Council in terms of:

- Council trees overhanging your property
- Council trees restricting light or view
- Council trees which are dead, dying, dangerous or contain any significant dead or broken limbs
- Acknowledging requests and service delivery

Work the Council will do

The Council will maintain their trees in a safe condition and will:

- remove dead, dying and dangerous trees
- remove major dead wood (over 75mm diameter) which overhangs private/Council property
- remove dangerous or damaged limbs
- prune branches where an actionable legal nuisance is being caused, e.g. damage to structures

What should I do now?

If you would like the Council to carry out any of the work listed above, fill in the prepaid Tree Work Request Form providing as much accurate information as possible and return to Gloucester City Council.

What happens next?

You will receive a letter confirming that your request has been registered and is being assessed. We aim to assess the work and instruct a contractor, where appropriate, within a period of 8 weeks from the registration of your request. Occasionally, high volumes of applications will extend this period.

If we agree to carry out tree work, then a contractor will be instructed to complete the work within 4 weeks of the date of the instruction.

If, after assessment, we decide that the work is not appropriate, you will be notified in writing before the 8 week period expires.

Work the Council will not do

The Council has no obligation to:

- prune back or remove overhanging branches other than to abate an actionable legal nuisance
- prune or fell trees to improve light to a property
- prune or fell trees to improve the view from a property
- systematically crown reduce or 'top' trees

Do not return the request form for this type of work.

If the Council will not do the work, can I get it done myself?

In common law, a property owner can cut back overhanging branches to the boundary of his property. The Council will usually have no objection to property owners carrying out tree work or engaging a contractor at their own expense, providing that:

- access is not gained onto the neighbouring land or into a tree within that land. If access to our land or

into a tree on that land is required, our permission must be sought

- the tree is not situated in a Conservation Area or protected by a Tree Preservation Order for which separate consent is required from Planning Services
- any work that is done to a tree is not detrimental to its health or stability
- any tree work undertaken is carried out in accordance with current best practice (as defined in British Standard Recommendations for Tree Work 3998:1989)
- we are notified of the proposed work and commencement date

Tree Contractors

Most reputable contractors will give advice and provide a free quotation. Tree work is covered by British Standard Recommendations for Tree Work 3998:1989 and the Council advises applicants to specify this standard for the proposed work.

The Council cannot recommend individual tree surgeons, but would strongly advise you to check the contractor's qualifications and public liability insurance before agreeing to any work. Details of local tree surgeons can be obtained from the telephone directory.

Obtaining separate quotations is also recommended, especially on larger works, as prices for the same job can vary.