

Tree surgeons (arborists)

Good tree surgeons will give advice and provide a free quotation. Tree work is covered by 'British Standard Recommendations for Tree Work' (BS3998) and the Council advises that you specify this standard for the proposed work.

The Council cannot recommend individual tree surgeons, but would strongly advise that you to check the contractor's qualifications and public liability insurance before agreeing to any work.

The Council has produced an information leaflet about selecting tree surgeons and arboricultural consultants. Please contact us if you would like a copy.

Council contacts

The City Council is responsible for trees in parks and open spaces.

Trees bordering the highway are usually the responsibility of Gloucestershire County Council.

All City Council Tree enquiries: **01452 396396**

Email: heretohelp@gloucester.gov.uk

Tree Preservation Orders only: **01452 396897**

All County Council Tree enquiries: **01452 425000**

Other useful contacts

Gloucester City Council:
www.gloucester.gov.uk

The Arboricultural Association:
www.trees.org.uk

Help with accessing this information:
www.gloucester.gov.uk

For large print versions or help with other accessibility issues that you may have with this document:
01452 396396

Environmental Planning
November 2015

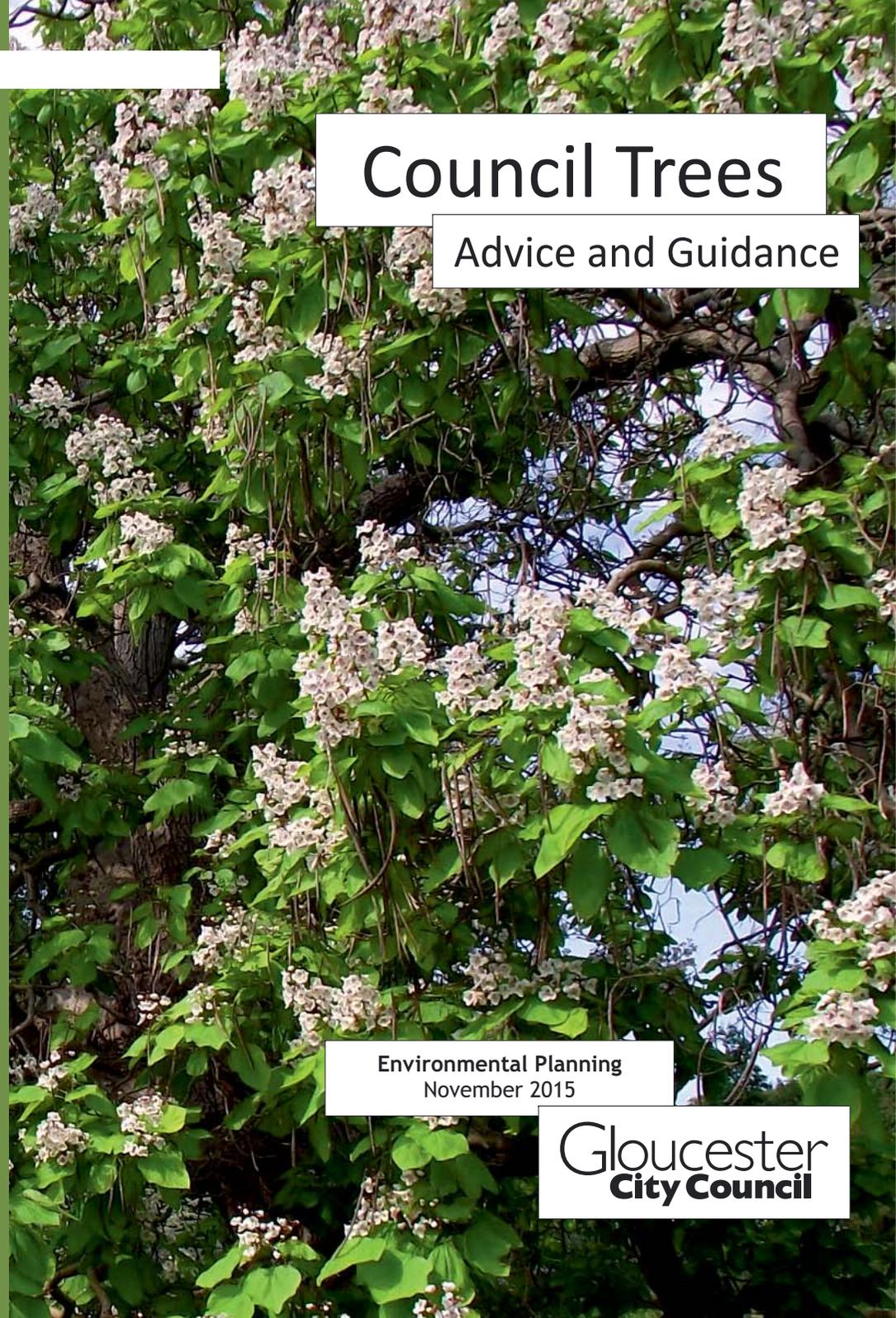
Gloucester
City Council

Council Trees

Advice and Guidance

Environmental Planning
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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, provide a habitat for many creatures and help to give us 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.

- Where there is sufficient evidence, the Council will prune and/or remove trees to prevent damage to property.

What should I do now?

If you would like the Council to carry out any of the work listed above, fill in the Tree Work Request Form. Please provide as much accurate information as possible and return the form to Gloucester City Council (or use the website form).

What happens next?

We aim to assess the request for work and instruct a contractor, where appropriate, within a period of eight weeks from the registration of your request. Occasionally, high volumes of applications will extend this period.

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

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

Work the Council WILL NOT do

The Council has NO obligation to:

- 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 their own 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).
- We are notified of the proposed work and commencement date.
- All pruned wood and arisings from the work is removed from site and disposed of responsibly.