



TREE POLICY

Sprowston Town Council is committed to protecting its arboriculture assets through the positive management of trees on land owned and managed by the Council.

The Council arranges regular tree surveys resulting in the identification of trees that require arboriculture work and those requiring felling; Council has a duty of care to manage its trees and that duty is governed primarily by factors affecting the safety of the public and property, the health of the tree and the risk of spread of disease.

This approach will ensure improved management through continuity and will assist the Council in providing a consistent and professional service to the community; where requests for works are not warranted under our primary duties for tree works, they will not ordinarily be entertained at public cost.

To ensure the efficient management of tree stock, the Council has adopted a tree inspection and management policy which includes the categorisation of trees into three risk categories – high, medium or low:

Low risk

No fixed routine independent inspection of trees

Such trees would include *saplings*, *copse trees*, any trees below 5m in height, and/or with limbs narrower than 25mm, or trunks below 75mm in diameter. These trees would ordinarily be assessed within groups or as part of regular site inspections; they would also be viewed during independent inspections but may not be specifically recorded unless they require felling.

Medium risk

Inspected every three years

Such trees would include those located close to informal paths, *medium* sized trees, street trees; trees in open areas and natural wooded areas that experience a frequent level of footfall.

High risk

Inspected every three years and where required annually; and also in response to changing environment and weather

Trees which, for example; overhang neighbours' properties and near structures within impact zones; play areas or well-frequented paths, seating and similar public open space, any street trees exceeding 5m in height; *large* and or *mature* trees that stand alone following felling works to a neighbouring tree/s, and trees known to be susceptible to disease, defects, shedding, or failure in high winds.

Trees are also monitored as part of regular site inspections and any advisory notes are highlighted for specialist assessment. The process of regular inspection will identify any change in any natural and environmental factors local to certain trees.

Any enquiries or report of concerns in relation to apparent dead, dying or dangerous trees will be followed by site inspection first by a Town Council officer and if any faults or notes are recorded then a specialist will be requested for further inspection.