

Benefits of trees in our city

Portsmouth City Council Highways PFI maintain and monitor 8,200 trees across the city. They provide immense environmental and aesthetic value to the city and residents. Trees offer the following benefits:

- Habitat for wildlife
- Produce oxygen and improve the air quality by absorbing pollutants
- Deflect and reduce noise
- Enhance the character and appearance of urban areas
- Reduce heat radiating from hard surfaces

Report an issue

Reporting online is the quickest and easiest way to let us know of any issues. You can choose to receive updates and track what action has been taken. We will always aim to respond to your enquiry as quickly as possible. Please include location details, and a photo where possible, to help us find the issue quicker.

Visit www.colasportsmouth.co.uk call 02392 310900

Brown-Tail Moths

Brown-tail moth caterpillars are found along the South Eastern coast. They become active through Spring and Summer and may be seen on branches of trees and shrubs. The whole body is covered in tufts of brown hairs and two distinct orange/red dots are noticeable on the caterpillar's back towards the tail.

They can produce toxic hairs that can pose a serious health risk.

During the Spring, a special vacuum cleanser can be used on highway trees which are infested trees.

During winter, after leaf-fall, look out for silken tents attached to small branches in the crown of your tree in which up to 2000 caterpillars may be sheltering.

It is at this time that pruning out the tents and burning them can be the safest and most effective form of control.

Tree Preservation Order (TPO)

A Tree Preservation Order is an order made by local planning authority in England to protect specific Trees, groups of trees or woodlands in the interests of amenity, such an order prohibits the :

- Cutting Down
- Topping
- Lopping
- Uprooting
- Wilful damage
- Wilful Destruction

Of trees without the local planning authority's written consent. If consent is given, it can be subject to conditions which have to be followed.

Looking after Portsmouth's Trees



Our tree services

There are 20,000 trees in Portsmouth, 8,200 of these are maintained and inspected by experts from Colas.

Specialist tree surgeons carry out:

- Safety inspections and routine surveys
- Tree pruning
- Removing (when required), replacement and planting

Specialists are also on hand 24 hours-a-day to deal with any urgent issues on the highway.

Safety inspections and routine services

Portsmouth's highway trees are regularly inspected and recorded on our tree management system. Every tree gets a visual tree assessment every 4 years.

By visually examining a tree we can gather information on the condition of its roots, trunk, main branch structure, crown, buds and leaves to make an assessment and draw conclusions about general condition, health and vitality.

During the inspection, we consider the trees location, species, condition, age and future growth patterns. This helps us decide if any work is required to maintain healthy, safe trees that are a real benefit to Portsmouth's street scene. Routine work is then scheduled for the following year.

Tree pruning

Routine pruning is carried out when required to keep the tree in a healthy condition. Over pruning can cause accelerated growth so we only prune when it is necessary.

As well as keeping them healthy, we prune trees when they are:

Potential damage to a property

Obstruction to safe passage of pedestrians, bicycles and vehicles

Blockage of street lighting, road signs or traffic lights

Removal and replacement

We only remove trees when it is absolutely necessary. Every tree is replaced in the planting season with a suitable sized tree and species as close to the original position as possible.

The planting season is between November and March.

We might need to remove a tree when it is:

- Diseased, damaged or dying
- Storm damaged
- Dangerous, because tree or part of the tree has falling or is at risk of falling
- Potentially detrimental to adjacent structure or property
- Causing obstructions that cannot be rectified by pruning
- Causing serious and irreparable damage to the footway

Trees affecting your property

Overhanging branches

Where branches of a tree or hedge causes a nuisance by overhanging your property, you can arrange to cut them back yourself, unless the tree is protected by a [Tree Preservation Order](#) or is in a [conservation area](#). You may prune the branches back to the boundary of your property but no further and must not cause damage to the tree.

We recommend that you use a specialist to carry out the work. You must dispose of any cuttings yourself.

Trees blocking light or affecting television reception

We do not schedule work due to trees blocking light or affecting television reception.

Bird droppings, sap or pollen

We appreciate that droppings, pollen and sap from trees can be a nuisance however pruning a tree won't stop sap or pollen falling, or birds sitting on the remaining branches.

Tree damaging property

If you think a tree is damaging your property, the first thing to do is contact your home insurance company for advice. If there are indications that the tree might be detrimental to your property, we may carry out works on the tree.

Tree damaging pipes

It is very rare for underground water pipes to be broken by tree roots. Tree roots don't break into undamaged pipes, but will take advantage of a pipe that is already damaged. We don't carry out work on trees to prevent roots entering damaged pipes, as repairing the pipe is the only certain solution. If you think a tree is damaging your pipes, the first thing to do is contact your home insurance company for advice.

Leaves

Leaf-fall is a natural occurrence. It is the responsibility of the land owner where leaves have fallen to dispose of them. Visit www.colasportsmouth.co.uk or call 02392 310900 to request fallen leaves be removed from the road.

