



Tree Management Policy

Purpose:

Ensuring the health and safety of Parish Council owned trees in the parish as a commitment to environment services. The tree management procedures provide the framework for works undertaken by the Parish Council.

Tree Management Operations:

Tree felling: It is not the Parish Council's policy to fell healthy trees. Trees may be cut down by felling directly onto the ground or by being lowered down in sections. The decision to fell a council tree can only be made by the parish council's tree officers.

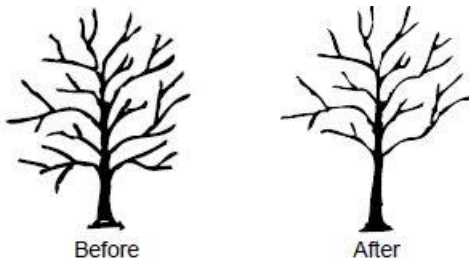
Trees can be felled:

- Where grounds of safety overriding
- Where trees are dead, dangerous or diseased
- To follow good tree management practice and promote healthy trees
- Where buildings, roads and paths are being damaged and root pruning would be ineffective
- Where the tree would prevent development of an approved planning application

Where appropriate a replacement tree of a suitable species will be planted as near as possible to the original site.

Crown Lifting

(Removal of branches below a specified height)



This is very often done to allow pedestrians or vehicle access on paths and roads. Normally a tree by a path will have its branches removed up to a height of three meters and a tree beside a road to six meters.

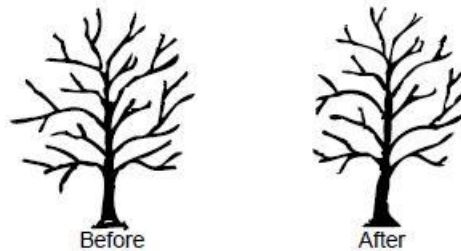
Great Chart with Singleton Parish Council

Founded in December 1894

Crown Reduction

(Reduction of overall height and/or spread of the tree)

This is normally done where a tree is touching a building, street light, CCTV camera, and telephone or power cable. Where frequent reductions are required it may be preferable to remove the tree. Where trees cause overshadowing a crown reduction may be used but only where it severely affects quality of life.



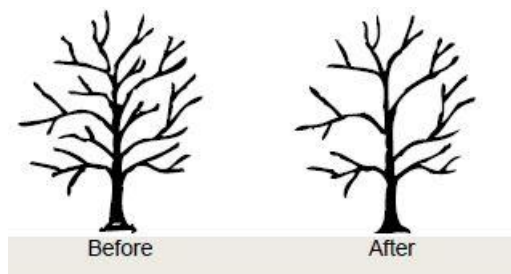
Parish Council owned trees overhanging neighbouring properties will only be pruned if there is a significant health and safety issue. Overhanging trees may be pruned back to boundaries by property owners after checking with the Council's planning department that the tree is not protected.

There is no right to trespass on adjoining land while cutting back overhanging branches. Branches may be disposed of at the local recycling waste site.

Crown Thinning

(Removing a percentage of the smaller branches from within the crown, leaving a canopy of foliage on a well-structured framework branches)

This is usually undertaken on broad-leaved trees. It is often combined with a crown lift to allow more light to pass through the tree, or where the density of the crown causes increased wind resistance.



Pollarding

(Cutting a tree back to the same point, known as pollard heads, at regular intervals)

Pollarding has traditionally been used to produce small diameter wood products for areas with grazing animals.

This technique is mainly used for broad-leaved trees such as hornbeam, lime, willow, oak and London plane. Trees that have not been managed as pollards from a young age will not normally be considered for this type of work as it is detrimental to the health of the tree.



Pollarding is often used for maintaining street trees that would otherwise outgrow their location.

Crown Cleaning and Dead Wooding

(The removal of ivy, broken branches and dead, diseased and dying wood)

Used to allow visual tree inspections and to manage the risk of wood falling from the tree. When appropriate, some dead wood may be left to provide wild life habitat.

Coppicing

(The regular cutting of woody stems to near ground level to encourage the development of multiple stems)

This is normally done on a cycle of five to 15 years. Species that can be managed in this way include hazel, alder, sweet chestnut, hornbeam and willow.

Traditionally used for small diameter wood products but is now widely used for wildlife conservation. Where hazel and willow are planted as shelter belts or amenity planting schemes they may be managed in this way.

Root Pruning

(Where a tree root is removed to prevent direct root damage)

It is used where a root may be damaging footpaths, highways, walls, buildings and underground services. If root removal may affect the tree's stability or health, tree felling may be the only option.

Great Chart with Singleton Parish Council

Founded in December 1894

Reference Table

Activity	Tree felling	Crown lifting	Crown reduction	Crown thinning	Pollarding	Dead wooding	Coppicing	Root pruning
Problem/ symptom/ use								
Dead, dangerous or diseased tree	x					x		
Encroachment		x	x		x		x	
Overshadowing		x	x	x			x	
Tree causing structural damage	x		x					x
Habitat creation					x		x	
Thinning of shelter belts or woods	x						x	

All works carried out on Parish Council owned trees are undertaken by qualified person.

Works not Undertaken

The Parish Council will not usually undertake works where the benefit to an individual outweighed by the detriment to the wider community.

The following items are not generally considered good reasons for undertaking works on trees:

- Pollen, fallen leaves, fruits and seeds
- Squirrels, bird roosts and droppings
- Insects such as aphids causing sticky residue on cars and driveways (honeydew)
- Any works that may contravene wildlife legislation
- Loss of view
- Television reception either by aerial or satellite dish. Installation engineers should consider trees and their likely growth before installing equipment.
- Lopping and topping – this is the severe cutting back of large limbs, which is now recognised as bad arboriculture practice. It results in a disfigured tree which is susceptible to disease and decay.