

# Tree and Hedge Cutting

Date:

Our Ref:

**This is not a circular – important communication**

Homeowner or Occupier

Dear Sir or Madam

We are taking this opportunity to write to you as overgrown vegetation on your land is affecting the free passage of vehicles or pedestrians using the public highway. *For the avoidance of doubt, the 'highway' means carriageway, footway, cycleway, grass verge, ditch or any other piece of land which is deemed to be within the highway.* **Please see our clearance requirements and additional information attached**

## Overgrown and Overhanging Vegetation

Overhanging vegetation can be dangerous as high sided vehicle may be struck by low hanging branches or move towards or cross the centre of the carriageway to avoid the obstruction. Overgrown hedges and vegetation are a real safety concern for people especially those who suffer from impaired vision or need a little more space for wheelchairs, mobility scooters or buggies.

## Bird Nesting Season

Bird nesting season is between March and August. It is not an ideal time to be cutting back vegetation during nesting season, however this vegetation is a safety concern and requires your attention. Please ensure you check for active nests prior to carrying out any works and avoid disturbing them if identified within the vegetation.

## Timeframe

We ask that the vegetation is cut back **within 14 days** from the date of this letter, however if you are struggling to find a contractor or require extra time to carry out the works we urge you to get in contact with us **prior to the expiry of the 14 days** as we will review the timeframe on a case by case basis and may agree an extension period. Our contact details are at the bottom of this page.

If we do not hear from you, an inspection will be carried out by us after the **14 days** have elapsed to ensure that the vegetation has been cut back. If the vegetation has not been cut back, we will be left with no alternative than to serve a formal statutory notice under the provisions of the Highways Act 1980. If the vegetation is not cut back following the formal notice, we may arrange for the vegetation to be cut back and this may result in us seeking to recover all reasonably incurred costs from you. This may include admin charges as well as the costs for a contractor to quote and carry out the works with any traffic management

We ask again that this overgrown vegetation is cut back and would like to thank you in advance for your co-operation and understanding in helping us to keep the highway safe for all users.

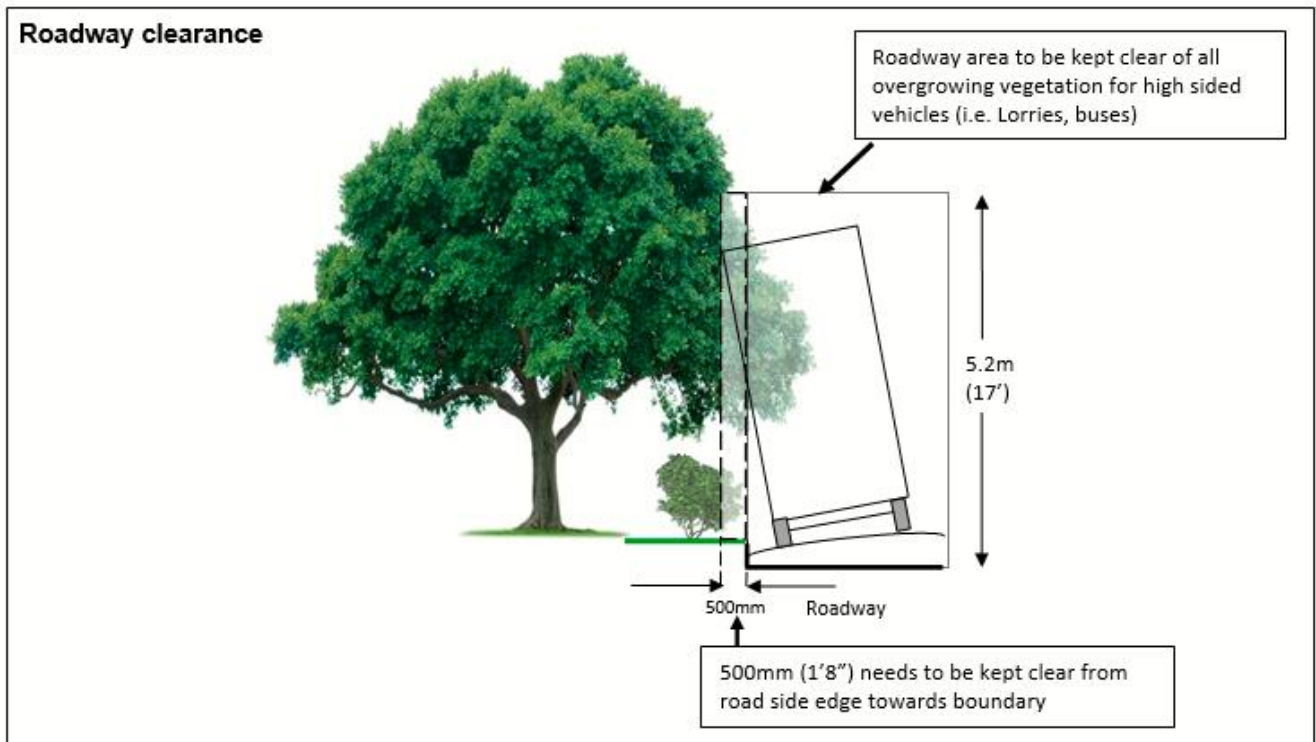
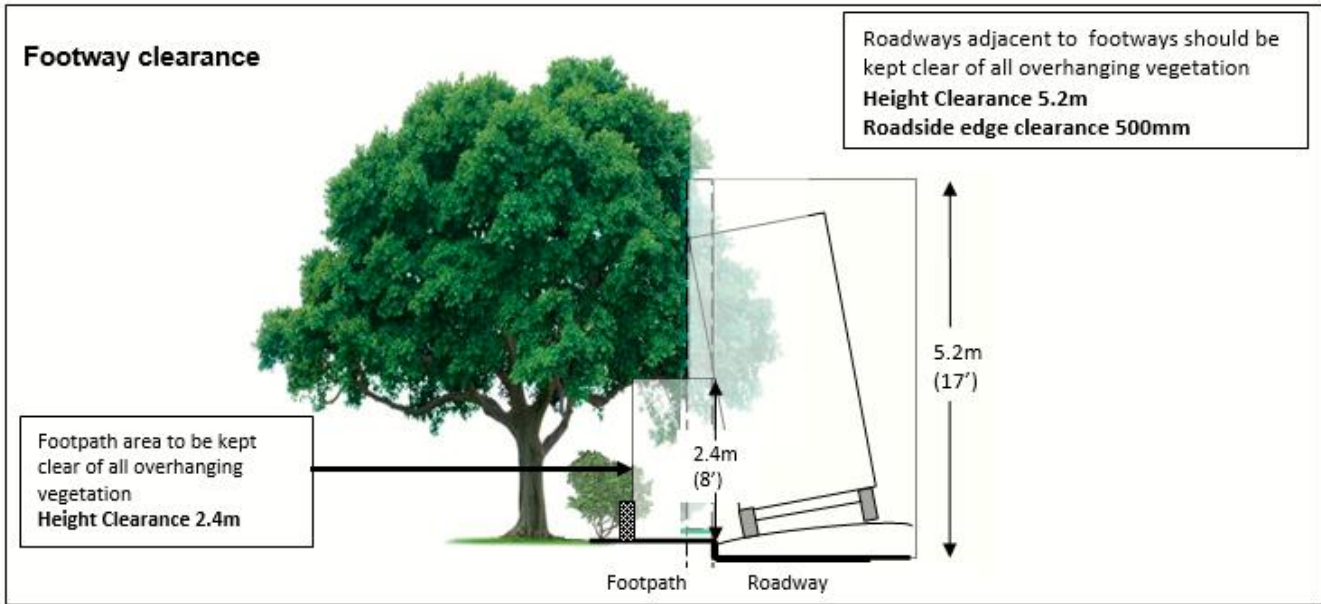
Yours sincerely

East Sussex Highways

Tel: 0345 60 80 193

Email: [customer@eastsussexhighways.com](mailto:customer@eastsussexhighways.com)

## Clearance Requirements



## Additional Information

- You should take steps to cut back and remove all vegetation
- **Carriageway** – Trees and hedge vegetation is a concern for high sided vehicles
  - Vegetation should be ½ m back from the edge of the carriageway
- **Footway** – Please ensure the full width of the footway is available to pedestrians
  - *This is particularly important for those who are partially sighted or use a mobility scooter*
- Please cut all vegetation in an upright manner