

Roadside Hedge Cutting and Vegetation Management

We are writing to let you know about the Cutting of **Hedges and Vegetation Management (Sark) Ordinance, 2026**, which is **now in force**.

This Ordinance helps keep Sark's **roads safe**, passable, and **well maintained** for residents, visitors, and **emergency services**. If your land borders a public road marked in red on the official Schedule, the following responsibilities apply to you.

Your **annual** responsibilities

Hedges and trees – October

Once each year, between **15th** and **30th**

October, please:

- **Cut** back any hedges or trees on your land that **overhang** the road
- Ensure **overhanging** growth is cleared to a height of at least 12 feet (**3.66 metres**)
- **Remove** all cut material from the road **immediately** after cutting

This work **helps** ensure clear **access** and **visibility** for **all** road users.

Banks and verges – June

Once each year, between **1st** and **25th June**, please:

- **Trim** the bottom 12 inches (30 cm) of banks or verges to around 2 inches (5 cm) to keep **gutters clear**
- **Trim** the remainder to no less than 4 inches (10 cm)
- **Remove** all trimmed material from the road **immediately**

Maintaining banks and verges helps prevent drainage problems and damage to the road surface.

Seasonal cutting restriction

To **protect wildlife**, particularly nesting birds, roadside hedges and trees **must not** be cut between **1st February** and **31st August**.

Cutting is **only permitted** during this period where it is:

- **Necessary** because vegetation overhangs the road and affects traffic
- **Required for safety reasons**
- Needed to prevent or reduce damage to a building or structure

Thank you for helping

Looking after roadside vegetation is a **shared effort** that benefits **everyone who lives in, works on, or visits Sark**.

Failure to follow the Ordinance may result in a fine, but the aim is **cooperation** and **care** for our island.

Cross-section of Road

