



FOI REF:	15668
RESPONSE SENT:	20/06/25

Request

I've just seen some footage of the hedge maintenance work being carried out between Priors Dean Road and Andover Road. This is clearly taking place during bird nesting season and there is clearly a Winchester City Council sign on the barrier informing people of the path closure for hedge maintenance.

This is a freedom of information request.

1. Does Winchester City Council have a policy on tree and hedge maintenance during bird nesting Season? What is it?
2. Were local residents informed prior to the work being carried out? Eg; an orange notice? Or did the contractors turn up out of the blue?
3. Who were the contractors?
4. How far in advance was this work planned? Was the work part of a planned schedule of works throughout the year?
5. What other tree and hedge maintenance work is scheduled between now and September?
6. For what reasons was it deemed necessary to undertake this work at this time? Was it considered urgent? For what reason?
7. Was an environmental survey carried out prior to the work being done to assess the impact on nesting birds and wildlife? What was the result?
1. 8. Did Winchester City Council authorise the hedge maintenance work carried out around May 29th 2025 on the path between Priors Dean Road and Andover Road?

Response

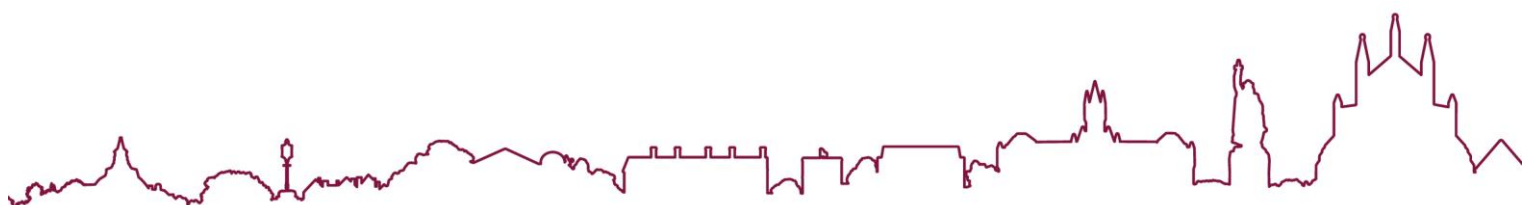
Does Winchester City Council have a policy on tree and hedge maintenance during bird nesting Season? What is it?

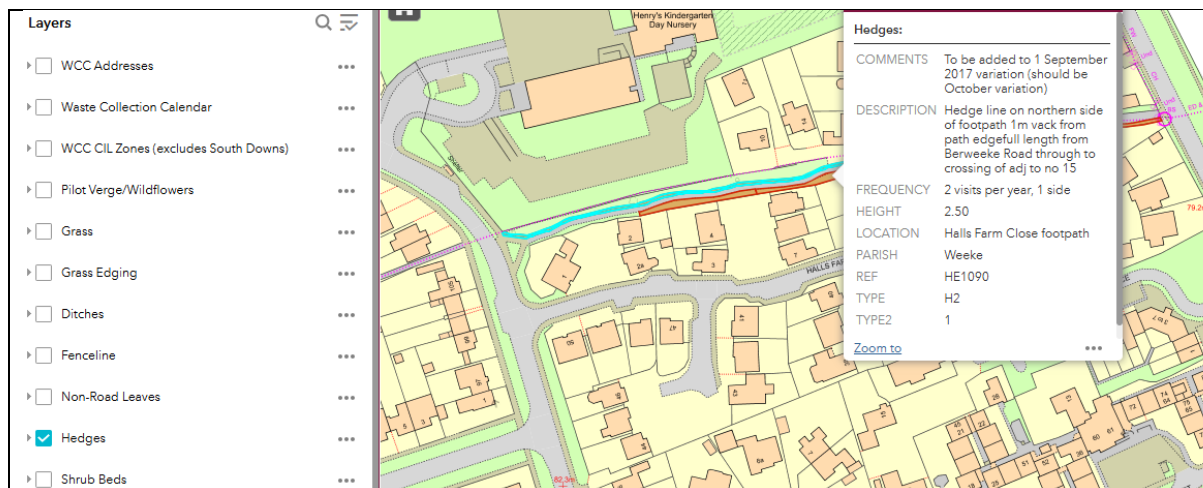
[Grounds and streetcare - Winchester City Council](#)

On our website it clearly sets out that 'We do not cut hedges during the bird nesting period from March to the end of June, unless there is a real safety risk (such as an obstruction to the highway or road junction sight lines).'

2. Were local residents informed prior to the work being carried out? Eg; an orange notice? Or did the contractors turn up out of the blue?

We are carrying out regular grass tree and shrub maintenance across the whole of Winchester district all year round. We are not in a position to inform all the local residents of when each cut, or piece of maintenance is taking place. So that the public know what we do and how often to expect it, this is all put on maps on line. The picture below gives an example of what we have on-line which shows the individual locations and





3. Who were the contractors?

The contractors were our main grounds maintenance and street cleansing contractors, IDVerde.

4. How far in advance was this work planned? Was the work part of a planned schedule of works throughout the year?

Yes the work is part of a scheduled programme of works through out the year but was carried out at this time due to the reasons set out in point 6.

5. What other tree and hedge maintenance work is scheduled between now and September?

Any hedge works requested of WCC between now and September will be limited to Health & Safety issues such as overgrown footpaths were summer growth, including brambles) has exceeded what would normally be expected and there is an access or safety issue. Any works will receive bird nesting inspection by our contractor prior to works and any uncertainty as to whether to cut will be escalated to the Biodiversity & Ecology Officer(s) to further investigate and authorise works.

6. For what reasons was it deemed necessary to undertake this work at this time? Was it considered urgent? For what reason?

A local resident required the work done in order to undertake work on their fence, and the path was unsafe for users due to the height and closeness to the path of the hedge. For that reason it was considered urgent and was carried out at half term in order that disruption of children's route to school was minimised.

7. Was an environmental survey carried out prior to the work being done to assess the impact on nesting birds and wildlife? What was the result?

Yes their was a review of nests in the area, and none were found before the maintenance work was carried out.

8. Did Winchester City Council authorise the hedge maintenance work carried out around May 29th 2025 on the path between Priors Dean Road and Andover Road?

Yes

