

Hounslow Highways Street Tree Strategy



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Street Tree Strategy

1. Introduction

London Borough of Hounslow

Hounslow is a large suburban area located in West London and is one of the major metropolitan centres in the London Plan. It covers 23 square miles stretching from the busiest airport in the UK, London Heathrow Airport, in the west to Chiswick in the East. The borough has five ward areas: Hounslow, Isleworth, Brentford, Chiswick and Feltham. All wards in the borough have immensely diverse areas and communities.

There are major transport routes that pass through the borough. These include the A4 Great West Rd, M4 and the Bath Road that connects to Staines-upon-Thames. There is also the A312, The Parkway that connects Hounslow to Hampton and Harrow.

Eight underground stations make up a large part of the public transport system that includes seven mainline railway stations.

The area is also renowned for its gardens, parks and historic landmarks that attract tourists. These include Osterley Park, Syon Park, Chiswick House and Gardens and Hogarth's House.

2. Ownership, surveys and work recommendations

Tree Surveys

Street trees in the London Borough of Hounslow are surveyed regularly on a three-year cycle. As part of this survey, the condition of each tree is assessed, and appropriate management recommendations are made where required. However, work is not always required or needed.

Maintaining a healthy tree stock is integral on the public highway network. As a service provider, Hounslow Highways ensures trees on the highway are safe for users and residents.

Works are identified by surveys undertaken on 33% of the tree population per year.

From the survey, recommended tree works will be scheduled into a program of works. This cyclical programme ensures that during this period appropriate scheduled recommendations will be undertaken on trees.

Ownership and responsibility

Hounslow Highways maintains 11,398 street trees on the public highway network within the London Borough of Hounslow. We only maintain trees on the public highway network.

Contact the relevant service provider to establish ownership, please see areas of responsibility below.

Cyclical pruning programme:

The survey will make recommendations which will include cyclical pruning and this work will be scheduled accordingly. Pruning work is not always recommended as it may not be needed.

The main reasons for a cyclical prune are:

- To maintain tree canopy size
- To reduce growth from near and around structures e.g.: pollard's, crown reduction (For example: to clear streetlights from buildings).
- For Health and Safety reasons
- To remove defects such as crossing branches and dead wood
- The survey will recommend action to benefit the health of the tree, this can include no pruning works.

Public Highway Trees:

Hounslow Highways maintain trees belonging to the London Borough of Hounslow located on the public highway network, Including adopted road and pavements within the highway boundary. See link: <https://hounslowhighways.org/environment/street-trees/>

Hounslow Housing Trees:

Hounslow Homes maintains their own trees. Please see council website for more information: https://www.hounslow.gov.uk/info/20046/parks_and_gardens/1194/tree_management

Open Spaces and Park Trees

The London Borough of Hounslow works with their contractor, Lampton Greenspace 360 who maintain trees in parks and open spaces.

Private Trees

All private trees that are adjacent to the public highway should be maintained regularly and should not cause an obstruction or safety issue. This means low branches should be pruned back from property boundaries. This includes lower vegetation that should not spread onto the highway as this narrows footpaths. However, if vegetation is deemed a safety issue or is dangerous next to the public highway, a Section 154 of the Highways Act 1980 would be served on the occupier. If the notice passes 17 days, we will carry out reactive work and recover the cost of the work carried out.

Below is a diagram showing the minimum height and maximum width that vegetation should be maintained at next to the public highway.

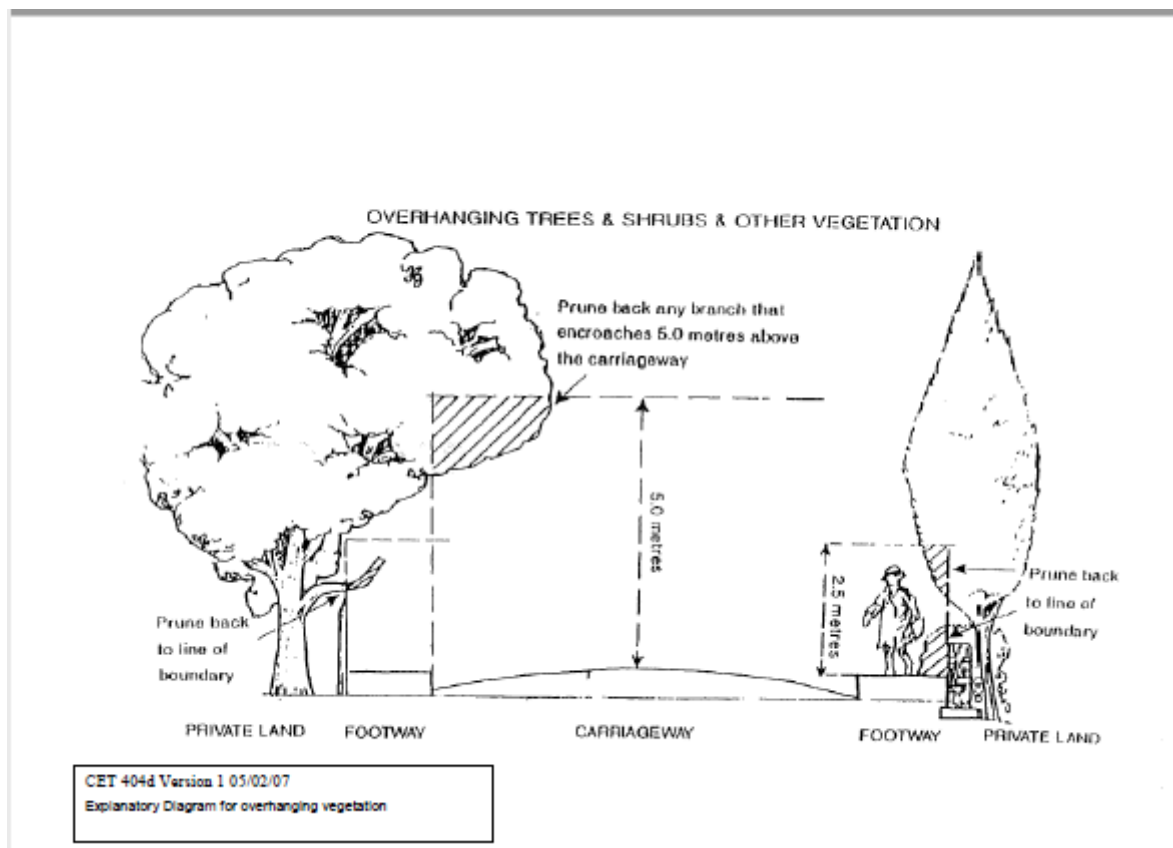


Diagram showing minimum measurements for highway vegetation

See website for further information: <https://hounslowhighways.org/environment/grounds-maintenance/>

Housing Associations Trees

You must contact your local Housing Association agent regarding problems with trees on your estate.

3. Street trees

At Hounslow Highways we recognise the importance of street trees and in this strategy, we outline our key objectives for the care and maintenance of the 11,398 street trees for which Hounslow Highways has responsibility. We hope residents and customers find the strategy informative and useful to answer any queries and questions regarding tree maintenance in the borough.

4. Aim and objectives of street trees

Street trees have an important role in providing healthy urban communities. They provide the following benefits:

Trees contribute towards the urban environment and can be utilised as a source of employment and income:

- Wood materials including timber, bark, mulch and even firewood.
- Several of these resources contribute to many industries including horticulture, conservation, retail and the energy sector for bio-mass fuel production.
- Commercial and residential property prices are higher where there are trees. Some areas can observe increases of up to 5-18% in property values.
- Local employment: Arborist, Arboriculturists and Horticulturists

From this we know trees are valued and cannot be underestimated. At Hounslow Highways we regularly assess the amenity value of each tree in the borough using the CAVAT system. The CAVAT system is a method of estimating the monetary value of every highway tree. This system is a nationally recognised system used by Local Authorities to measure this value.

5. Aesthetics and wellbeing

We also benefit hugely from trees in our environment. From the following:

- Trees increase aesthetics
- Change of season brings different leaf colours and appeal
- Helping us to breathe easier by emitting oxygen
- Reducing stress and anxiety when trees are in the landscape
- Local history of trees brings communities together

6. Environmental benefits

Trees provide these main benefits to the environment:

- Photosynthesis: Absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen for us to breath
- Stabilise soil structure and promote wildlife habitats

Trees are also becoming more important in preventing the following:

- Hounslow is a busy transport route and carbon footprint is high, trees reduce this carbon footprint
- More carbon emissions mean a need for greater tree canopy cover
- To filter out toxic gases e.g.: ozone (smog), nitrous oxides, sulphur dioxides.
- Our climate is getting warmer due to climate change and trees are key to cooling our environment.
- Noise pollution is higher in urban areas and trees filter out noise
- More severe weather, trees act as a wind barrier to gusty winds.

Case example:

An example of a pollution tolerant tree is *Platanus x hispanica* (London Plane) which uses its leaf hairs and bark to 'fix' pollution to itself which cleans and filters the local air.

7. Biodiversity

Trees also play an integral part in biodiversity and act as a food source for local wildlife such as birds, invertebrates, insects and mammals. Wood cavities in some of our veteran trees provide habitat and act as a critical food source for local animal populations.

Street trees also form part of wildlife corridors between green spaces enabling wildlife to migrate between regions in the borough.



Oak tree Woodfield Road Cranford



8. Felling (Tree removals)

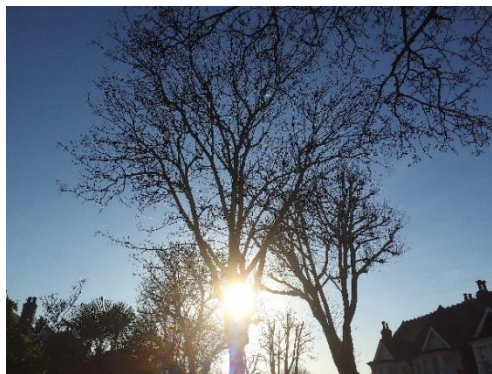
As a result of the survey, trees could possibly be recommended for removal (felling) and scheduled into a yearly program. There can be several reasons why a tree requires removal:

- The tree has been identified as dead, diseased, dangerous or dying by a Hounslow Highways Arboriculturist.
- A tree has an identified problem that cannot be rectified by pruning or the tree has a condition that makes it unsafe. This could include a disease, decay or the tree has become unstable from a traffic or storm incident.
- There are other reasons for a tree to become unstable, these will be considered by a Hounslow Highways Arboriculturist.

Any tree required for felling is approved by London Borough of Hounslow. Unless there is an immediate safety concern we try to preserve trees and felling is always a last resort.

Dead tree outside my property

- Dead trees are identified via the survey and programmed for removal.
- Dead trees can be stable and therefore a program of removal is the most appropriate management regime.
- In some cases, a dead tree is identified and will need immediate removal for safety reasons.
- All trees are surveyed on a 3-year programme. This will record any trees that are dead and appropriate management recommendations will be made to remove the tree.



9. Customer information

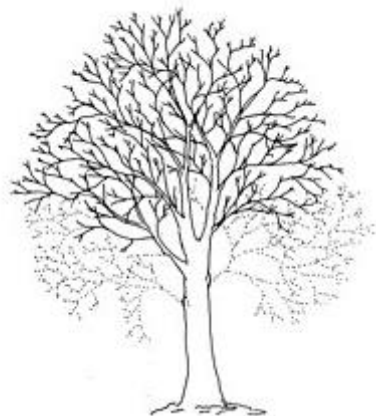
The tree programme is the main management tool for street trees and the survey determines when works will be carried out

- We are unable to fulfil requests for pruning from direct enquiries unless urgent work is required
- Issues such as falling leaves, dripping sap and bird droppings cannot be rectified by pruning.
- Many issues with trees are seasonal inconveniences and are largely out of our control.
- Customers often request immediate removal of dead trees that have died in between surveys. We would not carry out immediate felling unless there was a safety concern.
- Another common issue is alleged root damage by trees. We would not fell, prune or cut the roots of a tree.

The below summarises the work specifications for tree pruning:

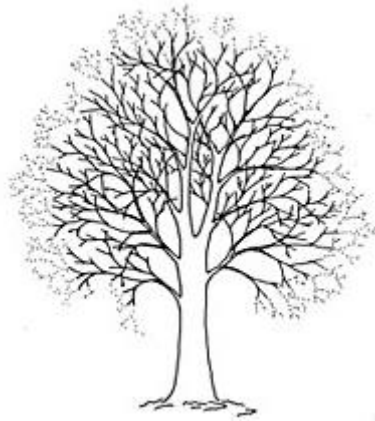
Crown lift

- Lifting the crown by removing the lowest lateral branches



Crown reduction

- To reduce tree height and rebalance crown structure. Removing any extended or crossed branches
- To reduce canopy spread and suppress primary growth such as buds and shoots
- Helps mitigate root zone water demand near and around structures



Source: Arb Association

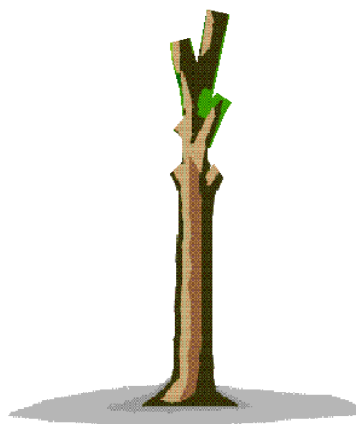
Pollard

- Pollarding is defined as the removal of all the live growth of a tree or shrub, back to a truncated crown framework, on or close to the main stem to a specified height above the ground with the objective of producing a quantity of adventitious buds from this point of pruning. It is only suitable for certain tree species, i.e., Limes & London Planes.



Monoliths

- A tree reduced to its main stem having branches removed to ensure it is safe.
- Trees on the network are left like this when immediate felling of the tree is not possible.
The tree will be removed once felling is possible



Monolith

Epicormic/basal growth removal

Basal growth is vegetation that grows on a tree at the trunk or base and can occur higher up the stem. It becomes a problem on the highway as it can cause access problems. Below summaries how it forms and why it occurs:

- Growth arises from suppressed buds in the bark
- Buds form on the growing shoots and fail to extend as growth in the crown increases
- Epicormic buds become embedded in the bark as the stem thickens
- A small amount of growth per year prevents buds being engulfed in wood and this maintains their position. However, they may remain dormant for many years.
- Basal growth occurrence can increase due to changes in environmental conditions: Tree stress to temperature (Cold to hot) in Spring or after high rainfall events.
- This results in sucker growth on the base and trunk under the right conditions where the shoots have quicker access to the roots for nutrient uptake.

At Hounslow Highways we have an annual basal growth programme to control its occurrence and reduce growth on Lime Trees, and other basal growth is cut as part of the cyclical pruning work



Felling and removals

- Tree is removed entirely as recommended per the three-year survey.

Cut back from property clearance

- Pruning back from property involves reducing long lateral branches that exceed property boundaries.

Cut back from roadside

- Pruning back of long lateral branches that extend over the roadside.

Tree Protection Order and Conservation Area:

The London Borough of Hounslow manages TPO orders. Please refer to the website at the following link: https://www.hounslow.gov.uk/homepage/82/planning_constraints

Hounslow Highways is not responsible for submitting or receiving Tree Preservation Order (TPO) matters. Some highway trees are located within conservation areas and Hounslow Highways will manage trees in conservation areas in accordance with good industry practice.



10. Inappropriate tree work operations

This document has been written to give residents more understanding and more information about the tree program.

Additional tree pruning outside of the program will only be considered if there is a health and safety issue.

The following will not be considered for additional work outside of the program.

Interference with satellite, TV or media reception:

Hounslow Highways has no contractual obligation to remove or prune trees to improve reception unless a sensible recommendation is put forward by the service provider. When positioning a new satellite receiver, residents are recommended to carefully consider existing trees and their potential for growth to avoid problems in the future.

Touching telephone wires:

- We would not clear branches from telephone lines
- Please contact your Service provider to address any faults or interference you may have with your phone line. The provider will investigate this further and can offer a written report if pruning work to the tree is needed.

Blocked drains

- It is a misconception that tree roots cause problems with drains.
- Trees very rarely break or damage drains in the first instance.
- Tree roots found in drains are usually symptomatic of an underlying problem requiring repair of the broken pipe.
- If you are concerned about the condition of your drains, then you are advised to contact your service provider.
- Householders are usually responsible for the maintenance of the drains within their property boundary. Often, the problem lies in old clay pipes deteriorating, therefore once any root blockage is cleared, the installation of a plastic sleeve within the existing clay pipe will usually prevent a re-occurrence of the problem.

Tree debris (Leaves, bird droppings, dripping sap, honeydew)

- Leaf fall, falling fruit and pollen are seasonal occurrences, excrement from trees is caused by wild animals and insects including birds and squirrels.
- These problems are out of our control and there is no pruning solution
- The sticky sap is caused by aphids excreting plant sugars from the tree. This is known as honeydew which can cause sticky surfaces on cars and pavements.
- Unfortunately, there is no control for honeydew therefore residents are advised to make their own arrangements to minimise the problem;
- For example, regular car washing, covering the car or parking at an alternative location.



Strand on the Green towpath Chiswick

Tree is touching my property

If a street tree under the maintenance of Hounslow Highways is touching private property, we will determine whether a cut back from property clearance is recommended in the latest survey and when work was last carried out or is due.

Branches touching or close to buildings will have the trees recommended works brought forward if needed.

In most circumstances we cannot undertake pruning work outside of the cyclical program. Further information about scheduled works and surveys in your ward and when works are likely to take place. Please see the following link below:

http://www.hounslowhighways.org/storage/downloads/1559641836_Tree%20survey%20and%20works%20chart%20-%202019-2022.pdf

Carrying out tree work on council land

Third parties are permitted by law to carry out tree work on public highway trees that overhang their property boundary, however, the survey and recommended practice highlighted in this strategy is the preferred management practice.

Restriction of views from your property

When branches or the canopy obscures views from properties we would not prune for these reasons alone.

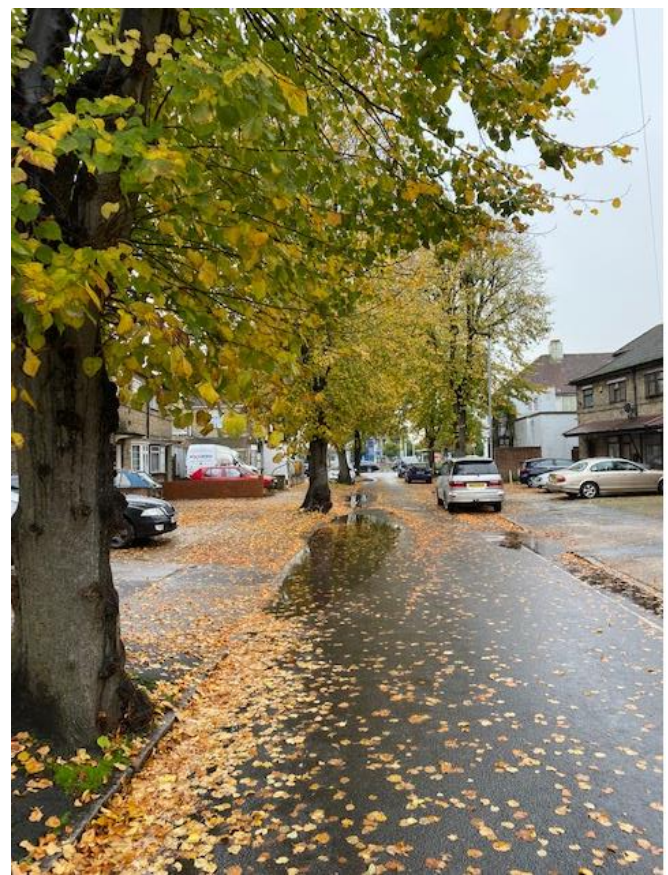
Overhanging branches

If a branch from a council owned street tree grows into private land or overhangs, we would not prune in these circumstances.

Lack of light and right to view (Shade prevention)

We will not prune trees to reduce light levels overhead. There is no right to light nor 'right to view', and we would not carry out work for these reasons.

Additionally, there is no contractual requirement for Hounslow Highways to prevent trees from overhanging onto private property.



Leaf clearing

Extra resources are deployed during the leafing season, to help keep the streets clear of leaves and each ward in the borough will be visited between October and January by cleansing services. More information can be found here:

<https://hounslowhighways.org/street-cleansing/leaf-fall/>

We do not clear leaves from guttering or private properties. We encourage residents to use their own leaf litter for a garden mulch or for composting. This is a sustainable way for preserving our environment.

Tree damage to private property

Hounslow Highways has an active tree management system in place to avoid damage to buildings and other structures. Works are undertaken as recommended in the survey.

Like many London Boroughs, Hounslow has London clay soils which are associated with incidences of building related subsidence. In the 1990s London Boroughs reviewed tree management operations to reduce both the number and extent of their tree root claims. To aid this process the LTOA (London Tree Offices Association) and other associated professionals have a Risk Limitation Strategy in place. This document and its general approaches found that tree-pruning operations cost less over time compared with the settlement of insurance claims. Hounslow Highways will use this advice to manage its subsidence risk and process claims of tree-related building damage.

The property owner is required to provide evidence to Hounslow Highways via the correct process. Please see below:

- Where there is a genuine concern that a property is suffering possible damage due to the action of trees on the public highway, the homeowner should contact their property insurer and consult them in the first instance.
- Where the alleged damage relates to boundary walls, garden footpaths, driveways and other light structures please contact your insurer as they can offer advice on general maintenance and inspections. More information can be found here: <http://www.hounslowhighways.org/120-street-trees-faqs.html>
- Upon request, Hounslow Highways will carry out further investigations for alleged root damage to a property. However, any report submitted to HH, should be accompanied by a Submission of Evidence (SOE) report, which the property owner should procure. The onus to prove a street tree is causing damage to an individual's property is with the property owner.
- Submit your case to Hounslow Insurance via the website <https://fms.hounslowhighways.org/>. Further information can be found at <http://www.hounslowhighways.org/146-tree-management.html>

If you request us to inspect the underlying root problem, we will be unable to view or carry out works to cut roots from the surface. Roots only occupy the top 60cm of soil and are underground. We would also not carry out works to remove roots as this will damage the tree's health.



Pruning street tree branches on private land

In most circumstances we do not recommend that residents prune back branches that overhang their property themselves due to safety reasons.

Requests submitted to Hounslow Highways will be entered against the specific tree record which is kept on our tree database. If the tree is on the public highway and there are cyclical works scheduled, we will inform you of a timeframe, however we would not action any works for you for the following reasons:

- Pruning or removal because someone is willing to pay
- The perceived risk that a tree may damage built structures (no legal requirement where there are no proven damages).

- Creation of crossovers (ETP26 Crossovers and Street Tree Removal)

11. Private Trees

Hounslow Highways has no authority to intervene with disputes in relation to trees causing a nuisance or damage on private land.

Private Tree that poses a risk to public highway

Trees in private ownership that pose a danger to the public highway will be identified and the owner will be issued a tree work order. The landowner will be contacted by an Arboriculturist and will be instructed to make the tree safe under the Section 154 of the Highways Act 1980.

The notice will expire after 14 days; however, work may need to be undertaken sooner than the deadline if the situation is dangerous. Hounslow Highways will need to undertake the work required on your behalf if the time frame has elapsed or if immediate action is needed because the tree is dangerous. As a result, the owner is expected to reimburse Hounslow Highways the cost of any work that they have to undertake.

Customer Advice for private trees on third party land

If a private tree poses a danger to a third party, it is the responsibility of both parties to co-ordinate to make the tree safe. Under the Local Government Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1976 or Section 154 of the Highways Act, however, Hounslow Highways may intervene to make the tree safe if it poses a safety risk on the public highway.





Chertsey Road Feltham

12. Street Tree Planting and Replacements

To maintain the tree population in Hounslow's streets, Hounslow Highways replaces every street tree that needs to be removed (felled), although this is not always with the same species or at the same location (see 20). This may be because the tree species was unsuitable, utilities are preventing excavation or residual roots remain from a previous tree.

The following factors will affect where trees can be planted:

- Footway size criteria: If the footway is too narrow
- Off street parking

- Driveways
- Street lighting and proximity to CCTV cameras
- Road signs
- Underground services prevent excavation
- Overhead services such as landlines and electrics
- Value of the space: Is it a conservation area?
- The area is of historical significance
- Would the tree have an impact on surrounding infrastructure?
- What is the species growth form and is it suitable for the location?
- Are growing conditions optimal for that species such as light, water, soil type, PH and nutrient availability.

If for any reason we cannot replant in the exact location of the previous tree we will have to seek an alternative location. We will try to do this as close to the original position as possible on the same road, however in some instances a new location may have to be arranged.

When planting new or replacement trees we ensure the right species is chosen for the location to ensure a high success rate of tree establishment but also the long-term implications from aesthetics to management and maintenance.

13. Environmental Considerations

Hounslow Highways will consider designing planting projects in accordance with British Standards. We will promote species diversification in single streets to refrain from a monoculture of a species which accounts for the vulnerability of trees to pests and diseases.

We may consider replanting at an alternative location if a disease could still be prevalent in an existing tree pit.

14. Tree Planting Position

Moving trees from their existing planting locations

Young trees that have recently been planted, can be moved although it is not recommended.

Hounslow Highways will not grant the relocation of new trees to fulfil any request by the public unless it is a necessary health and safety requirement. We will not remove or relocate a tree due to the following reasons:

- The tree blocks my view and drops leaves in my garden
- The tree stops me parking on a raised kerb outside my property
- The tree was planted next to an unsolicited illegal crossover
- The tree uses space for my car
- The tree is going to affect access for my skips or is in the way of building works

If a tree has been approved for relocation or removal, the tree pit will be reinstated and a new tree will be replanted as close to the original position as possible between the months of October and April.

Prior to tree planting we will assess the location for suitability and will carry out suitable highway checks as per Section 14.

15. Young tree maintenance

After a new tree has been planted, Hounslow Highways maintains the young tree on a three-year programme. At the planting, a support stake and adjustable tie are installed to provide the root system with extra support against physical elements and wind load damage. These are removed after three years. In some cases the stake and tie may be removed sooner than the 3 years or even later than the three years, this will be determined at regular inspections during the establishment.

Please note we regularly remove existing tree stakes on the network which allows trees to mature and survive on their own, this is after the tree has been assessed for establishment.



Tree Watering

HH encourages residents to water newly planted trees, young trees and established trees in a responsible way. [Link to video](#), plus add in link to Environment Champions.

Tree Sponsorships

Hounslow Highways offers a sponsorship scheme where residents can sponsor a new tree on the public highway. The sponsorship scheme includes the initial cost of the tree and an annual fee for tree maintenance. For information about how this operates please read the guidelines and the form for any FAQ's at the address below:

http://www.hounslowhighways.org/storage/downloads/1486740001_Hounslow%20Highways%20Tree%20Sponsorship%20Form%20February%202017.pdf

Tree planting initiatives

We encourage residents to take part in initiatives such as National Tree Week and Woodland Trusts Big Climate Fightback.

If the trees are a self-funded initiative sponsored by organisations such as The Queen's Trust or Woodland Trust we can assist residents in planting the acquired new trees in suitable locations. This is dependent on the tree species type and its suitability at the planting location requested.



16. Threats to the Urban Street Tree

The urban environment can be challenging for trees. Like all living organisms they are susceptible to localised changes in their environment. This can result in physiological and structural changes. For example, tree canopy dieback through a lack of water, pests and diseases, root damage by excavation and possibly the death of a tree. These changes can be brought about and increased by several factors listed below:

- Nearby development: Construction sites for example where root severance, compaction and spillages are common in causing stress in trees.
- Road and footpath reconstruction: Severance to major roots.
- Trenching works by communications, IT and utilities companies
- Damage by pollution: Necrosis of the leaves, dieback.
- Incorrect pruning that renders the tree stressed and unable to grow optimally
- Pests and diseases
- Vehicular wound damage (particularly by skips and high-sided vehicles)
- Vandalism and dog damage
- Salt and grit damage



The above conditions mean street trees have a higher mortality rate than trees growing in local parks and rural areas.

Every effort will be made by Hounslow Highways Arboriculturists to protect the borough's tree stock from contraventions that increase negative environmental conditions. In the event of a contravention being reported through the enquiry portal, Fix My Street (FMS) or observed during site visits, a qualified Arboricultural officer will assess the situation and evaluate whether a contravention has taken place.

Illegal fells

Hounslow Highways together with the London Borough of Hounslow deal with possible contraventions which are especially important where planning legislation may have been or could be breached because of future works. When a contravention occurs such as an illegal fell, tree pruning, or roots cut, we will investigate immediately and notify the Council. This may lead to possible prosecution and cost recovery based on the overall amenity value of the street tree that was removed or damaged.

17. Pest and Diseases

Trees on the highway have many interactions with biological organisms including fungal, bacterium, insects, pests and invertebrates. These Pests and Diseases (P&D) can cause damage to street trees in the short and long term. There are several P&D below that should be reported if spotted on public highway trees.

The main P&D are highlighted below and further information on each one can be found on the Forestry Commission or Woodland Trust websites:

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/trees-woods-and-wildlife/tree-pests-and-diseases/key-tree-pests-and-diseases/>

<https://www.forestryresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/pest-and-disease-resources/>

Key Pest and Diseases Identified by the Forestry commission

In recent years there have been significant increases in the findings of new pests and diseases affecting our most common tree species, such as, horse chestnut, oak, ash, London plane.

The loss of such large trees would have a devastating impact as they provide a great number of environmental, social and economic benefits and are often the most prominent features in the streetscape.

The Council and HH receives and monitors the latest advice from Forestry Commission, London Tree Officers, and the Arboricultural Association. The LTOA, working groups and forums, allow us to monitor the situation in London, nationally and with other Councils.

Our regular surveys are carried out and include an inspection for any such diseases.

18. History and Present Landscape Character

Chiswick High Road

The High Road has an extensive history spanning back to a landscape evolution where open fields expanded into sporadic developments along the route from 1799 to how it appears today. During this period the road was the only East to West road into London and therefore was an extremely important transport route, it remains so today.



Source: London Borough of Hounslow, Chiswick High Road: Looking North down to Turnham Green Terrace c1930

As you follow the route towards the West, the High Road merges with a Roman Road that leads into the West Country and was used extensively as a main highway from London to the West of England. This continued to be the case until the the A4 road was constructed in the 1950's.

As an extensively busy road the High Road was constructed to have wider pavements to accommodate the London plane (*Platanus x hispanica*). The avenue of trees acts as a buffer to the noise and pollution that the traffic on the road produces.

Due to the wide, tree lined residential streets, the High Road allows for good access to local shops and businesses and the area has been identified as an area of Special Interest by the London Borough of Hounslow Urban Context and Character Study 2014.

This extensive use of the High Road led to sporadic development along the route with a series of market garden settlements that spanned from Turnham Green to Hammersmith. Until 1894 there was also a road leading off the High Road to Market Gardens where Devonshire Road is located today

Osterley Park & Gardens

Trees are important for adding character to Hounslow and many trees planted in Hounslow date back to the 1800's.

A well known tree specimen is located within Osterley Park and is included in the top 20 list of London's great trees.

The tree specimen was planted in 1855 and is an evergreen cork oak. Originating from the Mediterranean, the bark from this variety is used to manufacture wine corks which use suberin in the bark.

The site in which the tree belongs is one of the last surviving country estates located on the north side of the gardens, south of the lake. The tree is estimated to be 154 years old and one of the oldest in the country.

It was granted this top 20 status because of its age and beauty. Surprisingly most cork oaks live for more than 150 to 250 years and can be harvestable 12 times over.



Syon Park

The tree collection at Syon dates back to the late 18th century at the time of the 2nd Duke and it is noted for the wide variety of trees from eastern North America. The key species it contains is *Liquidambers* (Sweet gum), Yews and Asian species including remarkable specimens of *Pterocarya* and *Zelkova*.

All trees on the estate are of considerable size, and they include more than twenty Champion Trees, the largest specimens in the Country. Tree planting in the park had been neglected during the long history of the estate and as a result the park began a programme of replanting. In the last fifteen years the number of tree species has grown at Syon and has more than doubled to over 400 trees



Source: Syon Park, Picture of Syon Parks Liquidambers and Holm oaks.

Grove Park Estate

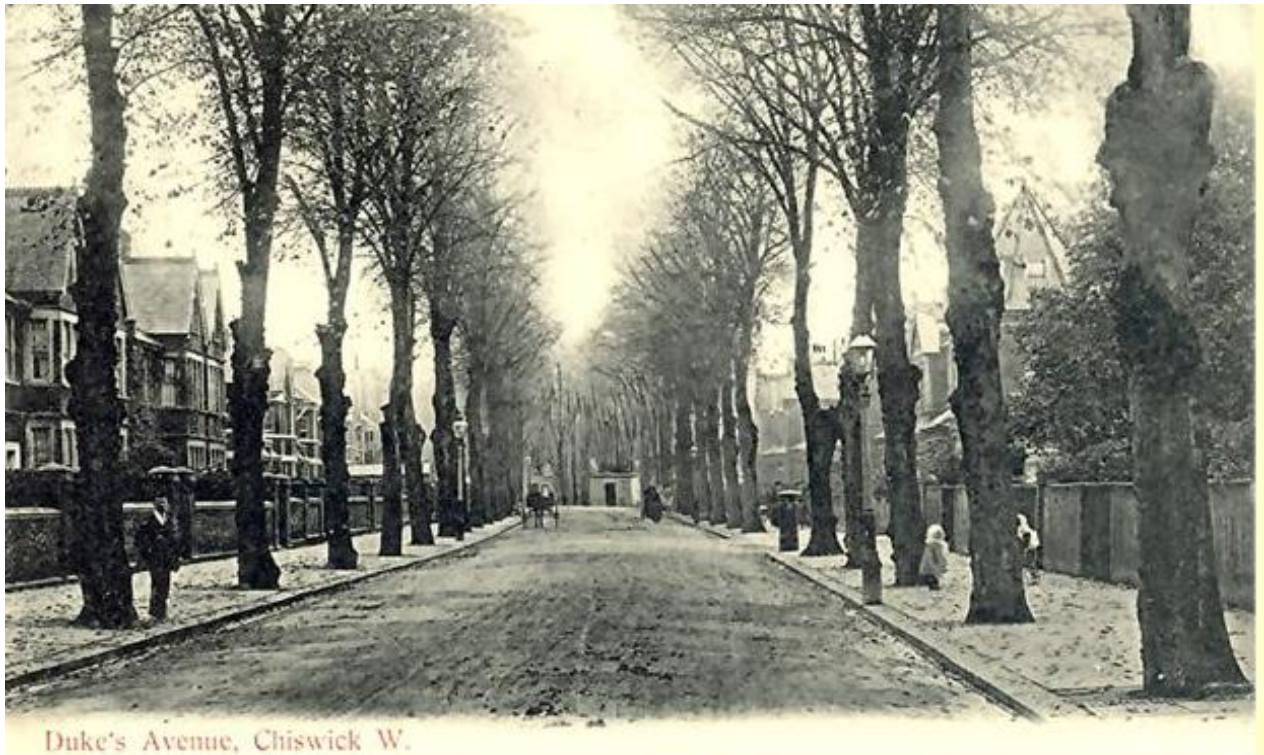
As an expansive, Victorian housing estate set out by the Duke of Devonshire it is still a spacious area with large gardens that enhance the space. There are many trees that predate the estate.

Estate tree species include London planes, *Acers species* and *Tilia*. Although the majority of these trees were planted in the early 1900's, more well-known trees were also planted sometime after the development of the estate including Spencer Road and Grove Park Gardens.

Several of these streets were designed to be tree lined avenues with dense planting in-between.

The age of the trees in the area are between 60-80 years old ranging from *Platanus x hispanica*'s and *Pterocarya stenoptera*, the Wingnut tree from South eastern China.

Over the years up to the present date the area has seen a decline in the width of grass verge locations for new planting. This had fragmented due to the need for additional parking and crossovers.



Postcards of the past Dukes Avenue Chiswick

Turnham Green

This area of Chiswick is well known for its open spaces bounded by mature trees. The Green itself is the heart of the town and provides social and aesthetic benefits.

Staveley Road, Chiswick

The trees on Staveley Road comprise of mostly of *Prunus kanzan* (Japanese Cherry Blossom). The trees on this road were first planted after the construction of the road for the Chiswick Park Estate between 1927 and 1931.

Cherries on this road are well known for their vibrant pink blossom during late Spring and attract numbers of people who take photographs of the avenue along the long road.



Cherry blossom of Prunus kanzan, source Chiswick Calendar

The area is also known for the site of the V-2 rocket which landed in Staveley Road near the junction with Burlington Lane. The rocket that landed tragically killed three people including a 3-year-old girl. Many houses were destroyed and fifteen rebuilt while the residents were evacuated from the area.

The trees on this road certainly have endured a complex history.



Spring Grove House, Hounslow (now West Thames College)

The Grade II listed building was the home of Sir Richard Banks, a botanist and naturalist who was based at Kew Gardens and who sailed the world with Captain Cook. On his travels he collected rare and endangered plant species and brought them back for the living collection at Kew. The driveway leading up to the building has an old yew hedge that since the 18th century has grown into an avenue lined with mature yew trees. These specimens have since been crown lifted.

Image source: www.springgrovehouse.com



Hanworth Park

Hanworth Park was created from the landscape of Hounslow Heath by King Henry VIII. This included Hanworth House which was destroyed by a fire in 1977 then subsequently rebuilt.

In 1917 the site was converted into an airfield to accommodate Whiteheads biplane factory. At present the site of the house lies abandoned and its landscape is home to an *Aesculus hippocastanum*, veteran horse chestnut tree which is one of the largest and oldest specimens in the borough.

The Butts, Brentford

The Butts in Brentford is an important part of Brentford's landscape, character and heritage. Many of the *Tilia* (Lime Trees) and *Platanus* (London Planes) form a large part of the aesthetics of the conservation area located here.

In its past, the location was an archery ground during King Edward IV reign, and it is believed the origin of the name 'The Butts' came from the common field system which had existed in England for hundreds of years.

This common field system involved dividing the land into half an acre strips, separated and surrounded by hedges and mounds of earth



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