



WARFIELD P A R K

TREE POLICY

Warfield and Trees

Trees and woodlands make a significant contribution to the diverse landscape of Warfield Park, they define what for many is one of the key advantages of living in the area, being surrounded by a mature landscape containing attractive trees. Warfield Park would not be as attractive to live in without trees

Management of Trees

While we respond positively to tree matters involving safety, it is not possible, or desirable, to undertake all the works that Warfield Park is asked to carry out. In some cases the work requested will not resolve the problem and in other cases it will provide only a temporary solution, raising expectations that the work will be repeated whenever requested. Pruning works can also have an effect on the health and amenity value of the tree and most trees do not respond well to attempts to restrict their size by continual pruning.

As part of our tree strategy Warfield commissions an independent company to survey all the trees within the estate. The surveys are carried out under the requirements laid down by BS5837 (2012) and QTRA (quantified tree risk assessment).

The Quantified Tree Risk Assessment (QTRA) system applies established and accepted risk management principles to tree safety management. Firstly, the use of land upon which trees could fail is assessed and quantified, thus enabling tree managers to determine whether or not and to what degree of rigor a survey or inspection of the trees is required. Where necessary, the tree or branch is then considered in terms of both impact potential (size) and probability of failure. Values derived from the assessment of these three components are used to calculate the probability of harm and the overall management of the tree within defined timeframes.

How we evaluate requests for work to be carried out on Warfield Park trees:

- **Dead, Dying, Dangerous Trees/Branches**
Warfield Park will seek to remove trees/branches that are dangerous, dead, or seriously in decline as a matter of urgency.
- **Damage to Property**
Where it can be clearly demonstrated that a tree is the primary cause of direct or indirect damage to property Warfield Park will act to rectify the problem as a matter of urgency.
- **Obstruction of Light to Houses or Gardens**
It is usually very difficult to prune a tree in order to give a lasting improvement in light levels to a property. Often the extent of pruning required to alleviate light obstruction can be damaging to the tree or destroy its amenity value, and thick regrowth following pruning can make shading problems worse. Warfield Park will therefore not undertake such works except in very exceptional circumstances.

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- **Overhanging Branches**
Warfield Park is responsible in respect of overhanging branches and will cut them back in circumstances where damage is being caused or the tree is dangerous.
- **Falling Leaves or Debris, Aphid Problems**
Warfield Park is not legally responsible for fallen leaves or other tree debris such as cones, seeds, blossom etc. Pruning of trees is not a solution to this occurrence and we would be extremely unlikely to fell or prune a tree as a result of leaf litter etc. The same criteria apply to trees which host aphids with associated stickiness (honeydew) problems or trees that produce large amounts of fruit.
- **Branches Obscuring Signs.**
Where trees are blocking, road signs etc. and jeopardise public safety Warfield Park will consider carrying out work to alleviate the problem while retaining the tree. In extreme cases removal of the tree and replacement with a more suitable species may be appropriate.
- **Branches Affecting Telephone Lines**
Effective use of telephone lines is the responsibility of the service provider to clear any tree or branches.
- **Television Reception**
Warfield Park will not normally carry out works to trees, or remove trees in order to improve television reception. Aerials and satellite dishes should be carefully sited at the time of installation, with consideration being given as to how neighbouring trees may grow in the future.
- **Nuisance Birds and Bird Droppings**
We will not prune or fell any tree(s) which is being used by birds to roost. Although bird droppings may be a nuisance, generally it is not considered to be of a significant level to warrant the pruning or removal of a tree. Pruning a tree will not provide a solution because birds will roost on remaining branches. Nesting birds are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (and other related wildlife law).

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Replanting of Trees

When replanting consideration is given to making sure the right type of trees are planted, paying attention to their siting to ensure their future growth does not interfere with our residents. Warfield Park aspires to carry out planting which:

- Uses species which will not cause problems or nuisance when mature
- Is sufficiently extensive to create a green environment which makes the lives of residents comfortable by providing shade, clean air and reduced peak summer temperatures
- Selects types of trees which are not prone to poor health, pests or diseases
- Is frequent enough to provide a range of trees for people living in Warfield Park for many years to come
- Encourages biodiversity and a wide range of beneficial plant and animal life
- Provides variety, and does not lead to the loss of too many trees of the same type to pests and diseases.

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