

# Highway Tree Maintenance Priority Ranking System

## **SAFETY OF HIGHWAY USERS (includes visibility problems) or SAFETY OF ADJOINING LAND**

1. Hazard requiring immediate remedy. (Tree structurally unsound eg Dutch Elm Disease.) Where removing the tree is not appropriate or too costly, a cheaper means eg barrier or pollarding (beheading) (NOT necessarily the most desirable arboricultural or visual option) will be adopted.
2. Growth which obscures visibility of traffic, pedestrians, signs or signals, or forces pedestrians into a live carriageway or traffic across the central road hazard line marking.

## **LEGAL (other than 1 & 2 above)**

3. To remedy an actionable nuisance (eg subsidence) after confirmation from County Solicitor or County Treasurer of the need to take appropriate action. Where possible work will be deferred into the next financial year as action required is often seasonal.

## **NON-ACTIONABLE NUISANCE\_** (or where we wish to carry out work to prevent a tree being mutilated by an adjoining landowner):

4. Shading, Overhangs, and Minor cracking to driveways and/or walls.

*Following a site visit, requests will be scored objectively on a scale of 1-5. Those scoring highest will be done first, as and when funds are available. If there are minor works or adjacent works with a lower score then these can be carried out at the same time if that makes financial sense (which applies similarly when items 1-3 are carried out).*

## **DESIRABLE BUT NOT ESSENTIAL IN CURRENT YEAR**

5. Formative pruning of mature trees eg reconstruction of crowns of pollarded trees.
6. Maintenance of recently planted trees eg including watering, weed control, staked, ties etc and semi-mature trees.
7. Clearance pruning to avoid future problems.
8. Replacement tree planting.

## **UNAVOIDABLE BIOLOGICAL PROBLEMS**

9. Interference with television reception.
10. Leaf fall; minor dead wood; honeydew.

## TREE WORK RANKING DETAIL (Experimental period to last until 31 March 1999)

In the first instance each tree is inspected and section (a) to (d) below given a score. Scores (a) – (d) are then multiplied with the score for any special factor being added to provide a final figure (with the present system 10 is the highest possible score since 1 is neutral and 0 provides a zero score overall).

Ideally the majority of cases should fall into the mid-range statistically and practice will provide the necessary adjustments.

A ranking equal to 5 or greater will be added to the list of work, funds permitting.

- a) **Foliage Density**    0.5 = very light  
                                  1.0 = light – average  
                                  1.5 = dense
- b) **Aspect**                0.5 = north  
                                  1.0 = west  
                                  1.5 = south east – south west  
                                  2.0 = south
- c) **Distance: crown edge to house as a % height tree**
- 0.0 = within height (100%)  
                                  0.5 = 0.75%  
                                  1.0 = 0.50%  
                                  1.5 = 0.25%
- d) **Ration: height of clear stem (up to major branching) as a % of height of eaves** (clear remaining on vertical elevation)
- 0.5 = 100% (ratio is 1:0)  
                                  1.0 = 75%  
                                  1.5 = 50%  
                                  2.0 = 25%
- e) **Special Factors**    1.0 Lime tree or other heavy sap producer  
                                  (others may be added following use)

$a \times b \times c \times d + e = \text{ranking}$