

The following advice is available on [DCC's website](#)

A tree becomes a hazard when it has a structural defect that may cause the tree, or a portion of the tree, to fall and injure people or damage property.

We inspect and maintain any trees within the highway.

As a landowner or occupier, you need to regularly inspect and maintain any trees on your land that are adjacent to, or within falling distance of, the highway. This includes trees in hedgerows and banks on private land.



We can't take any action on trees that don't pose a safety risk to the highway. Where there is a threat to private property, but not the highway, we will only take action if we own the tree.

Things to look out for in an unsafe tree

Damage

Look out for:

- splits or cracks in the trunk or branches
- branches that are broken or hanging
- sections of bark damaged or stripped to show the wood beneath – some trees such as Plane or Eucalyptus naturally shed their bark
- soil movement around the base of the tree in strong winds

Ill health or disease

Look out for:

- sections showing signs of rotting
- growth of fungi on the bark, wood or around the base of the tree
- foliage dying back or going brown for no apparent reason on evergreen trees, or out of season for deciduous trees

More information at [GOV.UK: Tree pests and diseases](#).

[Report an unsafe tree adjacent to the highway or a fallen tree or branch on the highway.](#)