

Hedges, trees and shrubs along footpaths and bridleways.

A major factor in the use and enjoyment of the footpaths in the St Minver area is the ability to walk the paths without having to walk around hedges and under low tree limbs.

In the past the Parish Council and the County Council have worked together to keep the majority of the side and overhanging vegetation under control so that the paths are in the condition that everyone expects within a bustling coastal area.

Although the Council is responsible for the cutting of the surface growth (termed upgrowth) it is the responsibility of every home owner and occupier to cut back side side growth and overhanging branches along any footpath to a minimum height of 2.1m.

Therefore, if a hedge forms part of your boundary you will be required to stop it from growing into the footpath. Trees that grow along the routes of Rights of Way are also the landowner's responsibility to maintain and keep in a safe condition.

Points to note:

- Before cutting any trees or hedgerows it is wise to check with Cornwall Council that the area is not protected by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO).
- No cuttings should be left on the path when the job is completed.
- More hazardous tree works may require the legal closure of the footpath to ensure the safety of users.
- If employing a third party to undertake the works they should have public liability insurance.

Cornwall Council have a duty to ensure that users of Public Rights of Way are not inconvenienced or endangered. Where vegetation issues are noted the owner will be notified by letter. If no action is undertaken within a reasonable amount of time then a legal notice may be issued for the vegetation to be removed within 14 days.

Please note that this does not extend to issues or problems from adjoining properties or trees overhanging private residences.

If you require any further information then please contact the Cornwall Council Countryside Service on 0300 1234 202 or via e-mail accessteam@cornwall.gov.uk