

Devon Highways

Our strategy is to

- ◆ Drive efficiencies, in identifying planning and delivery of Highway Maintenance works
- ◆ Mobilise Community support to Highway Maintenance
- ◆ Manage demand for Highway Services

Devon Highways

Members Information Pack

Grass Cutting

We carry out grass-cutting on highway verges in areas that are key to maintaining visibility, such as at junctions, laybys, and the inside of bends. The aim of grass-cutting is to keep the highway safe and to maintain visibility for all road users

- ◆ Grass-cutting in the visibility areas alongside rural roads is normally carried out once a year
- ◆ Rural roads, that are more important to the network, such as A and B roads, may be cut more frequently usually twice a year
- ◆ Grass-cutting in visibility areas alongside urban roads is undertaken up to four times a year largely by district and parish councils via a contribution from Devon County Council
- ◆ Grass-cutting may be undertaken more frequently by city or district councils; however this is at their discretion and funded by themselves via other means

Additional cutting is done to facilitate maintenance work, such as surface treatment or ditch cleaning. Grass cutting is also done to provide forward visibility to essential road signs. We will not cut grass at the access to private roads and drives.

Places where pedestrians are encouraged to cross, eg where a PROW meets a road and pedestrian refuge are included.

Some hedges are also cut in visibility areas, even though they are the responsibility of the adjacent land-owner.

Grass cutting will be undertaken on a planned programme basis. Programmes are available on our [grass cutting webpages](#).

We will only act on reports from members of the public when visibility is being affected which prevents a safe line of sight and stopping distance.

What to do if a verge in your area is no longer being maintained

Communities are encouraged to work together and help each other to deliver minor maintenance work. Please see MBN9 for further details.

If a community self help group is carrying out grass cutting or weed pulling they must inform the local Highway Team (see MBN1) **before** carrying out any works. To deal with the green waste resulting groups could;

- ◆ Take small amounts home for composting
- ◆ Speak to local allotment associations or community composting groups about using it
- ◆ Leave it on the verges to rot down

If waste is taken to Devon County Council recycling centres for disposal it will not be accepted unless a pre purchased commercial green waste disposal tickets is given.

http://www.devon.gov.uk/index/environmentplanning/recycling/trade_recycling.htm

These charges can't be waived as we can't make reductions in one service only to pick up the costs in another.

Weed management

We do not treat unsightly weeds. However, we may sometimes carry out weed spraying in some drainage systems, on high priority roads, and before constructing new footpaths. We may also spray weeds during highway maintenance work to prevent damage to the structure or surface of roads and paths.

Noxious Weeds

We do not carry out treatment of noxious weeds. However, we will assess any reports that allege that noxious weeds, on DCC land, have caused growth/spread on to private land.

