

ESH Hedge cutting information (October 2025)

Please see below further information regarding our Enforcement policy regarding hedges:

Initial Request - A steward submits a request for a Land Registry search to identify the landowner responsible for vegetation encroaching onto the highway.

First Notice - Once the landowner is identified, a 14-day informal notice is issued, requesting that the vegetation be cut back.

First Reinspection - After the 14-day period, the site is reinspected to check whether the vegetation has been cleared.

Formal Notice - If no action has been taken, East Sussex Highways issues a 14-day formal notice under Section 154 of the Highways Act. This is a legal requirement for the landowner to cut back the vegetation.

Second Reinspection - Following the second 14-day period, the site is reinspected again.

Potential Works by Highways - If no action is taken following the formal notice, East Sussex Highways will assess the site to determine whether the vegetation poses a safety risk. If deemed necessary for highway safety, the works may then be carried out directly by East Sussex Highways.

Note:

This process may vary depending on specific circumstances, such as:

- Disputes over land ownership
- Presence of nesting birds
- Requirements for traffic management to safely carry out the works