

## **Estimated Tree Works Time Scales**

Requests for tree work will be assessed in line with Northumberland County Council's Trees and Woodland Strategy 2015-2020 (Growing Together). All required tree work will be prioritised and carried out according to the identified hazards and risks.

Any tree work identified as non-urgent will be categorised as either medium or low priority and works programmed accordingly. Work will be completed on a priority basis depending on risk band.

All tree work carried out will be in accordance with the County Council tree works specification, BS3998: 2010 "Recommendations for Tree Work" and with reference to the Arboricultural Associations Guidance note no.5 "European Tree Pruning Guide".

The Priority Banding is as shown overleaf, and in each category a list of maintenance that would normally fall into that priority/risk rating has been given as guidance. However until the tree has been inspected and the relevant information has been recorded its true priority cannot be established.

It is strongly emphasised that these categories and figures are only guidelines which are applicable under normal circumstances only. The occurrence of emergencies, storms and other events beyond our control will take priority over programmed work and this may result in scheduled work being delayed.

## Tree Works Priority Guide

Priority	Type of maintenance that normally fall into each priority band.
<p><b>Priority 1 – Urgent public safety work</b></p> <p><i>Following inspection the tree(s) require(s) urgent maintenance work to make its current condition acceptable.</i></p> <p>Target completion - within <b>7 days</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Making safe of storm damaged trees in adverse weather conditions</li> <li>• Large limbs snapped and hung up over high vehicular and pedestrian flow</li> <li>• Trees that pose imminent danger to people or property</li> </ul>
<p><b>Priority 2 Non urgent, but essential safety work</b></p> <p><i>Following inspection the tree(s) require(s) Non Urgent but essential maintenance work to resolve safety issues identified during its inspection.</i></p> <p>Target completion – within <b>12 months</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dead, dying and diseased trees in high pedestrian and traffic flow areas</li> <li>• Tree branches below 2.5mtrs over high pedestrian flow footpaths</li> <li>• Tree branches below 5.2mtrs over high traffic flow roads</li> <li>• Tree branches causing damage to property</li> <li>• Trees with root plate movement</li> </ul>
<p><b>Priority 3 – Non essential, but desirable work</b></p> <p><i>Following the inspection the tree(s) has been identified as requiring non-essential maintenance work. Due to the nature of the work identified it will only be completed as resources allow.</i></p> <p>Target completion – <b>As resources allow</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All other general tree maintenance work that is causing no risk of harm to people or property.</li> </ul>