

Hedge Cutting

Hedges are trimmed twice a year. To comply with the law the Council will avoid hedge cutting during the nesting period between March and August.

Bird nesting/breeding season

Hedge cutting operations should not be undertaken during the bird nesting or breeding season, which is considered to be from 1 March to 31 July. However, depending on seasonal temperatures, some birds continue breeding into August and September.

Hedge cutting during the bird nesting or breeding season should be avoided as nearly every hedgerow in the country will have birds breeding in it during this time. All wild birds, their young, their eggs and active nests are protected under law. Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act – 1981 **it is an offence to damage a nest intentionally while it is in use or being built** and hedge cutting is highly likely to damage nests or cause them to be deserted.

The maximum penalty that can be imposed for an offence under the Wildlife and Countryside Act - in respect of a single bird, nest or egg - is a fine of up to £5,000, and/or six months' imprisonment.