

Your Roadside Plants and Hedges, Trees and Banks

a guide to the "branchage law"

What is the law about "branchage"?

The Loi (1914) sur la Voirie ("branchage law") makes roads and footpaths safer for all who use them. It achieves this primarily by requiring that the entire width of roads and footpaths is not restricted by vegetation. 'Footpaths' includes pavements and the width of a road includes any "relief".

On two occasions each year, Parish officials carry out the "Visites du Branchage" to ensure vegetation has been cut and removed.

Who is responsible for cutting the branchage?

The occupier of buildings or land is responsible for cutting the branchage. For multiple occupancy properties the 'occupier' is the company (if the property consists of share transfer flats) or the association of co-owners (if the property is flying freehold).

What do I have to do?

All occupiers of property bordering public roads and public footpaths in Jersey must –

- ✓ Trim any vegetation growing on the property so that it does not encroach over the road or footpath.
- ✓ Ensure a minimum clearance of 12 feet (3.66m) above all public roads and 8 feet (2.44m) above public footpaths and pavements, measured vertically from the point at which the surface of the road or footpath meets the property (see sketch below).
- ✓ Remove all cuttings.

What happens if the branchage isn't removed?

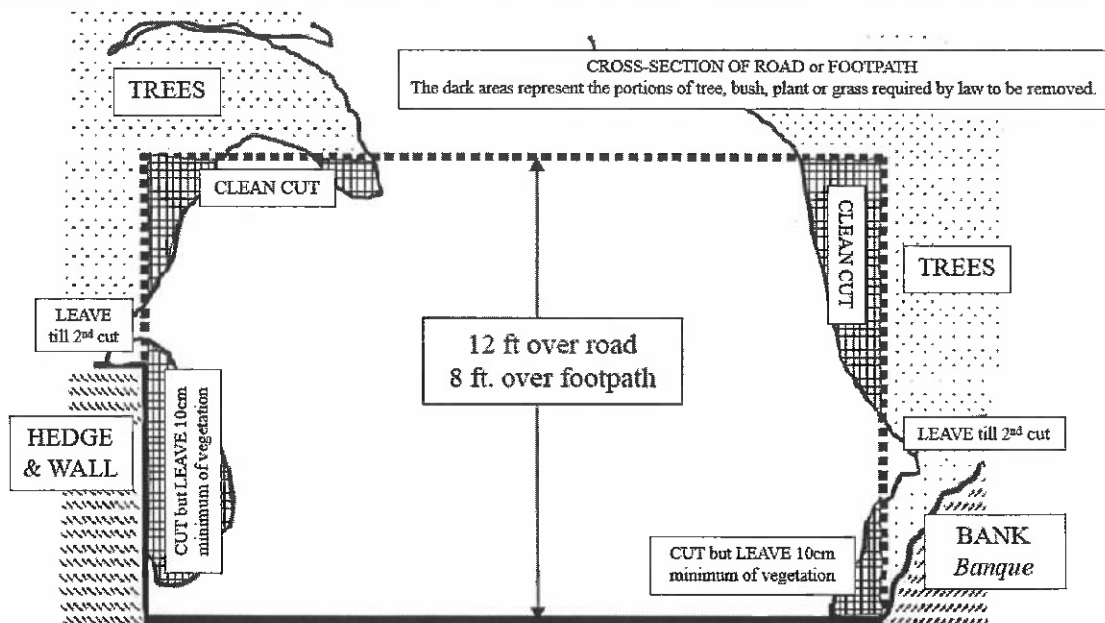
There is a financial penalty (up to £100 per infraction), the occupier will be instructed to undertake the work and, if it is still not carried out, the Parish authorities may arrange for it to be done by a contractor at the occupier's expense.

When are the Visites du Branchage?

The "Visites du Branchage" take place during a 3-week period from 24 June and from 1 September. The dates are published in the Jersey Gazette and also on your Parish website.

Does the branchage have to be cut at other times?

Irrespective of the Visites du Branchage, it is the duty of the Connétable, at all times, to have all impediment branchage (literally "branches") and other obstructions or nuisance removed from the public roads, with penalties applicable to those who do not comply.



JERSEY HEDGEHOG PRESERVATION GROUP



Please check for hedgehogs or other wildlife before you trim or cut

If you find an injured hedgehog -

- ✓ please pick it up with gloves and put it in a bucket/dustbin/box.
- ✓ phone the Jersey Hedgehog Preservation Group (T: +44 (0) 1534 734340) for immediate help or take it to a vet.

If you disturb a nest with a mother and baby hedgehogs -

- ✓ please cover it over with the material you have cut away and leave the area.
- ✓ if you need to move the family use gloves to pick up mum, then all the babies, place in a bucket/dustbin/box and cover with as much original nest material as you can.
- ✓ phone the Jersey Hedgehog Preservation Group (T: +44 (0) 1534 734340) for immediate help.
- ✗ DO NOT touch the young with bare hands as the mother may reject them.

If you find other injured wildlife or you discover a nest of another wildlife species -

- ✓ please phone the JSPCA (T: +44 (0)1534 724331) or your vet for advice – you should not be charged for wildlife.

THANK YOU for your help in protecting JERSEY'S WILDLIFE