

Tree safety and visibility clearance – A361 and A39

What are we doing?

We are removing trees infected with Ash dieback and clearing back overgrown vegetation adjacent to these strategic routes for the safety of road users.

When are we working on these roads?

Start of works	End of works	Type of traffic management
6 April 2020	30 June 2020	Speed restrictions with Traffic lights / stop and go boards/ lane closures Between 9:30 and 16:30 Mon – Fri This is a rolling programme of work.

Why are we doing this work?

Trees with Ash dieback become unstable and will shed branches and can collapse as the level of infection spreads within the tree. Collapsing trees, even relatively small ones, into a high-speed road presents a significant hazard to passing vehicles. Therefore, we are removing infected trees and cutting back overgrown vegetation that has encroached within 2m of the highway.

Why do we have to reduce the speed?

We must ensure the safety of our workforce and the public, and [in order to comply with our safety guidelines](#) therefore we will be reducing the speed of traffic travelling through the work sites.

Why can't we do the work at night?

For the safety of the workforce it is preferable to do tree cutting work during daylight.

Why are you working during the Covid-19 pandemic?

The maintenance of the highway infrastructure is part of the essential work that must continue and the highway teams, including our tree contractors, are identified as key workers. The tree contractors have health and safety procedures in place in accordance with Public Health England advice.

What are you doing to protect wildlife?

An ecologist is on site throughout the works and is making sure all necessary precautions are taken regarding nesting birds, dormice and other wildlife habitats.