

Environment Directorate
Parks & Open Spaces
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London borough of Richmond upon Thames Lime tree basal growth and crown lifting work (stemming)

“Stemming is defined as shoots emanating from the trunk, buttress roots, and arising from roots within 1 metre of the trunk or planting pit – whichever is greater. The removal of all suckering/epicormic growth arising from the base or stem of the tree shall be removed up to a minimum height of two point five metres above ground level”

In summary....

- Remove all basal and root suckers using hand tools to give a minimum of 2.5m highway clearance around the tree stem and roots.
- Lift all branches to ensure a minimum 2.5m highway clearance
- Remove all stubs using secateurs, silky saw, loppers
- Clear sight lines to traffic lights/pedestrian crossings if required (see example)

before



after



Example of lifting to give clearance to street furniture



lift to 3.5m