

Step 1. Level of Shade

The trees under consideration are assessed for levels of shading in accordance with Tables 1, 2 and 3 taking into account the likely future growth of the tree over the next three years.

Consideration is given to whether pruning or felling would be the most appropriate remedy having regard to the impact on the tree/s and whether the amenity benefits justify a long-term commitment to a programme of pruning.

Table 1: Shading of rooms		<p>This is the angle from the window to the top of the tree in the case of conifers or to the outer crown in the case of broadleaves (see diagram below). This calculation takes into account the shape of the crown, the distance that the tree is from the window and the height of the tree.</p> <p>The addition of a 45° arc measured from the outside of the window is intended to exclude trees that are only causing shading for a small portion of the day.</p> <p>Only light demanding rooms are considered. These are rooms where, during daylight hours, normal usage dictates that adequate natural light is required. This will exclude rooms like bathrooms, bedrooms, halls, utility rooms and the like.</p>
Shade severity	Angle of skylight	
1 – Negligible	45-54°	
2 – Low	55-64°	
3 – Medium	65-74°	
4 – High	75-84°	
5 – Very High	≥ 85°	

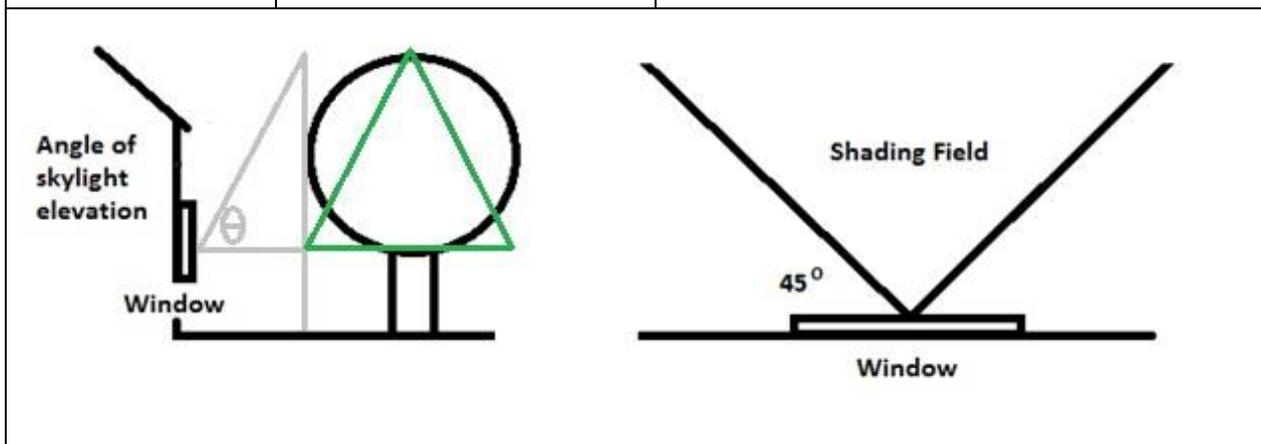


Table 2: Canopy overhang of gardens		Normally this will apply only to rear gardens. Front gardens will only be considered if they are not visible from public footpaths etc and can be used for normal garden activities. Normally unusable garden elements, such as driveways, would be excluded from the calculation of usable garden space.
Shade severity	Percentage of canopy overhang	
1 – Negligible	< 25%	
2 – Low	25-37%	
3 – Medium	38-49%	
4 – High	50-74%	
5 – Very High	≥ 75%	

Table 3: Blockage of direct sunlight to gardens		Only gardens with 3 hours minimum amount of potential (i.e. with tree removed) sunlight are considered. This is to avoid situations where a garden may be naturally shaded due to its orientation or buildings and where the removal of the tree would only achieve a small increase in light, e.g. with a north facing garden. The calculation of the probable sunlight hours and the percentage blocked by the offending tree will be based on the use of the 'sun on ground indicator' in the Building Research Establishment's (BRE) document ' <i>BRE209 Site layout planning for daylight and sunlight: a guide to good practice</i> '
Shade severity	Percentage of potential sunlight hours blocked	
1 – Negligible	< 40%	
2 – Low	40-59%	
3 – Medium	60-79%	
4 – High	80-89%	
5 – Very High	≥ 90%	

Note: the thresholds are based on the premise that shading is deemed to be an issue for the complainant and seeks to assess the degree of shading taking into account any historic complaints in order to determine whether action is warranted and the level of priority it should receive.

Step 2. Amenity Value

Once the severity and type of shading and the appropriate remedy has been determined, the implications for amenity will be assessed in accordance with the Table 4.

Table 4: Impact on Amenity	
Category	Guidelines
Negligible	Trees that either detract or make little contribution to the local landscape and are of very limited wildlife value. Eg. overgrown conifers, failed plantings, self-seeded trees that are unsuitable within their setting, diseased trees or trees that need to be removed for other sound reasons.
Low	Trees of no special individual merit or their loss can be compensated for through new planting or there are already sufficient maturing trees in the area to sustain local amenity.
Medium	Trees that contribute to landscape quality and character and or general habitat value. Loss will reduce levels of tree cover and cause depletion in the local tree population due to lack of alternative space for compensatory planting.
High	Key neighbourhood tree(s) of ornamental value in its own right, forming a local landmark feature, is an unusual species or contains features such as minor cavities that make it of high value to protected species ie. bats. Woodland edge trees, the removal of which would pose a risk of wind throw to interior trees.
Very high	Tree/s of wider landscape significance including rare species, those of substantive historic value, trees that are exceptionally old for the species. Trees forming part of significant tree belts, the removal of which would harm the integrity of the tree belt.

Consideration will be given to special factors that apply such as history of the shading issue, and the circumstances of the householder e.g. situations where they are housebound (and supported by a doctor's advice note for instance).

If special factors are claimed by the applicant or are thought to apply by the officers, members of the Tree Shading Single Issue Panel will be consulted before making final decision.

Step 3. Combined shade and amenity considerations

RESULT	Significance of shade	Very high	High	Med	Low	Neg.
i) Tree preventing light from entering into rooms	5	x	A	A	B	B
	4	x	x	A	B	B
	3	x	x	x	B	B
	2	x	x	x	B	B
	1	x	x	x	x	B
ii) Tree overhang a garden	5	x	x	A	B	B
	4	x	x	x	B	B
	3	x	x	x	B	B
	2	x	x	x	x	B
	1	x	x	x	x	x
iii) Tree blocking sunlight	5	x	x	x	B	B
	4	x	x	x	B	B
	3	x	x	x	x	B
	2	x	x	x	x	x
	1	x	x	x	x	x

A – Pass (subject to consultation, and budget)
 B – Pass (subject To budget)
 x – No action (subject to member call in)

If tree pruning would address the requestor’s concern and the tree could tolerate it then pruning should be considered. However, there may be problems associated with pruning, in which case the most best course of action would be to fell.