



Tree & Hedgerow Protection Guidance

Any works near trees and hedgerows must be undertaken with care to protect the tree canopy and avoid damage to the root structure.

Before felling or pruning any trees, or removing any hedgerows, you must ensure permission has been obtained.

Tree protection

Trees can be protected in two ways:

- tree preservation order (TPO)
- tree protection plan (TPP) agreed by a LPA

Hedgerow protection

A hedgerow is protected, meaning you cannot remove it, if it meets the following criteria for:

- length
- location
- importance



Note: if required to fell trees not covered by planning, a felling licence is required from the Forestry Commission

Length

A hedgerow is protected if it's:

- more than 20m long with gaps of 20m or less in its length
- less than 20m long, but meets another hedge at each end

Location

A hedgerow is protected if it's on or next to:

- land used for agriculture or forestry
- land used for breeding or keeping horses, ponies or donkeys
- common land
- a village green
- a site of special scientific interest
- a protected European site such as a special area of conservation or special protection area
- a local or national nature reserve
- land belonging to the state

A hedgerow is not protected if it's in, or marks the boundary of, a private garden.

A hedgerow removal notice may be required if no planning permission is in place.

Importance

Must be more than 30 years old and meet relevant criteria such as: if it marks the boundary of an estate; or marks all or part of a parish boundary that existed before 1850. Full details can be [found here](#).

Damage can occur by

- Compaction of soil – caused by pedestrians, vehicles, plant and storage of materials such as spoil or topsoil
- Cutting of branches / roots

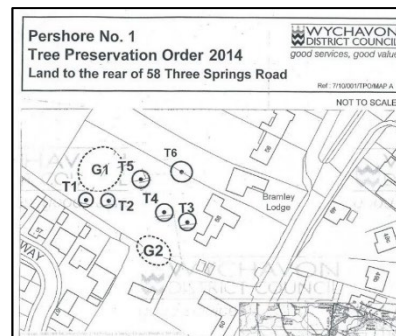
Authorised by: HS&E Director	Version date: 12.05.22	Version: 2	STD: Ecology & Biodiversity Guidance: Tree & Hedgerow Protection
Uncontrolled if printed or copied – always check the Group HS&E policy folder for latest version			



Tree Preservation Order (TPO)

A TPO is a written order made by a local planning authority (e.g. a borough, district or unitary council or a national park authority) which, in general, makes it an offence to cut down, top, lop, uproot, wilfully damage or wilfully destroy a tree protected by that order without the authority's permission. The purpose of a TPO is to protect trees which bring significant amenity benefit to the local area. This protection is particularly important where trees are under threat.

If you wish to remove or work on a tree covered by a TPO (apart from special exceptions) you must seek permission from the local planning authority by submitting a standard application form to it. The form is available from the Planning Portal www.planningportal.gov.uk or the authority.



Before making an application it is advised to consult with a tree surgeon or arboricultural consultant to help you clarify what you need to do. If you deliberately destroy a protected tree, or damage it in a manner likely to destroy it, you could be liable to an unlimited fine. You could also be fined if you cause or permit such work. Other offences can lead to fines of up to £2,500.

Tree Protection Plan (TPP)

Superimposed on a layout plan, based on topographical survey. The plan should indicate precise location of barriers, type of ground protection and tree protection boxes. The Plan should take into account site access, parking, works phasing, space needed for excavations, temporary equipment storage, service runs, utility lines; plus storage, crane locations, site accommodation, locations of liquids storage etc.



Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS)



Describes how works will be undertaken within Root Protection Areas (RPA) or Zones (RPZ's) (or crown spread where this is greater), to minimise risk or adverse damage on trees.

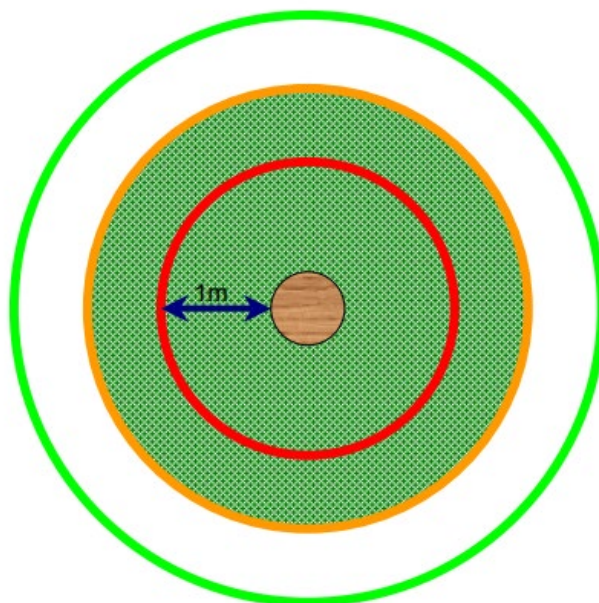
The AMS should describe how works will be undertaken for access, removal of existing structures, installation of temporary ground protection, trenching, new hard surfacing, foundations, retaining structures and landscaping.

The agreed AMS must be followed. Scenarios such as that demonstrated on the photo to left must be avoided. Heavy plant will cause compaction of the soil and permanently damage the root system when excavating.



Tree Protection Zones

Tree (and hedge) protection must be established at or beyond the canopy to protect roots and branches from damage.

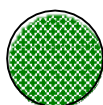


TREE PROTECTION ZONE

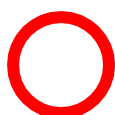
Key to Diagram



Trunk of tree



Spread of canopy



PROHIBITED ZONE – 1m from trunk. Excavations of any kind must not be undertaken within this zone unless full consultation with Local Authority Tree Officer is undertaken. Materials, plant and spoil must not be stored within this zone.



PRECAUTIONARY ZONE – 4 x tree circumference. Where excavations must be undertaken within this zone the use of mechanical excavation plants should be prohibited. Precautions should be undertaken to protect any exposed roots. Materials, plant and spoil should not be stored within this zone. Consult with Local Authority Tree Officer if in any doubt.

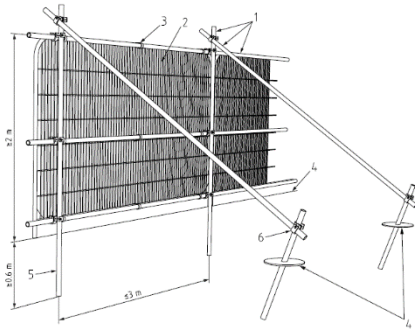


PERMITTED ZONE – outside of precautionary zone. Excavation works may be undertaken within this zone however caution must be applied and the use of mechanical plant limited. Any exposed roots should be protected.



Barriers and Tree Protection Fencing

Any trees or hedges which are to be retained must be protected in accordance with **BS5837:2012**. A construction exclusion zone must be established to prevent damage occurring.



All trees that are being retained on site should be protected by barriers and/or ground protection, **that is relatively immovable**, before any materials or machinery is brought onto the site, and before any demolition, development or stripping of soil commences. **Signage must also be provided (available through Glendining Signs).**

Double clipped heras fencing is generally considered adequate protection. Alternatively, discuss with the Tree Protection officer other types of protection which may be considered suitable, prior to installation.

Where all activity can be excluded from the RPA, vertical barriers should be erected to create a construction exclusion zone. Where, due to site constraints, construction activity cannot be fully or permanently excluded in this manner from all or part of a tree's RPA, appropriate ground protection should be installed.

Barriers should be fit for the purpose of excluding construction activity and appropriate to the degree and proximity of work taking place around the retained tree(s). Barriers should be maintained to ensure that they remain rigid and complete.

Protect

- ✓ Ensure you are aware of any TPOs / TPP / AMS
- ✓ Erect (relatively immovable) protective fencing
- ✓ Provide all-weather signage
- ✓ **Communicate tree protection requirements to all relevant subcontractors**
- ✓ If you find nesting birds **stop work** immediately
- ✗ Do not store materials in RPAs
- ✗ Do not allow machinery / plant in RPAs



Signage available through Glendining Signs