

Theme of the Month March 18 – Protection of Trees and Hedgerows

Your Health and Safety

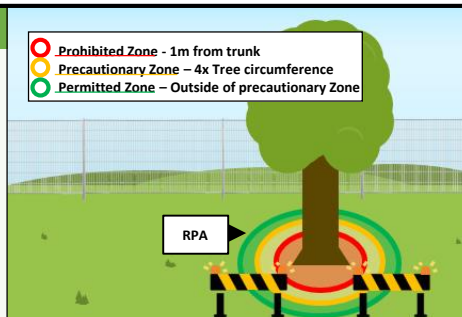
Our Environment

Quality Requirements

Trees and hedgerows are often used by protected species as a habitat. Disturbing these species or damaging protected trees and hedgerows, whether caused by physical injury to branches, trunk or roots, or by changing the soil structure around the roots can result in prosecution. Due to this it is essential that before working on or near trees or hedgerows you consider the following:

1. Protection of Trees and Hedgerows

- A **Tree Protection Plan** is required when working near trees.
- It is an offence to work on / damage a tree with a **Tree Preservation Order** without Local Authority permission and land owner (where applicable).
- **Install tree protection fencing** around the Root Protection Areas (RPAs) as appropriate. No works, vehicle movements, or storage within this RPA, unless an Environmental Advisor / Arborist provides consent.



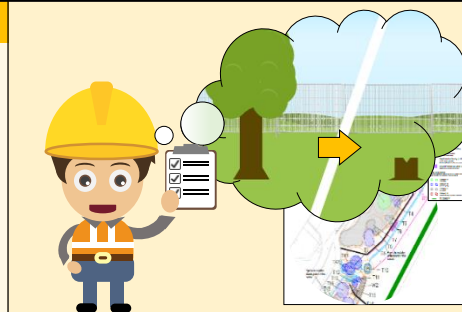
2. Planning

- **Check if there are any ecology considerations** (e.g. red squirrels, bats). No tree or hedgerow removals or pruning should be undertaken during Nesting Bird season (March – Sept) without a prior ecology check. Even out of season, tree protection is important.
- Always **seek arboricultural input** when deciding which trees can / cannot be retained.
- Obtain landowner's permission prior to any tree works.
- See guidance note [EVGD01-32](#) and [EVGD01-32A](#).



3. Pre-Commencement

- A **Tree Removal Plan** detailing RPAs, and felling and protection recommendations - to be in place.
- **Risk Assessments and Method Statements** to be reviewed by a H&S and Environmental Advisor(s).
- Agree with Arborist and landowner how any felled trees/branches will be disposed of. Can they be used for fuel or reuse?
- **Seek advice** if you have any doubts.



4. Subcontractors

- Felling and removal of trees and hedgerows must be conducted by a **competent arborist**.
- Subcontracts **must** be in place for all tree / hedgerow removal work prior to commencement (see [PMPR03](#)).
- Hold a **pre-commencement meeting** to confirm arrangements and record on [CDFR16-02 Subcontractor Pre-Commencement Meeting Record](#)



5. Carrying Out Works

- Working with trees and hedgerows usually involves the use of chainsaws, wood chippers, strimmers etc.
- Using these is **high risk**. Engage specialists with correct training, experience and equipment.
- **Do not attempt** to hire this equipment and do the work yourself.
- **Exclusions zones** should be maintained while using the equipment, with only the operator in the zone.



6. Completion and Replanting

- Check planning conditions for specific requirements.
- If landscaping, complete a C18 Landscape & Fencing Test Sheet (in the Inspection & Test Plan).
- Ensure any wood produced from tree works are provided to the landowner, left on site as agreed or disposed of appropriately.

