

National Tree Week 22nd November – 30th November 2025

What is National Tree Week?

National Tree Week is the UK's largest annual tree celebration, dedicated to raising awareness about the environmental, social and economic importance of trees. It marks the start of the winter tree planting season.



Trees and hedgerows help us tackle climate change, provide homes for wildlife, improve our health and so much more, so it is important for us to be aware of how **we can protect trees and hedgerows during our work.**



Our Impact?

Despite their robust appearance, trees are easily susceptible to damage. MWHT have historically experienced environmental incidents and near misses (Improve Its) relating to tree and hedgerow protection, examples of which include:

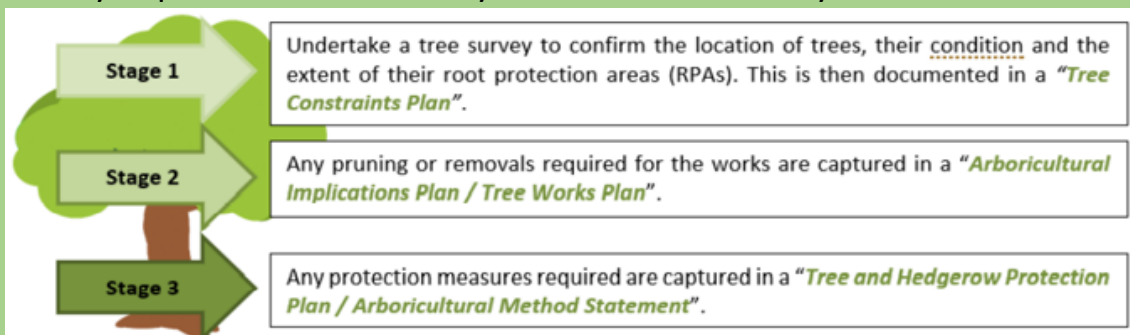
- ✗ Excavations or topsoil stripping in Root Protection Areas (RPA)
- ✗ Plant access and movements within an RPAs
- ✗ Hedgerow removals without appropriate consent
- ✗ Removal of trees marked for retention

What we need to do

Incidents and near misses can be avoided through appropriate planning and communication on site. Ensure the below areas are adhered to, completed and understood.

Pre-Construction Activities / Enabling Works

Prior to any on site works being undertaken, a **tree survey must be undertaken** which covers the design proposals (both temporary and permanent works), as well as any impact to trees that may be affected off-site by construction traffic.



Where needed, ensure the necessary Tree Preservation Order (TPO), Trees in Conservation Areas or Hedgerow Removal Notices (HRN) have been obtained.

Consult an Environmental Planner for assistance.

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Videos to Watch

Watch the introductory video promoting the benefits of trees and hedgerows: [National Tree Week video](#)

Watch the video providing details on root protection zones: [Root Protection Zones Video](#)
This can be used as part of a Toolbox Talk.



Permits to be in place

Vegetation Clearance Permit

Prior to any removals of vegetation including trees and hedgerows, a Vegetation Clearance Permit (EVFR05-14), needs to be completed and approved by an appropriate person. This ensures vegetation removal is carried out legally, safely and with minimal environmental impact.

Ground Disturbance Permit

The Ground Disturbance Permit is being updated to include environmental requirements such as wildlife exclusion zones, trees and hedgerow mitigation and invasive species. Where vegetation clearance is required, the Ground Disturbance Permit cannot be approved until the Vegetation Clearance Permit is in place.



Training to complete

Guidance documents to refer to:

- [EVGD01-32 Protection of Trees and Hedgerows](#)
- [EVRU01-32 Reasonable Avoidance Measures – Working Near Trees](#)
- [Env Memo 23-32 Planning Tree Works and Protection](#)
- [Env Memo 23-38 Tree Protection Case Study](#)
- [Env Best Practice 24-118 Micro Vacuum Excavator Around Tree Roots](#)

Toolbox Talks to Complete:

- [EVTT01-32 Working Around Trees](#)
- [EVTT01-33 Working Around Hedgerows](#)
- [EVTT01-33B The Benefits of Trees](#)



Poster for Display

Display 'Site Working Near/On Trees' poster on site
[EVGD01-32A Site Working Near/On Trees - Poster](#)

New Process Flow Diagram

A new process flow diagram is in the making to outline the process for 'Managing Trees Through Design & Planning'. This will help prevent and avoid disturbance of trees and hedgerows through design where possible.