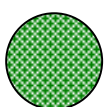


TREE PROTECTION ZONE

Key to Diagram



Trunk of Tree



Spread of canopy or branches



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 plant 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.

DAMAGE TO TREES

Tree roots keep a tree healthy and upright. Most roots are found in the top 600mm of soil and often grow out further than the tree's height. The majority of these roots are very fine; even close to a tree few will be thicker than a pencil. Most street tree roots grow under the footway but may also extend under the carriageway. If roots are damaged the tree may suffer irreversible harm and eventually die.

PROTECTING ROOTS - DO'S and DON'TS

There are three designated zones around a tree each of which has its own criteria for working practices.

THE PROHIBITED ZONE

- Don't** excavate within this zone.
- Don't** use any form of mechanical plant within this zone
- Don't** store materials, plant or equipment within this zone.
- Don't** move plant or vehicles within this zone.
- Don't** lean materials against, or chain plant to, the trunk.
- Do** contact the local authority tree officer or owner of the tree if excavation within this zone is unavoidable.
- Do** protect any exposed roots uncovered within this zone with dry sacking.
- Do** backfill with a suitable inert granular and top soil material mix as soon as possible on completion of works.
- Do** notify the local authority tree officer or the tree's owner of any damage.

THE PRECAUTIONARY ZONE

- Don't** excavate with machinery. Where excavation is unavoidable within this zone excavate only by hand or use trenchless techniques.
- Don't** cut roots over 25mm in diameter, unless advice has been sought from the local authority tree officer.
- Don't** repeatedly move / use heavy mechanical plant except on hard standing.
- Don't** store spoil or building material, including chemicals and fuels, within this zone.
- Do** prune roots which have to be removed using a sharp tool (e.g. secateurs or handsaw). Make a clean cut and leave as small a wound as possible.
- Do** backfill the trench with an inert granular material and top soil mix. Compact the backfill with care around the retained roots. On non highway sites backfill only with excavated soil.
- Do** protect any exposed roots with dry sacking ensuring this is removed before backfilling.
- Do** notify the local authority tree officer or the tree's owner of any damage.

THE PERMITTED ZONE

- Don't** cut roots over 25mm in diameter, unless advice has been sought from the local authority tree officer.
- Do** use caution if it is absolutely necessary to operate mechanical plant within this zone.
- Do** prune roots which have to be removed using a sharp tool (e.g. secateurs or handsaw). Make a clean cut and leave as small a wound as possible.
- Do** protect any exposed roots with dry sacking ensuring this is removed before backfilling.
- Do** notify the local authority tree officer or the tree's owner of any damage.