

## Working around trees and hedgerows

<b>Reason</b>	Trees and hedgerows are an important part of our environment and countryside. If you know how to protect them when working nearby you will not damage them.
<b>Outline</b>	This talk covers the importance of protection and the controls that need to be in place.



**The installation of a tree exclusion zone prevents any damage from plant, equipment and stored materials**



**Tree damage caused by inappropriate storage of construction waste**



**Trees can become unstable and a hazard to people and property if damaged by compaction or cutting of roots, pollution and through impact by machines.**

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### Trees and hedgerows

1. Trees and hedgerows provide a vitally important habitat for many different types of wildlife.
2. They are protected by legislation, which is enforced by the Local Authority.
3. At certain times in the year they may contain nesting birds or roosting bats, which should not be disturbed as they are protected by law.
4. Trees can become unstable and be a hazard to people and property if they are damaged by compaction or cutting of roots, pollution and through impact by machines.

### Control measures

1. Check with your supervisor to make sure permission has been granted before starting any work such as felling trees, removing hedgerows or clearing vegetation.
2. Follow instructions with regard to tree protection zones to protect root systems.
3. Do not store fuels, oils and other potential pollutants near root systems.
4. Excavate near trees or hedgerows with great care. Areas around root systems should be hand dug.

### Precautions

1. Do not undertake work near to trees without permission from your supervisor.
2. Do not carry work out on trees or hedgerows during the nesting season or without checking whether the trees or hedgerows have protection orders.
3. Do not use plant or vehicles in tree protection areas.
4. Do not store heavy or hazardous materials under tree canopies.



**When should you not carry out work on trees or hedgerows?**  
**What should you do if nesting birds, or birds' nests are found on site?**  
**Where should fuels and oils be stored?**



**Now inform your workers of the company provision for tree and hedgerow protection on this site.**