

# Toolbox talk – Environment

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## Working around trees and hedgerows

### What?

- trees and hedgerows are an important part of the environment and the countryside
- they provide a vitally important habitat for wildlife and many trees and hedgerows are protected by legislation enforced by the local authority
- they provide shelter and pathways for insects, amphibians, mammals and birds.



### Why?

- avoid environmental harm and prosecution:** during certain times of the year trees and hedgerows may contain nesting birds. Nesting birds are protected by law against disturbance
- avoid prosecution:** it is illegal to cut down or wilfully damage trees protected by law under a Tree Preservation Order, trees in a conservation area or to pull up certain countryside hedges except with the consent of the local planning authority
- reduce safety risk:** damaged trees may become unstable and potential hazards and can kill or injure people or animals. Trees can be damaged by compaction of roots and other damage to the root system, by pollution and through impact by machines.

### Questions

- 1 How can trees and hedgerows be protected on this site?
- 2 What care should be taken when moving plant or storing and using fuels and other potential pollutants on site?
- 3 What must be done if any birds' nests are found on site?

### Do?

- ✓ check with a line manager before felling any trees or removing any hedgerows to ensure permission has been obtained
- ✓ only clear vegetation as instructed by a line manager
- ✓ check for nesting birds and if any are found stop work and contact a line manager immediately
- ✓ ask a line manager what protection is required to trees and hedgerows
- ✓ check with a line manager before excavating near to trees and hedgerows
- ✓ ensure plant and machinery are kept out of any excluded areas

- ✓ store all fuels and oils and other potential pollutants away from root systems
- ✓ hand dig only around root systems.

### Don't

- ✗ undertake tree felling or hedgerow clearance during the bird nesting season
- ✗ undertake any works to, or near to, trees without authorisation from a line manager
- ✗ track vehicles or plant over tree protection areas
- ✗ store materials, especially fuels and oils under or near trees.

Title:

Given by:

Date:

Site:

Name	Company	Signature

Developed from W045 Environmental Toolbox talks  
Date issued: November 2015

