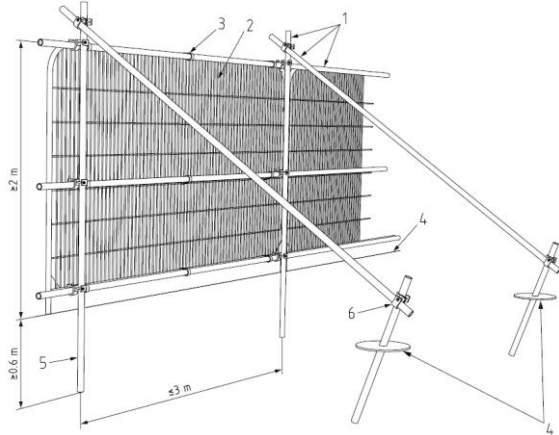


Tree Protection Fencing for rooting areas and CEZ

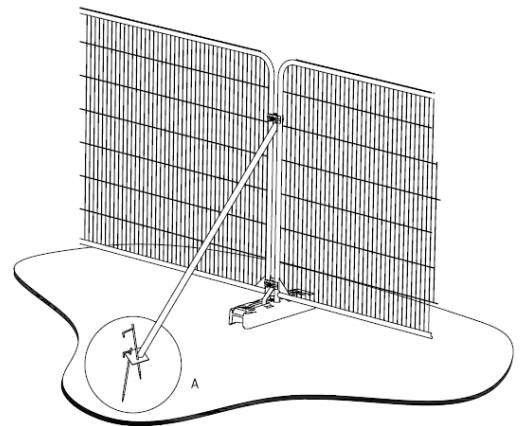
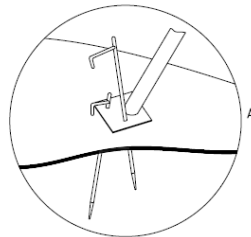
Rooting areas and how to protect trees from preventable damage

The BS 5837 2012 document provides various diagrams on how to protect tree rooting areas. The fence needs to be erected prior to construction traffic site occupation and often with the arboriculturist present to ensure correct placing. Types for hard and soft ground surfaces are shown below.

Soft ground



Hard ground



The rooting area is calculated by using a stem measurement. For single stems trees the diameter if the stem is measured at 1.5m above ground level or point of even stem taper. This figure, in millimetres is then multiplied by twelve and this will then give the radial measurement from the stem to the edge of the rooting area. A circular area is created around the tree at the radial measurement. This is where the fencing should be located. Multi stemmed trees now require average stem size calculations based on 2-5 stems or 5+ stems. Contact the arboriculturist if in any doubt.

The design of RPA or CEZ fencing should be so that it cannot be moved during works. It must also be robust enough to withstand minor knocks and scrapes from plant equipment. The fence must be in place prior to site occupation by plant equipment and should be removed once the site has been vacated by construction traffic. Should there be a requirement to place pedestrian walkways across and RPA a suitable method of ground protection should be used. A geo textile layer, compressible material and then boards should suffice as a walkway. This specification will need to be agreed by the arboriculturist prior to installation. It should also be laid in front of the direction of travel during installation. All hedges and trees over 150mm diameter at 1.5m need root protection. If no RPA measurement is provided for a tree or hedge requiring root protection ensure the fence is set 2m from the outer edge of the tree/hedge drip line.

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Ground Protection (if required)

Existing soil structure and texture must not be destroyed or altered in the vicinity of trees. Future planting sites should also have their structure preserved by the use of ground protecting plates. This will allow mechanical plant to move around the site and transit areas of high root occupancy or planting sites of high value.



The use of ground protecting boards such as these seen in the adjacent picture should be used. Geo textile and felt may be required beneath these routes to minimize puddling of the soil surface. Should puddling occur a capped layer may well be formed which will reduce the lateral diffusion of soil gasses and cause significant problems for retained trees.

Any ground protection must be capable of withstanding the load placed upon it. An engineer must be consulted for advice on the specification of such protection.

Another method of ground protection can be utilized by using the installation of raised platforms mounted onto scaffold legs.

Platforms such as these could be used for light storage, walkways or as an area for construction workers to stand whilst carrying out operations such as block laying and pointing. Water proof sheeting on top of the boarding should be used to catch any material that could leach into soils where tree roots are present or run off could reach.

Particular attention should always be made when using ground protection to surface run off. Fuel oils, cement and water with high fines content are all very damaging to trees. Provision must be made to ensure that run off does not leach into soils.

Temporary track ways can also be constructed by using geo textile onto top of the ground and type 1 road stone with no fines be used as the surface. This method must only be used at the outer limits of an RPA.