

Appendix 1 – Tree and Root protection Methodology taken from BS5837 1991

Extract from BS 5837:1991 'Guide for trees in relation to construction'
Calculation methods for minimum protective distances.

Table 1. Protection of trees: minimum distances for protective fencing around trees			
Tree age	Tree vigour	Trunk diameter	Minimum distance
Young trees (age less than 1/3 life expectancy)	Normal vigour	min	m
		< 200	2.0
		200 to 400	3.0
Young trees	Low vigour	> 400	4.0
		< 200	3.0
		200 to 400	4.5
Middle age trees (1/3 to 1/2 life expectancy)	Normal vigour	> 400	6.0
		< 250	3.0
		250 to 500	4.5
Middle age trees	Low vigour	> 500	6.0
		< 250	5.0
		250 to 500	7.5
Mature trees	Normal vigour	> 500	10.0
		< 350	4.0
		350 to 750	6.0
Mature trees and overmature trees	Low vigour	> 750	8.0
		< 350	6.0
		350 to 750	9.0
		> 750	12.0

NOTE 1: It should be emphasized that this table relates to distances from centre of tree to protective fencing. Other considerations, particularly the need to provide adequate space around the tree including allowances for future growth (see 4.3), and also working space (see 4.7), will usually indicate that structures should be further away.

NOTE 2: With appropriate precautions, temporary site works can occur within the protected area, e.g. for access or scaffolding (see 8.3).

