# Installation of Temporary Ground Protection – Working Methodology

This advice note provides a brief overview of the working methodology and details of installing temporary ground protection within root protection areas of retained trees where there may be a need to enter into these areas by vehicles.

Compliance with these guidelines will be a requirement of all contractors working near retained trees and failure to adhere to this methodology may result in irremediable damage to trees.

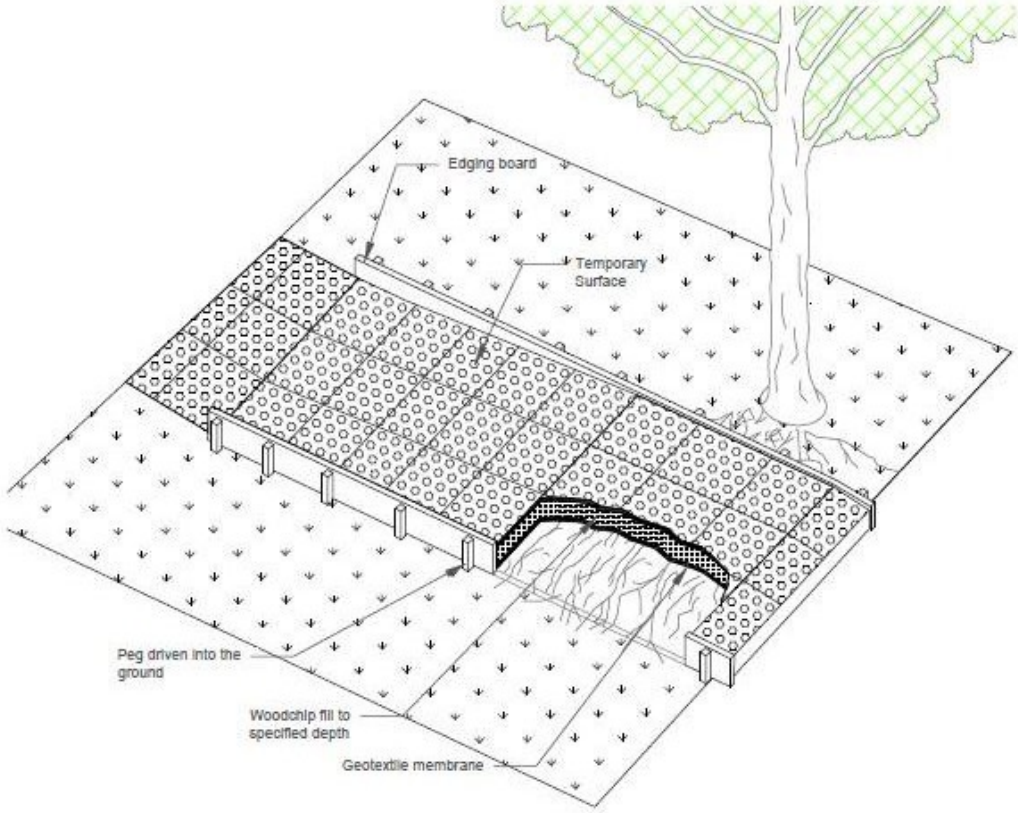
Retained trees are protected by planning law and reckless damage or non-consented tree removal could result in the serving of a stop notice or prosecution by the LPA.

**Temporary Access**

Where temporary access is required within the root protection area (RPA) during construction works, Tree Protective Fencing should be set back the minimum amount to achieve the required working room. If there is existing hard surfacing in this area, it should remain during the works to act as ground protection. The suitability of this surfacing as ground protection and whether it needs to be reinforced to bear the weight of machinery, should be assessed by a suitable qualified structural engineer and discussed with the Arboricultural Clerk of Works.

In most instances the ground within the RPA must be protected before any works take place on site.

The ground protection might comprise of one of the following (section 6.2.3.3 of BS5837):




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FS 567386.

1. **For pedestrian movements only**, a single thickness of scaffold boards placed either on top of a driven scaffold frame, so as to form a suspended walkway, or on top of a compression-resistant layer (e.g. 100mm depth of sand or woodchip), laid onto a geotextile membrane.

2. **For pedestrian-operated plant up to a gross weight of 2 tonnes**, proprietary, inter-linked ground protection boards placed on top of a compression-resistant layer (e.g. 150mm depth of sand), laid onto a geotextile membrane.

3. **For wheeled or tracked construction traffic exceeding 2 tonnes gross weight**, an alternative system (e.g. proprietary systems or pre-cast reinforced ground protection boards / mats measuring 2435 x 1215 x 13mm) placed on top of a compression-resistant layer (e.g. 150mm depth of sand), laid onto a geotextile membrane. Ground protection mats can be connected together using heavy duty 'U' pins to fix the ground mats directly to the floor and help to hold them in place when vehicles are driving over them.

The location for temporary ground protection is shown on the Tree Protection Plan/s and have been clearly annotated for ease of reference.

Once the Temporary Ground Protection has been installed the contractor responsible for the tree protection should seek **written confirmation from the Arboricultural Clerk of Works** that it has been installed in the correct position and is to the required standard.