



## Site Guidance Note 6: Height restrictions

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## SGN 6: Summary guidance for site operatives

### Administration

1. **Unauthorised damage to protected trees is a criminal offence and could lead to enforcement action.**
2. **Work under the normal site risk assessment procedures and comply with the wider site safety rules.**

### Other relevant SGNs

3. **Monitor works in root protection areas (RPAs) by the supervising arboriculturist (See SGN 1 Monitoring tree protection).**

### Important reminders

4. **Restrict the height of vehicles entering controlled areas using a height bar above the entrance.**

## SGN 6: Explanatory notes and examples

### Purpose

SGN 6 describes the precautions that will be taken to prevent damage to branches of retained trees from high vehicles, based on the recommendations in BS 5837 (5.5, 6.2.4, 7.3, & 7.5).

### General principles and clarifications

Access will be limited at the entrance point to routes with low branches using a height restriction bar above the entrance, with an implication that materials will be unloaded outside sensitive areas and moved with smaller vehicles.

This temporary access through a woodland was height-restricted to preserve low branches that formed important screening of the new building from outside the site.



Height restriction bars are commonly used on urban sites to prevent accidental damage to low branches.



## SGN 6: Explanatory notes and examples

### Technical reference

*Due to copyright restrictions, the relevant British Standard clauses are summarised, not quoted, as follows:*

1. **BS 5837 (2012) Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations:** Clauses 5.5 (Tree protection plan), 6.2.4 (Additional precautions outside the exclusion zone), 7.3 (Tree protection during demolition), and 7.5 (Special engineering for foundations within the RPA), recommend:
  - 5.5.6 To avoid damage to retained tree crowns, working space for cranes, plant, scaffolding and access should be allowed for.
  - 6.2.4.1 Planning of site operations should account for wide loads, tall loads and plant with booms, jibs and counterweights (including drilling rigs) to prevent them hitting retained trees. Adequate clearance from trees should be maintained by using a banksman when using plant near trees.
  - 7.3.1 If necessary, access facilitation pruning or temporarily tying branches back should be carried out to provide working space during demolition. A pruning or tying specification should be prepared by an arboriculturist.
  - 7.5.5 Where piles are to be installed in RPAs, the smallest practical pile diameter should be used because it reduces the size of the rig required, which reduces the reliance on ground protection and any access facilitation pruning.