

### What?



- A tree guard is a plastic tube fitted around a newly planted 'whip' (seedling), or young tree. It is held in place with a small wooden stake.
- It is designed to protect against grazing from herbivores such as rabbits, sheep and deer, encourages the tree to grow a strong trunk before it branches out and also provides a microclimate that helps the tree grow strong.

### Why?

- Tree guards need removing once the tree is big enough.
- If they are left on for too long, they start to damage the trunk of the tree and cause growth issues.
- They can also cause unsightly littering and potentially harm wildlife as the plastic breaks into small fragments.



### Do ✓

- ✓ Decide on a suitable method of disposing or reusing the tree guards prior to beginning the activity
- ✓ Check the site for any dangers
- ✓ Wear gloves
- ✓ Be aware of the dangers of using a knife to remove tree guards
- ✓ Ensure the path leading to the stake and guard piles are obstacle free
- ✓ Stack stakes as habitat piles if they cannot be reused
- ✓ Ensure any equipment used is cleaned and stored away safely after the activity

### Don't ✗

- ✗ Don't forget to take regular breaks as you may be bending over a lot
- ✗ Don't lose sight of who is in your team; be aware of what everyone is doing, where they are standing and what equipment they are using
- ✗ Don't let members use knives
- ✗ Don't attempt to drag the bag of tree guards on your own if you are removing them from the site



<b>Document Name</b>	<i>TBT Removing Tree Guards</i>	<b>Document No.</b>	<i>OC/HS/TBT 48</i>
<b>Document Owner</b>	<i>David Shaftoe</i>	<b>Date of Issue</b>	<i>07.06.20</i>
<b>Related TBTs</b>	<i>Hand Tools; Manual Handling; Working Around Trees &amp; Hedgerows</i>	<b>Version No.</b>	<i>1</i>