PLOTTING THE RPA – WORKED EXAMPLES

1. For an individual open-grown tree in satisfactory condition of 600mm stem diameter:

Basic calculation \[ 12 \times 600 = 7.2 \text{ (radius in metres)} \Rightarrow \text{root protection area (RPA) of 163m}^2 \]

As the tree in this example is open grown, the RPA should be centered on the stem at a radius of 7.2m

2. For individual open grown trees in satisfactory condition, it is generally acceptable to offset the RPA by up to 20% to one side of a tree only:

3. For a tree of the same size growing next to a pre-existing root barrier (e.g. watercourse, adopted road, significant sheer level change) and/or where, for whatever reason, the root system would be expected to have developed asymmetrically:

Basic calculation as before \[ 12 \times 600 = 7.2 \text{ (radius in metres)} \Rightarrow \text{root protection area of 163m}^2 \]

However, it is essential that the root barrier/asymmetry of the rootzone be taken into consideration when plotting the RPA, such that the same available square metre area is protected: