Tree planting

Roots from trees and shrubs can damage pipelines over time and extensive root systems will limit access to the pipeline in breach of the company’s right to access for repair or replacement.

As a general rule the root spread of a tree is approximately the same as its eventual canopy spread. To help you avoid damage or interference to the pipeline, the company suggests the following guidelines:

a) no large or forest trees should be planted within 7 metres of the pipeline. (Examples include oak, ash, beech, sitka spruce, douglas fir etc);

b) medium and small size trees should always be planted in such a way as to ensure that the eventual root spread reaches no closer than 1 metre to the pipeline in practice, if trees are planted a distance of 5 metres away from the pipeline this should be sufficient;

c) Bushes and shrubs should never be planted closer than 2 metres to the pipeline;

d) Closer than 2 metres either side of the pipeline may be planted with hedge plants and ground cover only.

The measurements and distances set out are for guidance only and there will always be exceptions, for example poplars and willows, which have a particularly invasive root system. If you are unsure in any individual case, then specialist advice should always be sought prior to planting.