



Tree assessment and construction site tree management workshops

(Presented by Jeremy Barrell & Chris Alder; Montreal 3&4 October 2022; Quebec City 6&7 October 2022)

Day 1: Tree assessment in a planning context

Overview: There is an emerging understanding at the highest political level in Britain that trees make places better to live in, which is driving an aspiration to retain more existing trees and plant new ones. However, the practical difficulties are significant, and the dominant trend is still decreasing canopy cover throughout urban areas. An important foundation of effective tree management is the assessment of the quality of the existing trees, and this workshop is an introduction to the only international method currently described in any detail, called TreeAZ.

Suitable for: All planning professionals involved in the process of managing trees within the planning process, e.g., politicians, consultants, landscape architects, urban planners, urban foresters, planning officers, and municipal administration managers.

Materials: TreeAZ Manual plus laminated field sheet for field exercise and to keep

0800–0830	Registration and welcome
0830–1000	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>TreeAZ; a structured approach to tree assessment (Classroom)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Background to tree assessment and why it is necessary • Brief review of TreeAZ and introduction to its use • Category examples and explanations
1000–1030	Refreshment break
1030–1130	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>The practical application of TreeAZ (Classroom)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The use of tree categories in the preparation of constraints and tree protection plans
1130–1230	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Tree assessment (Field exercise)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Briefing for the field exercise • Delegate Group 1 are presented with a series of scenarios for discussion, facilitated by the presenters • Delegate Group 2 look at selected trees and carry out tree assessments on their own for discussion back in the classroom
1230–1330	Lunch break
1330–1500	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Tree assessment (Field exercise continuation, switching delegate groups)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delegate Group 2 are presented with a series of scenarios for discussion, facilitated by the presenters • Delegate Group 1 look at selected trees and carry out tree assessments on their own for discussion back in the classroom • Resume back in classroom when finished
1500–1530	Refreshment break
1530–1630	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Review of field exercise (Classroom)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion of tree assessment results using images of each tree to go through delegate reasoning and what we would suggest as an appropriate categorisation • Analysis of difficulties that arise from subjective assessment and mechanisms for resolving conflicts/difficult assessments

Note: All timings and content are approximate and may need to be modified on the day.



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Day 2: Managing trees on construction sites

Overview: Britain has a sophisticated planning system, where trees are universally accepted as a material consideration in making planning decisions. We have found that placing trees on an equal legal standing with other competing priorities is a critical step in ensuring that they are properly factored into the design of new developments. This workshop draws on British experiences that may assist other countries intent on making the most of their existing trees through effective protection during the construction activity to improve their chances of survival to deliver their full benefit potential.

Suitable for: All planning professionals involved in the process of managing trees within the planning process, e.g., politicians, consultants, landscape architects, urban planners, urban foresters, planning officers, and municipal administration managers.

Materials: Hard copy of SGN Manual translated into French, and digital access to English version

0800–0830	Registration and welcome
0830–1000	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>1: Review and open forum</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of the previous day’s tree assessment workshop Open forum to discuss wider urban tree management issues and concerns
1000–1030	Refreshment break
1030–1230	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>2: Strategic and specific control on construction sites</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National standards for construction site tree management (Britain, Australia, Sweden, Canada!!) Useful modern references (UK National Planning Policy Framework, TDAG, etc) Arboricultural reports – purpose and content (constraints, impact appraisals, method statements, planting strategies, canopy cover assessments, tree benefit net gain assessments) Arboricultural supervision (pre-commencement meetings, supervision, and discharging conditions) Site Guidance Notes
1230–1330	Lunch break
1330–1500	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>3: Putting the theory into practice 1</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Case studies to illustrate practical implementation near trees including tree protection (fencing and ground protection), installation and removal of surfacing and structures, service installation, raising levels, and planting new trees in challenging urban conditions
1500–1530	Refreshment break
1530–1630	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>4: Putting the theory into practice 2</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outside short tour and discussion (if weather and local examples permit) on the practicalities of tree protection Continuation of review of case studies and closing discussion

Note: All timings and content are approximate and may need to be modified on the day.