



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)

Putting trees at the heart of sustainable development

Trees make the built environment a better place to live and work in, but research and anecdotal evidence is confirming that urban canopy cover is declining in Britain and across the developed world. Visionless approaches to urban design and built-environment management are delivering today's high-density, low-quality housing that will become tomorrow's slums. Green infrastructure and nature, with trees as a significant component, must be placed at the heart of modern urban design if we are to stall and reverse the current international race to the bottom of the sustainability spectrum.



Britain has one of the most sophisticated planning systems in the world, with national legislation making it a statutory requirement to consider the protection of existing trees and the planting of new trees in all development proposals. These workshops will review British successes and failures in the drive to incorporate nature and trees into sustainable urban management, with the intention of providing useful insights for fellow built-environment professionals grappling with similar issues.

Your presenters



Jeremy Barrell (left) and Chris Alder (right) are both Directors of [Barrell Tree Consultancy](https://www.barrelltreecare.co.uk/), one of Britain's leading planning and legal tree management practices. They lead a team of 15 specialists assessing trees on construction sites and project-managing their protection, from design to occupation. The Practice deals with around 450 projects a year, invaluable experience that will be drawn upon to inform the programme.



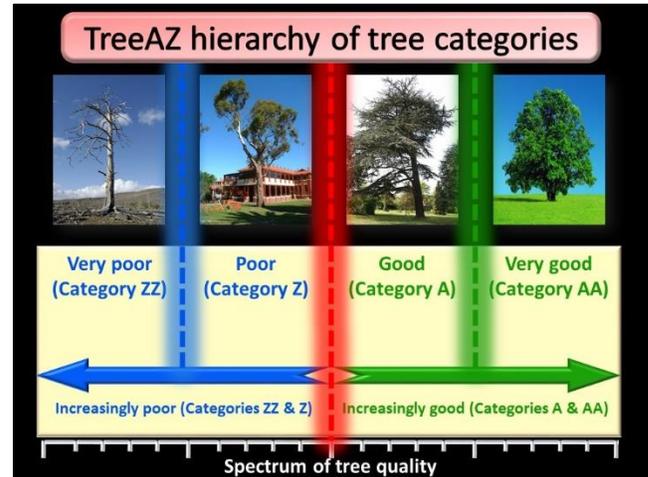


Tree assessment and construction site tree management workshops

(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

The starting point for the successful integration of existing trees into new development is to assess the quality of the trees on site. Tree Assessment for Planning (TreeAZ) is an international approach to categorising trees according to their importance in a planning context. An effective way to do this is to describe a range or spectrum, from the worst (categories ZZ and Z) to the best (categories A and AA), and assess where each individual tree sits on that conceptual scale. This approach allows arborists to rank individual trees from the worst to the best, which assists decision-makers, who often know very little about trees, to make better informed choices when managing the built environment.



This workshop will assist anyone encountering trees in a planning context, from those with just a passing interest as background to their main work, through to tree professionals hungry for more detail on how to improve their daily tree management decision making. The morning classroom sessions will start by outlining the underlying principles of tree assessment, moving on to introduce TreeAZ and how to get started using the method. It will explore how to use tree assessment data to inform development design, which is a great starting point for effectively integrating the best trees into new building layouts, making attractive places that are more comfortable to live and work in.



With that overview fresh in your minds, it will be time to put the theory into practice through several hours of field exercises where you can try TreeAZ out for yourself on a series of sample trees. This will be supplemented by interactive discussions with the presenters to provide practical insights into how they approach making often difficult and marginal decisions. Back in the classroom, the debrief will discuss the results and provide an opportunity to benchmark your assessments with those of fellow delegates.

This workshop is pitched as a practical introduction to the principles of tree assessment, and cannot hope to turn delegates into competent tree assessors overnight. However, it will provide a starting point for those with a passion for tree assessment to develop their own skills, supplemented by the more comprehensive explanations described in the latest updated guidance published as *TreeAZ: An international method for assessing trees in a planning context*.



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 2: Managing trees on construction sites

The day will start with a review of the previous day's content in an open forum where delegates can ask any questions they want on tree assessment specifically, and urban tree management generally.



On a strategic level Britain, Australia, and Sweden, have national standards for good practice, but could a similar approach work in Canada? To explore this issue, the technical sessions will look at the purpose and form of technical documents used in the planning process, and whether the British experience may be valuable in developing Canadian good practice.

Construction sites are tough places, where the priorities are to get projects done on time, within budget, and without harming workers. In such an unforgiving environment, it is difficult to convey the importance of trees, so how can they be protected and survive to deliver the benefits that we all want? One of the biggest challenges in successfully retaining existing trees during construction is bridge the gap between what is promised at the planning stage and what is delivered on the ground.

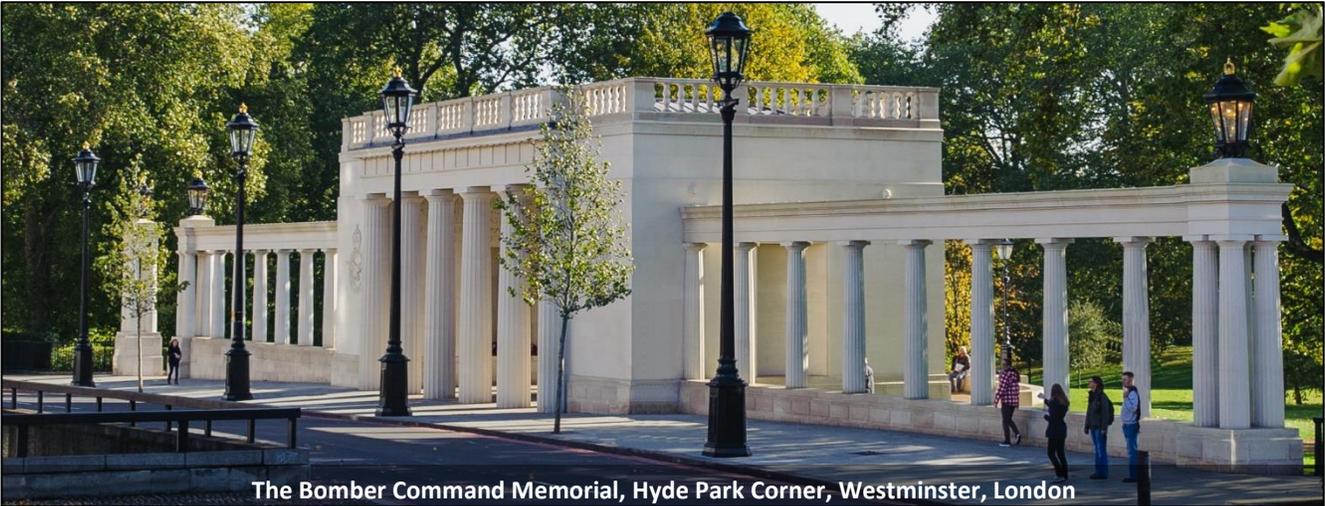


Our experience in Britain is that effectively communicating the practical tree protection requirements to the operatives doing the work is a critical aspect of tree protection. To improve that communication, Barrell Tree Consultancy developed a new approach using Site Guidance Notes to explain the practical implementation of tree protective measures using photographic examples and compiled them into a *Manual for managing trees on development sites*. That Manual has been translated into French for this workshop and will be exclusively provided to delegates, in advance of its wider promotion.



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)



The Bomber Command Memorial, Hyde Park Corner, Westminster, London

In afternoon, Jeremy and Chris will call on decades of experience of protecting trees in some of Britain’s harshest urban environments to set out their recipe for successfully retaining trees on construction sites. They will showcase some of their highest profile development projects in London (the Bomber Command Memorial at Hyde Park Corner, and the installation of the highly acclaimed architectural water feature fronting the Connaught Hotel in Mayfair), but also look at some smaller sites that form the bulk of their daily work.



Tree protection at the Connaught Hotel, Mayfair, London



Tree Houses at The Chewton Glen Hotel, Dorset

These practical examples of successes and failures will focus on the typical issues that regularly arise when working near trees, including site supervision, tree protection with fencing/ground protection, the installation of hard surfacing, building structures, installing services, raising levels, excavating, planting in structural cells, and removing structures and surfacing.

Whether they reaffirm what you already knew or introduce something different, case studies are a great way of seeing what works in practice to gain insights into how those ideas may assist you in your own daily challenges.