Explanatory Notes

Categories

Below is an explanation of the categories used in the attached Tree Survey.

No
Identifies the tree on the drawing.

Species
Common names are given to aid understanding for the wider audience.

BS 5837 Category
Using this assessment (BS5837:2005, Table 1), trees can be divided into one of the following simplified categories, and are differentiated by cross-hatching and by colour on the attached drawing:

Category A - Those of high quality and value: in such a condition as to be able to make a substantial contribution (40 years +);

Category B - Those of moderate quality and value: in such a condition as to be able to make a substantial contribution (20 years)

Category C - Those of low quality and value: currently of adequate condition to remain until new planting could be established (up to 10 years) or trees with a stem diameter less than 150mm and:

Category R - Those trees in such condition that any existing value would be lost within 10 years and which should, in the current context, be removed for reasons of sound arboricultural management.

DBH (mm)
Diameter of main stem in millimetres at 1.5 metres from ground level. Where the tree is a multi-stem, the diameter is given at the narrowest point immediately above the root flare.

Age
Recorded as one of seven categories:

Y Young. Recently planted or establishing tree that could be transplanted without specialist equipment, ie up to 12-14 cms stem girth.

S/M Semi-mature. An established tree but one which has not reached its potential ultimate height and has significant growth potential.

E/M Early-mature. A tree reaching its ultimate potential height, whose growth rate is slowing down but will still increase in stem diameter and crown spread and has a safe useful life expectancy.

M Mature. A mature specimen with limited potential for any significant increase in size but with a reasonable safe useful life expectancy.

O/M Over-mature. A senescent or moribund specimen with a limited safe useful life expectancy. Possibly also containing sufficient structural defects with attendant safety and/or duty of care implications.

V Veteran. An over-mature specimen of high value due to either its age, size and/or ecological significance

D Dead.
**Height**  
Recorded in metres, measured from the base of the tree.

**Life Expectancy**  
Relates to the prospective life expectancy of the tree and is given as 4 categories:

1 = 40 years+;  
2 = 20-40 years;  
3 = 10-20 years;  
4 = less than 10 years.

**Crown spread**  
Indicates the spread of the crown from the base of the tree.

**Minimum distance**  
This is a distance equal to 12 times the diameter of the tree at 1.5 metres for single stemmed trees and 10 times the diameter of the base of the tree for multi stemmed specimens. (BS 5837:2005).

**RPA**  
Root Protection Area, defined in BS5837:2005 as ‘a layout design tool indicating the area surrounding a tree that contains sufficient rooting volume to ensure the survival of the tree, shown in drawing form in square metres. Ideally this is an area around the tree that must be kept clear of construction, level changes of construction operations. Some methods of construction can be carried out within the RPA of a retained tree but only if approved by the Local Planning Authority’s tree officer.

**Water Demand**  
This gives the water demand of the species of tree when mature, as given in the NHBC Standards Chapter 4.2 ‘Building Near Trees’.

**Visual**  
Concerns the planning and landscape contribution to the development site made by the tree, hedge or tree group, in terms of its amenity value and prominence on the skyline along with functional criteria such as the screening value, shelter provision and wildlife significance.

**Problems/comments**  
May include general comments about growth characteristic, how it is affected by other trees and any previous surgery work; also, specific problems such as deadwood, pests, diseases, broken limbs, etc.

**Work required**  
Identifies the necessary tree work to mitigate anticipated problems and deal with existing problems identified in the previous category.

**Priority**  
This gives a priority rating to each tree allowing the client to prioritise necessary tree works identified within the Tree Survey.

1 Urgent – works required immediately;  
2 Works required within 6 months;  
3 Works required within 1 year;  
4 Re-inspect in 12 months;  
0 Remedial works as part of implementation of planning consent.