

Copies of British Standard 5837 and other British Standards can be purchased from:

The British Standards Institute,
Maylands Avenue, Hemel Hempstead,
HP2 4SQ. Tel: **01442 230442** email:
product.services@bsi-global.com
Fax: **01442 231442** website:
www.bsonline.bsi-global.com



Useful contacts and references:

Contact the Tree Team by e-mail at trees@westberks.gov.uk or phone on **01635 551111** for Council owned trees and general queries.

Contact the Tree Officers for tree works applications, trees and planning applications and trees in Conservation Areas.

The Tree Officer for the Eastern Area is Jon Thomas

Contact Jon at jon.thomas@westberks.gov.uk or on Tel: **01635 519611** ext **2611**

The Tree Officer for the Western Area is Andrew Giles

Contact Andrew at andrew.giles@westberks.gov.uk or on Tel: **01635 519349** ext **2349**

West Berkshire Council

Environment

Market Street
Newbury
Berkshire
RG14 5LD

www.westberks.gov.uk

If you require this information in an alternative format or translation, please call 01635 519111

Environment

Post-planning tree guidance



Post planning tree checklist

You now have planning permission; here is a step by step guide to protecting your tree(s) whilst implementing that planning permission. This is a general guide and the extent to which each of these steps is required will depend on the scale and size of the project whether it is a conservatory, tennis court, extension, re-build or major housing estate being built.

Step 1: Get an Arboriculturist to aid with discharging any tree related planning conditions. If full tree details were not provided with a planning application, they may be conditioned as part of a planning application consent. This may require additional arboricultural input and could include the production of the following information:

- Arboricultural method statement(s)
- Tree Protection Plan
- Arboricultural watching brief for site supervision and monitoring
- Tree works schedule or tree works application
- Landscaping plans including tree planting proposals
- Woodland management plan
- Tree &/or Landscape management plan

Step 2: Arrange a pre commencement site meeting.

This is usually an initial meeting on site to discuss the site set up and can be with the demolition, construction or project team. It aims to agree the actual site logistics and tree protection measures and is an essential communication tool to ensure trees are adequately protected during any site activities. Suggested persons to invite to such a meeting would include:

- Arboriculturist
- Tree Officer
- Site foreman
- Demolition &/or Construction contractor
- Tree contractor
- Engineers

Step 3: Set up site monitoring by an Arboriculturist

Often it is advisable to have an arboriculturist present on site at the time of works in close proximity to trees for the following reasons:

- To monitor and assess the safe and healthy retention of trees
- To inspect the tree protective fencing
- To supervise any approved works near trees
- To provide onsite advice and guidance throughout the development process and to inspect any approved tree works

Step 4: Carry out any approved tree works The tree work should be:

- In accordance with BS3998: Recommendations for Tree Works
- Carried out by an approved Tree Works Contractor
- Have consideration of wildlife habitats and protected flora and fauna that may be present on site e.g. Bats, Birds

Step 5: Erect tree protective fencing.

Depending on the size and scale of the development or construction, the tree protective fencing specification may vary but in general should comply with BS5837:2005 recommendations. It should be erected on site as per the tree protection plan.

There are various types of tree protective fencing as this depends on the size and scale of the development and area being protected around the trees. For most large scale development sites the tree protective fencing specification should be as per BS5837:2005 where barriers will be fit for the purpose of excluding construction activity and appropriate to the degree and proximity of the work taking place around the retained trees. The barrier should be rigid and complete and remain in situ for the entire duration of the proposals with the exception of when approved work is required within the root protection areas.

For smaller sites a lower specification of tree protective fencing may be more appropriate and include the use of chestnut pale fencing on a scaffold framework or the use of ply boards or high visibility plastic webbing attached to metal stakes.

Step 6: Carry out site setup and then demolition & /or construction works

The site will determine what works are required and during these works ongoing site visits may be required by an Arboriculturist as set out in step 3.

Step 7: Implementation of landscaping works.

Once all the construction works are completed or nearing completion, the hard and soft landscape works can be implemented. It is important to consider when planting trees to consider planting the right tree in the right place in order to ensure longevity of the planting scheme. An arboriculturist can provide advice on the choice of tree species and also supervise the planting and follow up maintenance required for successful establishment.

Things to consider:-

- The right tree in the right place
- Soil type, ultimate size of tree (height / spread), Space available
- Shape and colour of tree, availability of species, source and provenance
- Size of stock for planting, mulching, irrigation, stakes, ties, guying
- After care

Step 8: Site completion

It is important following the completion of any site to ensure that the Owner of the existing trees and any new trees is aware of their responsibilities to maintain them under the Occupiers Liability Acts 1957 and 1984. An Arboriculturist can provide advice and guidance on the frequency of tree surveys and assessments and advise on any tree work requirements. Upon site completion the following may apply:

- Removal of tree protective fencing
- Further tree works subject to consent if required
- Post development site meeting to sign off all works with regard to trees Tree protective fencing guidance