



BSI Standards Publication

Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations

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Table 2 Identification of tree categories

Category (from Table 1)	Colour ^{A)}	RGB code ^{A)}
U	Dark red	127-000-000
A	Light green	000-255-000
B	Mid blue	000-000-255
C	Grey	091-091-091

^{A)} Colours verified against <http://safecolours.rigdenage.com/palettefiles.html#files> [viewed 2012-03-26].

4.5.9 During the course of a tree survey, it might be found that certain trees require immediate attention. For example, they might present an imminent and serious hazard to life or property, or they might be affected by a pest or pathogen which would cause widespread and serious damage unless controlled or eradicated. These issues should be recorded and promptly brought to the attention of the relevant person or organization (including statutory authorities where applicable).

4.5.10 Particular care is needed when evaluating young trees, especially where they occur as individual specimens. Where these are less than 150 mm stem diameter at 1.5 m above adjacent ground level, it might be acceptable and relatively straightforward to mitigate their loss, if necessary, with similar new tree planting. Alternatively, it might be practicable to relocate such trees within the site (e.g. using a tree spade). Whilst the presence of young trees of good form and vitality is generally desirable (i.e. those trees which have the potential to develop into quality mature specimens), they need not necessarily be a significant constraint on the site's potential.

NOTE It is sometimes possible to relocate mature trees. However, as this is a costly and complex operation with a variable chance of success, it is a viable option only in exceptional cases.

4.5.11 The tree survey might identify the presence of veteran trees on the site. The implications of their presence on the use of the surrounding land should be assessed at the earliest possible stage of the design process. Where such trees are to be retained, particular care should be taken in the design to accommodate them in a setting that aids their long-term retention.

NOTE Whilst veteran trees typically provide a range of niche habitats, they are especially valuable if ancient, due to their scarcity and high habitat values for associated species of fungi, lichens and saproxylic invertebrates, including some which are rare or endangered and occur only where such trees have been continuously present for centuries. These trees will therefore almost always be included in the A3 category.

4.6 Root protection area (RPA)

4.6.1 For single stem trees, the RPA (see 3.7) should be calculated as an area equivalent to a circle with a radius 12 times the stem diameter. For trees with more than one stem, one of the two calculation methods below should be used. In all cases, the stem diameter(s) should be measured in accordance with Annex C, and the RPA should be determined from Annex D. The calculated RPA for each tree should be capped to 707 m².

- a) For trees with two to five stems, the combined stem diameter should be calculated as follows:

$$\sqrt{(\text{stem diameter } 1)^2 + (\text{stem diameter } 2)^2 \dots + (\text{stem diameter } 5)^2}$$

- b) For trees with more than five stems (not illustrated in Annex C), the combined stem diameter should be calculated as follows:

$$\sqrt{(\text{mean stem diameter})^2 \times \text{number of stems}}$$

4.6.2 The RPA for each tree should initially be plotted as a circle centred on the base of the stem. Where pre-existing site conditions or other factors indicate that rooting has occurred asymmetrically, a polygon of equivalent area should be produced. Modifications to the shape of the RPA should reflect a soundly based arboricultural assessment of likely root distribution.

4.6.3 Any deviation in the RPA from the original circular plot should take account of the following factors whilst still providing adequate protection for the root system:

- a) the morphology and disposition of the roots, when influenced by past or existing site conditions (e.g. the presence of roads, structures and underground apparatus);
- b) topography and drainage;
- c) the soil type and structure;
- d) the likely tolerance of the tree to root disturbance or damage, based on factors such as species, age, condition and past management.

5 Proposals: conception and design

5.1 General

5.1.1 The constraints imposed by trees, both above and below ground (see Note to 5.2.1) should inform the site layout design, although it is recognized that the competing needs of development mean that trees are only one factor requiring consideration. Certain trees are of such importance and sensitivity as to be major constraints on development or to justify its substantial modification. However, care should be taken to avoid misplaced tree retention; attempts to retain too many or unsuitable trees on a site can result in excessive pressure on the trees during demolition or construction work, or post-completion demands for their removal.

5.1.2 As trees can affect and be affected by many aspects of site operations, during the conception and design process the project arboriculturist should be involved in ongoing review of layout, architectural, engineering and landscape drawings. All members of the design team should be made aware of the requirements for the successful retention of the retained trees and should make provision for these throughout the development process.

5.2 Constraints posed by existing trees

5.2.1 The RPA (see 4.6) and any other relevant constraints should be plotted around each of the category A, B and C trees on relevant drawings, including proposed site layout plans.

NOTE RPAs represent below-ground constraints. Above-ground constraints might arise from the following attributes:

- a) the current and ultimate height and spread of the tree;
- b) species characteristics, including evergreen or deciduous, density of foliage, and factors such as susceptibility to honeydew drip, branch drop, fruit fall, etc.

Annex C
(normative)**Measurement of tree stems**

Diameters of single stem trees on level ground should be measured in accordance with Figure C.1a). Diameters of other commonly encountered tree stems should be measured in accordance with Figures C.1b) to C.1f).

NOTE The thick black line indicates where the measurement is taken.

Figure C.1 Measurement of tree stems

