

What Should a Tree Survey Contain?

The following information summarises the key requirements of **BS 5837:2005 'Trees in Relation to Construction – Recommendations'**. It is not however a substitute for it. Copies are available from the British Standards Institute on 02089 969001 or www.bsi-global.com. The Tree Survey should be prepared by a qualified arboriculturist and include the following:

1. A Tree Survey Plan showing the location of all trees on which information is required, scaled at a minimum of 1:500 to an accuracy of $\pm 0.5\text{m}$.
2. A Schedule accompanying the plan, identifying the trees by reference to a unique reference number marked on the plan and on the tree. For each tree the following data should be recorded:
 - 2.1. **Reference number** of the tree
 - 2.2. **Species** by common and/or scientific name
 - 2.3. The Presence of **Tree Preservation Order or Conservation Area** protection
 - 2.4. **Height** in metres
 - 2.5. **Stem diameter** in centimetres, measured 1.5m above ground level.
 - 2.6. The branch spread to North, South, East and West in metres
 - 2.7. **Age class**: young, semi-mature, mature, over-mature, veteran
 - 2.8. **Physiological condition and structural condition** of the tree (eg health and any physical defects)
 - 2.9. Preliminary **management recommendations**.
 - 2.10. An estimation of the tree's **remaining useful life** in years.
 - 2.11. **Tree Quality Assessment**: categorise trees for removal and those suitable for retention, based on consideration of the above data, in accordance with Table 1 of the BS
3. A Tree Constraints Plan showing the following for each tree:
 - 3.1. Accurate position and existing crown spread
 - 3.2. Tree Quality Assessment category (A,B,C or R)
 - 3.3. Root Protection Area (RPA) calculated from Table 2 of the BS
 - 3.4. Future growth potential (ultimate crown spread and height)
 - 3.5. Shade footprint through the main part of the day as described in the BS (Section 5.3), based on ultimate tree size.

The Tree Constraints Plan should be prepared at an early stage and inform site layout design. Following initial designs the following documents may be required (see BS for guidance on what each of these should contain):

An Arboricultural Implications Assessment
A Tree Protection Plan
Arboricultural Method Statements

Please Note: Tree information accompanying planning applications should substantially follow the format of the British Standard (BS5837:2005). Planning applications submitted which do not conform to this Standard may be rejected as insufficient to be able to determine the application.