



Retaining trees on construction sites; realistic prospect or hopeless aspiration? (Vancouver workshop presented by Jeremy Barrell & Mark Wadey on 30th September 2018)

Third world urban design across the developed world

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. Third world approaches to urban design and built-environment management is delivering today's high density, low quality housing that will become tomorrow's slums. Green infrastructure, with trees as its main component, must be placed at the heart of modern urban design if we are to stall and reverse the current race to the bottom of the sustainability spectrum.



Britain has one of the most sophisticated planning systems on 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. This workshop 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 built-environment professionals grappling with similar issues.

Your presenters



Jeremy Barrell (left) and Mark Wadey (right) are both Directors of Barrell Tree Consultancy (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 450 projects a year, invaluable experience that will be drawn upon to inform the programme.





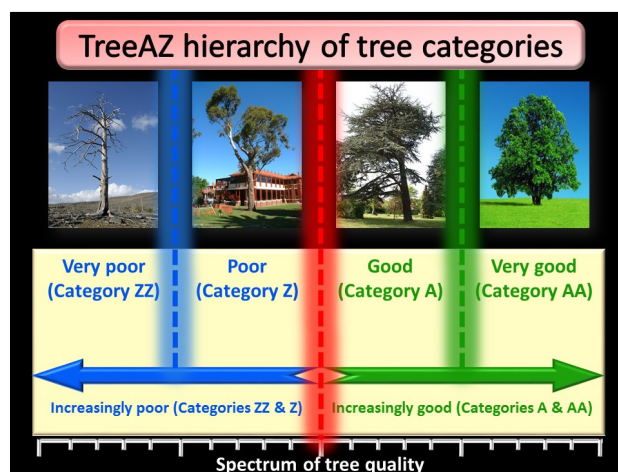
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Workshop content

The day will be divided into four sessions of up to 1.5 hours, with a practical outside discussion, if weather and location permit.

Session 1: TreeAZ; a structured approach to tree assessment for planning purposes

The starting point for 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 to the best, and assess where each individual tree sits on this 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 informed choices when managing the built environment.



This session will introduce the principles of TreeAZ, and provide the references and links for those wanting more detail and interested in developing their skills. It will explore how to use tree assessment data to inform the design, but it will not go into the detail of the assessment process, which is too sophisticated to attempt in such a short programme.

Session 2: Strategic and specific control on construction sites

At a strategic level Britain, Australia, and Sweden, have national standards for best practice to protect trees during development. This session will explore those documents and whether a similar approach could work in Canada.

It will also review the purpose and form of technical documents used in the planning process, and whether the British experience may be valuable in developing Canadian best practice. It will introduce the concept of Site Guidance Notes, an innovative new approach to improving the success of tree retention on constructions sites, one of the most challenging aspects of the whole process. Delegates interested in trying this approach will be provided with links to the documents.





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Sessions 3 & 4: Putting the theory into practice

In afternoon, Jeremy and Mark 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.



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

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.



Tree protection at the Connaught Hotel, Mayfair, London



Tree Houses at The Chewton Glen Hotel, Dorset

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.