

PUBLIC REALM TREE PLANTING AND PROTECTION

CHECKLIST FOR DEVELOPERS

This checklist is part of the [Staffordshire Developers and Public Bodies Toolkit for Designing, Planting and Managing Public Realm Trees](#). It is to be used as an aide-mémoire to help put the principles presented in the Toolkit into practice and ensure that new developments contribute to their best potential towards the successful inclusion of trees in the public realm.

When exploring feasibility/concepts, do you:

- Plan for the inclusion of street trees, covered by five-year post planting care?
- Where trees are present on site, ensure a BS 5837:2012 compliant tree survey and tree constraint plan are produced and results factored in?
- Give attention to below-ground conditions, by ensuring information related to soils and location of any existing utility apparatus is gathered and factored in? This may include any implications related to foundation design where shrinkable clay soils are present
- Gather information on landscape character and local treescape, to inform initial concepts as well as later detailed designs?



Moira, Leicestershire – The National Forest Company

When developing designs for securing development approval, do you:

Explore all opportunities to make space for trees i.e:

- On greenfield sites, ensure that the inclusion or retention of large trees is considered in parallel with the siting and dimensions of buildings, roadways, utilities and drainage?
- In retrofit situations, review carriageway and car parking allocations or consider planting (or enhancement to the rooting environment of existing trees) on the road side of the kerb where footway width is too limited?
- Consider using or retrofitting a common utility enclosure or shared trench?

Fully exploit tree benefits, whether existing or new, to:

- Help to achieve the desired operational vehicular speed?
- Enhance the walking and cycling environment?
- Receive and manage surface water runoff, while also considering how this can benefit the tree?
- Enhance people's health and wellbeing?
- Enhance and support urban wildlife?
- Provide microclimate control (e.g. shading, shelter from wind, reducing overheating on glazed frontages) and associated impacts on buildings?
- Enhance or conserve cultural and historic amenity?

Ensure above ground compatibility, i.e:

- Factor tree growth over time in the positioning of new trees in respect to surrounding buildings and other infrastructure?
- Follow guidance to achieve good visibility for road users, commercial signs and shop windows, street lighting and CCTV?
- Review all options to make informed and context sensitive choices for the surface and edge treatment around new or existing trees?

Seek input from a tree specialist to:

- Provide quality rooting environment compliant with BS 8545:2014 paragraph 10.2, and adequate tree support, protection and other above-ground measures as per BS 8545:2014 paragraph 10.3?
- Select species that suit the identified physical and biological constraints of the site and will be sustainable in the future?

When finalising documentation and preparing for construction, do you:

- For large sites, explore advance procurement with the design specialist to secure precisely the right tree species with the right specifications?
- Work with a tree specialist to write a competent tree specification, following the recommendations in chapter 8 of BS 8545:2014?
- Make effective arrangements for the handover of information between the planning/design team and the construction team relating to agreed protection measures for trees, soils and preparation of the tree rooting environment?