



Overview of the unique AA 2016 nationwide workshop and seminar series on tree assessment and management in the planning system

For the first time in the UK, the AA is offering a one-off opportunity for built-environment professionals to gain a first-hand insight into how to raise the bar when assessing and managing trees in the planning system. Over two days, learn about modern tree assessment, how to present that information to maximise the development opportunities, and discover how even the most difficult tree obstacles can be overcome through innovative planning and engineering solutions.



Five-star tree solutions at a Five-star Hotel; The Chewton Glen, in Christchurch, Dorset

Day 1 (advanced tree assessment) focuses on the practicalities of assessing trees on site, so suitable for tree officers, contractors, consultants and landscape architects who collect, present or review tree data. It is an advanced workshop where a new and enhanced approach to the BS 5837 method of assessing trees will be exclusively launched to delegates, before its full publication in late 2016.

Day 2 (advanced tree management) builds on the detail of tree assessment to explain how that information can be best used to your strategic advantage within the planning process. Drawing on experience from prestigious projects including the Chewton Glen Hotel (Christchurch), the Bomber Command Memorial (London), the Connaught Hotel (Mayfair) and the Leicester Square Quarter (London), enjoy a day of insights that will give a technical edge to all built-environment professionals including planners, architects, urban designers, landscape architects, engineers and arboriculturists.



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Course presenters

Both courses will be presented by Barrell Tree Consultancy ("BTC"), drawing on decades of experience delivering tree solutions on more than 5,000 projects, to make sure you get the best-informed and most up-to-date guidance available. Jeremy Barrell, Dave Cashman and Mark Wadey, all long-standing Chartered Arboriculturists and AA Registered Consultants, will lead the presenter line-up, sharing their experiences on how to make a difference.



Jeremy Barrell started out with the Forestry Commission before setting up his contracting business in 1980. He is an accomplished international speaker, with a reputation for cutting through academic nonsense to find practical solutions that work.



Mark Wadey started his career as a climbing arborist and was a tree officer in Poole for 7 years before joining BTC in 2002. He has presented in Australia and the US, with a passion for heritage trees.



Dave Cashman began his career as a climber and contractor, with 10 years as a tree officer in Sutton and the New Forest before joining BTC in 2003. He has presented in the USA, Sweden, Australia and New Zealand, specialising in development site management.

They will be supported by Phil Brophy, Andy Sherlock and Chris Alder, all ex-tree officers with a strong planning background, now finely tuned from their years of experience on the private sector.



Phil Brophy worked in the USA as an arborist before doing 10 years as a tree officer in Stratford, Leicester and the New Forest. He joined BTC in 2006 and is the youngest member of our team to become an AA Registered Consultant.



Andy Sherlock has 25 years of experience as both a contractor and tree officer in Poole, Dorset and Test Valley. He joined BTC in 2007 and specialises in basement projects for our London clients.



Chris Alder spent 7 years as a tree officer in Dorset before doing another 7 years as a lead consultant working on *Trees in Towns II* with ADAS. He joined BTC in 2008, as our newest and most academically qualified member of the team.

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Day 1: Tree assessment for planning applications



BS 5837 tree surveys are compulsory for all planning applications that may affect trees, but there is no published guidance beyond the summary in BS 5837 on the detail of the assessment process. This workshop explores the theory behind tree assessment and describes a new evolution of the BS 5837 method designed to remove the mystery and myths. Delegates will have exclusive access to this enhanced method in advance of its publication in late 2016.

Of course, assessing trees is complex, with the challenge for inspectors being the distillation of all that complication into simple concepts that other professionals with no tree expertise can understand and use. Built-environment professionals are not concerned about tree biology or biomechanics; they just want to know if the tree good enough to be a material constraint, or is it so poor that it is not important. Anything more involved than a “Good” or “Poor” answer, and the opportunity for effective communication is lost!



Even for complex plans, using a combination of colours and symbols allows the good trees (green triangles) to be easily visually separated from the poor trees (blue rectangles). The really good trees (BS category A) are the double green triangles and the really poor trees (BS category U) are the double blue rectangles. This offers a very effective means of gaining a quick overview of the distribution of good and poor trees around the site from a quick glance at the plan, taking no more than a few seconds. Most importantly, it is easy to understand and use by people who know nothing about trees.

Whether you are a tree officer trying to evaluate a planning submission or a landscape/arboricultural consultant with an eye on raising your own professional standards, being better informed about modern tree assessment is a career enhancement not to be missed.



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Day 2: Managing trees on construction sites



Tree protection and planting at The Bomber Command Memorial, Hyde Park Corner

As climate change bites and the public expectation for healthy living conditions increases, the strategic case for more trees is becoming an important political priority. This seminar will review the strategic justifications for more trees and explore the mechanisms for delivering successful outcomes within the planning process.

The presenters will draw on insights from some of their most technically challenging projects to illustrate the practicalities of how to make planning work for trees and the communities they benefit. They know how to achieve high density development with trees because they deliver it on a daily basis, experience that they will share to assist you in achieving the same success.



Tree protection at the Connaught Hotel, Mayfair



Urban regeneration at The Leicester Square Quarter

From public sector tree officers, planners, urban designers and landscape architects, to all the built-environment professionals in the private sector, if trees affect your work, then these subtle insights could be the difference you are looking for.