

## RIGHT TREE - RIGHT PLACE

Choosing optimal and suitable trees and shrubs in urban areas can minimise the negative influences, increase the positive effects and the aesthetic acceptance by residents. Additional challenges in the selection of trees and shrubs are user requirements and growth conditions at urban sites.

We will select and use trees in the appropriate context to enhance certain outcomes for everyone and improve opportunities to achieve a mature working landscape while avoiding costs of remedial work.

We will consider the full range of factors for long-term success. As the Tree Council puts it, the overriding consideration for successfully choosing a tree is that “unborn generations should thank you for it” (Trees in Your Ground, p40). Factors to consider relate to the tree, the location and the people who will maintain it.

These might include:

- a) Function: the desired benefit from the tree – see seeking multiple benefits Character: the historic and landscape character of the area.
- b) Diversity: the characteristics and profile of the wider tree population – see knowing our tree resource.
- c) Design: the scale, balance, impact, texture, colour expected from the tree. – Site constraints, including:
- d) Soil types and conditions, rainfall, amount of sun, surrounding building heights, and available space both above and underground.
- e) Potential nuisance, including: pollens, obstruction of light to habitable rooms, sight-lines for CCTV, highway and street lighting, clearances for overhead cables and vehicles.
- f) Risk of damage to structures the tree might cause – this requires an awareness of soil type, the tree species and its characteristics as well as of the design of foundations.
- g) Support capacity: alignment with community’s aspirations as well as with long-term management and maintenance capacity.

BS 8545 is a new British Standard to assist people involved in planning, designing, resourcing, producing, planting and managing new trees in the landscape. It describes a process for planting young trees that will result in them achieving 'independence in the landscape'. This means that they are healthy and have every chance of survival.

This standard assists practitioners in making balanced and informed tree planting decisions. Ideally, all newly planted trees need to be able to grow with vigour appropriate to the species and situation, in good health, and with minimal nuisance to achieve the desired planting objectives. BS 8545 gives recommendations for transplanting young trees successfully from the nursery, through to achieving their eventual independence in the landscape, specifically covering the issues of planning, design, production, planting and management. It sets out good practice in strategic and policy formation and then follows the whole transplanting process through to independence in the landscape<sup>i</sup>:

*Figure 42 - Lack of soil volume and compaction has harmed the tree growth rates in this car park*



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- *MAKING TREE-FRIENDLY PLACES*

We will establish priority locations for new tree planting (in line with the Right Place - Right Tree principles), taking into account such factors as levels of social deprivation, transport corridors (including rail and water) and gateways, derelict land, biodiversity objectives, areas of regeneration and community forests (as well as identifying habitats inappropriately planted for tree removal).

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- *TREES IN HARD LANDSCAPE*

We will utilise TDAG 'Trees in Hard Landscapes' to meet the practical challenges and solutions to integrating trees in 21st century streets, civic spaces and surface car parks, detailing process, design and technical options. This will be of particular use for our highway engineers, public realm professionals and tree specialists. This is in line with Well-Managed Highway Infrastructure Highways (2016 - A.9.9.4)<sup>ii</sup>.

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- Policy and strategy.
- Site evaluation and constraints assessment.
- Species selection.
- Nursery production and procurement.
- Handling and storage.
- Planting.

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- Post-planting management and maintenance.

<sup>ii</sup> For producing this guide, TDAG joined forces with the Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers (CIBSE), the Chartered Institution of Highways and Transportation (CIHT), the Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE), and the Institute of Chartered Foresters (ICF), that have all been active members of the steering group reviewing and advising throughout the development process. *Trees in Hard Landscapes: A Guide for Delivery* has also benefited from the input of over 100 built environments professionals and organisations from wide ranging disciplines and sectors who have taken part in interviews, contributed case study materials and/or offered feedback on earlier drafts. *Trees in Hard Landscapes: A Guide for Delivery* received the 2016 Landscape Institute Award for Policy and Research explores the practical challenges and solutions to integrating trees in 21st century streets, civic spaces and surface car parks, detailing process, design and technical options will be of particular interest to highway engineers, public realm professionals and tree specialists.