



Where trees and woodland are a feature of a development site, the submission of a Management Plan may be made a specific condition of Planning Permission or the subject of a S106 Planning Agreement, or it may be required as part of a general landscape condition. This is to prompt arrangements for the long-term care of trees and woodland - with the necessary resource allocation, as part of a development's overall financial planning. The management plan should be prepared by a qualified and experienced ecologist and forestry consultant team and should include the following elements:

Intentions and Goals

- A statement of the overall design vision for the woodland and for individual trees retained as part of a development - including amenity classification, nature conservation value and accessibility.

Woodland Plan

- A plan showing identifiable compartments and edges indicating composition and intended target communities, preferably relating to the National Vegetation Classification, and associated habitat variant areas such as herb dominated glades, rides, ponds, ditches, watercourses, edge habitats.
- Presence of particular trees either of exceptional quality or at risk and in need of monitoring
- Areas of understorey shrub layer, natural regeneration, notifiable weeds and herb layer ground flora
- Type and frequency of inspection and management operations for these to sustain target communities

Other trees

- A plan of the retained trees, showing the built development, tree survey reference number of isolated trees (and Tree Preservation Order description if applicable) with a schedule of their condition, recommended actions and monitoring of defects.
- Frequency of safety inspections, which should be at least once yearly in areas of high risk, less often in lower risk areas
- Identify the need for consent to be obtained, if trees are protected by Tree Preservation Orders or are in Conservation Areas, or are covered by an extant planning condition

Standard of Tree Work

- Confirmation that the tree pruning work is carried out by suitably qualified and insured tree contractors to British Standard 3998 and current health and safety regulations

Protected Species

- Special measures relating to Protected Species or habitats, e.g. intensive operations to avoid March - June nesting season or flowering periods

Care of New Planting

- Weed controls, such as herbicide applications, use of tubes and their removal, mulching.
- Firming -in and possible pruning of wind-rocked plants; adjustment of rubber ties, tree stakes and guards and timing of their removal.
- Inspection for pests, vermin and diseases and proposed remedial measures.
- Watering during drought periods, including volume, frequency and method of application.
- Thinning of mass planted vegetation where climax trees are emerging; management of understorey at 5 and 10 + years onward; periodic coppicing, formative pruning.
- Timed inspection for failed plantings, and programmed replacement.

Fencing, Access Controls and Paths

- Maintenance of boundary fencing, gates, stiles etc. Temporary / permanent fencing to protect from grazing animals, flytipping and motorcycling, trampling or other damage of sensitive areas.
- Maintenance and making good of surfacing to paths, specification of materials. Reconsideration of failed access / circulation arrangements.
- Removal of litter, rubbish or fly tipping and frequencies of inspection. *(last revised 29/01/2009)*