

TREE PRESERVATION ORDER ASSESSMENT – GUIDANCE NOTES

Guidance on the meaning of the questions used on the assessment sheet

Visibility & Visual Impact	
1	Extent of visibility <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The extent to which the tree(s) is clearly visible to the public A tree that scored 5 on this scale would be clearly visible <u>and</u> not 'crowded' in by other features/structures The tree does not need to be wholly or partially visible from <u>all</u> sides
2	Frequency of viewing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The number of people likely to see the tree and how often they are likely to see the tree. Score for the average number of people viewing the tree through a typical week. E.g. Score 5 in a busy shopping centre If seen from a road, score for average number of cars passing per hour (>??=5, x-y=4, etc
3	Importance to the viewers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To what degree are viewers likely to be conscious of the trees presence? E.g. People in a busy shopping area may be less aware of trees around them than people in a residential area. E.g. Trees are more likely to be 'noticed' in a parkland
4	Extent of 'Restricted' public visibility <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refers to visibility from properties not generally considered public spaces but from which the public may view the tree. This would include residential buildings, offices and factories. Does not include places such as hotels and public houses where it can be argued that the generally uninhibited coming and going of members of the public makes them 'public spaces'. E.g. Score 5 if visible by more than 20 residential properties
5	Aesthetic merits close by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> May include, but is not limited to, exceptional specimens. For example, those with an unusual or striking form. 'Close by' means near enough to be able to readily distinguish individual leaves or leaflets. The merits may be seasonal rather than perennial – e.g. distinctive foliage on deciduous species The phrase 'Aesthetic' includes the concept of <i>pleasantness</i> or <i>pleasing</i> that is implied by the term 'amenity'
6	Aesthetic merits at a distance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As No.4 above but from a distance where the overall shape of the tree is dominant and the individual leaves or shoots tend to merge
7	Importance to landscape/treescape <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the tree was removed, would this be to the detriment of the visual amenity of associated/nearby trees or to the wider environment in general E.g. Score 5 if the removal of the tree(s) would significantly alter the existing landscape/treescape
Size, Form & Future Potential	
8	Size: is or will become appropriate to the site <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relates to expected mature size of species but does not exclude trees that can be reasonably managed (by means of arboricultural practices) to maintain a suitable tree size Does not include spreading of woodland beyond existing boundaries Current or future individual tree, group or woodland size is a positive feature given its location E.g. Score 5 for a large, fully mature Oak tree on a village green where the tree does not impinge on highways or buildings

9	Form: allowing for species (inc. 'interesting') <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes specimen trees and trees whose shape is untypical for the species but still of aesthetic value. May be affected by context. E.g. natural differences between woodland and open grown trees of the same species E.g. Score 5 for a 'Classic' English Oak with large spreading crown
10	Future amenity potential <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tree is expected to give added amenity value in the future DO NOT include size (covered in 8 above) E.g. The tree may have been poorly pruned but be able to recover a good form in the future

Special Factors			
11	Habitat value <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the tree provide an important wildlife habitat? Trees will score more highly for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A wide diversity/variety of habitats Providing habitats that potentially support rare or endangered species Providing habitats that are rare in the area 		
12	Rarity of species <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Species is rare or endangered generally or within the local area 		
13	Tree is characteristic of this area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trees that make an important contribution to the landscape by virtue of the species being strongly associated with the particular landscape. E.g Beech trees on the Chilterns or Scots Pine in Scotland. 		
14	S.S.S.I. or other designated area Is the area designated according to criteria that acknowledge its natural value? E.g. <table border="1" data-bbox="193 1075 1484 1239"> <tr> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Special Area of Conservation S.S.S.I AONB County Wildlife Site District Wildlife Site </td><td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regionally Important Geological site National Nature Reserve Local nature Reserve Independent Nature Reserve </td></tr> </table>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Special Area of Conservation S.S.S.I AONB County Wildlife Site District Wildlife Site 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regionally Important Geological site National Nature Reserve Local nature Reserve Independent Nature Reserve
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Special Area of Conservation S.S.S.I AONB County Wildlife Site District Wildlife Site 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regionally Important Geological site National Nature Reserve Local nature Reserve Independent Nature Reserve 		
15	Historical significance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tree has some connection with humans in the past Includes other notable features such as 'Tallest Tree' in County', etc. E.g. Score 5 for Oldest known tree in county or, site of a good hanging by rampaging lynch mob! 		
16	Contribution to local air quality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment depends upon location and current/future potential. To score on this scale, the area will be subject to local pollution or poor air quality, e.g. from traffic density, and the tree is or will be of sufficient size to contribute to the air quality 		
17	Shading value <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shading must be positive rather than oppressive. E.g. Score 5 if tree provides summer shading from strong sunlight in a school playground 		
18	Screening value <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Considers both the trees and the object being screened Tree(s) acts as an effective screen either permanently or when in leaf The area being screened would significantly detract from the amenity quality of the area were it to be visible as a consequence of the tree(s) being removed 		
19	Contribution to character of Conservation Area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tree may be outside the Conservation area but still contributing to the character of the area 		

Potential to Impact Other Features		
20	Highway	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Subtract sum of these score from total to reflect 'negative' consequences of potential impact of tree on other features• Refer to NHBC Chapter 4.2. guidelines• E.g. Score 5 if tree is already likely casue of subsidence affecting nearby brick or concrete structure (i.e. not the garden shed)
21	Services	
22	Walls	
23	Buildings	
Other Factors		
24	Other Factors (describe)... <ul style="list-style-type: none">• When scoring Other Factors, ensure description is worded so that a higher score means the factor makes the tree more valuable as an amenity.	

'Tree' refers individual and/or groups of trees.

'People', refers to the general public unless otherwise stated.