



# Arboricultural consultancy

## TM news in brief

Our consultancy workload has increased considerably, partly due to the recently-revised British Standard (see right). We now have three consultants available to cover all issues arboricultural and are also able to provide tree shadow projection and sunlight reports, sometimes called for by local authorities. These and our tree survey plans are provided by a small specialist company run by Geoff's son Alex ([www.madmarchhare.co.uk](http://www.madmarchhare.co.uk)).

High Hedge legislation is now operational. We have provided in-depth reports compliant with this complex subject, for local authorities as well as private individuals.

## British Standard for trees and construction

In September 2005 the long-awaited BS 5837: *Trees in Relation to Construction – Recommendations* replaced the previous version. This Standard is now the normal requirement of Local Planning Authorities where proposed development and existing trees co-exist. Being a *Recommendation* rather than a *Guide*, the new version carries greater weight with the trees being placed firmly on the agenda from the very start. It is proving effective in giving trees the priority and protection they deserve – and in our experience good developers welcome that.

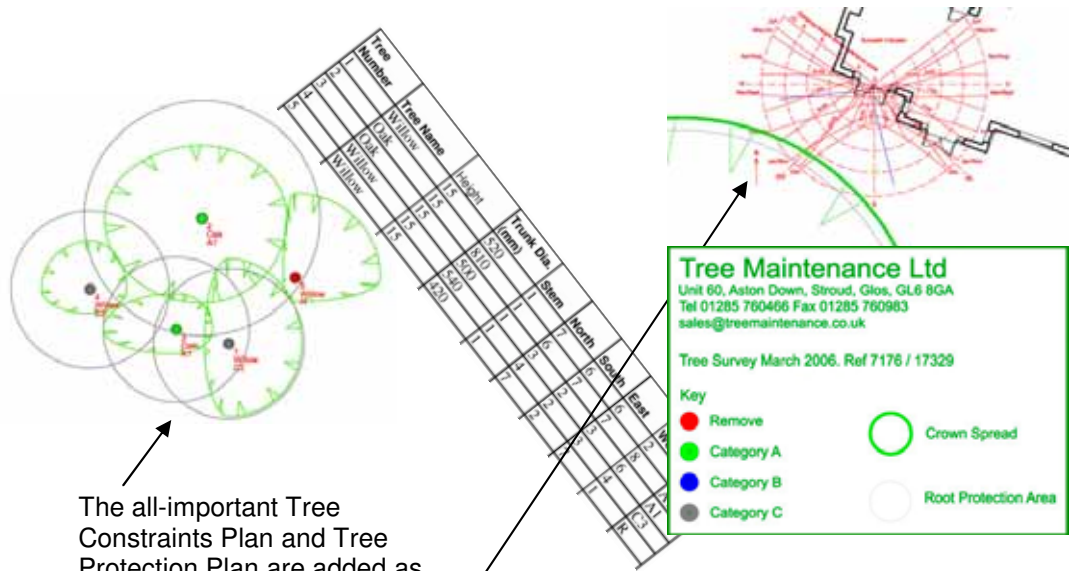
The chain of events should normally be –

- TREE SURVEY & BS CATEGORISATION**
- TREE CONSTRAINTS PLAN**
- INITIAL DESIGN & LPA NEGOTIATIONS**
- FINAL DESIGN & LAYOUT AGREED**
- TREE PROTECTION PLAN**
- TREE WORKS AND PROTECTIVE FENCING**
- [CONSTRUCTION STARTS]**
- SITE MONITORING**

Among the many clients having the reassurance of our specialist expertise with arboricultural surveys are Nicholas Pearson Associates, Arbutnott Ladenburg Architects, Illman Young Landscape Design, Fira Design, Bovis Homes and the Diocese of Gloucester



We are now one of a tiny handful of UK tree care companies to achieve this goal. Our highly skilled staff are not just our greatest asset, they ARE our company and IIP is helping us reflect this throughout all our procedures. Steve steered the complex operation, receiving the award with Abi, Geoff and mentor Gerry Moutry (left).



The all-important Tree Constraints Plan and Tree Protection Plan are added as an electronic layer to the client's topographical survey. Daylight studies may also be required. All this data is provided by our associate company madmarchhare.



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## Special measures...

Damage to roots has always been the price paid by trees on construction sites. British Standard 5837 allows us to specify special techniques such as this 'no dig' drive in Cirencester which uses a cellular containment method. This allows minimal compaction or disturbance to the roots, which are all too easily overlooked. Like all living things, roots must have not just moisture but gaseous exchange – this accounts for the surprising fact that about 80% of tree roots are found in the top half metre of soil. Note also the robust and immovable temporary fencing, protecting the trees.



This London site was the scene of a pedestrian accident due to slabs lifted by tree roots. An in-depth report resulted in a successful claim despite the slabs being re-laid by the time of our visit.

## Safety first!

Safety inspections and reports form an important part of our consultancy workload. As well as our many private clients, corporate clients and institutions include Cheltenham College and Ladies College, Gloucestershire NHS Trust, Stroud District Council, Borough, Town and Parish councils.



Wycliffe College, Stroud.



*Geoffrey March Dip. Arb. (RFS) F Arbor A. Founded Tree Maintenance in 1981 and now one of 35 UK consultants registered by the Arboricultural Association*

*Nick Organ Tech. Cert. (Arbor. A.) Initially joined the company in 1985, now consultant and senior estimator*



*Abi Fisk is our consultancy manager and likely to be your main point of contact in the office*

*Mike Gregory HND Arb. M. Arbor. A. Company associate and ex-local authority Arboricultural Officer*



## Ups and downs

Under certain circumstances, tree roots can be capable of causing severe structural damage. However the analysis needs to be correct as the wrong course of action could prove costly... Possible solutions could involve underpinning, pruning work to modify the moisture abstraction, installation of a root barrier, or tree removal.



## Doing the business...

Our busy contracting department has grown to a total of 6 teams each headed by an experienced foreman and fully equipped for all tree work from the largest scale dismantling to expert pruning. We have been an Arboricultural Association Approved Contractor since 1985, an assurance of the highest standard.

