

Tree Strategies in London

Guidance for Local Authorities

Connecting Londoners with Trees and Woodlands
A Tree and Woodland Framework for London



March 2005

London Tree and Woodland Framework

Objective B1:

Safeguard and improve the management of London's existing tree and woodland resource

Mechanism:

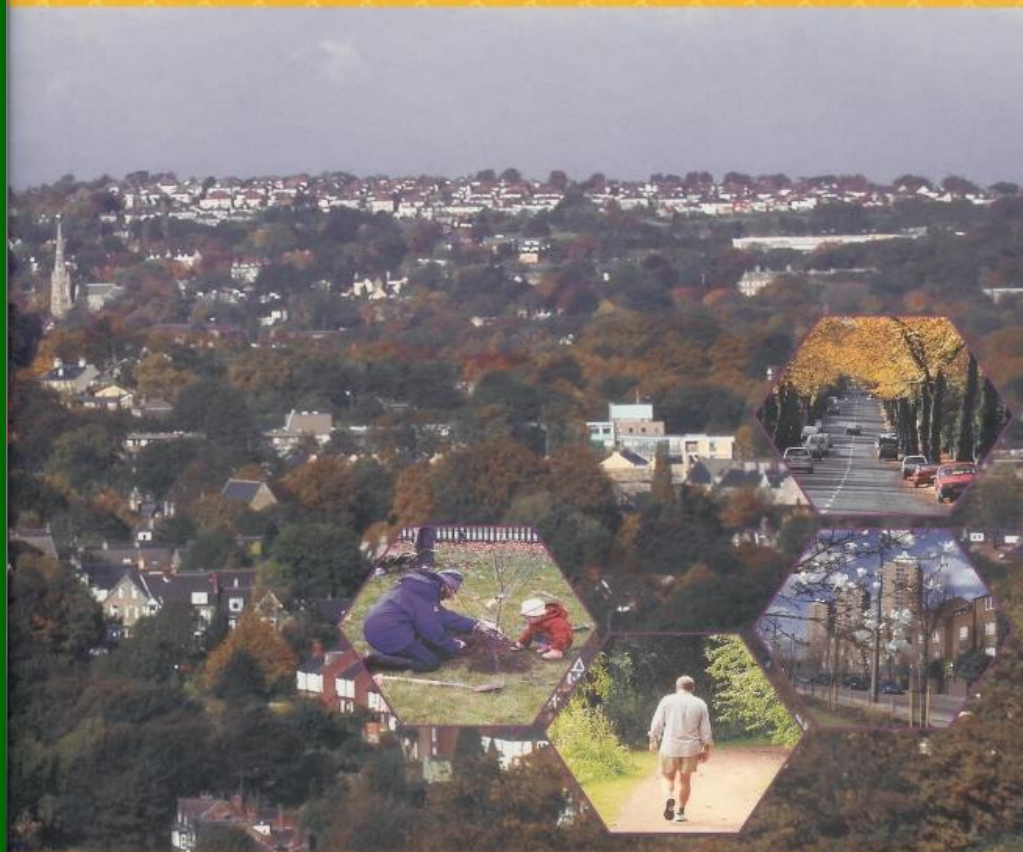
Borough Tree Strategies

High Priority.

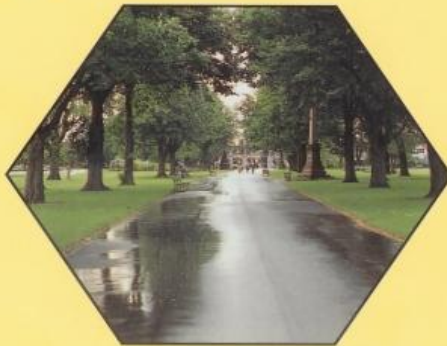
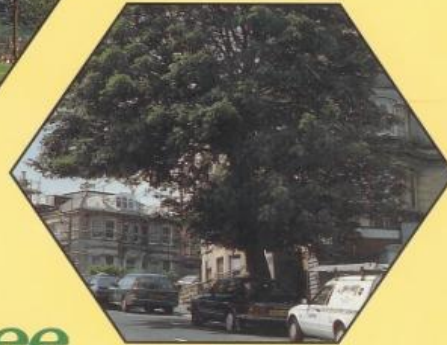
Trees in Towns II

**A new survey of urban trees in England and
their condition and management**

Chris Britt & Mark Johnston



Department of the Environment



Urban Tree Strategies

Prepared by Land Use Consultants

No.3 • Research for Amenity Trees No.3 • Research for Amenity Trees No.3

PLANNING FOR LONDON'S TREES:

Guide-lines for borough strategies



An initiative by
THE LONDON TREE FORUM



GOVERNMENT OFFICE
FOR LONDON

**COUNTRYSIDE
COMMISSION**

Prepared for the Government Office for London and the Countryside Commission

By
Cobham Resource Consultants

Borough Tree Strategies

**Published under
The London Tree and Woodland Framework.**

**Guidance for Local Authorities on Producing a
Comprehensive Tree Strategy**

Recommended Components of a Comprehensive Tree Strategy

- **Assessment of Current Tree stock**
- **Valuation of Current Tree Stock**
- **Geographical Assessment**
- **Geological Assessment**
- **Benefits of Trees and Woodlands**
- **Sustainable Tree Management**
- **Sustainable Woodland Management (Certification)**
- **Tree Planting**
- **Biodiversity**

- **Pests and Diseases**
- **Building Subsidence**
- **Climate Change and Adaptation**
- **Design, Planning and Development**
- **Aims and Objectives (The Policy).**
- **Local Authority Structures**
- **Consultation**
- **Implementation, Monitoring and Review**
- **Tree Strategy Action Plan**

Tree Strategy Action Plan

The “Doing” bit !

Seven stages

Stage 1.

Creating a receptive environment for the production of a tree strategy

This should involve:

- **Seeking political support for the tree strategy.**
- **Appointing a tree champion/advocate from within the borough.**
Preferably a designated Councillor, Committee Chair or best of all the Council Leader.
- **Obtaining formal Cabinet level backing for producing a Tree Strategy.**
- **Setting up a tree strategy working group.**
- **Identifying one key service area for the management, delivery and monitoring of the tree strategy.**
- **Drafting an Action Plan for the production process with targets and designated milestones.**

Stage 2.

Collection and desktop analysis of relevant information

This should cover:

- **Identifying the physical limiting factors that prevail in the local authority's geographical area that may influence the future planting and management of trees and woodlands:**
- **Categorising the various land use forms and map the sub-soil and any geological anomalies beneath them.**
- **Making a qualitative and quantitative assessment of the current tree and woodland stock within each land use category. If no detailed records are available undertake a statistically significant random sample on each major land use form.**
- **Undertaking a desktop collation exercise of the above information and all other data and information on trees and woodlands that is held by the local authority or publicly available.**

Stage 3.

Formulation of Policy Aims and Objectives

These should cover:

- Sustainable management of the tree and woodland stock through a recognised and verifiable certification scheme. This should be the cornerstone of all policy statements.
- Policies for all the trees within the authority's geographical area consistent within each land use type whether the trees are on local authority land or private land.
- A statement of intent that the local authority will seek to use its own policies and national guidance where appropriate to protect trees from unnecessary felling or disfigurement.
- A statement of intent that the local authority will seek to increase tree cover where appropriate by annually planting more trees than are felled in any one calendar year.
- A statement of intent that in managing the trees under its control the Council will take account of the predicted impacts of climate change to ensure a continuation of large scale canopy cover with a diverse species and age range.

Stage 4

Delivery of Tree Strategy document (Drafting).

This should cover:

- **Revision and amendment of the Tree Strategy Action Plan based on the working party drawing conclusions on the direction and emphasis of actions required to fulfil the aims and objectives listed above.**
- **The working party identifying priorities for action.**
- **Identification of chapters and sub headings for the tree strategy document.**
- **Specification of policy.**
- **Drafting of the document by a designated individual member of the working party.**

Stage 5.

Consultation and amendment

This should cover:

Consultation

- **Distribution of the draft Tree Strategy to the widest possible audience for comment.**
- **Publication of a deadline for comments.**

Amendment

- **Tree Strategy working party considering tabled amendments.**
- **Amendment to policies and/or text.**
- **Final drafting of policies based on the results of the consultation process.**

Stage 6.

Formal Adoption of the Tree Strategy

This should involve:

- **Ratification by Cabinet or relevant Committee.**
- **Publication on the Council's website**
- **Integration into and referenced by other Council policy documents e.g.**
- **Local Development Frameworks and Supplementary Planning Documents.**
- **A summary of the Tree Strategy should be produced as an SPD.**

Stage 7.

Implementation, Monitoring and Review.

This should involve:

Implementation

- **The adopted tree strategy is referenced during the planning process in respect of planning applications, inquiries, full planning application appeals and the tree preservation order appeal process.**
- **All decisions and actions to manage the tree stock across the local authority should be underpinned by the policy statements contained within the tree strategy.**
- **The adopted tree strategy is referenced during correspondence on local authority owned tree related subsidence claims as the Council's considered process for managing its trees and dealing with such claims.**
- **The adopted tree strategy is referenced during tree preservation order compensation claims as the Council's considered process for managing its trees and dealing with such claim**

Monitoring

- **The local authority's key service designated with carrying forward the tree strategy should set in place a process for monitoring policy implementation across all the council's service areas.**
- **An annual analysis of tree removals and tree planting is undertaken to reconcile the numbers and types of species felled with the numbers and types of species planted across the land use types**

Review

- **Undertaking a detailed analysis of the monitoring information.**
- **Identifying obstacles and barriers to implementation and delivery of the policy contained within the tree strategy.**
- **Reviewing the strategy every five years.**
- **Making recommendations for amendments to the policy or practice to allow for these factors.**







Thank you for listening.

Jim Smith

London Tree and Woodland Framework Manager