

Draft Supplementary Planning Guidance

Trees, Woodlands and Hedgerows

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Supplementary Planning Guidance

Revised Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan 2018 - 2033

Using this guidance — start here

If you are an applicant or agent: [Chapter 5](#) sets out what applies to your proposal by application type, and [Appendix C](#) lists what to submit. The substantive requirements follow in Chapters 6 to 9 — protecting and integrating existing trees and hedgerows ([6](#)), management works to improve retained assets ([7](#)), new tree and hedgerow planting ([8](#)), and compensation where loss is unavoidable ([9](#)). The Root Protection Area (RPA) calculation is at [Appendix D](#).

Before you apply: early pre-application discussion with the local authority is strongly encouraged, to confirm the survey work needed and to identify constraints before your layout is fixed. [Chapter 3](#) sets out what to do at the pre-application stage.

The remaining chapters and appendices cover the policy and legislative context, the roles of those involved, and administrative detail such as definitions, surveys and species lists.

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Abbreviation	Meaning
AIA	Arboricultural Impact Assessment
AMS	Arboricultural Method Statement
BS	British Standard
GBI	Green and Blue Infrastructure
LDP	Local Development Plan
NBB	Net Benefit for Biodiversity
NRW	Natural Resources Wales
PAA	Preliminary Arboricultural Assessment
PEA	Preliminary Ecological Appraisal
PSD4	PSD4: Green and Blue Infrastructure – Trees, Woodlands and Hedgerows in New Developments
PDR	Permitted Development Rights
PPW	Planning Policy Wales
RPA	Root Protection Area
SPG	Supplementary Planning Guidance
TAN	Technical Advice Note
TDAG	Trees and Design Action Group
TPP	Tree Protection Plan
TPO	Tree Preservation Order

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) has been prepared to accompany the Revised Carmarthenshire's Local Development Plan (LDP) 2018–2033 and specifically relates to *PSD4: Green and Blue Infrastructure – Trees, Woodlands and Hedgerows in New Developments*. It is one of a suite of SPG notes that collectively inform the process, design, and quality of sustainable development across the county.
- 1.2. The purpose of this document is to provide additional detail to support PSD4 by offering guidance to homeowners, landowners, developers and other interested parties involved in the planning process on how to properly consider trees and hedgerows as part of development proposals.
- 1.3. This guidance applies to all trees, hedgerows and woodlands within Carmarthenshire, including those that are not formally protected by national or local designations. It will be used as a relevant consideration in the determination of planning applications and should therefore be referred to by those intending to submit a planning application.
- 1.4. This document has been developed in accordance with Planning Policy Wales (PPW) Edition 12, alongside other relevant national and local policy considerations.
- 1.5. This SPG should be read alongside the *Green and Blue Infrastructure (GBI) SPG*, which provides complementary guidance on the delivery of multi-functional GBI within new developments. Contained within the *GBI SPG*, Appendix B provides the GBI Statement template, including the evidence required to demonstrate Net Benefit for Biodiversity (NBB) and calculate the greenspace factor score, while Appendix C offers guidance on delivering multi-functional GBI benefits to assist applicants in meeting multiple planning requirements effectively.

Consultation

The draft SPG is subject to a consultation exercise conducted in accordance with the general procedures set out within the Delivery Agreement for the Revised LDP. Any changes agreed in responses to the comments received will be incorporated following its consideration at a future meeting of County Council. Note this SPG will only come into operation following the adoption of the Revised LDP.

2. Importance of Trees and Hedgerows

- 2.1. Trees, hedgerows, and woodlands are critical components of Carmarthenshire's landscapes, shaping character, providing ecological connectivity, and supporting climate resilience. They deliver measurable social, economic, and environmental benefits, making them fundamental to creating healthy, sustainable communities.

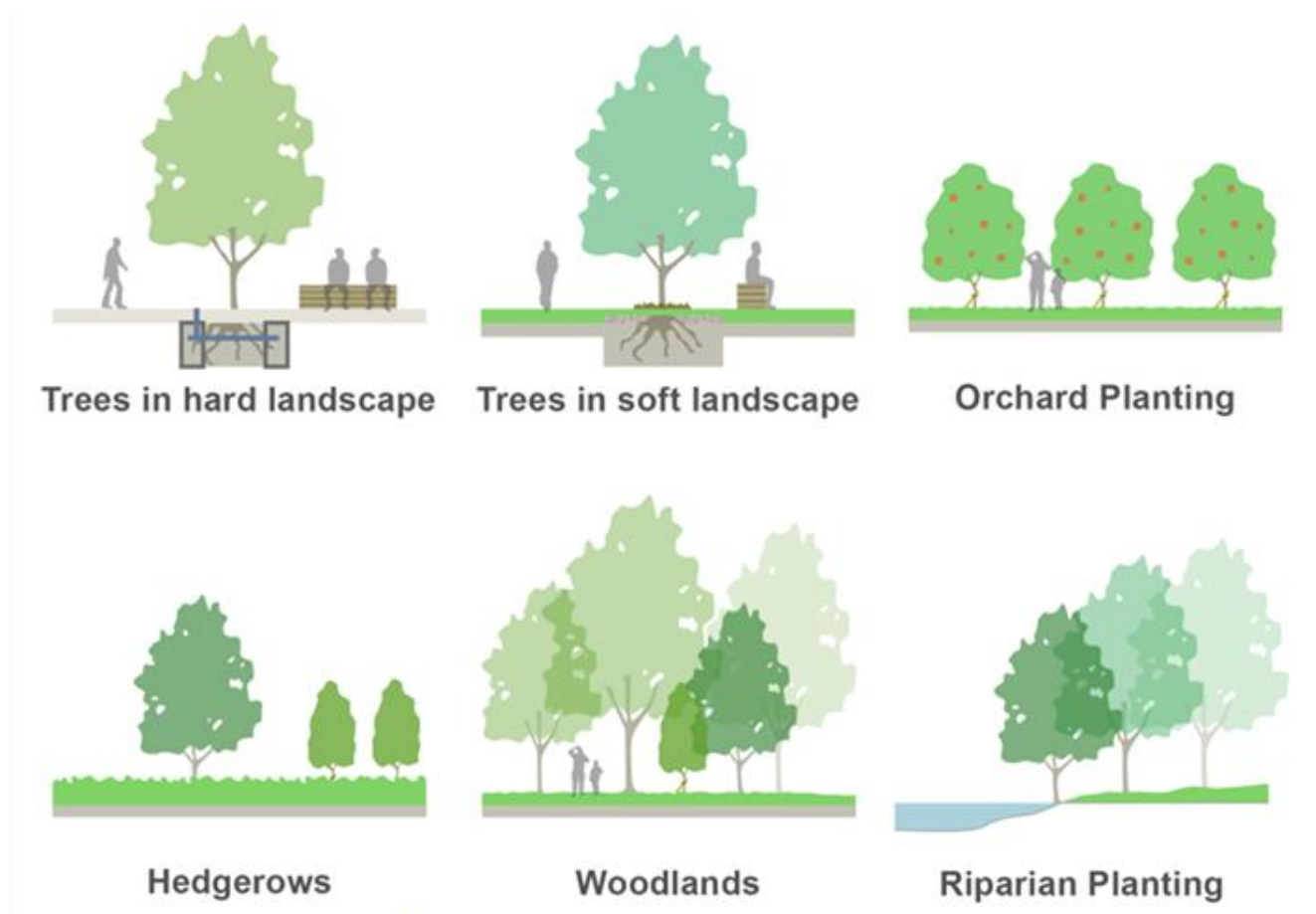


Figure 1: Components of the Treescape

Economic and Placemaking Value

- 2.2. Integrating trees into new developments can enhance viability and value. Evidence demonstrates that thoughtfully designed tree cover can increase property values. Street trees and mature garden trees can deliver residential uplifts of 2–9%, while well-vegetated streetscapes may enhance land value by 18% or more. Early arboricultural input supports compliance with PSD4 by enabling applicants to retain key trees and hedgerows, avoid impacts, and design for adequate rooting space.
- 2.3. In Carmarthenshire, well-integrated trees and hedgerows help a scheme respond to the county's landscape (including the wooded valleys and hedgerow field patterns of areas such as the Tywi Valley) reinforcing local character and sense of place. They contribute to managing surface water and reducing diffuse pollution reaching sensitive waters such as the Carmarthen Bay, and to catchment resilience in flood-prone areas.

Social and Health Benefits

- 2.4. Trees and hedgerows enhance quality of life by creating welcoming, attractive spaces. They can define routes, provide shade, encourage walking and cycling, and contribute to health and wellbeing. Research shows that people consistently prefer developments with trees, valuing their aesthetic appeal, seasonal variation and calming influence. Hedgerows are especially effective at defining boundaries, reducing noise, filtering air pollution and supporting wildlife movement, while mature trees provide instant character, structure and biodiversity value.
- 2.5. Retaining and integrating these natural assets within development strengthens local identity, fosters a strong sense of place, and helps meet multiple planning requirements. This includes supporting placemaking objectives, enhancing the GBI network, and delivering NBB, all of which directly underpin policy PSD4.

Climate Resilience and Biodiversity

- 2.6. Beyond social and economic outcomes, trees and hedgerows contribute significantly to climate change mitigation and adaptation. They sequester carbon, intercept rainfall, moderate local temperatures, and provide habitat for priority species. Strategic planting enhances ecological connectivity across both urban and rural areas and supports wider GBI objectives.
- 2.7. Protecting and integrating existing trees and hedgerows accords with the step-wise approach and aligns with policy PSD4's requirement to maximise retention and provide adequate rooting environments for long-term establishment.
- 2.8. Ensuring that new planting follows the principle of '*Right plant, right place*' supports long-term establishment, simplifies ongoing management, and reinforces the placemaking benefits that trees and hedgerows bring to a new development.

3. Who Should Use this SPG?

- 3.1. This SPG is relevant to anyone involved in or affected by decisions about trees, woodlands and hedgerows. While its primary focus is for development management, it also covers works to protected trees and the broader stewardship of these assets within Carmarthenshire's landscapes and settlements. Table 1 sets out how different users should apply the SPG at each stage of the planning process.

Table 1: Applying this SPG — user guidance by planning stage

User	Pre-Application	Planning Application	Post-Consent
Developer	Identify constraints early, inform iterative layout design, and understand documentation requirements.	Prepare documentation in line with the SPG. Use the Appendix C checklist before submission.	Discharge conditions. Deliver approved planting and implement agreed management and maintenance.
Landowner / Householder	Understand responsibilities under TPOs, Conservation Area controls and the Hedgerow Regulations. Check whether consent or notification is required before works.	Follow the relevant SPG sections for guidance on what to submit with any application or notification.	Comply with any conditions attached to consent.
Arboricultural Consultant	Use the SPG to guide survey scope, methodology and design input proportionate to the proposal.	Prepare documentation to the SPG standard. Cross-reference Appendix C to confirm completeness.	Supervise works where conditioned. Support discharge of conditions and implementation of approved management.
Local Authority / Decision Maker	Use the SPG to guide pre-application discussions and set expectations for required information.	Apply the SPG as a material consideration when assessing proposals against PSD4 and relevant policy.	Monitor and enforce compliance with approved planting, protection and management measures.
Community Stakeholder	Use the SPG to understand tree and hedgerow protections, how to request a TPO, and how to report a breach.	Use the SPG to understand expected tree and hedgerow provision, supporting informed consultation responses.	Understand long-term management expectations and potential opportunities for community stewardship.

4. Statutory Protection and Planning Controls

- 4.1. This chapter sets out the range of statutory controls and planning mechanisms available to the local authority in relation to trees, woodlands and hedgerows. This includes the use of planning conditions and obligations to secure compliance with PSD4 and other relevant policy requirements, as well as standalone statutory powers which operate independently of the planning process and apply regardless of whether a development proposal is involved.

Development Management: Policy Framework

- 4.2. The protection, retention, enhancement and provision of trees, woodlands and hedgerows in the context of development is governed by both national and local planning policy. A non-exhaustive summary of this is provided in Appendix A.

PSD4: Green and Blue Infrastructure – Trees, Woodlands and Hedgerows in New Developments

Development proposals will be required to:

- a) Maximise retention, protection, and integration of existing trees, woodlands and hedgerows and prioritise those of highest value, quality, and condition within and on the development site boundaries through iterative site layout design which avoids potential impacts;*
- b) Minimise potential impacts to retained trees, woodlands and hedgerows through site specific design, method statements and protection measures;*
- c) Provide appropriate compensation planting for unavoidable loss of trees, woodlands, and hedgerows to deliver overall enhancement to extent and cover. Opportunities for translocation of existing hedgerows should be considered where feasible;*
- d) Provide sufficient space and rooting volume within site layout and in relation to adjacent land uses to enable effective growth of existing and newly planted trees, woodlands, and hedgerows to maturity and to avoid potential challenges to retention for the lifetime of the development;*
- e) Identify and deliver management works to improve the value, quality and condition of existing trees, woodlands, and hedgerows within and on the development site boundaries; and*
- f) Deliver additional planting of trees, woodlands, and hedgerows appropriate to the site and development type that will deliver both long term landscape benefits and net benefits for biodiversity.*

Securing Compliance Through the Planning Process

- 4.3. The local authority will seek to secure the protection, retention, appropriate management and long-term enhancement of trees and hedgerows through the planning process, the use of statutory tree protection powers, and other relevant regulatory mechanisms.
- 4.4. Where there is non-compliance with approved plans, planning conditions or statutory protection controls, the local authority will investigate matters and take proportionate enforcement action, particularly where it is considered expedient in the public interest.

Pre-application Site Clearance

- 4.5. In accordance with PPW¹, pre-emptive clearance of trees, woodlands or hedgerows prior to the submission and determination of a planning application is strongly discouraged, as it may prejudice the ability of a proposal to secure NBB.
- 4.6. Where vegetation has been removed prior to the submission of a planning application, the biodiversity value of the site will be assessed based on its condition before clearance took place. In the absence of robust evidence to the contrary, the former habitat will be presumed to have been of good ecological condition, and proposals will be required to deliver NBB from that baseline.

Note: Applicants should retain existing trees and hedgerows until their value has been appropriately assessed and the need for any removal has been justified.

Planning Obligations

- 4.7. Where necessary to mitigate impacts or secure long-term management, the local authority may use planning obligations (Section 106 Agreements) to secure tree and hedgerow-related measures. These may include:
 - a. long-term management and maintenance;
 - b. woodland, tree, or hedgerow management plans;
 - c. replacement, additional, or compensatory planting; and
 - d. off-site planting or financial contributions towards meeting policy requirements.
- 4.8. Reference is made to Planning Obligation SPG. Any obligation must meet the statutory tests for planning obligations.

¹ Planning Policy Wales (Edition 12), paragraph 6.4.16. Welsh Government, 2024.

Planning Conditions

- 4.9. Planning conditions may be applied to planning permissions relating to the protection, retention and management of trees and hedgerows within development proposals. To ensure compliance with PSD4, where development may affect retained trees or hedgerows, conditions may include:
- a. submission and approval of necessary arboricultural documentation prior to commencement of development;
 - b. installation and retention of protective fencing in accordance with approved details;
 - c. controls over access, storage, excavation, service installation, changes in ground levels, and works within RPAs or around hedgerows;
 - d. arboricultural supervision of specified operations;
 - e. implementation of landscaping, tree planting, or hedgerow planting schemes, including replacement or compensatory planting where justified;
 - f. maintenance and replacement of planting and hedgerows for a defined period; and
 - g. submission and implementation of hedgerow translocation schemes.

Statutory Tree and Hedgerow Protections

Tree Preservation Orders

- 4.10. A Tree Preservation Order (TPO) protects a tree (or group of trees) that make a significant visual or environmental contribution to their surroundings. It is an offence to cut down, top, lop, uproot, wilfully damage, or destroy a tree covered by a TPO without obtaining written permission from the local authority. Anyone found committing such an offence may be liable to prosecution, which can result in substantial fines and/or a requirement to carry out remedial works.
- 4.11. The local authority may make, confirm, vary or revoke TPOs where it is expedient in the interests of amenity. In assessing whether to serve a TPO², the local authority will have regard to:
- a. visibility from a public place and the degree of public amenity value;
 - b. individual or collective merit, including size, form, condition and future potential;
 - c. contribution to the wider landscape or settlement character;
 - d. biodiversity, habitat or GBI value;
 - e. historical, cultural or veteran tree status;
 - f. the surrounding level of tree cover and relative scarcity;
 - g. evidence of actual or foreseeable threat; and
 - h. the proportionality and expediency of imposing statutory protection.
- 4.12. Landowners remain responsible for TPO-protected trees but must obtain permission for certain works.
- 4.13. When seeking planning permission, applicants are expected to identify and take full account of existing TPOs at the earliest stages of site appraisal and design. Development proposals should be formulated to retain and integrate protected trees wherever practicable, and layouts that fail to demonstrate due consideration of TPO constraints are unlikely to be supported.
- 4.14. Hedgerows may contain trees protected by a TPO. In such cases, separate TPO consent is required for works affecting those trees, in addition to any requirements under the Hedgerow Regulations where applicable.

² under Section 198 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990

- 4.15. A map of existing TPOs is available on the council [website](#). Further guidance, including the procedures of designating TPOs, can be found in [TAN 10: Tree Preservation Orders](#)³.

Trees in Conservation Areas

- 4.16. Trees situated within designated Conservation Areas are afforded statutory protection, irrespective of whether they are subject to a TPO. Protection applies by virtue of the Conservation Area designation.
- 4.17. In accordance with legislation⁴, six weeks' prior written notice must be given to the local authority before carrying out works to any tree within a Conservation Area with a stem diameter exceeding 75 mm when measured at 1.5 metres above ground level (or 100 mm where the works are undertaken to improve the growth of other trees).
- 4.18. The six-week notification period enables the authority to assess the amenity value of the tree and determine whether it is expedient to make a TPO. It is an offence to cut down, top, lop, uproot, wilfully damage or destroy a tree in a Conservation Area without giving the required notice. Failure to give the required notice constitutes an offence and may result in prosecution.
- 4.19. Applications for works to trees protected by a TPO, or notifications for works to trees within a Conservation Area, can be submitted [online](#).
- 4.20. A map of designated Conservation Areas is available on the council [website](#).

Ancient and Veteran Trees

- 4.21. Ancient woodland, semi-natural woodlands, and individual ancient, veteran, and heritage trees are irreplaceable natural resources with significant landscape, biodiversity, and cultural value. In line with PPW⁵, they are to be protected from development that would result in their loss or deterioration, except in very exceptional circumstances where significant and clearly defined public benefits can be demonstrated.
- 4.22. Further guidance on assessing and managing impacts on ancient woodland and veteran trees has been published by [Natural Resources Wales](#)⁶. The local authority will have regard to this guidance when assessing development proposals that may affect ancient woodland and/or veteran trees.

³ Welsh Office Technical Advice Note (Wales) 10: Tree Preservation Orders, October 1997.

⁴ Section 211 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended), Town and Country Planning (Trees) Regulations 1999 (as amended) and the Town and Country Planning (Trees) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2012.

⁵ Planning Policy Wales (Edition 12), paragraph 6.4.43. Welsh Government, 2024.

⁶ Advice to planning authorities considering proposals affecting ancient woodland. Natural Resources Wales. 2025.

Hedgerow Removal Under the Hedgerow Regulations

- 4.23. Many hedgerows are protected under the Hedgerow Regulations 1997, which make it an offence to remove or destroy a protected hedgerow without written permission from the local planning authority. These Regulations apply to most countryside hedgerows on or adjacent to agricultural, common or other qualifying land — in particular those that are 20 metres or more in length, or which are shorter but meet another hedgerow at each end.⁷ Hedgerows within, or marking the boundary of, a domestic garden are not affected.
- 4.24. A hedgerow may be identified as ‘*important*’ where it is over 30 years old and meets defined archaeological, historic or ecological criteria. In such cases, the local authority is required to issue a Hedgerow Retention Notice unless removal is clearly justified.
- 4.25. Where removal is not exempt under the Regulations, a [Hedgerow Removal Notice](#) must be submitted for determination. Unauthorised removal may lead to prosecution, fines, and a requirement to replant the hedgerow, which is then treated as ‘*important*’ for 30 years.
- 4.26. Permission is required to remove hedgerows located on agricultural land, common land (including village greens), forestry land, paddocks, Local Nature Reserves, and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). Applicants must also check that no planning conditions or private covenants require hedgerow retention.

Note: A Hedgerow Removal Notice is generally not required where removal of the hedgerow is necessary to implement a planning permission. Development undertaken under Permitted Development Rights does not benefit from this exemption, and a Hedgerow Removal Notice may still be required.

High Hedges

- 4.27. Part 8 of the Anti-social Behaviour Act gives local authorities the power to consider complaints regarding high hedges that adversely affect a neighbour’s enjoyment of their property, provided that all other avenues for resolving the hedge dispute have been exhausted. The role of the local authority is to adjudicate whether the hedge is adversely affecting the complainant’s reasonable enjoyment of their property. Further details on making a complaint can be found on the council [website](#).

Highway Planting License

- 4.28. Under Section 96 of the Highway Act 1980, local authorities may grant licences for planting vegetation within the public highway, including verges, footways, and roundabouts. Licences ensure planting does not obstruct public rights of way,

⁷ The Hedgerow Regulations 1997 (SI 1997/1160)

compromise road safety, or interfere with underground apparatus. The authority may remove planting where necessary for safety or service provision. Further guidance is available on the council [website](#).

Forestry

- 4.29. The Forestry Act 1967 (as amended) regulates the felling of all living trees, subject to certain exemptions. The local authority does not administer the granting of felling licences under the Act; however, applicants should carefully consider whether any proposed works fall within its provisions. A separate felling licence is not required to implement a grant of full planning permission, but may be required where works are carried out under Permitted Development Rights.

Enforcement

- 4.30. Where works to trees or development affecting trees and/or hedgerows are undertaken without the necessary consent or compliance with imposed conditions, the local authority will investigate the matter in accordance with its adopted [Planning Enforcement Statement](#).
- 4.31. Enforcement action is discretionary and will only be taken where it is considered expedient in the public interest, having regard to the nature of the breach and the degree of harm caused.
- 4.32. The local authority will seek to resolve breaches proportionately, which may include informal negotiation, the service of Enforcement Warning Notices, Enforcement Notices, Breach of Condition Notices, Stop Notices or Temporary Stop Notices, prosecution for unauthorised works to protected trees, or application to the courts for an injunction in serious cases.
- 4.33. Enforcement action may also be taken in respect of unlawful hedgerow removal under the Hedgerow Regulations.
- 4.34. The unauthorised clearance of trees or hedgerows prior to the submission or determination of a planning application or any other process requiring consent will be considered when assessing expediency for enforcement action.

Report Breaches of Planning

Members of the public can report a suspected breach of planning, including unauthorised works to trees or hedgerows, via the [council website](#).

5. Arboricultural Considerations in Planning

- 5.1. This chapter sets out the information required to support planning applications where trees and hedgerows may be affected.
- 5.2. Definitions and minimum content requirements for the various arboricultural surveys and reports referenced in this chapter are provided in Appendix B.
- 5.3. A checklist of supporting documentation is provided in Appendix C to assist applicants.
- 5.4. Applicants are encouraged to seek pre-application advice to confirm the extent of tree- and hedgerow-related survey work needed and to identify design constraints early.

Policy PSD4 – Criterion a.

Development proposals will be required to: “maximise retention, protection, and integration of existing trees, woodlands and hedgerows and prioritise those of highest value, quality, and condition within and on the development site boundaries through iterative site layout design which avoids potential impacts”.

This chapter sets out how applicants can demonstrate compliance with this criterion.

Ecological and arboricultural assessments should provide clear evaluations of value, quality and condition. These evaluations should be used to define clear constraint areas for trees, woodlands and hedgerows, to enable their iterative integration into the scheme layout. The removal of any tree must be robustly justified with clear evidence, in line with the step-wise approach.

Recommended documentation for demonstrating retention, protection, and integration is further set out by application type.

Embedded within the Wider Landscape Framework

- 5.5. In accordance with PSD4, proposals should prioritise the retention, protection, and integration of existing trees and hedgerows wherever possible.
- 5.6. For the purposes of this SPG, the value, quality and condition of trees, woodlands and hedgerows will be established through combined ecological and arboricultural assessment. Features of the highest value — including ancient and veteran trees, trees subject to a TPO, and trees of exceptional amenity, biodiversity, landscape, historical or cultural significance — will likely provide multifunctional benefits throughout the life of the development and represent a material constraint that should inform site layout from the earliest design stage. The constraint areas identified

through assessment should be used to shape the layout through an iterative approach that seeks first to avoid impacts, in line with the step-wise approach⁸.

- 5.7. Tree and hedgerow considerations will not be addressed through a single arboricultural document in isolation. They will instead form part of a coordinated suite of planning and design information. This may typically include BS 5837 compliant surveys, alongside a GBI Statement, a Landscape and Ecological Design Scheme (LEDS) and, where appropriate, a Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP). For larger scale developments, an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) may also be required. These documents serve different but complementary purposes and should be prepared in an integrated and iterative manner.

Green and Blue Infrastructure (GBI) Statement

- 5.8. The GBI Statement demonstrates how the development proposal contributes to multifunctional GBI and ecosystem resilience. It should explain how the proposal responds to the site's existing GBI assets — including trees and hedgerows — and how the proposal enhances ecological connectivity, landscape quality and biodiversity. This may include the retention of mature trees, reinforcement of existing hedgerows, new tree planting, or the creation of habitat features that support ecosystem resilience. A GBI Statement should be submitted with all planning applications⁹. Further guidance is provided in the *GBI SPG*.

Landscape and Ecological Design Scheme

- 5.9. LEDS sets out the detailed landscape and ecological design of the site, including planting proposals, habitat features and retention strategies. It will normally illustrate how existing landscape and ecological features — including retained trees and hedgerows — are incorporated into the site layout, and how new planting and habitat creation will contribute to the overall GBI network. Where hedgerow translocation, habitat creation or ecological features are proposed, these should be clearly shown and specified within the LEDS.

Landscape and Ecological Management Plan

- 5.10. Where development is approved, the long-term establishment and stewardship of retained and newly created landscape and ecological features may be secured through a LEMP. This should set out appropriate management and maintenance measures for trees, hedgerows and habitats, including inspection regimes, replacement planting where necessary, and management practices that support biodiversity and long-term landscape function.

⁸ Applicants must apply the step-wise approach to all ecological matters (including trees and hedgerows) in addition to demonstrating compliance with the local requirements of PSD4.

⁹ Planning Policy Wales (Edition 12), paragraph 6.2.12. Welsh Government, 2024. GBI syn. GI.

Environmental Impact Assessment

- 5.11. An EIA¹⁰ may be required for certain larger or more sensitive developments. The process begins with a Screening Opinion to determine whether EIA is required, and often a Scoping Opinion to agree what the ES must cover. The Environmental Statement (ES) brings together all technical assessments — ecology, arboriculture, landscape and others — into one coordinated document. Natural Resources Wales is a statutory consultee in all projects requiring an EIA.

An Integrated Approach

- 5.12. Initial arboricultural survey work provides essential baseline information that informs the LEDS, GBI Statement and wider design documents. The information derived from these surveys — such as tree categories, canopy spreads, RPAs and the location and condition of hedgerows — should be used to identify constraints and opportunities at an early stage and to shape the layout and landscape strategy of the development.
- 5.13. The design process should follow a constraints-led approach in which arboricultural and ecological information informs the initial layout and landscape strategy before detailed design is undertaken. In practice, this means that tree and hedgerow retention should be considered alongside other site factors such as access, drainage, topography and ecology. Integrating these considerations early helps avoid conflicts and reduces the need for later mitigation.
- 5.14. Not all development proposals will require every arboricultural documents here outlined. The level of information required will be proportionate to the scale and potential impacts of the development. Smaller proposals may address tree and hedgerow considerations through Block Plans and/or a Landscape Plan, whereas larger or more complex schemes will require a coordinated package of arboricultural, landscape and ecological documents.

Integrated Design from the Outset

By integrating arboricultural considerations with wider landscape design and built layout from the start, applicants can demonstrate how the requirements of PSD4 have been addressed through a coherent and proportionate process. This approach supports the retention of valuable landscape features, reduces the risk of avoidable tree or hedgerow loss, and helps ensure that development secures NBB and contributes positively to Carmarthenshire's GBI network.

¹⁰ The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Wales) Regulations 2017 (SI 2017/567 (W.138))

Process Overview

- 5.15. Proposals should follow the staged approach set out in BS 5837, ensuring that arboricultural and landscape considerations are integrated from the earliest design stages through to construction and aftercare. Each of the five steps below identifies the key arboricultural documents which may feed into it

1

Baseline surveys (feasibility and pre-application stage)

A Tree Survey is undertaken to identify and categorise trees and to map canopy spreads and RPAs. Where hedgerows may be affected, a Hedgerow Survey should also be completed. Alongside a PEA, this baseline information establishes site constraints and opportunities.

Landscape framework: *These surveys inform the basis of the GBI Statement and LEDS. An earlier PAA may also feed into a Tree Survey.*

2

Design integration (concept and outline design)

Survey data is used to prepare a TCP showing RPAs, canopy spreads, retention categories and constraints. The TCP should directly inform the site layout so that impacts are avoided or minimised in accordance with PSD4. Where potential conflicts are identified, an AIA is required to assess direct and indirect effects and identify feasible retention and mitigation measures.

Landscape framework: *The TCP and AIA inform the landscape strategy and retained/lost features shown within the LEDS and GBI Statement.*

3

Technical design and mitigation (full planning application stage)

Once the layout is fixed, a TPP and AMS are prepared, detailing protective fencing, ground protection, working zones, construction techniques and sequences for work within RPAs. Utility routing, site access, storage areas and demolition methods should also be coordinated at this stage along with mitigation measures, replacement / additional planting, and areas protected for these purposes.

Landscape framework: *The TPP and AMS inform the LEDS, confirming which trees and hedgerows are retained, and what mitigation measures underpin the planting strategy.*

4

Implementation and monitoring (construction stage)

Tree protection measures must be installed prior to the commencement of works and retained for their duration. Where required, site inspections and arboricultural supervision are undertaken to ensure compliance with approved conditions.

Landscape framework: *Arboricultural supervision records support LEMP monitoring obligations and provide evidence for post-construction landscape reporting.*

5

Post-construction and long-term management

Retained and newly planted trees and hedgerows should be inspected following completion, with any necessary remedial works carried out. Proposals should include appropriate measures to support long-term establishment and function.

Landscape framework: *Long-term management of trees and hedgerows is secured through the LEMP, ensuring the objectives of the GBI Statement are delivered and maintained over time.*

- 5.16. In relation to sites where trees and/or hedgerows are present (on-site or adjacent), the recommended documents for each application type in order to demonstrate compliance with PSD4 are set out below. Requirements will vary on a case-by-case basis.

Permitted Development

- 5.17. Works carried out under Permitted Development Rights (PDRs) do not normally require planning documentation; however, developers must still consider trees and hedgerows on, adjacent to, or influencing the site.
- 5.18. PDRs do not remove the requirement to comply with other statutory controls. Development must not cause damage to protected trees (including those within conservation areas) or result in the unlawful removal of hedgerows. Separate consents may therefore be required, including:
- a. Tree works applications (for trees subject to TPOs or within conservation areas);
 - b. Hedgerow Removal Notices (for removal of protected hedgerows);
 - c. Licences for works affecting protected species (if relevant); and
 - d. Felling Licences (if relevant).
- 5.19. Those carrying out works under PDR must:
- a. take reasonable steps to avoid damage to trees and hedgerows on neighbouring land (liability may arise under common law for harm caused); and
 - b. comply with all relevant legislation relating to tree and hedgerow protection and biodiversity.

Householder Applications

Submission Requirements

- 5.20. For most householder proposals a clearly annotated, appropriately scaled Block Plan showing tree stems, canopy spreads and any hedgerows on or adjacent to the site will usually be sufficient. Plans should indicate which trees and hedgerows are to be retained, removed or pruned and, where practicable, include a basic RPA as defined in BS 5837 to demonstrate consideration of long-term retention in line with PSD4. Minimum requirements for Block Plans are set out in Appendix B.

When Additional Information is Required

- 5.21. If the Block Plan indicates a potential conflict between the proposal and existing trees and/or hedgerows, or suggests insufficient space and/or rooting volume for long-term retention, the local authority may require a:
- a. TCP and/or an AIA; and/or
 - b. PEA or a Hedgerow Survey to assess species composition, structure, condition and ecological or historic value.

Design and Mitigation

- 5.22. Householder proposals must demonstrate how impacts on trees, hedgerows and biodiversity have been identified and addressed in accordance with PSD4 and the step-wise approach. Where impacts cannot be avoided by design, proposals should set out proportionate mitigation and management measures. Translocation of hedgerows is only acceptable in limited circumstances; any replacement planting must deliver NBB.
- 5.23. LEDS are not normally required for householder applications. However, where significant tree or hedgerow works are proposed — including removal of Category A or B trees or hedgerows — a Landscape Plan demonstrating how retained features are integrated into the design, and how any planting will be managed, will be expected. Such information should be included with the submitted GBI Statement.

Minor Applications

- 5.24. Minor applications should be supported by tree and hedgerow information proportionate to the scale of the proposal and the sensitivity of the site. Where trees or hedgerows are present on or adjacent to the site, a clearly annotated Block Plan identifying their location, extent and condition should be submitted alongside the application.
- 5.25. Where potential impacts on trees or hedgerows are identified, a proportionate AIA should be submitted, setting out the implications of the proposal and any mitigation measures required. A TCP should be prepared where the layout requires close integration with existing trees or hedgerows.

Landscape Framework Requirements

- 5.26. Minor applications should demonstrate how tree and hedgerow retention has been considered within the wider landscape context of the development. A LEDS illustrating the relationship between the proposal and existing and proposed trees and hedgerows, planting proposals and any management arrangements will normally be required where significant planting or retention is proposed.
- 5.27. A GBI Statement is required with all minor applications, relative to the scale and nature of development. The statement should demonstrate how the proposal responds to existing GBI assets, including trees and hedgerows, and how the development delivers NBB. Where planting or long-term landscape management is secured by condition, a LEMP may also be required.

Hedgerow-specific Requirements

- 5.28. Where hedgerows may be affected by development, an appropriate level of assessment must be provided. This will normally take the form of a dedicated Hedgerow Survey where whole hedgerows are proposed for removal or are otherwise significantly affected. For more limited impacts (e.g., partial removal for access or services), proportionate assessment within a wider arboricultural or ecological survey (such as a PEA) may be acceptable, provided sufficient detail is included to inform design, mitigation, and compensation.
- 5.29. In line with PSD4, hedgerows should be retained and integrated into the development design wherever possible. Where loss is unavoidable, proportionate compensatory planting that delivers NBB must be proposed. All assessment, justification, and compensation measures relating to hedgerow removal must be addressed within the GBI Statement.

Major Applications

Validation Requirements

- 5.30. In accordance with the [Development Management Manual](#), the validation requirement where trees or hedgerows are present on or adjacent to the site is a Tree Survey.
- 5.31. Applicants are strongly encouraged to provide the additional information listed below to support effective assessment and reduce the risk of delays.

Supporting Documents where Trees are Present

- 5.32. Where trees are present on, or within influencing distance of, the proposed development site, applicants should submit as a minimum:
- a. A topographical survey showing existing levels and features (minimum scale 1:500); and
 - b. BS 5837-compliant Tree Survey and associated schedule showing species, size, condition, categories and the position of stems and canopy extents.

Tree Constraints Plan

- 5.33. A TCP should be prepared based on the Tree Survey and submitted alongside the proposed layout. The layout should be informed by the TCP and designed to avoid or minimise impacts in accordance with PSD4, demonstrating how Category A trees have been prioritised for retention. Where the layout indicates potential conflicts, an AIA may be required.

Arboricultural Impact Assessment

- 5.34. Where trees are present and may be affected by the proposal, a proportionate AIA should be submitted. The AIA should:
- a. identify trees to be retained or removed and assess potential impacts of the proposal, including any required tree works to facilitate construction;
 - b. assess impacts with reference to RPAs calculated in accordance with BS 5837 and with reference to the constraints identified on the TCP; and
 - c. set out required mitigation, protection measures and any additional supporting documents, as appropriate.

- 5.35. Retention and mitigation proposals should reflect the BS 5837 retention categories and consider not only tree safety, but also potential for biodiversity value, landscape character and GBI function.

Landscape Framework Documents

- 5.36. Arboricultural information must be incorporated within the broader landscape and ecological design framework. The following documents will normally be required integrating any arboricultural reports:
- a. GBI Statement: demonstrating how the proposal responds to the site's existing green infrastructure assets — including retained trees and hedgerows — and how ecological connectivity, landscape quality and biodiversity will be enhanced.
 - b. LEDS: illustrating how retained trees and hedgerows are integrated into the site layout, together with new planting, habitat creation and any ecological mitigation measures. Where hedgerow translocation is proposed, this should be clearly specified within the LEDS.
 - c. LEMP: where development is approved, securing the long-term management and maintenance of retained and newly created landscape and ecological features, including trees, hedgerows and habitats.
- 5.37. These documents serve different but complementary roles: the GBI Statement demonstrates how the proposal contributes to GBI at a strategic level; the LEDS sets out the detailed design of retained and new landscape features; and the LEMP establishes how those features will be managed and maintained over the long term. All three should be consistent with each other and with the arboricultural information submitted.

Additional Information

- 5.38. Applicants may need to submit one or more of the following alongside a full application, where relevant:
- a. TPP showing protective fencing, working exclusion zones and ground protection;
 - b. AMS specifying special construction techniques and sequence of works within RPAs;
 - c. PEA or targeted species surveys where trees or hedgerows support protected species (amongst other necessary ecological survey works);
 - d. Archaeology or heritage impact statement where veteran/ancient trees, historic hedgerows or historic landscapes are affected;

- e. Individual tree planting specification, where proposed, indicating stock category (with reference to Appendix D, Table D1 or a justified site-specific equivalent), species, pit dimensions and implementation programme; and
- f. Hedgerow-specific documents where a hedgerow may be affected (see below).

Hedgerow-specific Requirements

- 5.39. Where hedgerow removal or alteration is proposed as part of a development application, an appropriate level of assessment must be provided. This will normally take the form of a dedicated Hedgerow Survey where whole hedgerows are proposed for removal or are otherwise significantly affected. For more limited impacts (e.g., partial removal for access, services, or minor construction works), proportionate assessment within a wider ecological (such as a PEA) or arboricultural survey, may be acceptable, provided sufficient detail is included to inform design, mitigation, and compensation measures.
- 5.40. The assessment should record the hedgerow's condition, height, spread, species composition, management history, and any evidence of historic or ecological value. The accompanying GBI Statement should summarise survey findings, provide planning justification for any removal, and set out proposed mitigation and compensatory planting, including measures to deliver NBB.
- 5.41. Where construction works, access, or other elements fall within the influencing distance of a hedgerow, appropriate protection and mitigation measures should be identified and incorporated into the design.
- 5.42. In line with PSD4, hedgerows should be retained and integrated into the development design wherever possible. Where loss is unavoidable, applicants must propose proportionate compensatory planting that delivers NBB and, where relevant, appropriate ecological mitigation measures.

Outline Applications

- 5.43. Outline applications should normally be supported by a Tree Survey¹¹ to identify all features on and adjacent to the site and to demonstrate how retention has been considered at the earliest stage. Where no trees or hedgerows are present or within influencing distance, a brief statement confirming this is sufficient.
- 5.44. Where hedgerow loss is possible/proposed, an appropriate level of assessment should be provided. This will normally take the form of a Hedgerow Survey to establish baseline condition, species composition, and structure. For minor or partial impacts, assessment within a PEA may be sufficient. This information informs retention decisions and supports indicative compensation calculations.

Constraints and indicative layout

- 5.45. The indicative layout should be informed by arboricultural constraints derived from the Tree Survey. This should demonstrate that the developable area has been identified through a constraints-led approach in accordance with PSD4.

Securing protection and mitigation

- 5.46. Where the AIA identifies risks to retained trees or hedgerows, applicants should either:
- a. provide draft tree protection and/or construction principles (TPP/AMS), or
 - b. demonstrate that adequate space and methodology can be secured at reserved matters stage.
- 5.47. Where hedgerow loss is anticipated, outline proposals should set out indicative compensation to support early consideration of mitigation requirements.

Landscape framework at reserved matters

- 5.48. Outline applications should be accompanied by a GBI Statement demonstrating how the site's existing GBI assets (including trees and hedgerows) have informed the indicative layout and the development's contribution to ecological connectivity and landscape quality. Where this cannot be fully addressed at outline, the GBI Statement should confirm the principles and identify matters to be addressed at reserved matters.
- 5.49. The detailed landscape and ecological design, including the LEDS and LEMP, will normally be required at reserved matters stage. Applicants should confirm at outline that sufficient space and soil volume have been identified to accommodate the proposed landscape strategy, and that tree and hedgerow retention is achievable.

¹¹ In accordance with Section 7 Annex – Planning Applications: Lists of Validation Requirements, List 2 of the DMM.

Cross-Cutting Considerations

Seasonality

- 5.50. Many arboricultural and ecological surveys can technically be undertaken at any time of year; however, seasonal factors strongly influence the level of detail that can be reliably recorded. The identification of woody species, hedgerow structure, ground flora and ecological features is typically most robust during the main growing season (April to October). June and July often provide the highest level of botanical detail.
- 5.51. Surveys completed outside optimal seasons may be constrained by reduced leaf cover, limited ground flora visibility, or seasonal species absence. Where survey timing is sub-optimal, supplementary surveys or precautionary approaches may be required. This is particularly important where trees or hedgerows may support protected species, as many species-specific surveys are restricted to defined seasonal windows.
- 5.52. Where the local authority has evidence that a submitted survey does not accurately reflect site conditions, further information may be required, which could result in delays to the determination of the application.

Protected species and habitats

- 5.53. Where trees or hedgerows provide habitat for protected species, works which would affect them may require species surveys and licences. Applicants must ensure compliance with wildlife legislation and include appropriate mitigation and compensation in proposals or supporting documents.

Veteran and ancient trees and historic hedgerows

- 5.54. Veteran and ancient trees and hedgerows with demonstrable historic value are material planning considerations. Where such features could be affected, applicants should submit an appropriate heritage impact statement.

Legal consents and notices

- 5.55. Applicants remain responsible for securing any necessary separate consents (e.g. TPO consents, protected species licences, felling licences) in addition to planning permission. Failure to obtain these consents may result in enforcement action and/or delay.

Liability and neighbouring trees/hedgerows

- 5.56. Developers should consider impacts on trees and hedgerows on neighbouring land. Reasonable steps should be taken to prevent damage as civil liability may arise under common law where harm occurs.

6. Integration of Existing Trees and Hedgerows

Policy PSD4 – Criterion b.

Development proposals will be required to: 'minimise potential impacts to retained trees, woodlands and hedgerows through site specific design, method statements and protection measures'.

This chapter sets out how applicants must demonstrate compliance with PSD4(b), and addresses the protection dimension of PSD4(a) — which requires that retained trees, woodlands and hedgerows are not only prioritised through iterative layout design, but actively safeguarded throughout the construction process.

Where retained features are to be incorporated into the final development layout, applicants must also ensure that sufficient space and rooting volume are secured in accordance with PSD4(d) (see [Chapter 8](#)).

- 6.1. Where trees are retained within or adjacent to a development site, it is essential to implement measures that minimise the risk of damage during construction. Calculating and safeguarding the RPA is foundational for successfully integrating trees.
- 6.2. BS 5837:2012¹² describes best practice for tree retention, protection, and construction near trees and proposals will be considered in relation to this.
- 6.3. Construction activity can damage any part of a tree, but some components are more vulnerable and less visible than others (Table 2).

Table 2: Parts of the Tree to Consider

Above-ground parts	Below-ground parts
<u>Canopy</u> : damaged by machinery, scaffolding, vehicle movement, poor tree work, excessive dust and fire.	<u>Structural roots</u> : provide anchorage and stability, damaged by digging, vehicle transits and abrasion.
<u>Trunk</u> : impacts, abrasion, fixings, adjacent stored materials and fire can compromise long-term tree health.	<u>Feeder roots</u> : very fine, non-woody roots responsible for water and nutrient uptake; sensitive to digging, compaction, contamination and altered soil conditions.

- 6.4. The root system is often overlooked but is the most vulnerable part of a tree. Roots are typically concentrated in the upper 600 mm of soil, but actual depth varies depending on species, soil conditions and historic site disturbance. Most roots extend well beyond the canopy. Because roots are hidden, damage often goes unnoticed on site, and impacts may not become evident for several years.

¹² BS 5837:2012 — Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction — Recommendations, Clauses 6 and 7.

Root Protection Areas

- 6.5. The RPA defines the minimum area around a tree that must remain undisturbed to safeguard roots and support long-term tree health. Essentially, no construction work is to be permitted within the RPA since this can have significant long-term consequences, including reduced vigour, crown dieback, or instability. Key principles for safeguarding RPA viability include:
- Soil structure:** Maintain uncompacted soil with adequate porosity for gas and water movement. Avoid machinery, storage, or foot traffic within RPAs. Ground protection must be used where this is unavoidable.
 - Root protection:** Avoid excavation, grading, trenching, or other soil disturbance. Where unavoidable, use hand-dug or carefully controlled techniques under arboricultural supervision.
 - Soil levels:** Fine roots are concentrated in the upper 150–300 mm of soil. Changes to soil depth can impact root function and should be avoided.
 - Contamination:** Prevent contamination from fuels, oils, cement, solvents, or other chemicals.
- 6.6. RPAs are typically plotted as circles around the tree stem(s) as shown in Figure 2; however, they can also be adapted to polygons of equivalent area where rooting is asymmetric due to site conditions and can be justified with sound arboricultural reasoning.

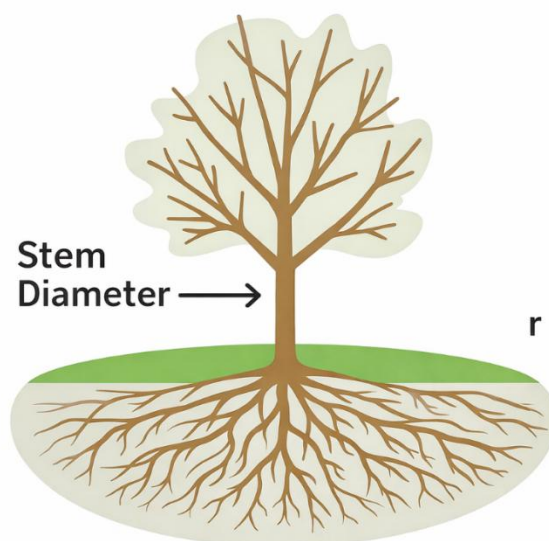


Figure 2: RPA is based on the tree's stem diameter. The radius (r) represents the minimum area of soil that must be protected to safeguard the tree's rooting environment during design and construction.

- 6.7. See [Appendix D](#) for guidance on calculating RPAs for single- and multi-stem trees, and indicative sizes based on stem diameter.

Potential Impacts and Prevention Measures

- 6.8. Figure/Table 3 identify common construction impacts and practical measures to prevent harm to retained trees.

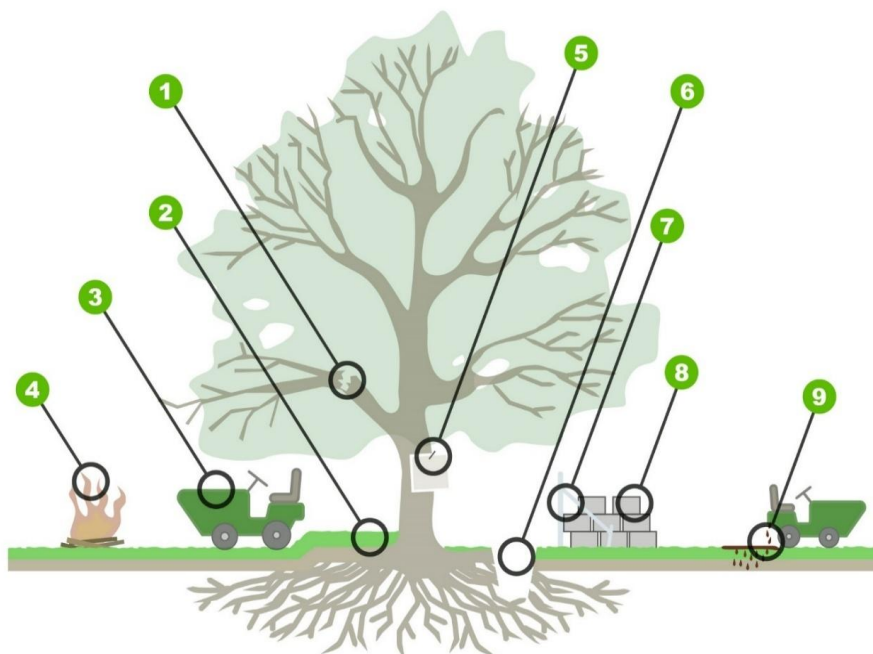


Figure 3: Typical ways in which construction activities can damage trees, both above and below ground. The numbered impacts (1–9) correspond to table below.

Table 3: Common Construction Impacts and Prevention Measures

No.	Potential Impact	Example Prevention Measures
1	Damage to branches from machinery, vehicles or poor tree work	Maintain safe clearance; use protective fencing to limit access; engage professional arboriculturists.
2	Raised ground levels causing root suffocation	Keep existing soil levels; avoid raising levels >100 mm within the RPA.
3	Soil compaction from tracking or storage	Install ground protection where access is unavoidable; restrict movement within the RPA.
4	Fire damage (scorching, dieback)	Prohibit fires within 10 m; consider wind direction and heat drift.
5	Fixing signs, lighting or equipment to trunks	Do not attach anything to trees; use independent supports.
6	Utility trenching or excavations within RPAs	Use trenchless techniques or hand-digging under arboricultural supervision.
7	Incorrect tree protection fencing alignment	Install fencing in line with BS 5837 RPAs; set out from fixed survey points.
8	Storage of materials, spoil, or loads within RPAs	Locate storage areas outside RPAs to prevent compaction and contamination.
9	Fuel, cement or chemical contamination	Store hazardous substances 10 m away; avoid cement mixing near trees; prepare spill response measures.

Maintaining Soil Health

6.9. Healthy soil is essential for retaining trees during development. Construction activity can rapidly alter soil conditions, especially within the RPA (Figure 4), where roots are concentrated and most vulnerable. Maintaining undisturbed, uncompacted, uncontaminated soil within the RPA is essential for the long-term health and stability of retained trees. The following measures should be followed:

- a. Soil structure: Maintain an open soil structure with sufficient pore space to enable gas exchange and water movement. Avoid compaction caused by vehicles, plant, storage or repeated foot traffic. Even a single vehicle pass over wet ground can cause irreversible compaction.
- b. Root protection: Excavation, grading, trenching or soil disturbance within RPAs should be avoided. Where unavoidable, only carefully controlled, hand-dug methods should be used under arboricultural supervision.
- c. Soil levels: Fine, absorptive roots are typically concentrated in the first 150–300 mm. Adding/removing soil in this zone can suffocate/expose roots and must be avoided.
- d. Contamination: Protect RPAs from contamination by fuels, oils, cement washout, concrete curing runoff, solvents and other chemicals. Waterlogging can be viewed as a form of contamination resulting in closure/filling of pore spaces. These substances cause long-term soil degradation and root mortality.



Figure 4: Trees categorised under BS 5837 (Categories A, B, C and U) and Root Protection Areas (RPAs) showing the minimum area of soil to be safeguarded during construction.

Tree Protective Fencing

- 6.10. All trees to be retained on a development site must be protected by protective barriers and/or ground protection installed in accordance with BS 5837.
- 6.11. Protection measures shall be implemented prior to the commencement of works and:
- be positioned in accordance with the approved TPP;
 - remain in place and intact for the entire duration of works;
 - not be removed, repositioned, or altered without the approval of the project arboriculturist and the local authority; and
 - display weatherproof signage indicating “*Construction Exclusion Zone – No Access*”.
- 6.12. Fencing should follow the default specification set out in BS 5837 (i.e. a scaffold framework with welded mesh panels securely fixed, as shown in Figure 5), unless an alternative specification is agreed for lower-risk situations.
- 6.13. For phased development or spatially constrained sites, any variation from the default fencing alignment must be clearly justified and detailed within the TPP and supported by an AMS.

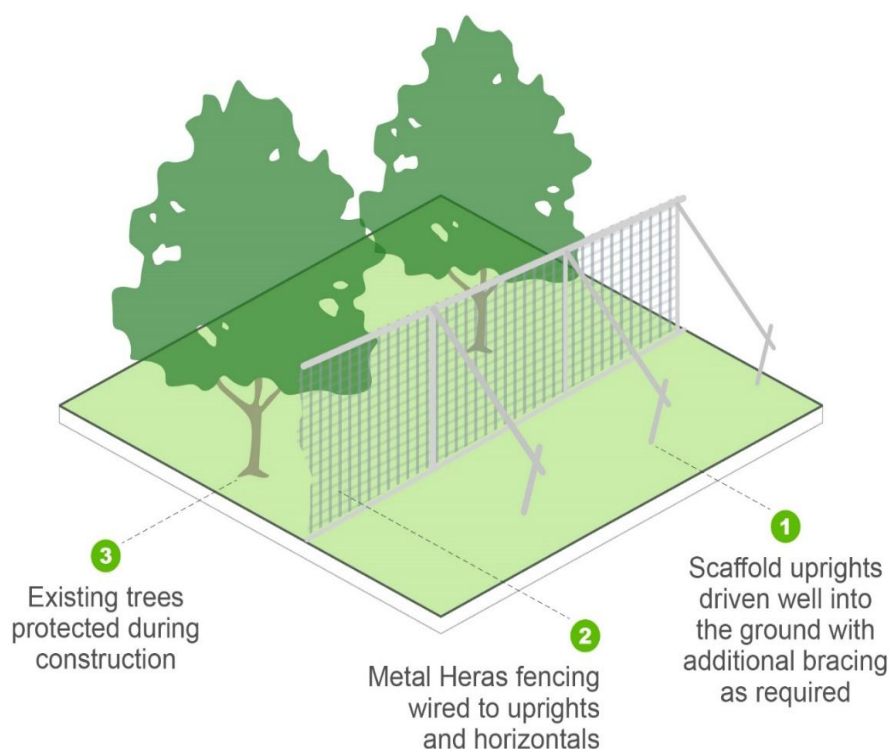


Figure 5: Tree protective fencing in accordance with Section 6.2 of BS 5837:2012.

Site Awareness, Monitoring and Compliance

- 6.14. The protection of retained trees shall be implemented and maintained in full accordance with the approved TPP, AMS and/or any relevant planning conditions. These documents form part of the approved development and are material to compliance.
- 6.15. All site personnel should be made aware of the location and purpose of tree protection measures and the constraints associated with RPAs. Pre-commencement site briefings by project arboriculturists can be helpful. Copies of the approved TPP, AMS and planning conditions shall be kept on site and be available for inspection.
- 6.16. Tree protection measures shall be subject to regular monitoring and supervision by the project arboriculturist, in accordance with BS 5837¹³. This may be weekly or monthly depending on project size and complexity or at key stages of development such as the installation of protective fencing, commencement of construction in proximity to trees, and completion of development. Records of site visits and compliance checks should be maintained and provided to the local authority where required by condition.
- 6.17. Any works within or adjacent to RPAs must be undertaken strictly in accordance with the approved AMS and under arboricultural supervision. The removal, alteration or damage of protective fencing, unauthorised RPA access, changes in ground levels, storage of materials, contamination, or other activities likely to affect retained trees may constitute a breach of planning control and could result in enforcement action.
- 6.18. No deviation from the approved tree protection measures shall take place unless first agreed in writing with the local authority and the project arboriculturist.

Hedgerow-specific Protection Measures

- 6.19. Hedgerows to be retained shall be afforded protection equivalent to that provided for trees, including protective fencing positioned to safeguard the full width of the hedgerow, associated root zones and any adjacent buffer zone required.
- 6.20. Protection shall be installed prior to the commencement of site works and maintained for the duration of construction in accordance with approved proposals.
- 6.21. No excavation, storage of materials, vehicle access, or contamination shall take place within the protected hedgerow zone.
- 6.22. Any proposed works within or adjacent to retained hedgerows, including access points, service crossings, or translocation, must be clearly detailed within proposals and undertaken under arboricultural or ecological supervision as appropriate.

¹³ BS 5837:2012 — Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction — Recommendations, Clause 6.3.

7. Management Works to Improve Existing Assets

Policy PSD4 – Requirement e.

Development proposals shall identify and deliver management works to improve the value, quality and condition of existing trees, woodlands, and hedgerows within and on the development site boundaries.

PSD4(e) requires a proactive commitment to improving retained assets — it is a distinct obligation from construction protection (PSD4(b)) and compensation planting (PSD4(c)).

This chapter sets out how applicants must demonstrate compliance.

- 7.1. PSD4(e) applies to all retained trees, woodlands and hedgerows within and on the development site boundaries. Tree Surveys, together with any hedgerow assessments (proportionate where appropriate), provide the baseline information to identify management works needed to enhance the value, quality, or condition of retained assets. These works should be set out in the AIA and implemented through the AMS, LEDS, or a standalone management plan, with the level of detail proportionate to the scale and complexity of the development.
- 7.2. Applicants should pay particular attention to Category B trees, where targeted improvement works — such as deadwood removal, crown lifting or formative pruning — can materially extend useful life expectancy, improve structural condition and increase the long-term contribution of retained trees to the development. Works of this kind represent a positive planning outcome and will be viewed favourably.
- 7.3. The types of management work that may be appropriate include:
 - a. Trees: crown lifting; crown thinning or reduction to alleviate structural stress; removal of deadwood, crossing, rubbing or defective branches; formative pruning; remedial works to cavities or wounds.
 - b. Hedgerows: gapping-up; rejuvenation through laying, coppicing or staged cutting; introduction of additional species for structural and ecological diversity; removal of invasive or competitive species; management of hedgerow trees (as above).
 - c. Woodlands: thinning to improve light and structural diversity; introduction of understorey planting; removal of invasive non-native species; deadwood retention where safe to support saproxylic biodiversity; establishment of long-term management objectives within the LEMP.
- 7.4. Management works will be secured by planning condition and, where long-term management is required, through a LEMP or planning obligation, with a clear programme specifying timescales, responsibilities and monitoring arrangements.
- 7.5. All works should comply with [BS 3998](#) and be timed to avoid disturbance to nesting birds and other protected species. Where works affect trees covered by a TPO or within a Conservation Area, written consent from the local authority is required before those works are undertaken.

8. Provision of New Trees and Hedgerows

Policy PSD4 – Requirement d. and f.

Provide sufficient space and rooting volume within site layout and in relation to adjacent land uses to enable effective growth of existing and newly planted trees, woodlands, and hedgerows to maturity and to avoid potential challenges to retention for the lifetime of the development.

Applicants must demonstrate that the site layout incorporates sufficient above- and below- ground space — including adequate soil volume, crown space and appropriate stand-off distances from buildings and adjacent land uses — to enable existing and newly planted vegetation to grow to maturity.

Development proposals will be required to deliver additional planting of trees, woodlands, and hedgerows appropriate to the site and development type that will deliver both long-term landscape benefits and net benefits for biodiversity.

Proposals must also deliver new planting to achieve a meaningful landscape function at maturity rather than only at the point of installation. ‘Long-term landscape benefits’ means the sustained contribution of planting to landscape character and the quality of a place, including — but not limited to — visual amenity, public realm quality, shade and shelter, surface water management and placemaking, throughout the full lifespan of the development. This can be secured through appropriate species and rootstock selection, careful and considered placement of trees and hedgerows in relation to the requirements of PSD4(d), and through the submission documentation setting out how planting will be established, managed and monitored to deliver those benefits over time

- 8.1. The protection, retention and provision of trees and hedgerows must be considered from the earliest design stages of any planning proposal. Integrating these features into the design process is fundamental to achieving long-term ecological, social and economic benefits, and to facilitating planning consent. Early consideration ensures that trees and hedgerows are treated as essential infrastructure rather than an optional landscape enhancement.
- 8.2. Applicants are strongly encouraged to draw on the extensive technical guidance, evaluation tools and case studies produced by the [Trees and Design Action Group \(TDAG\)](#). TDAG resources cover design principles, engineering requirements, ecosystem services, long-term maintenance considerations, and the economic, social and environmental returns associated with trees in development.¹⁴ Using this guidance at the earliest stages promotes informed decision-making and supports successful establishment and long-term retention.
- 8.3. Reference is also made to the relevant British Standards¹⁵.

¹⁴ TDAG guidance series is available at www.tdag.org.uk. Particularly relevant are Trees in the Townscape (2012) and Trees in Hard Landscapes: A Guide for Delivery (2014). The Urban Tree Manual (2022) is published separately by Forestry Commission England.

¹⁵ [BS 5837:2012 Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction](#), [BS 8545:2014 Trees: From Nursery to Independence in the Landscape](#), [BS 3936-1:1992 Nursery Stock – Specification for Trees and Shrubs](#), [BS 3882:2015 Specification for Topsoil](#), [BS 8640:2025 Structural and Supported Soils for Trees in Hard Landscapes](#)

Principles for New Planting

- 8.4. Trees and hedgerows are not merely decorative elements; they are multifunctional GBI. Successful integration requires consideration of site conditions, species requirements, planting techniques and long-term management needs.

Planting Stock

- 8.5. Selection of planting stock must prioritise health, provenance and suitability. All trees should comply with [BS 8545](#), ensuring specimens are healthy, structurally sound and appropriate for the site. Stock may be bare-root, root-balled or containerised; planting season and handling should match species biology and site logistics. Ground conditions must be suitable — avoid saturated, compacted, poor quality or frozen soils.

Biosecurity

- 8.6. Trees should be sourced from reputable nurseries with a demonstrably low pest and disease risk, with plant passports provided for regulated species. For native planting, locally-sourced material of appropriate provenance is preferred to preserve local genotypes and ecosystem resilience. Applicants should check current biosecurity guidance before finalising sourcing arrangements, particularly in relation to species subject to current disease pressures.

Biosecurity Note

Certain native tree species in Carmarthenshire are currently subject to significant disease pressures such as Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) – affected by Ash Dieback Disease – and Sweet chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) – vulnerable to Phytophthora, Sweet Chestnut Blight and other pathogens.

Applicants must consider such risks when selecting species. Before specifying vulnerable species, applicants should consider biosecurity information resources published by [Welsh Government](#), [NRW](#), and the [Forestry Commission](#).

- 8.7. Native planting stock shall be primarily sourced from nurseries providing material derived from local seed sources that are consistent with the locally native flora of Carmarthenshire. Where locally-sourced stock of a particular species is unavailable, alternative provenance should be documented and agreed in advance with the local authority's Landscape Officer. The use of provenance-appropriate stock is especially important in landscape integration areas and any ecological compensation.
-

Design Functions and Planting Locations

- 8.8. The design of individual tree planting shall address overall landscape design functions and objectives. A tree may serve an environmental function — providing shade, damping noise or reducing particulate pollution — while also contributing to ecological connectivity, landscape character and community amenity. The most successful planting schemes deliver multiple benefits simultaneously. When selecting species and locations, the designer shall demonstrate that:
- a. the species relates to existing tree species on site or in the local area, and forms part of a coherent design which acknowledges its surroundings, existing design themes and historic landscape links;
 - b. sufficient allowance has been made for space both above ground (crown and trunk growth) and below ground (rooting volume) to accommodate the species at its size at maturity;
 - c. growing conditions — including soil type, drainage, moisture availability and pH — are appropriate for the species selected, and account has been taken of anticipated changes in climate;
 - d. the tree will not have a detrimental effect on its surroundings through excessive shading of adjoining property or amenity space, or through root conflicts with structures, services or hard surfaces;
 - e. where the tree is in or adjacent to the public realm, it will not obstruct street lighting, sight lines or surveillance coverage;
 - f. and where possible, the tree provides multiple functions, such as shade on a play area, a feature on a vista, or a component in surface water management.
- 8.9. The design of foundations, walls, structural slabs, and hard surfacing shall consider the root systems of proposed trees at maturity. Underground services and pipelines shall be located and designed to avoid potential conflict with root zones. Where ground conditions are uncertain, trial pit excavation to a depth of 1,000 mm should be undertaken to establish existing constraints before the planting layout is finalised.

Hedgerow Design

- 8.10. Hedgerows should be designed to provide ecological and landscape benefits as well as clearly defined functional roles — such as boundary definition, screening or connectivity. Double staggered rows encourage dense, bushy growth, shelter and structural diversity. Planting density, species selection and spacing should reflect the intended mature form, site conditions and management objectives. Mulching, weed control and fencing may be required during establishment to reduce competition and prevent damage.

Species Selection

Recommended Species List

Appendix E provides tree and hedgerow species list for Carmarthenshire.

These lists are indicative rather than prescriptive.

- 8.11. Species selection is one of the most important decisions in any planting scheme. Poorly selected species may fail to establish, require intensive management, conflict with adjacent land uses, deliver limited ecological or landscape value or result in building subsidence. Species must be carefully selected to suit site-specific conditions both above and below ground. The '*right plant, right place*' principle should underpin all planting decisions under PSD4.
- 8.12. Applicants should note that planting schemes which do not demonstrate appropriate species selection for the site may be deemed unacceptable. Early pre-application discussions with the local authority are strongly recommended, and engagement of a landscape architect with local knowledge is advised.

Key Selection Criteria

- 8.13. The following factors should inform species selection, considered together rather than in isolation:
- a. Site conditions: Soil type, pH, drainage, compaction risk, contamination history, and available rooting volume.
 - b. Microclimate: Light availability, wind exposure, frost risk, and the urban heat island effect in built-up areas.
 - c. Pollution tolerance: Proximity to roads, industrial uses or other pollution sources may require species with elevated tolerance.
 - d. Mature size and form: The ultimate height, crown spread and root system of the species at maturity, considered in relation to buildings, utilities, sight lines and adjacent land use.
 - e. Maintenance requirements: The long-term management burden of the proposed species, including pruning, litter and root behaviour, considered in the context of the management responsibility arrangements for the site.

- f. Landscape character: Compatibility with local landscape character, settlement form and existing favourable vegetation patterns.
- g. Biodiversity value: The species' value for invertebrates, birds, bats and other wildlife, including food sources, nesting potential and structural habitat. Native species generally provide the highest value.
- h. Climate resilience: Anticipated changes in temperature, rainfall distribution and drought frequency under future climate scenarios should inform species choice, particularly for long-lived trees¹⁶.
- i. Pest and disease susceptibility: Species subject to current or emerging disease pressures should be specified cautiously or avoided.

Native Species and Provenance

- 8.14. Native species are encouraged wherever site conditions and context allow, as they generally provide the highest biodiversity value and are well-adapted to local environmental conditions. For native planting, locally-sourced material of appropriate regional provenance is preferred, consistent with maintaining local genetic diversity.
- 8.15. However, native species are not always the most appropriate choice. In constrained or challenging environments (e.g., urban areas with pollution, drought stress, or limited rooting volume), non-native or cultivated species may provide greater resilience, improved establishment success, and more reliable delivery of long-term landscape benefits. Expert advice should be sought to identify species that balance practical suitability, maintenance considerations, ecological function, and contribution to place.
- 8.16. Species selection should therefore be made with reference to the criteria in 8.13, considering not only biodiversity value but also the ability of planting to establish and mature successfully under the specific site conditions. Selection should support landscape character, including sustained amenity, character and ecosystem-service benefits over the lifetime of the development. In some cases, this may mean choosing non-native species or resilient cultivars where these offer demonstrably better long-term performance.

Invasive and Inappropriately Behaving Species

Certain species are prohibited under Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), making it an offence to plant or cause them to grow in the wild. A wider range of non-native species, while not subject to Schedule 9 controls, are also known to behave invasively in certain settings. A list of such species is provided at [Appendix F](#).

¹⁶ [How to protect and manage the urban forest](#). 2026.

Securing Sufficient Space and Rooting Volume

- 8.17. PSD4(d) requires proposals to secure sufficient space and rooting volume to enable trees and hedgerows to grow effectively to maturity, and to avoid future pressures for their removal over the lifetime of the development. This means that adequate crown space, setback distances from structures and services, and rooting volumes must be considered and embedded within the site layout from the outset, rather than treated as residual design considerations.

Recommended Space Requirements: Setbacks from Structures and Services

- 8.18. Site layout must provide sufficient separation between new tree planting and structures, hard surfaces and underground services. Proximity to these features can restrict root development, cause physical damage to foundations and services, and create future pressure for tree removal that conflicts with PSD4(d). Minimum setback distances to avoid direct damage from trees are set out in Table 4.

Table 4: Minimum setback distances for new tree planting adjacent to structures, hard surfaces and underground services. Distances are given for two planting zones: Zone A (no-planting zone) and Zone B (planting permitted only with an installed root barrier or deflector under arboricultural guidance). Tree size categories—Small, Medium and Large—are based on stem diameter at maturity (<300 mm, 300–600 mm and >600 mm respectively)

Structure / Feature	Zone A			Zone B		
	S	M	L	S	M	L
Loaded structures (e.g. walls, buildings)	0.5m	0.75m	1.5m	0.5–1.5m	0.75–1.5m	1.5–3.0m
Boundary walls	0.5m	1.0m	2.0m	0.5–1.5m	1.0–2.0m	2.0–3.0m
In-situ concrete surfacing / kerbs	0.5m	1.0m	2.5m	0.5–1.0m	1.0–2.5m	2.5–3.0m
Flexible paving or paving slabs	0.75m	1.5m	3.0m	0.75–1.5m	1.5–3.0m	–
Underground services <1 m depth	0.5m	1.0m	3.0m	0.5–1.0m	1.0–2.0m	
Underground services >1 m depth	–			1.0m	2.0m	

- 8.19. Where root barriers or deflectors may offer some benefit, they shall only be installed where necessary and under expert advice.
- 8.20. Any service providers' easements and specific recommendations should also be considered.

Rooting Volume: Recommended Requirements for Trees to Maturity

- 8.21. The target soil volume for each tree is based on its projected mature canopy size and is calculated in accordance with Table 5. Where species-specific requirements or site constraints apply, values should be adjusted with reference to expert arboricultural advice.

Table 5: Indicative target soil volumes for establishing trees to maturity, based on projected mature canopy diameter. Target Soil Volume is calculated using the formula: Projected Mature Canopy Area (m²) × 0.6 m¹⁷.. Values are indicative and should be adjusted where species-specific requirements or site constraints apply.

Projected Mature Canopy Diameter (m)	Projected Mature Canopy Area (m ²)	Target Soil Volume (m ³)
5	19.6	11.8
8	50.3	30.2
10	78.5	47.1
12	113.1	67.9
15	176.7	106.0
20	314.2	188.5

- 8.22. The soil volume a tree needs depends on the mature size it is intended to reach. Around 5 m³ is generally the minimum for most trees to grow to full maturity, but smaller volumes can be appropriate where a more modest size is intended — street trees, for example, can often thrive in as little as 1 m³ where a suitable species is chosen and ongoing maintenance and formative pruning manage the tree to size. Species selection and intended mature size should be matched to the soil volume that can realistically be provided, and adjusted where the Table 5 target cannot be met due to site constraints.
- 8.23. It is acceptable for two or more adjacent trees to share a common soil volume, provided the combined volume meets the cumulative requirement.
- 8.24. Soil shape need not be regular and can extend beneath permeable paving or tree grilles.
- 8.25. Where soil volumes are constrained, this should be acknowledged in the Landscape Plan and an appropriate species capable of thriving in restricted conditions selected.
- 8.26. Refer to Appendix D for stock specification guidance.

¹⁷ [BS 8545:2014 Trees: From Nursery to Independence in the Landscape](#)

Placemaking, Landscape Character and Community Safety

- 8.27. Incorporating trees and hedgerows from the earliest stages of site design enhances the overall quality, character and sense of place of new developments. Existing favourable landscape features should be retained where possible and incorporated into layouts to maximise visual amenity, ecological connectivity and community benefits. Where new public open space is proposed, it should be designed in conjunction with existing vegetation to provide multiple benefits, including recreation, shading and improved air quality.
- 8.28. Trees and hedges should not compromise safety or security. In urban environments, vegetation must not obscure street lighting, sight lines, surveillance coverage or pedestrian and vehicular visibility. Designers should consider the likely mature crown size and form when positioning trees relative to lighting columns, signage and highway visibility splays.
- 8.29. Defensive planting can also be used to provide privacy or delineate boundaries, with species selected for form, density and suitability to the context. Where separation distances from buildings are required, the guidance in TDAG and relevant British Standards should be applied to ensure trees can be retained for the lifetime of the development.
- 8.30. Further guidance can be found with the Placemaking SPG.

Specification of Tree Pits and Accessories

- 8.31. Tree pit design is a crucial factor in the long-term success of tree planting and must follow the good practice principles set out in BS 8545 and, in hard landscape contexts, BS 8640.
- 8.32. Tree pits should be as large as site conditions allow and prepared so that roots can establish into the surrounding soil; the pit itself need not contain the full soil volume the tree will require at maturity. Target soil volumes for growth to maturity are set out in Table 5, recognising that most roots occupy the upper 600 mm of soil. Adequate drainage must be ensured, as poor aeration or waterlogged soils significantly increase young tree mortality.

Hard Landscape Environments

- 8.33. In hard landscape environments (e.g., paved streets, car parks), tree pits require additional consideration due to space constraints, limited soil volume and proximity to impermeable surfaces. Engineered tree pits should provide sufficient soil depth and volume to support healthy root development while maintaining tree stability. These pits should allow for adequate water and nutrient availability and accommodate future growth without compromising surrounding hardscape or infrastructure.
- 8.34. Where space constraints prevent provision of adequate soil volume in individual pits, linked or shared soil cell systems should be considered. Suspended pavement systems using structural soil cells or similar proprietary products can substantially increase available rooting volume beneath hard surfaces.

Accessories and Supports

- 8.35. The specification of tree accessories should be tailored to the site context. Urban trees may require grilles, guards or underground support systems to protect against vehicular or pedestrian damage. Management procedures must ensure that surface openings, grilles or supports are adjustable and removable to prevent long-term harm to tree health. Root barriers or deflectors should be considered where root growth could impact pavements, services or other infrastructure.
- 8.36. Staking should only be used where necessary to support newly planted trees, considering factors such as site exposure, soil conditions, and stock size. Where required, short staking is preferred to encourage root development. Staking, ties, and guards must be regularly inspected and adjusted to prevent constriction or damage. Tree guards should be used where trees are vulnerable to damage, including from deer or other browsing animals, or from human activity (e.g. public access), with biodegradable options preferred where appropriate. All protective measures should be removed once trees are established to allow unrestricted growth.

Establishment and Maintenance

- 8.37. Specific requirements for aftercare may be secured by planning condition, as effective establishment and early maintenance are critical to ensuring that newly planted GBI successfully survives the establishment period, delivers its intended landscape and biodiversity benefits, and provides long-term value within the development.
- 8.38. This is a direct requirement of PSD4(f), which obliges development proposals to deliver additional planting that achieves long-term landscape benefits and NBB — benefits that can only be realised if planting is successfully established and maintained. This obligation is distinct from PSD4(e), which concerns the improvement and management of existing retained trees and hedgerows (see [Chapter 7](#)).

Guidelines for Tree Establishment and Maintenance

- 8.39. New trees should be maintained until fully independent in accordance with the principles of BS 8545. Establishment maintenance regimes should be implemented to ensure trees establish, survive and thrive within their landscape context, and should be detailed within submitted proposals. The following measures should form part of any tree establishment regime:
- a. Replacement planting: Prompt replacement should be undertaken where losses occur, to the original specification or an appropriate substitute.
 - b. Irrigation: Required during the establishment phase to ensure healthy growth. Schedules should be adapted to species, age, season and drought risk, ensuring the full depth of topsoil is sufficiently wetted.
 - c. Weed and vegetation control: Competing vegetation within a 1-metre radius should be removed. New planting should be mulched to approximately 75 mm depth extending to a 1-metre radius but not placed directly against the stem.
 - d. Inspection of supports: Newly planted trees and their associated ties, guards, stakes and protective fencing should be inspected regularly during the early establishment period and adjusted, repaired or replaced as necessary. Temporary supports should be removed once sufficiently established.
 - e. Plant health monitoring: New planting should be periodically inspected for damage by people or animals and for signs of pests, diseases and stress.
 - f. Formative pruning: Undertaken where appropriate to promote a single central stem and well-spaced primary branches, in accordance with BS 3998. This is particularly important in urban locations where crown form may need to be managed to avoid future conflict with land users and infrastructure.

Guidelines for Hedgerow Establishment and Management

- 8.40. Effective hedgerow establishment requires careful attention to plant sourcing, spacing, weed control and early management. The following guidelines apply:
- a. Planting configuration: Plant hedgerows in a double staggered row to maximise structural diversity and habitat value for wildlife.
 - b. Density and spacing: Plant at a density reflecting the desired established appearance, species vigour and site conditions. For two-year-old transplants, a staggered double row spaced approximately 400 mm apart with a minimum of six plants per metre is typical.
 - c. Species distribution: Plant the least numerous species first, placing them randomly to achieve a natural distribution, and use the principal species to fill gaps. Take cues from local, successful hedgerows when developing species mixes.
 - d. Weed control: Control weeds before and after planting using mulches to retain moisture and suppress competition. Regularly remove vigorous species such as bramble during establishment.
 - e. Protection: Prevent livestock and wildlife damage by providing fencing or other protection. A clearance of at least 1.2 metres from the hedge centre is recommended where stock control is required.
 - f. Remedial planting: Replace any failed plants like-for-like promptly to prevent gaps from becoming established.
 - g. Tree guards: Inspect and maintain any tree guards or shelters periodically to ensure they are not damaging stems; remove them once trees are established.
- 8.41. Once established, hedgerow structure can be improved for landscape and wildlife value by:
- a. Rotational cutting: Avoid intensive annual cutting. Trim on a two- to four-year rotational cycle as many native species flower and fruit on second-year growth.
 - b. Seasonal timing: Undertake major works in late winter, avoiding the nesting season, to allow wildlife to utilise berries and fruits through autumn.
 - c. Hedgerow trees: Where appropriate, allow selected specimens to develop as trees to increase structural diversity, landscape value and canopy cover contribution.
 - d. Gapping up: Undertake targeted gapping up to maintain visual and ecological connectivity.
 - e. Rejuvenation: Use traditional techniques such as laying or coppicing to rejuvenate over-mature hedgerows, stimulate basal regrowth and extend functional life.

9. Compensation for Unavoidable Loss

Policy PSD4 – Requirement c.

Development proposals shall provide appropriate compensation planting for unavoidable loss of trees, woodlands, and hedgerows to deliver overall enhancement to extent and cover. Opportunities for translocation of existing hedgerows should be considered where feasible.

This chapter sets out the step-wise approach to compensation, principles for compensatory planting, valuation methods, and guidance on hedgerow translocation. Where loss is unavoidable, compensation must deliver overall enhancement to extent and cover — meaning the post-development canopy or hedgerow cover must demonstrably exceed the pre-development baseline, not merely replace what was lost.

The level of compensation required is directly linked to the value and quality of the assets lost — loss of Category A trees or high-value hedgerows will require enhanced compensation above the standard baseline. Compensation must also deliver NBB in accordance with the DECCA framework.

Any compensatory planting must be carried out in accordance with [Chapter 8](#).

The Step-Wise Approach

- 9.1. The removal of trees and hedgerows should be avoided wherever possible through the step-wise approach (Table 6). Where loss is demonstrated to be unavoidable, compensation will be required to deliver long-term landscape benefits and NBB.

Table 6: The Step-Wise Approach adapted to Trees and Hedgerows in New Developments

1 RETAIN	Prioritise retention and integration of existing trees and hedgerows through design.
2 REDUCE	Where impacts are unavoidable, minimise them through careful layout and mitigation.
3 MITIGATE	Apply protection measures, construction methods and management to address residual impacts.
4 COMPENSATE	Where loss is unavoidable, provide proportionate compensatory planting delivering long-term landscape benefits and NBB.

Principles for Compensatory Planting

- 9.2. Permanent removal of trees, woodland or hedgerows will only be permitted where it delivers significant, clearly defined and demonstrable benefits, and where the step-wise approach has been genuinely applied. Where loss is unavoidable, compensation must be proportionate to the loss in terms of amenity, biodiversity and landscape value and must — taken as a whole — deliver greater extent and cover than existed prior to development.
- 9.3. A like-for-like replacement in number or length alone will not satisfy this requirement. In exceptional circumstances where demonstrable site constraints make full on-site compensation physically unachievable, this must be clearly evidenced through the step-wise approach; however, it will not override the requirement to achieve a net increase in overall extent and cover, whether delivered on-site, off-site or through a financial contribution in accordance with paragraph 9.16.
- 9.4. The appropriate level of replacement planting will be determined on a case-by-case basis, having regard to:
- a. the value of the assets lost, assessed using an appropriate valuation method where relevant;
 - b. whether all feasible retention options have been explored through the step-wise approach;
 - c. the scope for on-site delivery, having regard to available space, soil conditions and long-term management capacity;
 - d. the contribution of proposed compensation to NBB under the DECCA framework; and
 - e. the feasibility of enhanced management of retained trees or hedgerows as part of the overall compensatory package.

Compensation for Tree Loss

- 9.5. The requirement to deliver greater extent and cover should be informed by a compensatory planting ratio (see [Replacement Ratio](#)) and/or an established valuation method (see [Estimating Value](#)), which serve as tools to calculate the scale of compensation necessary to meet that requirement rather than a substitute for demonstrating it; however, the existing canopy area of lost trees remains the primary metric, and planting specifications must demonstrate how and when greater canopy cover will be achieved at maturity.
- 9.6. Where trees within or immediately adjacent to hedgerows (hedgerow trees) are lost as part of a development, the compensatory planting ratio applies to those trees in the same way as for any other tree. This obligation is separate from, and in addition to, the requirement to compensate for hedgerow loss under paragraphs 9.7–9.10, and

applicants must address both compensation streams independently within their submitted documentation. However, where a replacement hedgerow is proposed that incorporates tree specimens of comparable size class and canopy potential, and which demonstrably meets or exceeds the condition, extent and value of the hedgerow lost — including its hedgerow trees — the local authority may, on a case-by-case basis, accept this as satisfying both compensation obligations, provided this is clearly evidenced within the submitted documentation.

Compensation for Hedgerow Loss

- 9.7. Where removal of a hedgerow in its entirety is proposed, a dedicated Hedgerow Survey should be provided to assess its amenity, biodiversity and landscape value, condition and extent. Where only part of a hedgerow is proposed for removal (e.g. to facilitate access or services), proportionate assessment may be provided within a wider arboricultural or ecological survey (such as a PEA), provided it contains sufficient detail on species composition, structure, condition and function to inform mitigation and compensation.
- 9.8. Replacement hedgerows should maintain or enhance these values in terms of extent, structure, species diversity and ecological function, using native species of comparable or improved quality, rather than focusing solely on reinstating length.
- 9.9. Replacement planting should be delivered on-site wherever feasible, in locations that strengthen ecological connectivity and public amenity.
- 9.10. Opportunities for translocation should also be explored (see [Translocation](#)).

Measuring Extent and Cover

- 9.11. For trees, extent and cover is measured by reference to canopy area (m²), using baseline survey data to establish the pre-development position. Planting specifications must demonstrate how projected canopy cover at maturity will meet or exceed that baseline, having regard to the species, size at planting, and spacing proposed.
- 9.12. For hedgerows, extent is measured by linear metres and cover by width, species diversity and structural condition. Replacement planting specifications must demonstrate how these metrics will be met or exceeded at maturity.
- 9.13. Applicants must provide a clear before-and-after comparison demonstrating overall enhancement, which will be assessed against the information requirements set out in Appendix B.

Replacement Ratio

- 9.14. The scale of compensatory planting will be determined with reference to the below.

National policy¹⁸ recommends a minimum 3:1 replacement ratio for each tree lost, and a higher ratio for woodland. The local authority will apply this as a baseline, but the ratio alone does not automatically satisfy the requirement to deliver overall enhancement to extent and cover — planting specifications must also demonstrate how canopy cover will be restored and enhanced at maturity.

Where Category A trees are lost — including ancient and veteran trees, TPO-protected trees, and trees of exceptional public amenity value— the local authority will require compensation commensurate with their significance and long-term value. This will typically mean a significantly enhanced planting ratio, asset-based valuation, and may include off-site planting or financial contributions.

- 9.15. Satisfying the ratio alone is not sufficient to demonstrate compliance with PSD4 — planting proposals must also demonstrate how overall enhancement to extent and cover will be achieved and maintained at maturity, in accordance with 9.11–9.12.

Delivering Compensation

- 9.16. The local authority's preference is for compensation to be delivered on-site by the applicant as an integral part of the development. However, where this is demonstrated to be infeasible — having regard to available space, soil conditions and long-term management capacity — off-site delivery by the developer in a suitable agreed location is the next preference. Financial contributions secured through a Section 106 planning obligation¹⁹ will only be sought as a last resort, where neither on-site nor developer-led off-site delivery is achievable, at the discretion of the local authority. Any such contribution must meet the statutory tests for planning obligations and will be used by the local authority (or appropriate town or community council) to deliver equivalent or greater landscape and biodiversity benefit in an appropriate location.
- 9.17. All compensation planting must contribute to NBB and ecosystem resilience in line with the DECCA framework.
- 9.18. A post-planting management and maintenance plan must be submitted to ensure successful establishment and long-term viability.

¹⁸ Planning Policy Wales (Edition 12), paragraph 6.4.42. Welsh Government, 2024.

¹⁹ Reference is made to Planning Obligations SPG.

Translocation

Hedgerow Translocation

- 9.19. Where hedgerow loss is unavoidable, applicants must first assess the feasibility of translocation before proposing replacement planting. Translocation²⁰ is not a substitute for retention but may be appropriate where the hedgerow cannot be retained *in situ* and is of sufficient ecological, landscape or cultural value to warrant it. Translocated material should be re-established on or adjacent to the development site.
- 9.20. Translocation is most likely to be feasible where: growing conditions at the receiving location are comparable or better; the hedgerow is of mixed native species and structural complexity; there is a genuine opportunity to strengthen ecological connectivity; and experienced ecological and arboricultural supervision can be secured throughout. It is unlikely to be appropriate for hedgerows of exceptional age or ecological condition, where lifting would cause irreversible biodiversity loss.
- 9.21. Where translocation is proposed, a method statement²¹ must be submitted specifying: the extent and species composition of material to be translocated; the receiving location and its suitability; method, timing and sequence of lifting and reinstatement; aftercare and monitoring for a minimum of five years; and remedial planting proposals to address establishment failures.
- 9.22. Translocation does not remove the obligation to demonstrate NBB, and any residual loss must be compensated for.

Tree Translocation

- 9.23. While not a policy requirement for consideration under PSD4(c), applicants may wish to consider the translocation of existing trees where retention *in situ* is not possible. Translocation is most likely to be feasible where the receiving site offers comparable or improved growing conditions, the tree's size and species are suitable for relocation, and where experienced arboricultural supervision can be secured throughout.

²⁰ Defined as the physical lifting, temporary storage and re-establishment of plant material including woody growth, root systems, and associated soil and ground flora.

²¹ Whether embedded within Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS) or a dedicated Hedgerow Translocation (and Aftercare) Method Statement – See [Appendix B](#).

Estimating Value

- 9.24. Section 198 of the *Town and Country Planning Act 1990* establishes that trees have public amenity value and empowers local planning authorities to protect them in the public interest, but does not prescribe a specific method for assessing that value.
- 9.25. Where a proposal may affect trees of public amenity value, applicants may be required to provide an assessment using one of the established asset-based methodologies described in Table 3. Where loss is unavoidable, the resulting valuation will guide the scale and nature of compensatory measures required, which should deliver benefits equivalent to or greater than the estimated asset value of the trees lost.
- 9.26. Each valuation methodology is underpinned by different assumptions, inputs, and value constructs, and will therefore produce different monetary values for the same tree. This variation does not represent a deficiency in the methods; rather, it reflects the fact that each captures a different dimension of value. Consequently, the choice of valuation method is a material consideration and not a neutral or interchangeable decision. Applicants must not select a valuation method with the aim of minimising the resulting compensation requirement. The local authority reserves the right to reject assessments based on an inappropriate methodology and to require reassessment using an alternative specified method, at the applicant's expense.
- 9.27. CAVAT is the preferred method for determining compensatory planting obligations in the planning context, as it is specifically designed to assess public amenity value and is the method most directly comparable to the compensation framework established by PSD4. Any departure from the use of CAVAT should be robustly justified and agreed in writing with the local authority, ideally at pre-application stage²².
- 9.28. Applicants are strongly encouraged to discuss and agree the appropriate valuation method with the local authority at pre-application stage. Where this has not occurred, the local authority will specify the required method as part of any request for further information or planning condition.

Table 3: Established methods of estimating tree value.

Method	Basis of valuation	Appropriate use
CAVAT (Capital Asset Value for Amenity Trees)	Stem cross-sectional area, condition, amenity features and lifespan	Preferred method for assessing the public amenity value of individual trees in a planning or compensation context. Widely adopted by local authorities and most directly comparable to the compensation obligations under PSD4.

²² The Helliwell System may be accepted as an alternative for householder and minor applications where the tree's contribution is primarily one of visual amenity and a full CAVAT assessment would be disproportionate. i-Tree is not an acceptable standalone method for determining compensation obligations but may be submitted in addition to CAVAT to demonstrate the broader ecosystem service value of retained or proposed trees, for example in support of a GBI Statement or NBB assessment.

Helliwell System	Visual amenity factors: size, condition, setting and contribution	Suitable for individual tree assessment where visual amenity is the primary consideration, particularly for householder or minor applications.
i-Tree	Ecosystem services: carbon sequestration, air quality, stormwater management	Most appropriate where demonstrating the broader public benefits of retained or proposed trees, for example in support of a GBI Statement. Not a substitute for CAVAT or Helliwell in a compensation context.

- 9.29. Where hedgerow removal is proposed, value must be estimated in both qualitative terms (species diversity, structure and connectivity) and quantitative terms (length, width and habitat quality). Where hedgerows contain trees of public amenity value, these should also be assessed in accordance with paragraphs 9.25–9.28.
- 9.30. Asset-based valuation informs the scale and nature of compensatory provision. It does not replace, and should be applied in addition to, the requirement to deliver NBB in accordance with the DECCA framework.
- 9.31. See [CAVAT Guide](#) for worked examples of how these methods are applied in practice²³.

²³ Page 60-66

Appendices

Appendix A: Policy Context

A.1. The following abbreviations are used within this Appendix.

CJC	Corporate Joint Committee
EPS	European Protected Species
GBI	Green and Blue Infrastructure
LDP	Local Development Plan
NNRP	National Natural Resources Policy
NRW	Natural Resources Wales
SDP	Strategic Development Plan
SMNR	Sustainable Management of Natural Resources
SoNaRR	State of Natural Resources Report
SPG	Supplementary Planning Guidance
TAN	Technical Advice Note
TPO(s)	Tree Preservation Order(s)

A.2. This appendix provides a concise overview of the national, regional and local policy framework relevant to trees, hedgerows, woodlands and wider GBI in Carmarthenshire. It summarises the key legislation, strategies and guidance that shape how these natural assets are protected, managed and integrated within the planning process, helping to inform the preparation and assessment of development proposals with relation to trees and hedgerows.

National

A.3. [Planning Policy Wales: Edition 12](#) sets out the Welsh Government's objectives for sustainable development within Wales and a series of TANs provide guidance relating to its implementation. The latest edition places strong emphasis on protecting and integrating trees, woodlands and hedgerows; recognising ancient woodland, ancient and veteran trees as irreplaceable; setting canopy cover targets; requiring retention of significant trees in new development; and applying compensation planting ratios. This establishes a high-level expectation that planning decisions must contribute to biodiversity enhancement and nature recovery.

A.4. [Future Wales: the National Plan 2040](#) forms the national spatial plan, published in 2021, which sets a direction for investments in infrastructure and where development should be situated. The Future Wales spatial strategy includes Policy 15 – National Forest, which highlights the importance of delivering tree planting in the most appropriate locations.

- A.5. [Woodlands for Wales: The Welsh Government's Strategy for Woodland and Trees](#) sets long-term national strategy sets out a vision for sustainable woodland management, increasing national woodland cover, enhancing biodiversity, supporting the timber industry, and ensuring woodlands contribute to community well-being and climate resilience. It underpins national expectations for woodland creation, protection and management.
- A.6. The [Wales Infrastructure Investment Strategy](#) outlines the Welsh government's plans and priorities for investing in infrastructure projects. The strategy takes as broad a view of infrastructure as possible, ranging from the traditional built environment to GBI including woodlands. It places particular emphasis on the importance of Wales' woodlands and seeks to create more mixed woodlands, enhance existing woodlands and bring them into active management.
- A.7. The [National Natural Resources Policy](#) (NNRP) and [State of Natural Resources Report](#) focuses on the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources (SMNR), emphasising the ecological and societal value of woodlands, trees and hedgerows, and that investment in natural resources delivers wide well-being benefits.
- A.8. The [Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015](#) requires public bodies in Wales to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales in accordance with the principle of sustainable development. This principle seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
- A.9. The [Environment \(Wales\) Act 2016](#) introduces SMNR and sets out a framework to achieve this as part of decision-making. The objective of the SMNR is to maintain and enhance the resilience of ecosystems and the benefits they provide.
- A.10. The [Planning \(Wales\) Act 2015](#) sets out a framework for sustainable development in accordance with the Well-being of Future Generations Act and has the purpose of ensuring that the development and use of land contribute to improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales.
- A.11. [Technical Advice Notes \(TANs\)](#) provide detailed planning and development advice. Local planning authorities take them into account when they are preparing development plans. TANs of relevance to trees and hedgerows are outlined below:
- A.12. [TAN 5 Nature Conservation and Planning \(2009\)](#) provides detailed advice on how the land use planning system should contribute to biodiversity and geological conservation. Regarding trees and hedgerows, the document highlights their role in supporting biodiversity, requiring that new development proposals assess their potential impacts on nature conservation. TAN 5 reinforces the use of planning conditions and appropriate policy measures by local planning authorities to protect existing trees and hedgerows effectively.
- A.13. [TAN 10 Tree Preservation Orders \(1997\)](#) provides guidance for local planning authorities on ensuring adequate measures are in place to preserve and plant trees

when granting planning permission. This includes the use of TPOs to safeguard important trees and woodlands.

- A.14. [TAN 12 Design \(2016\)](#) highlights the importance of designing new developments to respect the surrounding environment. Site layouts should integrate mature trees and hedgerows while providing opportunities for new planting schemes suited to the local context. This includes incorporating large tree species in public spaces to enhance the microclimate, reduce dust and mitigate perceived noise through the provision of shade, shelter and screening.
- A.15. The [Hedgerow Regulations 1997](#) provides protection for important hedgerows, especially those in the countryside aged 30 years or older, by regulating their removal. Under these regulations, it is illegal to remove or destroy most countryside hedgerows, except those forming garden boundaries, without obtaining consent from the local planning authority. Local authorities can prohibit the removal of a hedgerow if it is important for landscape, ecological, archaeological or historical purposes.
- A.16. The [Town and Country Planning Act 1990 \(as amended\)](#) provides the statutory basis for the protection and planting of trees within the planning system. These provisions operate alongside the procedural requirements set out in the Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation) (Wales) Regulations 2012. Specifically:
- ➔ Section 197 places a duty on local planning authorities to ensure adequate provision is made for the preservation and planting of trees when granting planning permission.
 - ➔ Sections 198–210 give authorities powers to make and enforce TPOs.
 - ➔ Section 211 requires prior notification for works to trees in conservation areas.
- A.17. The [Town and Country Planning \(Tree Preservation\) \(Wales\) Regulations 2012](#) set out the procedural framework for TPOs in Wales. They cover the making, serving, confirming, varying and revoking of TPOs, as well as the process for submitting applications to carry out works to protected trees. The Regulations specify exemptions, appeal rights, notification requirements and replacement planting duties.
- A.18. The [Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017](#) protects habitats and species across Europe and the UK. These species are known as European Protected Species (EPS) and these regulations are the primary regulations promoting their protection. If an EPS is present and could be impacted by a development, a licence from the relevant licencing authority, such as NRW, may be required alongside any other necessary consents.

Regional

- A.19. [South West Wales Area Statement](#) identifies the key risks, opportunities and priorities needed to address to build the resilience of the region's ecosystems and support sustainable management of its natural resources. Additionally, it sets out actions that NRW and partners will take forward to address the issues identified. The Area Statement includes the theme of 'Reversing the decline of, and enhancing, biodiversity'. Regarding trees and hedgerows, this may involve restoring degraded woodlands, hedgerows and other habitats, safeguarding areas of high biodiversity value, such as ancient woodlands, veteran trees and species-rich hedgerows and ensuring land management practices integrate biodiversity objectives.
- A.20. Future Wales will be built on by [Strategic Development Plans](#) (SDPs), which will be prepared by Corporate Joint Committees (CJCs) at a regional level. These plans will focus on issues that cross Local Planning Authority boundaries and will look at how people in each of the four regions in Wales go about their day-to-day lives, from working and commuting patterns to shopping and leisure activities.

Local

- A.21. The [Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan \(2018 – 2033\)](#) sets out proposals and policies for the future use of all land within the county, excluding the area within the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park. As part of the development plan framework for Wales, it reflects national planning policy. Preparation of the Revised LDP began in January 2018. Policies relevant to trees and hedgerows are outlined below:
- ➔ PSD4: Green and Blue Infrastructure – Trees, Woodlands and Hedgerows in New Developments recognises the important contribution trees, woodlands and hedgerows can have to the environment and to local communities. The policy requires development proposals to prioritise the retention, protection and integration of existing trees, woodlands and hedgerows of highest value and quality within and around development sites, minimising potential impacts through careful site layout design and protection measures. Furthermore, it necessitates management works to enhance the value, quality and condition of existing greenery, alongside additional planting to ensure long-term landscape and biodiversity benefits.
 - ➔ PSD3: Green and Blue Infrastructure Network outlines requirements for development proposals to prioritise the effective design and integration of GBI, which may include trees and hedgerows. It ensures that existing GBI assets and the GBI network are valued, protected, enhanced and managed. It includes a requirement to maximise the multi-functional benefits of GBI and include details of the long-term management and maintenance of GBI provided.
 - ➔ PSD7: Protection of Open Space requires the protection and enhancement of accessibility to open spaces, allowing their loss only in specific circumstances. Proposals must ensure alternative provision of equivalent value, avoid

exacerbating deficiencies, or include measures such as partial redevelopment to retain and improve most of the site, or financial contributions for compensatory provision. Trees and hedgerows, which often play a key role in the value and setting of open spaces, should be retained and enhanced wherever possible. This ensures open spaces and their natural features are safeguarded for communities and the environment.

- ➔ PSD8: Provision of New Open Space requires all new residential developments of five or more homes contribute to open space in line with Carmarthenshire's open space standards. Where on-site provision is not feasible, or sufficient open space already exists to serve the development, a commuted sum may be sought as an alternative. This approach supports the creation and maintenance of accessible, quality open spaces to meet community needs which may contain trees and hedgerows.
- ➔ SP12: Placemaking and Sustainable Places requires that new development is resilient to climate change and delivers net benefits for biodiversity. This includes the retainment and enhancement of multifunctional GBI, biodiversity and ecological connectivity and resilience which may include trees and hedgerows.
- ➔ SP14: Maintaining and Enhancing the Natural Environment requires that development safeguards and improves the natural environment, recognising its role in biodiversity protection, landscape definition, well-being and sustainable resource management.
- ➔ NE2: Biodiversity requires that development maintains and enhances biodiversity in accordance with Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, including the provision of net benefits for biodiversity.
- ➔ NE3: Corridors, Networks and Features of Distinctiveness requires that development maintains and enhances ecological corridors, networks and features of distinctiveness. This includes the provision of net benefits for biodiversity.
- ➔ BHE1: Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas requires that developments involving listed buildings or conservation areas preserve or enhance their character, with strict controls on alterations, demolitions and new designs to protect their historic and architectural integrity. The policy acknowledges the importance of trees in contributing to the character of areas of conservation.
- ➔ BHE2: Landscape Character requires that development respects and conserves landscape features, including the integration of the principles of placemaking.
- ➔ Strategic Policy – SP 16: Climate Change requires that development responds, adapts, increases resilience and minimises the causes and impacts of climate change. This includes a contribution towards the protection and enhancement of GBI assets which may include trees and hedgerows.

- ➔ CCH7: Climate Change – Forest, Woodland, and Tree Planting promotes development for the creation and protection of new (or the enhancement of existing) woodland, forests, and green corridors.
- A.22. [Supplementary Planning Guidance \(SPG\)](#): In addition to this SPG, several others are relevant to the delivery of trees and hedgerows, including:
- ➔ Placemaking and Sustainable Design SPG
 - ➔ Biodiversity and Nature Recovery SPG
 - ➔ Green and Blue Infrastructure SPG
 - ➔ Landscape Character SPG
 - ➔ Design Principles in New Development SPG
 - ➔ Planning Obligations SPG
- A.23. [Carmarthenshire GBI Strategy](#) (draft) sets out a county-wide approach to enhancing multifunctional natural assets that support climate and nature emergency responses. It promotes nature-based and place-based solutions to improve well-being, resilience and placemaking.
- A.24. [Tree and Woodland Strategy](#) supports the council's climate and nature emergency commitments through sustainable tree management and new woodland creation. It emphasises nature-based solutions and recognises trees and woodlands as key GBI assets that enhance biodiversity, strengthen ecological networks, and contribute to healthier, resilient communities and landscapes across Carmarthenshire.
- A.25. [Carmarthenshire County Council Tree Management Strategy](#) sets out how trees on publicly owned land will be managed, issues relating to trees on private land may be handled, and long-term stewardship will benefit present and future generations. It also provides a framework for consistent, sustainable and risk aware management of the county's tree assets.

Appendix B: Definitions and Surveys

- B.1. Alongside key definitions, this appendix defines the various surveys and technical plans that may be required to support planning applications where trees and hedgerows could be affected.
- B.2. All survey work should be undertaken by a suitably qualified and experienced arboriculturist and, where relevant, prepared in accordance with BS 5837.

Contents

(Click to navigate)

Key Definitions

Landscape Framework Documents

- Green and Blue Infrastructure (GBI) Statement
- Landscape and Ecological Design Scheme (LEDS)
- Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP)
- Landscape Plan

Arboricultural Documents

- Tree Survey (BS 5837 compliant)
- Preliminary Arboricultural Assessment (PAA)
- Tree Constraints Plan (TCP)
- Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA)
- Tree Protection Plan (TPP)
- Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS)
- Block Plan (Minimum Requirements)

Hedgerow-Specific Documents

- Hedgerow Survey
- Hedgerow Removal Notice (Hedgerow Regulations 1997)
- Hedgerow Translocation Method Statement

Other Supporting Surveys

- Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA)
- Protected Species Survey
- Heritage / Archaeological Impact Statement

Key Definitions

B.3. The following definitions apply throughout this SPG and should be read when interpreting the requirements of PSD4.

Term	Definition
Tree	A tree is a woody perennial plant with a distinct stem or stems that can attain substantial height and crown spread at maturity. For the purposes of BS 5837:2012, trees are surveyed individually where their stem position, stem diameter, crown spread, height, RPA, physiological and structural condition, and retention category are recorded. Trees within or immediately adjacent to hedgerows (syn. hedgerow trees) are treated as trees for the purposes of PSD4 and BS 5837, irrespective of their association with a hedgerow. This means they are subject to the same survey, retention and compensation requirements as any other tree — including the minimum 3:1 compensatory planting ratio required under national policy where loss is unavoidable. Where hedgerow trees are lost alongside the hedgerow itself, both compensation obligations will normally be addressed independently; however, the local authority may on a case-by-case basis accept a suitably evidenced replacement hedgerow as satisfying both.
Woodland	Woodland (or substantial tree groups) is an area of tree cover forming a continuous or semi-continuous canopy that functions as a single arboricultural and ecological unit. In BS 5837 surveys, woodland is recorded as a separate category feature and sufficient information must be provided to define its extent, structure, condition, and the dimensions of edge trees where these may influence development layout. Woodland includes semi-natural woodland, forestry plantation, and wooded belts, copses, and other structurally continuous tree cover that provide landscape, biodiversity, and ecological connectivity functions.
Hedgerow	A linear feature of predominantly woody vegetation, forming a boundary and/or connective habitat. A hedgerow may consist of a managed hedgeline (primarily shrub species) with or without associated hedgerow trees, and may include banks, walls, or ditches. Hedgerows are identified irrespective of length and may include recently planted, fragmented, species-poor, or short sections where they contribute to visual amenity, landscape character, and/or ecological connectivity. The 20-metre length threshold set out in the Hedgerow Regulations 1997 applies solely to the statutory process for determining whether a Hedgerow Removal Notice is required and whether a hedgerow is deemed 'important' for the purposes of those Regulations. It does not inherently indicate landscape or ecological value and must not be used to determine which existing assets on proposed development sites should be retained, protected, or enhanced as required under PSD4.

Root Protection Area (RPA)	The RPA is a layout design tool defined in BS 5837. It represents the minimum area around a tree that contains sufficient roots and rooting volume to maintain its long-term health and stability. The RPA identifies the zone where excavation, compaction, level changes or construction activities should be avoided or strictly controlled during design, demolition and construction. See Appendix D.
Influencing Distance (Trees)	For the purposes of this SPG, influencing distance refers to the area within which an existing tree may affect, or be affected by, a proposed development. This includes both the canopy spread and the RPA of the tree, interpreted in accordance with the measurement and calculation methods set out in BS 5837. These dimensions represent the likely above- and below-ground functional reach of the tree, and are used to identify where development may give rise to direct or indirect impacts on retained trees.
Influencing Distance (Hedgerows)	Hedgerows do not have a prescribed influencing-distance calculation under BS 5837. For the purposes of this SPG, the influencing distance of a hedgerow is interpreted on a case-by-case basis using its height, width, structure, rooting characteristics, shading effects, habitat connectivity, and the presence of any hedgerow trees. Where hedgerow trees are present, their canopy spread and RPAs should be assessed using BS 5837.
Commencement of Works	This refers to the earliest point at which any activity takes place that could directly or indirectly affect retained trees or hedgerows. This includes, but is not limited to: a. The arrival or movement of plant, vehicles, contractors or machinery; b. delivery or storage of materials, soil, spoil, fuel, chemicals, welfare facilities, or equipment; c. Any site clearance, including vegetation removal, scrub clearance, hedge cutting, or felling (whether permitted or not); d. Demolition of existing infrastructure or hard surfaces; e. Stripping of topsoil or other ground preparation (e.g., excavation); f. The creation of temporary access routes; g. Any operation that risks soil compaction, contamination, or disturbance within the RPA. Where tree protection measures are required by a planning condition to be installed prior to commencement, carrying out such activities before installation will constitute a breach of planning control.
Long-term Landscape Benefits	The sustained contribution of planting to landscape character and the quality of a place, including (but not limited to) visual amenity, public realm quality, shade and shelter, surface water management and placemaking, throughout the full lifespan of the development.
Translocation	The physical lifting, temporary storage and re-establishment of plant material including woody growth, root systems, and associated soil and ground flora.

Landscape Framework Documents

Green and Blue Infrastructure (GBI) Statement

The GBI Statement demonstrates how a development proposal contributes to multifunctional GBI and ecosystem resilience. It should explain how the proposal responds to the site's existing GBI assets — including trees and hedgerows — and how the development enhances ecological connectivity, landscape quality and biodiversity. This may include the retention of mature trees, reinforcement of existing hedgerows, new tree planting, or the creation of habitat features that support ecosystem resilience.

A GBI Statement is required with all planning applications. It should demonstrate how NBB is secured and ideally calculate the greenspace factor score. The statement should be consistent with the arboricultural information submitted and with the LEDS and LEMP where these are also required.

The GBI Statement template, including the evidence required to demonstrate NBB and calculate the greenspace factor score, is provided in Appendix B of the *GBI SPG*. Appendix C of that same document provides guidance on delivering multi-functional GBI benefits.

Landscape and Ecological Design Scheme (LEDS)

The LEDS sets out the detailed landscape and ecological design of the site, including planting proposals, habitat features and retention strategies. It illustrates how existing landscape and ecological features — including retained trees and hedgerows — are incorporated into the site layout, and how new planting and habitat creation will contribute to the overall GBI network.

A LEDS will normally be required for Minor and Major applications and for Reserved Matters. It is not normally required for householder applications, unless significant tree or hedgerow works are proposed, in which case a Landscape Plan should be included with the GBI Statement. Where hedgerow translocation, habitat creation or ecological features are proposed, these should be clearly shown and specified within the LEDS.

The LEDS should be consistent with the arboricultural information submitted (Tree Survey, TCP, AIA) and with the GBI Statement and LEMP.

Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP)

The LEMP sets out the long-term management and maintenance measures for retained and newly created landscape and ecological features, including trees, hedgerows and habitats. It should include inspection regimes, replacement planting where necessary, and management practices that support biodiversity and long-term landscape function. Management and monitoring should cover the establishment phase (typically years 1–3 after implementation) and continue through the lifetime of the development, normally a minimum of 25 years or the project-specific lifetime where longer.

A LEMP will normally be required for Major applications and where long-term landscape management is secured by planning condition or obligation. It may also be required for Minor applications where significant planting or long-term management is proposed. The LEMP should be consistent with the LEDS, GBI Statement and any relevant arboricultural reports, and should specify timescales, responsibilities and monitoring arrangements.

Landscape Plan

A plan showing retained vegetation, new planting (including trees, hedgerows and other habitats), and long-term management proposals. It should illustrate how existing and proposed landscape features integrate with the built layout of the development, and how the planting strategy will deliver landscape, biodiversity and GBI benefits over the long term.

For householder applications where a LEDS is not required, a Landscape Plan included within the GBI Statement will normally be sufficient to demonstrate how retained features are integrated and how new planting will be managed.

When required: Where vegetation loss occurs or where mitigation or compensation planting is needed; where significant tree or hedgerow works are proposed in any application type.

Typical applications: Householder (in lieu of LEDS where appropriate); Full and Outline.

Arboricultural Documents

Tree Survey (BS 5837 Compliant)

A baseline survey of all trees and tree groups on or adjacent to a site, prepared in accordance with BS 5837. The survey must be undertaken by a qualified arboriculturist at an early stage to inform site layout and design. It shall include a schedule and corresponding plan identifying each tree, its condition, value, life expectancy, and spatial constraints, including canopy spread and RPAs.

Trees must be assessed in a transparent and systematic manner and assigned a retention category in accordance with BS 5837:

- Category A (High quality): Trees of significant value that should be prioritised for retention through iterative design. Loss will only be acceptable in exceptional circumstances and will require robust justification and appropriate compensation.
- Category B (Moderate quality): Trees that should be retained wherever feasible. Proposals incorporating management to improve condition and longevity will be supported.
- Category C (Low quality): Trees of lower constraint, though retention may still be appropriate where they contribute to character, amenity, or ecological connectivity.
- Category U (Unsuitable): Trees unsuitable for long-term retention; however, potential biodiversity value must be assessed prior to removal.

When required: A Tree Survey is required for validation where trees are present on or adjacent to a site and should inform the design process from the outset.

Hedgerows may be shown on the Tree Survey plan as linear features; however, this does not constitute a full assessment. Where hedgerows may be affected, proportionate survey information should be provided to properly assess their structure, composition, and value.

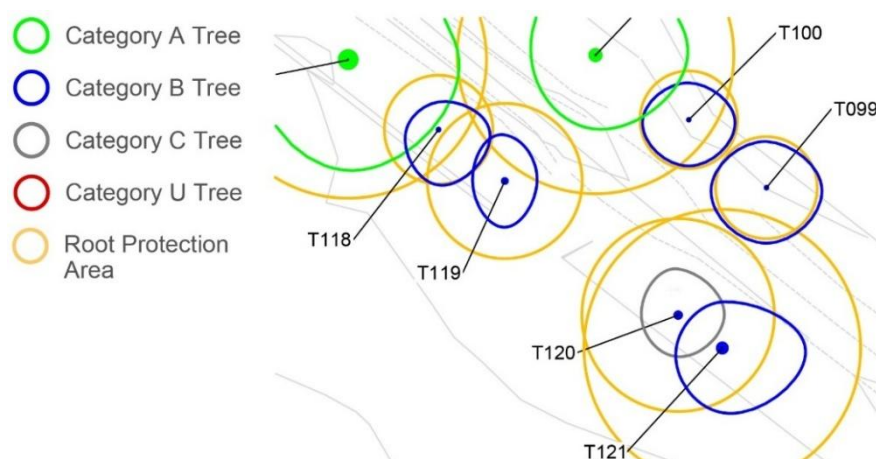


*Figure B:
Example tree
survey drawing
to BS 5837,
plotting category
and RPAs.*

Preliminary Arboricultural Assessment (PAA)

A PAA is an initial, high-level review of trees (and sometimes hedgerows) on a proposed development site undertaken at the earliest stages of site appraisal or pre-application. It is not a full BS 5837 Tree Survey but provides sufficient information to identify potential arboricultural constraints, assess the likely influence of trees and hedgerows on development feasibility, and determine whether further survey work is required.

Tree Constraints Plan (TCP)

A plan prepared following a Tree Survey that illustrates the spatial constraints posed by existing trees and tree groups. It shows the accurate position of each tree and identifies the areas where development should be avoided or designed around. The TCP is a key early-stage design tool used to inform layout, assess potential conflicts and determine the feasibility of long-term retention before undertaking an AIA. A TCP should normally include:

- a. Accurate tree positions (to survey grade accuracy);
- b. Existing crown spreads;
- c. BS 5837:2012 retention categories (A, B, C, U), colour-coded;
- d. Root Protection Areas (RPAs) calculated in accordance with BS 5837;
- e. Future growth potential (ultimate height/crown spread) where significantly different from existing;
- f. Shade footprint / shade arc through the main part of the day, where relevant; and
- g. Other above- and below-ground constraints, including proximity to structures, landform or utilities.

Purpose: To identify tree-related constraints that must be considered and incorporated into the site layout, enabling design that avoids or minimises harm to important trees. The TCP ensures that Category A and B trees are retained wherever feasible and that adequate space, soil volume and light levels can be provided.

When required: Where a layout is being designed around retained trees or hedgerows, particularly in: Full applications; Outline applications where indicative layouts show development, access routes or construction activities within or near RPAs; and any application involving TPO trees, trees in Conservation Areas, or ancient, veteran or notable trees.

Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA)

An assessment prepared in accordance with BS 5837 that evaluates the direct and indirect impacts of a proposed development on existing trees. It builds on the Tree Survey and TCP to determine the feasibility of retention, identify conflicts, and set out appropriate mitigation. An AIA should include:

- a. Prior Tree Survey data and key information from any TCP;
- b. A plan identifying trees to be retained (continuous outline) and trees to be removed (dashed outline);
- c. Identification of trees to be pruned, including access-facilitation pruning;
- d. Evaluation of direct impacts: RPA encroachment; hard surfacing removal or installation; excavations and level changes; utility and service installation; demolition impacts;
- e. Evaluation of indirect impacts (e.g. shading and dominance, buildability, access and working space, storage of materials and topsoil);
- f. Assessment of tree losses and implications for site character;
- g. Evaluation of tree constraints;
- h. A draft TPP showing preliminary protection measures; and
- i. Identification of issues requiring an AMS.

When required: Where development may affect retained trees or hedgerows, or where sufficient space and rooting volume for long-term retention cannot be confirmed at design stage.

Typical applications: Full applications; Outline applications where layout or access affects trees; complex Householder applications.

Tree Protection Plan (TPP)

A scaled plan, prepared in accordance with BS 5837:2012, showing how trees to be retained will be physically protected during demolition, construction and landscaping. It forms the basis of the construction exclusion zone and ensures that all site personnel understand where operations are permitted or prohibited. A TPP should:

- a. Be superimposed on a topographical layout plan showing all existing structures and surfacing within RPAs;
- b. Show the precise location and alignment of protective barriers forming the construction exclusion zone (continuous, measurable lines);
- c. Identify the type and extent of temporary ground protection, including surfacing specifications and thicknesses;
- d. Identify trees to be retained and trees to be removed, clearly labelled and consistent with the Tree Survey and AIA;
- e. Identify any tree protection boxes or additional physical measures needed to safeguard stems or RPAs;
- f. Show barrier offsets dimensioned from fixed site reference points to allow accurate setting out on site;
- g. Show any temporary access allowed into exclusion zones and the corresponding temporary ground protection;
- h. Include locations for working spaces (e.g. site compounds, welfare units, storage areas, contractor parking, mixing of cement or chemicals, spoil heaps and topsoil storage, scaffolding zones, and crane installation areas);
- i. Identify landscape works within protected areas and how these will be carried out without compromising roots or soil structure; and
- j. Be supported by explanatory text describing barriers, ground protection, and operational constraints.

Purpose: To prevent physical damage to tree stems, branches and roots, and to avoid soil compaction or contamination within RPAs. The TPP enables contractors, designers, and the local authority to understand precisely where access and working operations are acceptable during the construction process.

When required: A TPP is required when any retained tree or hedgerow could be affected by demolition, construction, excavation, utility installation, or site access activities, including Full applications; Outline applications where impacts cannot be avoided; Reserved Matters and discharge of condition stages. If a TPP is not submitted with the planning application, it will normally be required by planning condition.

Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS)

A technical document describing how construction, demolition and associated works will be carried out within or near RPAs or tree canopies without causing harm to retained trees. It sets out the working methods, materials, supervision and sequencing necessary to demonstrate that construction is feasible in accordance with BS 5837. An AMS should be proportionate to the proposal but will typically address:

- a. Removal of existing structures or hard surfaces;
- b. Installation of temporary ground protection;
- c. Excavations and any specialised trenchless techniques;
- d. Installation of new hard surfacing (materials, levels, design constraints);
- e. Specialist foundations (e.g. piles, rafts, beams);
- f. Retaining structures used to manage changes in ground levels;
- g. Preparatory works for new landscaping;
- h. Service routing and utility installation;
- i. An auditable system of arboricultural monitoring and supervision, including specific site events requiring attendance; and
- j. Contact details for all relevant parties (developer, arboricultural consultant, contractor).

When required: Required where any part of the development occurs within, or immediately adjacent to, the RPA or crown spread of retained trees, or where special construction techniques are needed to avoid damage.

Typical applications: Full applications and more complex Outline applications where impacts on RPAs cannot be designed out.

Note (BS 5837:2012, Clause 6.1)

Operations proposed within the RPA (or crown spread where this is greater) must be described in an AMS to demonstrate that works can be carried out with minimal risk of adverse impact. The AMS should incorporate input from other specialists as required and should detail the sequence of operations, precautions, technical methods and supervision arrangements needed to protect retained trees.

Block Plan (Minimum Requirements)

In the context of demonstrating compliance with PSD4, the Block Plan should focus on trees, hedgerows, and their relationship to the proposed development. While block plans may also include other site features, the guidance below is provided specifically for tree and hedgerow assessment.

Scale and content:

- a. Normally 1:200 or 1:500 (as standard for planning block plans);
- b. Must show all trees and hedgerows on and adjacent to the site, including: stem positions; canopy spreads; and indicative RPAs, where practicable.

Tree and hedgerow retention:

- a. Clearly identify features to be retained, removed, or pruned.
- b. Demonstrate that retention has been prioritised in accordance with PSD4 and stepwise approach.

Site features to be shown:

- a. Existing and proposed buildings and extensions.
- b. Hard surfaces (e.g. driveways, patios, paths).
- c. Access arrangements.
- d. Boundaries and levels where relevant.
- e. Any constraints affecting tree or hedgerow retention.

Where the block plan does not provide sufficient detail to understand site constraints or indicates a potential conflict with existing trees and/or hedgerows, the local authority may request the submission of further information.

Where no trees or hedgerows are present, a brief written statement confirming this within the GBI Statement will typically be sufficient.

Typical applications: Primarily Householder applications but may also support some minor applications.

Hedgerow-Specific Documents

Hedgerow Survey

A hedgerow-specific survey describing the species composition, structure, condition, continuity, management, and associated features of a hedgerow. It typically includes information on woody species, height, width, gappiness, adjacent land use, banks/ditches, herbaceous cover, and notable ecological or historic characteristics, following recognised good practice such as the Hedgerow Survey Handbook.

The Hedgerow Survey is also the primary mechanism through which the influencing distance of a hedgerow is established in practice — see the Influencing Distance (Hedgerows) definition.

Purpose: To assess the value and condition of a hedgerow and inform decisions on retention, protection, design integration and mitigation under PSD4.

When required: Where development proposals may affect a hedgerow through removal, alteration or changes in management or rooting environment.

Typical applications: Applications involving substantive hedgerow removal or impacts.

In some cases where impacts to a hedgerow are limited or partial, a PEA (or proportionate assessment) may provide sufficient information to inform design, mitigation, and compensation.

The need for a full Hedgerow Survey should be considered on a case-by-case basis, considering the scale of the impact and the level of detail required to support PSD4.

Hedgerow Removal Notice

A statutory notification submitted to the local planning authority under the Hedgerow Regulations 1997 where the removal of a protected countryside hedgerow is proposed outside the planning process.

When required: Only where the Regulations apply. Not required where removal is necessary to implement a planning permission, except where works rely on permitted development rights.

Hedgerow Translocation Method Statement

A technical document setting out how an existing hedgerow will be carefully lifted, relocated and re-established where retention in situ is not feasible. It describes the methodology, sequencing, safeguards, and aftercare required to ensure that translocation is undertaken in a way that maintains ecological value, landscape function and long-term viability. While proportionate to the proposal, the document will typically address:

- a. Justification for translocation, including why in situ retention is not possible
- b. Extent, species composition and condition of the hedgerow to be moved
- c. Suitability and specification of the receptor site, including soil conditions and connectivity opportunities
- d. Timing of works and ecological constraints (e.g. nesting birds, seasonal limitations)
- e. Detailed methodology for preparation, lifting, handling, transport and reinstatement
- f. Measures to protect root systems and prevent desiccation or damage
- g. Supplementary and remedial planting to address gaps or failures
- h. A minimum five-year aftercare and management regime (watering, weed control, replacement planting, pruning)
- i. Monitoring, success criteria and triggers for remedial action
- j. Arboricultural and ecological supervision, including key stages requiring oversight

Purpose: To demonstrate that hedgerow translocation is feasible, justified and deliverable, and that the relocated hedgerow can be successfully established while supporting biodiversity objectives, adherence to the step-wise approach, and contributing toward NBB.

When required: Where hedgerow loss is proposed and translocation is put forward as a mitigation measure.

Typical applications: Any application involving hedgerow translocation.

Other Supporting Surveys

Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA)

A baseline ecological assessment identifying habitats, potential for protected and priority species, and ecological constraints and opportunities across the site and its surroundings. A PEA involves a desk-based review and walkover survey, and its findings inform whether further targeted species surveys are required. Where trees or hedgerows are present, the PEA will assess their likely habitat value (e.g. bat roost potential, nesting bird habitat, dormouse presence) and identify survey requirements.

When required: Where trees, hedgerows or other habitats may support protected or priority species, or where habitat loss is proposed. Required for all Major and Outline applications and for Minor and Householder applications on ecologically sensitive sites.

Typical applications: Full and Outline; occasionally Householder on sensitive sites.

A PEA should normally be carried out before, or alongside, the Tree Survey, so that ecological and arboricultural constraints are identified in an integrated manner at the earliest design stage.

Protected Species Survey

A species-specific survey (e.g. bats, dormice, nesting birds, great crested newts) carried out in accordance with recognised species-specific survey guidance and within the appropriate seasonal window. Where trees or hedgerows support or are likely to support protected species, works which would affect them may require a licence from NRW in addition to any other necessary consents.

When required: Where a PEA identifies a reasonable likelihood of protected or priority species being present, or where the nature of proposed works (e.g. tree felling, hedgerow removal) creates a risk of harm to such species.

Heritage / Archaeological Impact Statement (Trees and Hedgerows)

An assessment of the impacts of a development proposal on veteran or ancient trees, historic hedgerows, or historic landscapes. It evaluates the significance of the features affected and the direct and indirect impacts of the proposal, and should propose appropriate mitigation. Veteran and ancient trees and historically significant hedgerows are material planning considerations and their loss or deterioration will only be permitted in very exceptional circumstances.

When required: Where ancient or veteran trees, historic hedgerows, or historic landscapes may be affected by the proposed development.

Appendix C: Applicant Checklist

- C.1. Applicants must provide information proportionate to their planning application as to evidence compliance with PSD4.
- C.2. The requirements vary based on the type of application being submitted and the likely impacts on existing trees and hedgerows. You should use the checklist below to ensure you have prepared the information necessary for submission alongside your planning application.

Landscape Framework Documents

Tree and hedgerow proposals submitted as part of a planning application must be embedded within the wider landscape and ecological framework for the development. The arboricultural documents listed in the checklist below do not stand alone — they should be consistent with, and form an integral part of, the landscape framework documents required for the application, namely:

- Green and Blue Infrastructure (GBI) Statement — required with all applications; demonstrates how the proposal responds to existing GBI assets and delivers NNB.
- Landscape and Ecological Design Scheme (LEDS) — normally required for Minor and Major applications and Reserved Matters; sets out detailed planting, habitat and retention design.
- Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) — normally required for Major applications; secures long-term management of landscape and ecological features.

Further guidance on these documents is provided in Chapter 5, the GBI SPG, and the *Biodiversity and Nature Recovery SPG*. The checklist below focuses on arboricultural and hedgerow-specific documents.

	Householder	Minor	Major	Outline	
Document					Guidance Notes
Block and site layout plans which plot trees and hedgerows	✓	✓	✓	✓	All applications should include the location of existing trees and hedgerows on the block and site layout plans for the development. This is potentially all that is required for householder and minor applications unless potential impacts to these features within the site boundary or to features immediately adjacent to the site boundary have been identified. Where this is the case, further assessment and evidence will be required.
Preliminary Arboricultural Assessment (PAA) and/or BS 5837-compliant Tree Survey	Potentially	Potentially	✓	✓	A PAA may be undertaken at an early feasibility stage to identify tree constraints and inform design. A full BS 5837-compliant Tree Survey is the validation requirement for Major and Outline applications where trees are present on or adjacent to the site. The Tree Survey identifies and categorises trees, maps canopy spreads and Root Protection Areas (RPAs), and informs the Tree Constraints Plan. It should also identify any additional protections such as Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs). Where hedgerows may be affected, a Hedgerow Survey should also be commissioned at this stage (see below).
Tree Constraints Plan (TCP)	Potentially	Potentially	✓	Potentially	A TCP should be prepared based on the Tree Survey and submitted alongside the proposed layout. It should map RPAs, canopy spreads, retention categories and constraints, and should directly inform the site layout so that impacts are avoided or minimised. Where the layout indicates potential conflicts with trees, an AIA will be required. For Outline applications where the indicative layout shows development or access routes near trees, a TCP should be provided.
Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA)	Potentially	Potentially	✓	Potentially	For a full planning application, where trees are at risk from your development, an arboricultural impact assessment is required to evaluate potential impacts and outline measures to mitigate them. The arboricultural impact assessment should provide details of the trees on the site at the time of the arboricultural / tree survey and identify which trees will need to be removed, pruned, or will be potentially impacted by the proposed development. Where trees are impacted by design proposals, these should be highlighted as requiring removal or needing special mitigation measures in order for them to be retained. Guidance on the type of mitigation measures that could be used or recommended should be provided. The arboricultural impact assessment should also address all site factors of access, site compounds, working spaces and storage of equipment and materials near trees to provide the necessary recommendations. <i>Tip: Engaging a qualified arboricultural consultant early can help you meet planning requirements and protect valuable trees on or near your site.</i>

	Householder	Minor	Major	Outline	
Document					Guidance Notes
Tree Protection Plan (TPP)	Potentially	Potentially	✓	Potentially	The arboricultural impact assessment should include a tree protection plan that will show the proposed measures to protect the trees throughout the project's lifespan. This may include: detailed drawings showing the locations and dimensions of retained trees; specifications for protective fencing, ground protection and areas to avoid during construction.
Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS)	Potentially	Potentially	✓	Potentially	To further protect trees during construction, an arboricultural method statement may also be required. This document will provide detailed instructions on how to carry out construction activities without harming retained trees.
Hedgerow Survey	Potentially				A Hedgerow Survey is required where hedgerows may be affected by development. For whole hedgerow removal or significant impacts, a dedicated Hedgerow Survey should be provided, assessing species composition, structure, condition, management history and ecological or historic value. For more limited impacts (e.g. partial removal for access), proportionate assessment within a wider arboricultural or ecological survey (such as a PEA) may be acceptable. The survey informs retention decisions, mitigation design and compensation requirements.
Individual Tree Planting Specification	Potentiall y	Potentiall y	✓	Potentiall y	Where individual tree planting is proposed as part of a development, the following shall be provided: a proposal plan (minimum 1:500) showing the location and species of each proposed tree; stock specification category with reference to Appendix E, or a justified site-specific equivalent; pit dimensions and details of soil volume provision; implementation programme.

	Householder	Minor	Major	Outline	
Document					Guidance Notes
Landscape and Ecological Design Scheme (LEDS) / Landscape Plan and Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP)	Potentially	Potentially	>	>	A Landscape and Ecological Design Scheme (LEDS) sets out the detailed landscape and ecological design of the site, illustrating how retained trees and hedgerows are integrated, and how new planting and habitat creation will contribute to the GBI network. A LEDS will normally be required for Minor and Major applications and at Reserved Matters stage. For householder applications where significant tree or hedgerow works are proposed, a Landscape Plan (included within the GBI Statement) may be sufficient in lieu of a full LEDS. A Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) is normally required for major applications, and may also be required for Minor applications where long-term landscape management is proposed or secured by condition. It sets out long-term management and maintenance of retained and new landscape and ecological features. <i>Tip: Early engagement with the local authority's Landscape and Ecology Officers will help ensure your planting proposals are appropriate for the site and locality.</i>
GBI Statement (Further guidance provided in GBI SPG)	✓				A GBI Statement is required with all applications, relative to the scale and nature of development. For guidance on the production of a GBI Statement, please refer to: Greening Carmarthenshire GBI SPG; Greening Carmarthenshire GBI SPG Appendix A; Greening Carmarthenshire GBI SPG Appendix B. Tip: A GBI statement should include evidence that you have delivered a Net-Benefit for Biodiversity (NBB) for your development, and for major development a calculation of your greenspace factor score.
Biodiversity Checklist (Further guidance provided in Biodiversity and Nature Recovery SPG)	No	Potentially	>	>	Applicants / developers are strongly advised to utilise and complete the biodiversity checklist within the <i>Biodiversity and Nature Recovery SPG</i>. This will help to identify if the development is likely to affect any designated sites and provides guidance on required surveys and the potential need for a Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA).
Archaeology / Heritage Impact Statement	Potentially				If impacts to the historic environment value of trees are likely, an Archaeology / Heritage Statement will be required. This should be produced in accordance with the Archaeology and Development SPG.

Appendix D: Calculation of Root Protection Areas

- D.1. Stem diameters must be measured in accordance with BS 5837²⁴.
- D.2. For a single-stem tree, the RPA is calculated as a circular area with a radius 12 times the stem diameter. Regardless of tree size, the RPA is capped at 707 m².

Table C: Root Protection Areas (RPAs) for Single-Stem Trees showing stem diameter (mm), radius from tree base (calculated as 12 × stem diameter), and corresponding RPA (m²).

Diameter (mm)	Radius from tree base (m)	RPA (m ²)	Diameter (mm)	Radius from tree base (m)	RPA (m ²)
75	0.90	3	675	8.10	206
100	1.20	5	700	8.40	222
125	1.50	7	725	8.70	238
150	1.80	10	750	9.00	255
175	2.10	14	775	9.30	272
200	2.40	18	800	9.60	290
225	2.70	23	825	9.90	308
250	3.00	28	850	10.20	327
275	3.30	34	875	10.50	346
300	3.60	41	900	10.80	366
325	3.90	48	925	11.10	387
350	4.20	55	950	11.40	408
375	4.50	64	975	11.70	430
400	4.80	72	1,000	12.00	452
425	5.10	81	1,025	12.30	475
450	5.40	92	1,050	12.60	499
475	5.70	102	1,075	12.90	519
500	6.00	113	1,100	13.20	547
525	6.30	124	1,125	13.50	573
550	6.60	137	1,150	13.80	598
575	6.90	150	1,175	14.10	625
600	7.20	163	1,200	14.40	652
625	7.50	177	1,225	14.70	679
650	7.80	191	1,250+	15.00	707

- D.3. For multi-stemmed trees, the combined stem diameter must be calculated before applying the single-stem RPA formula. For trees with two to five stems, the combined diameter is calculated using the square-root of the sum of the squares of each stem diameter. For trees with more than five stems, the combined diameter is calculated using the square-root of the mean stem diameter squared, multiplied by the number of stems. Once this combined diameter is determined, the RPA is calculated using the standard single-stem method.

²⁴ BS 5837:2012 — Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction — Recommendations, Annex C

Appendix E: Species List

- E.1. This appendix provides indicative species list for tree and hedgerow planting in Carmarthenshire, organised by planting context. The lists are drawn from locally native and prevalent species and from established practice in the county.
- E.2. Final species selection must always be informed by site-specific conditions, findings from ecological and arboricultural surveys, and the selection criteria set out in paragraphs 8.11–8.16 of this SPG. Survey findings should feed into selection, particularly for ecological integration areas and field boundary planting, to ensure planting is locally characteristic and promotes connectivity.

Disclaimer

Species lists and mixes are presented as indicative general guidance only. The local authority accepts no liability for the use of these species lists or for any consequences arising from their application.

Site-specific landscape solutions remain the responsibility of the applicant (and their landscape designer and/or qualified landscape architect, or ecologist for ecological matters). All percentages are approximate starting points and should be adjusted in response to site conditions. Applicants should ensure species selection complies with current biosecurity guidance.

Early pre-application discussion with the local authority is welcomed.

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Key: Percentages (%) indicate suggested proportions by plant number. Where a single percentage is associated with multiple species, this indicates the total proportion for that group, and typically a single species will make up that full percentage. The other listed species in that group may be substituted or used in smaller quantities, up to that total, where appropriate.

Table A: Locally Native Tree and Scrub Species

A snapshot of prevalent and evident locally native species in rural Carmarthenshire.

Common Name	Botanical Name
Sycamore	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>
Alder	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>
Silver Birch	<i>Betula pendula</i>
Downy Birch	<i>Betula pubescens</i>
Hazel	<i>Corylus avellana</i>
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>
Spindle	<i>Euonymus europaeus</i>
Common Beech	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>
Alder Buckthorn	<i>Frangula alnus</i>
Holly	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>
Crab Apple	<i>Malus sylvestris</i>
Wild Cherry	<i>Prunus avium</i>
Blackthorn	<i>Prunus spinosa</i>
Sessile Oak	<i>Quercus petraea</i>
Pedunculate Oak	<i>Quercus robur</i>
White Willow	<i>Salix alba</i>
Goat Willow	<i>Salix caprea</i>
Grey Willow	<i>Salix cinerea</i>
Crack Willow	<i>Salix fragilis</i>
Rowan	<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>
Yew	<i>Taxus baccata</i>
Small-leaved Lime	<i>Tilia cordata</i>
Wych Elm	<i>Ulmus glabra</i>
Guelder Rose	<i>Viburnum opulus</i>

Table B: Individual Tree Species

B(i) — Street trees and urban planting

Suitable for streets, civic spaces, and other urban environments where trees are subject to constraints including limited rooting volume, compaction, air pollution, and the need for clearance and uniform form. Species are selected for tolerance to urban stressors, predictable growth habit (often upright or columnar), and suitability for integration with built infrastructure.

Common Name	Botanical Name
Field Maple cvs.	<i>Acer campestre</i> 'Lienco' / 'Streetwise' / 'Elsrijk'
Ornamental Pear	<i>Pyrus calleryana</i> 'Chanticleer'
Rowan cvs.	<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i> cvs.
Norway Maple cvs.	<i>Acer platanoides</i> cvs. (columnar forms)
Hornbeam cv.	<i>Carpinus betulus</i> 'Frans Fontaine'
Fastigate Oak cvs.	<i>Quercus robur</i> 'Fastigiata' / 'Fastigiata Koster'
Whitebeam cvs.	<i>Sorbus aria</i> 'Lutescens' / 'Majestica'
Italian Alder	<i>Alnus cordata</i>
Turkish Hazel	<i>Corylus colurna</i>
Small-leaved Lime cvs.	<i>Tilia cordata</i> 'Greenspire' / 'Rancho'
Silver Lime cv.	<i>Tilia tomentosa</i> 'Brabant'
London Plane	<i>Platanus x hispanica</i>

B(ii) — Small gardens and constrained spaces

Suitable for private gardens, courtyards, and constrained urban sites where space is limited and smaller stature, ornamental value, and manageable canopy spread are key considerations. Species are typically selected for compact form, seasonal interest (flowering, fruiting, or autumn colour), and compatibility with proximity to buildings and boundaries.

Common Name	Botanical Name
Serviceberry	<i>Amelanchier lamarkii</i>
North American Redbud	<i>Cercis canadensis</i>
Judas Tree	<i>Cercis siliquastrum</i>
Holly cvs.	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i> cvs.
Crab Apple cvs.	<i>Malus</i> 'Evereste' / 'Golden Hornet' / 'John Downie'
Ornamental Cherry cvs.	<i>Prunus hillieri</i> 'Spire' / <i>Prunus subhirtella</i> cvs.
Weeping Pear	<i>Pyrus salicifolia</i>
Hawthorn cvs.	<i>Crataegus laevigata</i> / x <i>lavalleei</i> / x <i>prunifolia</i> cvs.
Upright Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i> 'Stricta'
Japanese Crab Apple	<i>Malus floribunda</i>
Rowan cvs.	<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i> cvs.
Wild Service Tree	<i>Sorbus torminalis</i>

Table C: Woodland Planting Mix

Suitable for woodland creation, woodland edge planting and larger ecological compensation areas. Rows shaded blue identify species suited to wetter conditions, including riparian margins and seasonally wet compensation areas.

%	Common Name	Botanical Name
Canopy species		
50%	Sessile Oak	<i>Quercus petraea</i>
	Pedunculate Oak	<i>Quercus robur</i>
25%	Common Beech	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>
15%	Silver Birch	<i>Betula pendula</i>
10%	Small-leaved Lime	<i>Tilia cordata</i>
—	Alder	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>
—	Downy Birch	<i>Betula pubescens</i>
Understorey and woodland edge species		
30%	Hazel	<i>Corylus avellana</i>
25%	Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>
20%	Blackthorn	<i>Prunus spinosa</i>
10%	Holly	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>
5%	Rowan	<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>
5%	Field Maple	<i>Acer campestre</i>
2.5%	Crab Apple	<i>Malus sylvestris</i>
2.5%	Wild Cherry	<i>Prunus avium</i>
—	Goat Willow	<i>Salix caprea</i>
—	Grey Willow	<i>Salix cinerea</i>
—	Purple Willow	<i>Salix purpurea</i>
—	Violet Willow	<i>Salix daphnoides</i>
—	Almond Willow	<i>Salix pentandra</i>
—	White Willow	<i>Salix alba</i>

Table D: Native Species Hedgerow Mixes

D(i) — Species-Diverse Mix

A multi-species thorny mix suitable for most rural boundary, field edge and ecological integration contexts. Provides strong structure, high biodiversity value and visual interest across seasons.

%	Common Name	Botanical Name
Hedge species		
25%	Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>
25%	Hazel	<i>Corylus avellana</i>
20%	Blackthorn	<i>Prunus spinosa</i>
10%	Holly	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>
5%	Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>
5%	Guelder Rose	<i>Viburnum opulus</i>
5%	Dogwood	<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>
5%	Dog Rose	<i>Rosa canina</i>
	Field Rose	<i>Rosa arvensis</i>
Hedgeline tree species		
20%	Crab Apple	<i>Malus sylvestris</i>
	Silver Birch	<i>Betula pendula</i>
	Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>
10%	Common Beech	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>
70%	Sessile Oak	<i>Quercus petraea</i>
	Pedunculate Oak	<i>Quercus robur</i>

D(ii) — Thornless Mix

Suitable where proximity to pedestrian routes, play areas or public amenity spaces makes thorny species undesirable, while retaining strong native species diversity and ecological value.

%	Common Name	Botanical Name
Hedge species		
45%	Hazel	<i>Corylus avellana</i>
20%	Field Maple	<i>Acer campestre</i>
10%	Dogwood	<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>
10%	Guelder Rose	<i>Viburnum opulus</i>
10%	Holly	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>
5%	Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>
Hedgeline tree species		
20%	Crab Apple	<i>Malus sylvestris</i>
	Alder	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>
	Silver Birch	<i>Betula pendula</i>
	Wild Cherry	<i>Prunus avium</i>
	Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>
10%	Common Beech	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>
70%	Sessile Oak	<i>Quercus petraea</i>
	Pedunculate Oak	<i>Quercus robur</i>

D(iii) — Dormouse-Targeted Mix

Designed to support dormouse habitat connectivity and foraging. Suitable for use as mitigation or compensation planting where dormouse presence has been confirmed or is likely. This mix should only be specified following targeted dormouse survey and in consultation with the local authority's Ecology Officer and NRW.

%	Common Name	Botanical Name
Hedge species		
30%	Hazel	<i>Corylus avellana</i>
15%	Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>
15%	Blackthorn	<i>Prunus spinosa</i>
10%	Common Beech	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>
5%	Field Maple	<i>Acer campestre</i>
5%	Guelder Rose	<i>Viburnum opulus</i>
5%	Goat Willow	<i>Salix caprea</i>
5%	Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>
5%	Blackberry	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>
5%	Dog Rose	<i>Rosa canina</i>
	Field Rose	<i>Rosa arvensis</i>
Hedgeline tree species		
50%	Crab Apple	<i>Malus sylvestris</i>
	Alder	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>
	Wild Cherry	<i>Prunus avium</i>
	Sweet Chestnut	<i>Castanea sativa</i> (not locally native; use to be agreed where ecological mitigation is the primary objective)
	Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>
10%	Common Beech	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>
40%	Sessile Oak	<i>Quercus petraea</i>
	Pedunculate Oak	<i>Quercus robur</i>

Table E: Amenity Boundary Hedge Species

Suggested species for amenity boundary hedges in residential and public realm contexts. See Standard Landscape Specification Sp3b for full stock specifications, planting layout, weed control, protective measures, and maintenance schedules.

E(i) — Low (maintained below 1.20m)

Common Name	Botanical Name
Barberry	<i>Berberis darwinii</i>
Mexican Orange Blossom	<i>Choisya ternata</i>
Escallonia	<i>Escallonia ivelyi</i> (varieties)
Wintercreeper	<i>Euonymus fortunei</i> 'Emerald and Gold'
Hebe	<i>Hebe salicifolia</i>
Hebe	<i>Hebe x franciscana</i> 'Blue Gem'
Delavey Privet	<i>Ligustrum delavayanum</i>
Box Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera nitida</i>
Daisy Bush	<i>Olearia x haastii</i>
Japanese Spiraea	<i>Spiraea japonica</i> 'Goldflame'
Spiraea	<i>Spiraea</i> 'Anthony Waterer'
Guelder Rose (compact)	<i>Viburnum opulus</i> 'Compactum'
Weigela	<i>Weigela</i> 'Bristol Ruby'

E(ii) — Medium to High (0.9–1.8m+)

Common Name	Botanical Name
Field Maple	<i>Acer campestre</i>
Spotted Laurel	<i>Aucuba japonica</i>
Golden Barberry	<i>Berberis x stenophylla</i>
Hornbeam	<i>Carpinus betulus</i>
Hazel	<i>Corylus avellana</i>
Cotoneaster	<i>Cotoneaster lacteus</i>
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>
Oleaster	<i>Elaeagnus x ebbingei</i> (varieties)
Escallonia	<i>Escallonia rubra</i> var. <i>macrantha</i>
Japanese Spindle	<i>Euonymus japonicus</i> 'Ovatus Aureus'
Beech	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>
Griselinia	<i>Griselinia littoralis</i>
Holly	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>
Japanese Holly	<i>Ilex crenata</i>
Common Privet	<i>Ligustrum ovalifolium</i>
Osmanthus	<i>Osmanthus x burkwoodii</i>
Red Robin	<i>Photinia x fraseri</i> 'Red Robin'
Pittosporum	<i>Pittosporum tenuifolium</i>
Cherry Laurel	<i>Prunus laurocerasus</i> 'Rotundifolia'
Portuguese Laurel	<i>Prunus lusitanica</i>
Firethorn	<i>Pyracantha</i> 'Orange Glow'
Viburnum	<i>Viburnum tinus</i> 'Eve Price'

Table F: Traditional Orchard Mix

Carmarthenshire has a rich orchard heritage and was historically known for its orchards, with many traditional and locally distinct fruit varieties still surviving in older orchards across the county. The inclusion of traditional orchards within proposals is strongly supported, both for their contribution to local landscape character, community food growing and open space provision, alongside for their ecological value.

The mix below provides a baseline for a traditional orchard. A well-structured orchard typically comprises 50–70% apple varieties, 20–30% plum, pear and cherry, and 5–15% minor species. Proportions should be adjusted to suit site conditions, management objectives and cultivar availability. Where possible, locally sourced or heritage stock should be obtained from specialist nurseries and supplied on vigorous or semi-vigorous rootstocks to ensure longevity, resilience and the development of a full orchard canopy. Suitable rootstocks include MM111 or M25 for apples, Quince A or seedling stock for pears, and St. Julien A, Myrobalan or Colt for plums and cherries. Dwarf or very dwarfing rootstocks (e.g., M9, M26) should be avoided. All fruit trees should be planted as standard or half-standard trees to support traditional character and long-term management.

%	Common Name	Botanical Name / Notes
Primary fruit trees (core structure) — typically 70–85% of total		
50–70%	Apple varieties	<i>Malus domestica</i> (dominant species; Welsh and Carmarthenshire heritage cultivars encouraged)
20–30%	Pear	<i>Pyrus communis</i>
	Plum	<i>Prunus domestica</i>
	Cherry	<i>Prunus avium</i> / <i>Prunus cerasus</i>
	Damson	<i>Prunus domestica</i> subsp. <i>insititia</i>
	Gage / Greengage	<i>Prunus domestica</i> group
Minor species — typically 5–15% of total; extend flowering season and structural diversity		
5–15%	Quince	<i>Cydonia oblonga</i>
	Medlar	<i>Mespilus germanica</i>
	Mulberry	<i>Morus nigra</i>
	Crab Apple	<i>Malus sylvestris</i> (adds wildlife value and ecological link to native species lists)
Nut trees — optional; add foraging value and structural diversity		
—	Walnut	<i>Juglans regia</i>
—	Cobnut / Hazel	<i>Corylus avellana</i> (biodiversity value)

Appendix F: Excluded and Restricted Species List

- F.1. This appendix identifies plant species that must not be used within natural or semi-natural settings as part of development proposals in Carmarthenshire, either because they are:
- Legally restricted under Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), making it a criminal offence to plant or otherwise cause those species to grow in the wild; or
 - Known to behave invasively in natural or semi-natural environments, with the potential to suppress native vegetation, reduce biodiversity value, and undermine the objectives of NBB.
- F.2. The list supports the implementation of PSD4 and associated guidance by helping to avoid planting choices that would conflict with long-term ecological function, landscape quality, or nature recovery outcomes.
- F.3. The list is indicative rather than exhaustive. Species not included here may still be considered inappropriate where site-specific evidence indicates a risk of invasive spread or ecological harm. The local authority will assess species suitability on a case-by-case basis. Where doubt exists, applicants should seek specialist ecological advice prior to submission.
- F.4. Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 is subject to periodic amendment. Applicants should verify the current status of any species before finalising planting proposals.

Table G: Species Listed Under Schedule 9

Species here listed must not be used in any context within a development proposal where planting could spread to or influence a natural or semi-natural environment.

Common Name	Botanical Name	Notes
American skunk-cabbage	<i>Lysichiton americanus</i>	Found in riparian woodland margins; relevant where tree planting adjoins watercourses or wet woodland
Giant hogweed	<i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i>	Causes severe photosensitive burns; commonly found along hedgerow corridors and watercourse margins
Giant knotweed	<i>Fallopia sachalinensis</i>	Often confused with Japanese knotweed; equally restricted

Common Name	Botanical Name	Notes
Himalayan balsam	<i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>	Widespread along watercourses and hedgerow margins across Carmarthenshire; frequently encountered on planting sites
Hottentot fig	<i>Carpobrotus edulis</i>	Risk to coastal scrub and cliff habitats; relevant where planting is proposed in coastal settings
Hybrid knotweed	<i>Fallopia ×bohemica</i>	Fertile knotweed hybrid; increasingly common
Japanese knotweed	<i>Fallopia japonica</i>	Highly aggressive; also subject to waste legislation when contaminated soil is moved; frequently encountered on development sites
Japanese rose	<i>Rosa rugosa</i>	Commonly used historically in amenity and highway planting; seeds freely into scrub and hedgerow habitats
Three-cornered leek	<i>Allium triquetrum</i>	Spreads into hedgerow bases and woodland margins; particularly relevant in the milder coastal areas of south-west Wales
Winter heliotrope	<i>Petasites fragrans</i>	Commonly found along roadsides and hedgerow bases; difficult to eradicate once established

Table H: Species That Behave Invasively in Natural or Semi-Natural Settings

Species here listed are not appropriate where planting is intended to deliver NBB. They may be acceptable in formal gardens, private domestic settings, or fully contained hard-landscaped environments, subject to scale, location, and the absence of connectivity to semi-natural habitats — however this should be demonstrated clearly within the submitted landscape details.

Common Name	Botanical Name	Notes
Trees		
False acacia	<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	Nitrogen-fixing; alters soil chemistry and suppresses native ground flora; seeds freely in disturbed ground
Sycamore	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Not appropriate within ancient woodland buffers, SSSI woodland, or woodland restoration schemes; may be acceptable in other structured landscape contexts
Turkey oak	<i>Quercus cerris</i>	Supports the knopper gall wasp, which reduces native oak acorn viability; avoid within or adjacent to native oak woodland
Shrubs and Hedging		

Common Name	Botanical Name	Notes
Butterfly bush	<i>Buddleja davidii</i>	Colonises disturbed ground readily; not appropriate in habitat creation or GBI contexts
Cherry laurel	<i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>	One of the most ecologically damaging invasive shrubs in woodland and semi-natural habitats. Frequently specified in amenity schemes; readily spreads into the wild via bird-dispersed seed after consumption of the berries.
Cotoneaster (invasive species)	<i>Cotoneaster horizontalis</i> , <i>C. microphyllus</i> , <i>C. simonsii</i> and related spreading species	Several species are subject to emerging Schedule 9 listing; widely dispersed by birds into hedgerows and semi-natural habitats
Leyland cypress	× <i>Cuprocyparis leylandii</i>	Very low biodiversity value; excluded from all ecological and hedgerow planting contexts
Rhododendron	<i>Rhododendron ponticum</i>	One of the most ecologically damaging invasive shrubs in Wales; subject to active eradication programmes; excluded from all naturalistic and semi-natural settings without exception
Shallon	<i>Gaultheria shallon</i>	Highly invasive in acidic woodland conditions; particularly problematic in upland and semi-natural contexts
Snowberry	<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i>	Spreads aggressively by suckers; suppresses native ground flora in hedgerow and woodland edge settings
Climbers and Groundcover		
Himalayan honeysuckle	<i>Leycesteria formosa</i>	Seeds freely; unsuitable in woodland edge or semi-natural habitats
Periwinkle	<i>Vinca major</i> , <i>V. minor</i>	Persistent and spreading; suppresses native ground flora in woodland and hedgerow margins
Spanish bluebell and hybrids	<i>Hyacinthoides hispanica</i> / <i>H. ×massartiana</i>	Hybridises with and genetically compromises native bluebell (<i>H. non-scripta</i>); must not be used in or adjacent to woodland or hedgerow habitats
Yellow archangel (non-native forms)	<i>Lamium galeobdolon</i> subsp. <i>argentatum</i>	Variegated cultivar spreads aggressively; must not be confused with the native subspecies

Application of Table G and H

- F.5. The local authority may require the removal or substitution of any species where their inclusion would conflict with planning policy objectives, undermine biodiversity and/or landscape outcomes, or present a risk of invasive spread that cannot be adequately mitigated through appropriate management.
- F.6. Where species in this appendix are found on site as existing vegetation, their management or removal should be addressed within landscape proposals, in accordance with applicable legislation and best practice guidance.
- F.7. Alternative species should prioritise native or near-native species of appropriate regional provenance, suitable to site conditions, local landscape character, and the objectives of the planting scheme, as set out in Chapter 8 and Appendix E.

Note

The inclusion of inappropriate or excluded species within landscape proposals may result in the requirement for revised planting proposals and/or planning conditions specifying suitable alternatives and/or management.