

BS5837:2012 Cascade Chart for Tree Quality Assessment

Category and Definition	Criteria (including subcategories where appropriate)			ID Colour on Plan
Trees to be considered for retention (see note)				
	1 - Mainly arboricultural qualities	2 - Mainly landscape qualities	3 - Mainly cultural values, including conservation	
Category A Trees of high quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 40 years.	Trees that are particularly good examples of their species, especially if rare or unusual; or those that are essential components of groups or formal or semi-formal arboricultural features (e.g. the dominant and/or principal trees within an avenue).	Trees, groups or woodlands of particular visual importance as arboricultural and/or landscape features.	Trees, groups or woodlands of significant conservation, historical, commemorative or other value (e.g. veteran trees or wood-pasture).	Light Green (000-255-000)
Category B Trees of moderate quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 20 years.	Trees that might be included in category A, but are downgraded because of impaired condition (e.g. presence of significant though remediable defects, including unsympathetic past management and storm damage), such that they are unlikely to be suitable for retention for beyond 40 years; or trees lacking the special quality necessary to merit the category A designation.	Trees present in numbers, usually growing as groups or woodlands, such that they attract a higher collective rating than they might as individuals; or trees occurring as collectives but situated so as to make little visual contribution to the wider locality.	Trees with material conservation or other cultural value.	Mid Blue (000-000-255)
Category C Trees of low quality currently in adequate condition with at least 10 years life expectancy, or young trees with a stem diameter below 150mm.	Unremarkable trees of very limited merit or such impaired condition that they do not qualify in higher categories.	Trees present in groups or woodlands, but without this conferring on them significantly greater collective landscape value; and/or trees offering low or only temporary/ transient landscape benefits.	Trees with no material conservation or other cultural value.	Grey (091-091-091)
Trees unsuitable for retention (see note)				
Category U Those in such a condition that they cannot realistically be retained as living trees in the context of the current land use for longer than 10 years.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trees that have a serious, irremediable, structural defect, such that their early loss is expected due to collapse, including those that will become unviable after removal of other category U trees (e.g. where, for whatever reason, the loss of companion shelter cannot be mitigated by pruning); • Trees that are dead or are showing signs of significant, immediate, and irreversible overall decline; and/or • Trees infected with pathogens of significance to the health and/or safety of other trees nearby, or very low-quality trees suppressing adjacent trees of better quality. <p><i>NOTE: Category U trees can have existing or potential conservation value which it might be desirable to preserve; see 4.5.7.</i></p>			Dark Red (127-000-000)