

Overview

This standard is about the management of specimen trees.

This standard has been developed to reflect the specific nature of the requirements for the management of specimen trees and the depth and breadth of specific knowledge and understanding required.

Specimen trees include veteran trees as well as those that have an amenity value, are rare species, and/or have historic significance.

Your work must conform to all relevant legislation and codes of practice when carrying out this work.

Manage specimen trees

Performance criteria

You must be able to:

1. assess the risks associated with the site and the proposed work
2. ensure that the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) is worn for the work
3. identify any other risks and the health and safety implications for the wider public involvement with the tree(s)
4. identify opportunities and constraints relevant to the management of specimen trees
5. take account of any issues surrounding the site, the specimen tree(s) and public access
6. evaluate the value and viability of the specimen tree(s)
7. produce management plans to protect the identified value of the specimen tree(s)
8. identify resources to enable implementation of management procedures
9. regularly review and monitor the management plan
10. maintain appropriate records
11. maintain the health and safety of yourself and others at all times, in accordance with relevant legislation

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

1. how to identify hazards and assess risks
2. how to interpret risk assessments
3. the selection, use and care of personal protective equipment (PPE)
4. the safety implications of retaining a specimen tree in the public realm
5. which trees would be suitable to be classified as specimen trees, taking into account locality, species, growth habit, rarity, ecological/historical value, etc
6. how to evaluate the value and viability of specimen trees
7. the value of specimen trees for conservation with particular reference to bats, insects, lichens and nesting habitats
8. how to produce plans for the management of specimen trees
9. systems for managing and monitoring specimen trees
10. the requirement for recording the action taken and monitoring the tree(s) and the immediate environment
11. your responsibilities under relevant environmental, health and safety legislation and codes of practice, and any additional requirements for specimen trees

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Scope/range

Value and viability:

- amenity value
- rare species
- historical significance
- safety
- ecological benefits
- life expectancy
- aesthetics
- public
- social

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**Scope/range related
to knowledge and
understanding**

The systems for managing and monitoring specimen trees:

- regular inspections
- implementing ecological work, such as coronet cuts
- creating wound areas
- developing niche habitats
- improving value

Glossary

Specimen trees include veteran trees as well as those that have an amenity value, are rare species, and/or have historical significance.



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