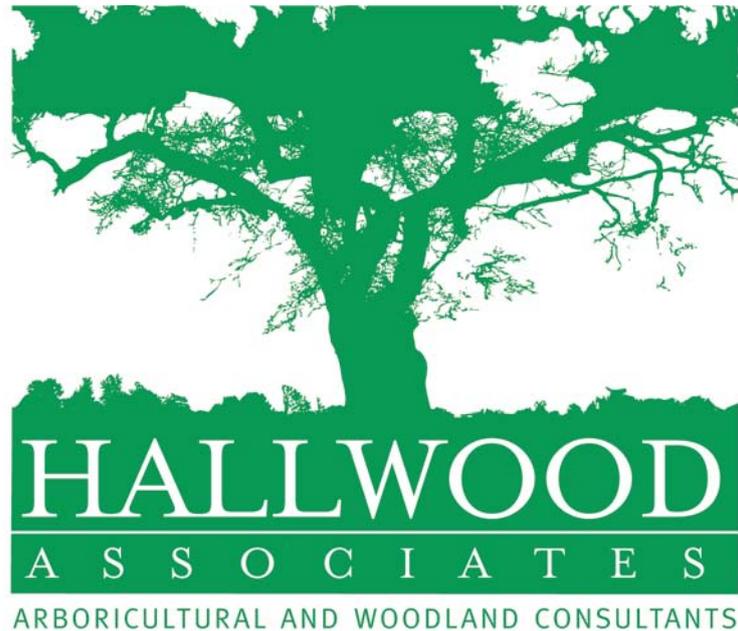


Statement of capabilities



T +44 (0) 1621 840770

W www.hallwoodassociates.com

E enquiries@hallwoodassociates.com

VAT No GB 947 9108 84

Hallwood Associates are a leading consulting organisation operating in the environmental industry, offering services to the public, private and third sector. Founded in 2006, we have grown rapidly into a multi disciplinary consultancy, staffed by motivated experts specialising in all aspects of arboriculture: from hazard assessment and subsidence investigation right through to legal and planning issues.



Statement of capabilities

General facts

- Hallwood act as a single point of contact for all tree and environmental consultancy, with specialist skill in the juxtaposition of trees and development
- Insured by a bespoke Professional Indemnity package underwritten in the sum of GBP500, 000 (as recommended by the Arboricultural Association)
- All reporting consultants qualified to NVQ level 4 or higher
- All consultants full Professional Members of either Arboricultural Association (*M.Arbor.A*) or Institute of Chartered Foresters (MicFor)
- Full in house GPS & GIS mapping capability
- Full AutoCAD capability
- Strong network of trusted associates for specialist environmental/ecological mitigation work

Company vision

- To be a professional, ethical and expert practice whose employees and products are well regarded
- To provide an excellent, holistic service to our clients
- To develop and invest in our organisation and staff
- To operate a profitable and sustainable model
- For our employees to be proud, motivated individuals who enjoy their place of work

Statement of capabilities

Services to the construction industry

Our experience of the construction industry and development ventures results in our exceptional success rate at pushing through planning applications on behalf of clients that range from one off projects and private developers, to volume house builders, to billion pound construction companies. Evidenced by the percentage of clients that retain us coupled with the number of planning applications we support and win, a Hallwood consultant can be relied upon to add value to your planning application.

Most architects and planning consultants are familiar with modern planning policies which pertain to trees, ecology and the landscape, and the requisite requirements of applications which have the potential to impact on trees. We offer a complete service which takes full account of the way in which authorities will assess an application, which can be broken up in to the following work stages. Not all of these are applicable for every site, as this will vary dependent on the scale, nature and intensity of the development, but almost every application that potentially impacts on trees will now have to be supported by written statements from a ‘Competent Person’ which appraises the development process via the implementation of the **British Standard 5837:2005 ‘Trees in relation to construction – Recommendations’**.

Feasibility Study

A site meeting and “walkover survey” is useful. But we may use a combination of aerial photographs and any preliminary plans the design team have produced to get a general feel for the site’s constraints and make informal recommendations as to the feasibility of development in environmental terms.

Desk Study

We start with a detailed review of the Local Plan/Unitary Development Plan/any supplementary guidance pertaining to trees and development. This informs us of exactly what the local planning authority is looking to achieve in its policies and in any development projects it consents to.

Tree survey

In accordance with the British Standard 5837:2005 “Trees in relation to construction – Recommendations” we record tree survey data and produce a schedule and reporting with any supporting photographic and video evidence.

Statement of capabilities

Tree constraints plan (TCP)

Following the tree survey we use the schedule data and our expertise to produce this design layout tool which shows the augmented topographical survey to include representations on the above and below ground constraints posed by existing trees on site development. Often 'non-specialist' consultancies attempt to produce these and other arboricultural reports using the British Standard document as a template. This is ineffective and more often than not our specialist input leads to the adjustment of 'standard' exclusion zones. It pays to have experienced arboriculturalists on your side who can converse with the local authority tree officer in terms they understand.

Arboricultural implications assessment (AIA)

Following involvement with the design team, the consultant will appraise the development proposals against the TCP and the local authorities development policy, resulting in a written statement which (but is not limited to) identifies retained trees, trees to be removed, pre construction tree works, conflicts between retained trees and the development processes, future conflicts arising between retained trees and the development and, any mitigation required to facilitate the retention of good quality trees in tandem with the development (e.g. specialist engineering).

Arboricultural method statement (AMS)

A specification for measures to be implemented (highlighted by the AIA) for the protection of retained trees pre, during and post construction. Factors such as specifications for prohibition, protective barrier fencing, ground protection, engineering solutions for walls and building footprints or hard surfacing in close proximity to retained trees, and any site monitoring are specified along with a schedule of tree works. This document, in conjunction with AIA, assists the site agent responsible for the demolition and construction process in implementing measures for tree protection and as a consequence thereof is almost inevitably required before full planning is consented by the authority.

Tree protection plan (TPP)

This is similar to the TCP (plan or series of plans) but only details retained trees. At this point, RPAs have informed the consultant in deciding on construction exclusion zones (CEZ), which are typically cordoned off during the demolition and construction processes. Also detailed on the TPP are positions of protective barrier fencing and ground protection, and areas that are suitable for the storage and transportation of materials, plant and chemicals.

Statement of capabilities

Shading Analysis

Increasing attention is being paid to the influence that trees have on buildings once they are built. Trees have the ability to cast excessive or unreasonable shade. Badly designed layouts can lead to a conflict between occupants of a building and trees. Local Planning Authorities are often concerned at the pressure that buildings will put on tree removal where shading is excessive. They are increasingly requiring objective evidence that retained trees will not. We offer a comprehensive shade analysis that can assess the shading influence on elevations, garden and living areas.

We use specially designed software that can plot the shading influence of trees at any time of the day, on any day of the year. It also provides a graphic image of shading over the whole year. The analysis includes a report to interpret the information and place this in a practical context. This powerful tool can support planning applications and aid the design process.

Construction site monitoring

On very intensive and large scale development, authorities often enforce that some degree of assurance is provided, with regards tree protection, by way of a meeting to brief site personnel as to the dos and don'ts of the method statement and TPP, in some circumstances they may wish for the consultant to make regular visits and log findings for submission to the authority, again to ensure that the method statement and TPP is being adhered to.

For clarity's sake, we supply concise, fact based reports which are plan oriented. This is something that is normally appreciated by everyone involved in the process and the TPP goes a long way towards ensuring communication is as clear as possible.

Planting Plans

We provide advice on sustainable tree planting solutions and planting plans. Increasingly technology allows shared spaces between planting, paving and parking. To integrate this useful mix it is vital that planting pits are designed into schemes from the outset.

Integrated planting pits allow:

- Shared space

- Damage prevention - to services, buildings and surfaces

- Good quality finishing and high specification design.

Statement of capabilities

Design Advice

Throughout the design process we can offer advice on how to achieve a sustainable layout. We are experienced in dealing with LPA and other professionals as part of a design team. In our experience tree issues are always best dealt with from the beginning to minimise conflict and to ensure a smooth transition through the planning and construction process.

Damage Mitigation

Where damage does occur to trees on a construction site, we offer a full mitigation service. This can prevent prosecution and minimise the effects of damage. This service includes:

- Damage assessment
- Mitigation specification
- Soil decompaction
- Soil improvement or replacement
- LPA liaison and negotiations

