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# Good Practice for Successful Establishment

Robert Murison

Director, Thrive Tree Consultancy Ltd

Beyond planting targets: Supporting the sustainable establishment and long-term performance of newly planted trees

# Good Practice for Successful Establishment

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Rob Murison, Director
Thrive Tree Consultancy Ltd

Advocate for Young Tree Establishment

Trustee & Treasurer
Arboricultural Association

# What are we all working towards?

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# So why do we keep falling short?

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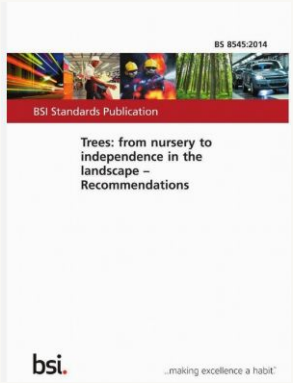
Trees & Design Action Group




fund4trees
PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE TREESCAPES

LTOA
London Tree Officers Association

- We have excellent guidance
- We have committed professionals
- Yet establishment outcomes remain highly variable

**This isn't a knowledge problem. It's a delivery problem.**

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Trees don't fail because of one catastrophic mistake.

They fail because of one weak link in the chain.

# The Tree is the only constant in the project

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Projects change.

People change.

Contracts change.

The tree remains the same.

# When is a tree established?

After 3 years? 5 years?

When the maintenance contract ends?

When it survives?

When the stakes come off?

# A Tree Establishment Lifecycle

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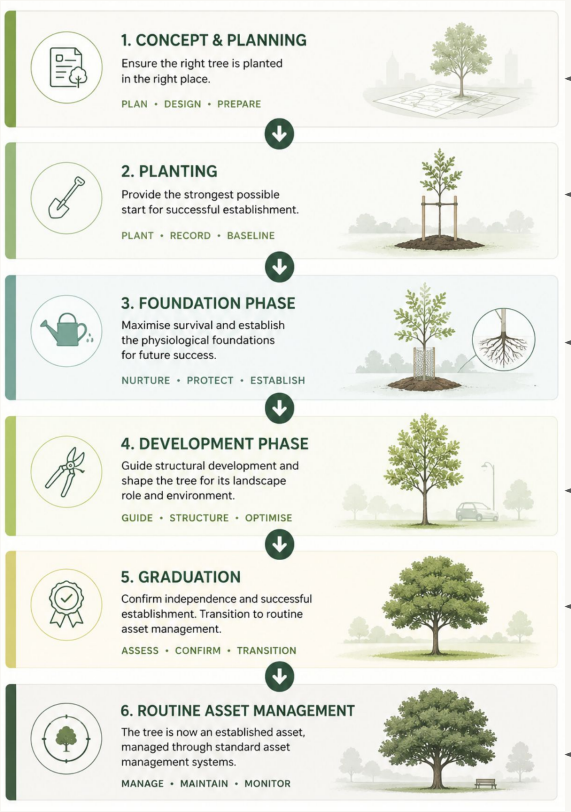


Preparing for parenthood

Day of the birth

Early years, keeping them alive!

Going to school

Independance

Adulthood

# Foundation Phase

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Primary objective: Physiological establishment

Primary question: "Will the tree survive and establish successfully?"

Typical activities

• Watering • Mulching • Weed control • Monitoring

Success looks like

A healthy, vigorous tree with an established root system, capable of sustained growth.

# Development Phase

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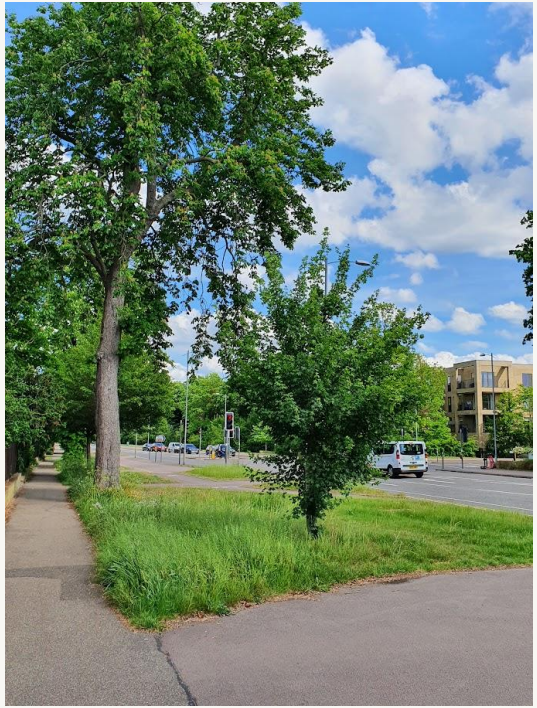

Primary objective: Structural development

Primary question: "How do we help this tree fulfil its long-term landscape function?"

Typical activities

• Formative pruning • Support removal • Crown formation

• Monitoring

Success looks like

A well-structured, resilient tree on course to fulfil the purpose for which it was planted.

# Thrive Tree Establishment Protocol

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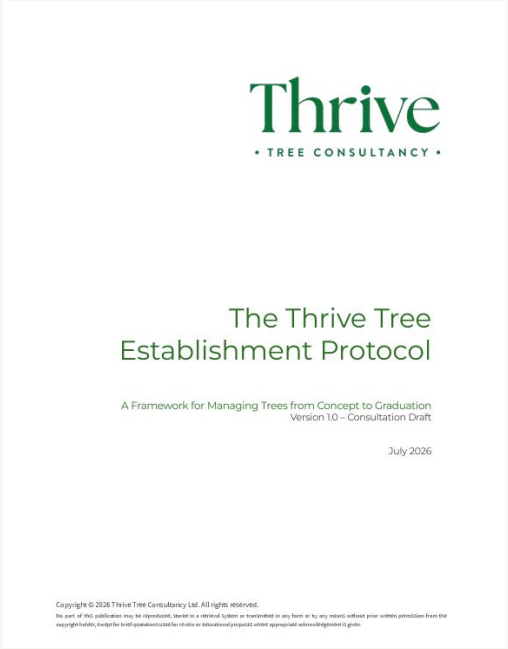

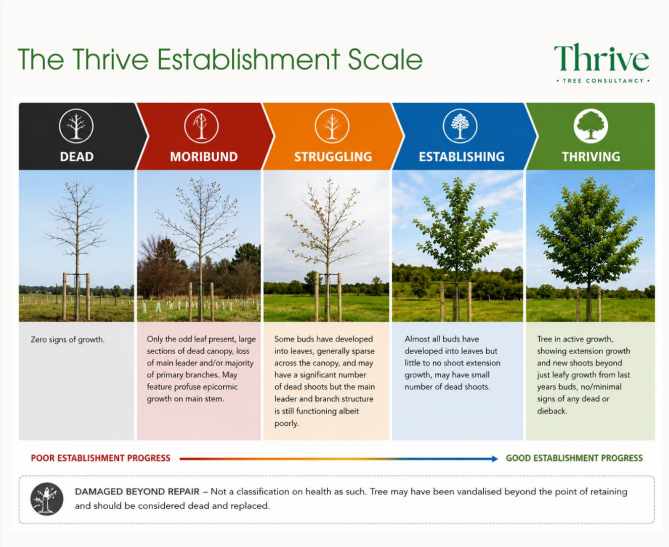


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# The Five Principles

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Continuity of Care

Outcome-Based Management

Collaboration

Evidence-Based Decisions

Continuous Improvement

# A Different Measure of Success

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The ultimate measure of success is not how many trees are planted.

It is how many successfully graduate and fulfil their potential.

# Thank you


## Robert Murison

Director, Thrive Tree Consultancy Ltd

Email: hello@thrivetree.co.uk

Web: www.thrivetree.co.uk

Phone: +44 (0)7534 977 833

LinkedIn