**CAVAT Questionnaire**

In early 2018, “CAVAT (Capital Asset Value for Amenity Trees): valuing trees as public assets [[1]](https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/research/cavat_survey/#_ftn1)” was published. The paper described the history and development of CAVAT and featured five case study examples of how CAVAT [[2]](https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/research/cavat_survey/#_ftn2) is being used to protect trees in the urban environment.

In an exciting new project, Fera, Forest Research, and the CAVAT Exec Board have teamed up to determine the extent of CAVAT use across Great Britain, and to understand how and for what purposes CAVAT is being used.

The project aims to understand whether CAVAT is being used i) to provide a basis for managing public trees as assets rather than liabilities, and ii) to assist local authorities in achieving an appropriate level of compensation where publicly owned trees are damaged or removed without consent. It may reveal other uses too. There are, for example, cases where CAVAT has been used to make a value-based case for tree retention – but how widespread is this practice?

The project will inform future support of CAVAT. It will also help with broader research on valuing urban trees, and strategic management of urban trees. An intriguing outcome of a GB-wide uptake of CAVAT might be that it could provide a transaction-based insight into the value of mature urban trees.

**We need your help…**

Our first step is to determine the extent of CAVAT use across the UK. To help us with this, we have four short questions to ask local authority officers with a remit for trees.

Please support this work by *either*:

* Completing the questionnaire on the other side of this flyer and posting to: c/o Kieron Doick, Forest Research, Alice Holt, Farnham, Surrey, GU10 4LH
* Completing the questionnaire overleaf, scan and email to: kieron.doick@forestry.gsi.gov.uk (an electronic version of this questionnaire is available upon request)
* Completing an online SurveyMonkey version of this questionnaire at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CAVAT_Survey>

***Please share*** this questionnaire with contacts ***within*** other departments in your Authority ***and*** in other Local Authorities. Thank you.

**Privacy Notice:**

I am willing to take part in the ‘Investigating the Role of CAVAT in the Strategic Management of Urban Trees’ study and consent to the contact information provided on this questionnaire and follow up enquiries in connection with this Study being used by Forest Research for this purpose.  I understand that this personal information will be held securely in the UK or EU by Forest Research (Forestry Commission) for the duration of the research project including its write-up phase and that it will not be used for any other purpose.  I understand that I am free to withdraw at any stage and at that point request any personal information that I supplied be appropriately deleted. The Forestry Commission is registered as a data controller under the Data Protection Act 1998 (Registration No: Z6542658).  The Forestry Commission’s Personal Information Charter can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/forestry-commission/about/personal-information-charter>

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| --- |
| This questionnaire will ask you about your experience of CAVAT to inform this research and on-going support of CAVAT. |
| **1. Please provide details of your role:** (Note: All responses will be anonymised in any outputs.) Your Local Authority: Your job title:  Your department:  |
| **2. Does your local authority currently use CAVAT to value public and/or private trees?** (Place a cross in the appropriate box).  Yes (proceed to question 3) No (proceed to question 4) |
| **3. Which departments in our local authority have used CAVAT, and which method have they applied?** Please add a cross to appropriate boxes, otherwise leave blank.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Full method | Quick method | Unsure |
| Planning |  |  |  |
| Highways |  |  |  |
| Parks & Open space |  |  |  |
| Other |  |  |  |

Proceed to box 7 | **4. Has your local authority ever used CAVAT in the past?** |
| If Yes… | If No… |
| **…for what reasons have your local authority stopped using CAVAT?** Please add a cross to appropriate boxes.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|   | Did not find it effective |
|  | Too time / resource consuming |
|  | Haven’t stopped permanently, plan to continue use in future |
|  | Change in staffing or organisational structure  |
|  | Do not know |
|  | Other (please specify): |

 Proceed to box 7   | **…why has your local authority not used CAVAT?**Place a cross in appropriate boxes.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Not aware / familiar with CAVAT |
|  | Not appropriate to job role |
|  | Lack of time / resources |
|  | Do not think its use will be beneficial |
|  | Do not know |
|  | Other (please specify): |

 |
| **7.** We’d like to discuss with you further on your experience of CAVAT. This would be in the form of a telephone interview. If you are willing to be interviewed, please add your contact details below: Name: Phone:Email:  |

**8. Thank you for your time to complete the survey.** If you have any questions on the survey, please contact Kieron Doick at: kieron.doick@forestry.gsi.gov.uk or on 0300 067 5641