Site Assessment Checklist:

In deciding where to plant your tree(s) and which type of tree would be most suitable, you need to take account of the following:

1. Distance from buildings, paths, walls and other trees. You need to allow sufficient room to avoid roots damaging hard landscaping and competing with existing trees. Check any stipulations in your insurance.
2. Be aware of overhead cables – remember your tree will grow.
3. Be aware of drains and underground pipe work, allow sufficient room for roots to grow without blocking drains and damaging underground pipes.
4. Be aware of how your tree will spread to avoid foliage interfering with light, views, street lights and signage.
5. Think about how your tree will affect your use of the space. Do you want a shady place to sit, will it interfere with your BBQ space, will your pond get clogged up with fallen leaves?
6. What things are most important for you in a tree? Spring blossom, autumn colour, berries, shade, size, growth rate.
7. What kind of soil do you have? Deep loam or a thin soil and check this against the preferences of your tree. Look at what type of trees are growing in the gardens and land around you.
8. Which direction does your site face? Check that this is suitable for your tree.
9. Consider other things that might affect the suitability of your site e.g. What size is it? Is it sloping, muddy or dry? Are there grazing animals, local wildlife such as deer and rabbits, stray footballs? Consider which type of tree would be most suitable and ensure your tree is suitably protected and supported in the early stages.
10. Most small trees prefer to grow in a group for protection. Not all will survive. If you only want a single specimen tree you might be better to buy a larger tree from a specialist supplier.