

# Broadsheet

The Magazine for Broadland Tree Wardens

Issue 192 – September 2020

Broadsheet 22 Years Old Today

# Out of Control

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The Monthly Magazine for  
Broadland Tree Wardens

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## This Month's Cover Picture

A spectacular sessile oak with a girth measuring 7.47m recorded by Helen Leaf, for the Ancient Tree Inventory (Tree ID 193006).

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# Out of Control

**I** CANNOT help but think that this world has gone totally out of control in recent weeks. COVID-19 has shown what a sting it has in its tail if you fail to give it the respect it demands; Brazil has dramatically increased the rate at which it is destroying the Amazon Rainforest; and our government now wishes to give developers (not to mention railway builders) freedom to destroy our precious environment.

**I**T was very disturbing, though not really a surprise, to read that official figures from Brazil have shown a big increase in the number of fires in the Amazon region in July compared with the same month last year.

Satellite images compiled by Brazil's National Space Agency revealed there were 6,803 - a rise of 28%.

President Jair Bolsonaro has encouraged agricultural and mining activities in the Amazon, but under pressure from international investors in early July his government banned starting fires in the region.

The latest figures raise concerns about a repeat of the huge wildfires that shocked the world in August and September last year.

Reuters news agency reported that Ane Alencar, science director at Brazil's Amazon Environmental Research Institute, was quoted as saying "It's a terrible sign. We can expect that August will already be a difficult month and September will be worse yet."

Mr Bolsonaro has criticised Brazil's environmental enforcement agency, Ibama, for what he describes as excessive fines and his first year in office saw a sharp drop in financial penalties being imposed for environmental violations. The agency remains underfunded and understaffed.

**I** WISH I could say that it was a surprise that TV naturalist Chris Packham has lost his Court of Appeal bid to challenge the government over the HS2 high-speed rail scheme. However, he was fighting a mighty force.

He had argued there were failings in the way the government decided to give the project the go-ahead.

In April, the Springwatch presenter was refused permission by judges in the High Court for a full judicial review of the decision. Mr Packham said he was "deeply disappointed" by the ruling.

In giving the decision, Lord Justice Lindblom said the court "rejected both of Mr Packham's substantive grounds of appeal as unarguable".

The judgment noted his claims included that the government misunderstood local environmental concerns and had failed to examine the environmental effects of HS2.

The TV presenter had alleged the government had not accounted for the effect on greenhouse gas emissions up to 2050 in light of "obligations under the Paris Agreement and the Climate Change Act 2008".

At a July hearing, lawyers for Mr Packham said a review gave an "incomplete assessment of environmental matters" which meant the government approved HS2 with a "complete misapprehension" of its environmental impact.

In written submissions, David Wolfe QC argued ministers would have proceeded with their decision on the basis the Oakervee Review (a government-commissioned report set up to examine whether and how HS2 should proceed) would have explained what they needed to know, when it did not.

However, Timothy Mould QC, acting for the government, said: "It is simply fanciful for the appellant to assume that the first respondent (the Secretary of State for Transport) knew nothing about the public legislative and procedural history of HS2, including the comprehensive assessment of environmental impacts undertaken in accordance with parliamentary procedures, beyond that which was drawn to his attention by the report itself."

In his statement, Mr Packham said: "The fact is, we are a world away from the place we were when we issued the original claim for judicial review."

He said Covid-19 had turned the country's finances and the public's attitudes towards climate change "upside down".

"People now see that a scheme for a railway which will tear up the countryside so that we can shave a few minutes off a journey time, makes no sense in the contemporary workplace," he stated.

HS2 is set to link London, Birmingham, Manchester and Leeds.

A spokesman for HS2 Ltd said it took its "commitment to the environment extremely seriously" and there was "safeguarding in place to protect wildlife and other natural assets".

A Department for Transport spokesperson said the project was "crucial to rebuilding our economy from coronavirus" and HS2 had been tasked with "delivering one of the UK's most environmentally responsible infrastructure projects".

A very sad day.

**O**UR government played the "good news-bad news" card last month when Housing Secretary Robert Jenrick pledged to cut red tape and streamline the planning process, with an insistence that developments are 'beautiful'.

Every new housing development in England will be required by law to have tree-lined streets as part of the biggest shake-up of planning laws for more than 70 years. The changes will, however, strip local councillors of power to decide on individual developments in an attempt

to "get the country building".

The plans have also attracted criticism from housing charities, planning officers and architects who warned the changes could lead to a 'generation of slums' and kill off affordable housing projects.

The Government insisted that there would be no lowering of building standards as a result.

Mr Jenrick launched a consultation on proposals that include fast-tracking approvals of housing projects that are 'in keeping with local character and design'.

Developers will be able to skip stages of the planning process if buildings are based on designs in official pattern books drawn up by local authorities.

There will also be a requirement for all new streets to be tree-lined unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Mr Jenrick told the Daily Mail: 'We want our communities to get behind our plans to build much needed homes, which is why we fast-tracking developments that keep in with local character and design.'

'We will insist development is beautiful – and meets local people's high standards. Attractive design that fits in with local heritage and character is the best antidote to local objections to building.'

Under the plans, every area in England will be designated for either 'growth', 'renewal' or 'protection'. In growth areas individual developments will not require planning permission, so the default position will be that homes can be built.

Renewal areas will have 'permission in principle' to build, but all developments will have to be approved. In protected areas such as green belt land, most new developments will be banned.

Local councils will decide how to designate all the land in their area. All planning applications will be registered online via an interactive map, intended to help local residents participate in decision making.

However, there are concerns that those living in 'growth' areas could be confronted with huge new developments they will get little say over.

As part of the overhaul all councils will be given two-and-a-half years to draw up plans for the building of more homes or will face sanctions that are yet to be decided.

Mr Jenrick said the existing 'complex' planning system 'has been a barrier to building the homes people need'.

He said the changes would provide a 'major boost for small building companies across the country' by making it easier for them to navigate through the planning process. Thirty years ago small builders were responsible for 40% of new build homes compared with 12% today.

Mr Jenrick will also replace the community infrastructure levy used by councils to secure money from developers to pay for amenities such a new roads with a standard national levy.

However, campaigners have voiced concerns about how much say residents would have about developments.

Tom Fyans of the Campaign to Protect Rural England said: 'The key acid test for the planning reforms is community involvement and it's still not clear how this will work under a zoning system. We also need robust legal guarantees that the public are consulted regarding new development.'

Nikki Williams of The Wildlife Trusts said: 'It's critical that government weaves nature into the heart of every housing development. Proposals for "tree-lined streets" are nothing like enough.'

- **Local councils will be given two and a half years to draw up plans for building more homes or will face sanctions.**
- **Developments that follow locally-agreed pattern books on home design will be fast-tracked, with a requirement for tree-lined streets in all new schemes.**
- **Every piece of land in England will be designated as for 'growth', 'renewal' or 'protection'.**
- **Residents will be able to access online maps and data to see what is planned in their local communities.**

The Town and Country Planning Association (TCPA) condemned it as disruptive and rushed, saying there are currently up to 1million unbuilt permissions, according to The Guardian.

Alan Jones, president of the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) described the proposals as 'shameful', adding 'there's every chance they could also lead to the development of the next generation of slum housing.' However, he added that there was "no evidence that the planning system is to blame for the shortage of housing, and plenty to suggest that leaving local communities powerless in the face of developers seeking short-term returns will lead to poor results".

Ministers are pushing ahead with plans to loosen building rules in England despite opposition from local planning officers, who have warned that the move risks creating sub-standard housing and angering residents.

From September, developers will not need to submit full planning applications in order to demolish empty buildings and rebuild them as homes, or to repurpose shops and offices into housing, the government announced on Tuesday.

Property owners will also get fast-tracked permission to add two storeys to their homes under certain conditions, as part of the extension of so-called permitted development rights (PDR).

An independent report commissioned by Mr Jenrick's Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, published in August, identified widely held concerns about PDR.

"All of the local planning officers interviewed had concerns about PDR, usually most acutely in concern to the quality of developments that were being produced through it," wrote the report's authors, who conducted interviews with officials in 11 local planning authorities across England.

PDR has long been controversial. Many office-to-residential conversions fall far short of minimum space standards, with some homes having less than a quarter of the 37m<sup>2</sup> of floor recommended by the government.

Planning officers interviewed for the report were concerned that any intended time and cost savings by scrapping regulations risked being lost to dealing with local opposition.

This intervention is part of a broader government effort to overhaul the planning system, taking decision-making power about individual developments away from local committees and speeding up the approval process for buildings which meet prescribed design codes.

Further detail is expected to emerge soon about the proposals, which have been dubbed a "new deal" for planning, according to those familiar with the discussions.

While the government has signalled its intent to "build, build, build", it remains to be

seen whether the relaxation of planning rules would boost housing numbers in the short-term.

Claire Dutch, partner and co-head of planning and environment at law firm Ashurst, said: "Much has been made of this dramatic slashing of red tape, but it'll be interesting to see how quickly these 'unused' buildings can be repurposed and what that will actually mean for the housing and town centre crises. The proof will be in the pudding."

Broadsheet cannot be bought by the promise of tree-lined streets in exchange for uncontrolled development. It has seen so many developer-planted trees perish in their first year because of a lack of TLC (trees love care).

Then there are those that were ideally positioned when planted but never allowed for vandalism or the fact that residents like trees but not in their back yards!

Broadsheet says it is an awful plan and will all end in tears!

Before coming out with any more cock-eyed ideas perhaps the government should do something to make developers build the million or so homes they already have permission for. That will solve the housing "crisis" overnight.

One final comment from your editor. Having worked for a planning authority for several years, I experienced first-hand the difficulties planning officers face every day. Basically they are damned if they do and damned if they don't!

Governments change and policies change with them. The power base in local authorities change and so do their policies.

We blame the planners for decisions we don't agree with but never think why they made that decision. I don't claim that they are perfect but they are the professionals. Maybe it's time to leave the decision-making to them ... not the amateurs!!

**UNFORTUNATELY, vandals, criminals and plain ignorant people also appear to be out of control as illegal raves, litter dumping and outright destruction seem to have increased in recent months.**

It was so disappointing to read that an area of ancient woodland described as the 'last remaining fragments' of the world famous Sherwood Forest is under threat. The protected heritage site at Strawberry Hills Heath Nature Reserve - a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) - has been damaged by fire, litter and 4x4 vehicles.

Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust has released images of the destruction after it received reports of vandalism on Thursday, August 6. The Trust describes the area as "hugely important" in terms of protecting the Sherwood Forest habitat.

Much of the area that was once the ancient Sherwood Forest is now farmland or commercial forestry with only pockets of ancient heathland and forest remaining.

The wildlife charity has worked with landowners in the area to improve the area for wildlife and is currently working on the largest ever heathland restoration project in the county. However, the efforts have been against the backdrop of a number of incidents of vandalism.

A spokesman for the Trust said: "On Thursday we had reports of fires, damage to trees including 'ring barking' which will lead to trees dying, litter and broken glass and a fire which seems to have included discarded camping kit, plus damage to paths by 4x4 vehicles.

"Whilst a longstanding problem, our efforts

with local landowners and the local police have had a big impact in recent years, especially on the misuse of off road motorbikes. There was a spate of biking incidents early in lockdown and the police responded very quickly.

"Our success in working with neighbours and partners to reduce antisocial behaviour make incidents such as this even more frustrating especially at the current time when our rangers are so stretched and we've worked hard to keep all our reserves open throughout lockdown."

It comes after the Major Oak, a symbol of Nottinghamshire and world-renowned, was vandalised causing a large 3-foot chunk of bark to fall off the tree.

Rangers at the Trust will visit to inspect the recent damage caused at Strawberry Hills Heath. However, due to the limited number of members covering hundreds of hectares of land, it is not possible to increase patrols.

The Trust relies largely on the support of volunteers but during lockdown, the volunteer programme was paused. This is now starting to resume but there is a backlog of work across the sites and the added work from vandalism has been described as "a real blow" while paths damaged by 4x4 vehicles is not easy to repair.

The area is considered to be a jewel in the county as one of the largest areas of connected greenspace, but due to its location on the edge of Mansfield, it is fairly remote and patrolling is challenging due to the size of the network. For these reasons, the Trust believes it draws antisocial behaviour as people can access it from various different parts.

Head of Communications at Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust, Erin McDaid said: "We were very distressed to receive reports of damage to wildlife habitat and antisocial behaviour at our Strawberry Hills Heath Nature Reserve.

"This is much loved reserve in the heart Sherwood Forest where we are working hard with neighbours and partners to restore and reconnect fragments of the ancient forest. The vast areas of interconnect habitat make it of vital importance for the county's wildlife but unfortunately it has long been the focus of antisocial behaviour by a mindless minority.

"However, our work with neighbours and the police to tackle the issues has been paying off and whilst this incident is deeply frustrating we are determined to ensure that the full potential of this area for both wildlife and people is realised – but to do this we will need more support and would also ask people to report any criminal activity directly to the police."

**C**LOSER to home, a huge blaze which destroyed 14,000m<sup>2</sup> of Thetford Forest prompted stark warnings about fire safety as the heatwave created tinder dry conditions.

Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service, which dealt with the incident, Tweeted photos showing the shocking scale of the damage caused to the historic woodland which took several days to fully extinguish.

Several pumps, a water carrier, misting units and a drone had to be sent to deal with the fire, which began on the evening of Friday 31 July and was not fully extinguished until Sunday.

It had been started by a discarded glass bottle left in hot sunlight, prompting warnings from firefighters for people to take great care about dropping litter in tinder dry conditions.

"Please support us to keep you safe," the fire service said, as sunny weather is set to see the county bask in temperatures of 30°C and more in the coming days. Take extra care in heat and

take litter home. In tinder dry conditions, the risk of forestry fires is high."

Dave Goodrum, secretary of the Friends of Thetford Forest, said incidents like this one are often "down to people's carelessness". He added: "We would encourage people to take their litter home. If you've brought it with you, you're perfectly capable of taking it home. Don't leave it behind."

He added that Thetford Forest is likely to be at higher risk of fires at the moment, not just because of the dry conditions but also because the forest is "more overgrown than it normally would be" from the coronavirus lockdown.

"The grass is longer because people haven't been trampling all over it," he said.

He added that fires not only harm the array of wildlife living at the Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), but also the long-term income of the Forestry Commission, which runs the site and provides timber for the nation.

Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service area commander Ken Williamson has also warned this week that accidental fires are a risk during warmer weather. "Increasingly dry conditions make crops, grass, trees and undergrowth particularly vulnerable to fire," he said.

"In the past we have seen acres of land destroyed because someone has flicked away their cigarette or not properly extinguished their disposable barbecue. We are asking people to be aware of these dangers and respect their surroundings. If you see a fire at any time of year, call 999 immediately."



Thetford Forest is the largest man-made pine forest in the United Kingdom and covers an area about the size of a city. Established in the 1920s by the Forestry Commission, it forms a large part of the history of the Brecks landscape and contains nearly 19,000 hectares of trees.

It is a habitat to a range of wildlife and has a large population of deer and muntjac, as well as a wide variety of birds.

All of this followed warnings to barbecue lovers about the "absolute stupidity" of lighting fires in Thetford Forest during the summer heatwave.

All barbecues, including eight for hire at High Lodge, were banned at the ancient woodland, as temperatures were set to remain at above 30°C for days. The Forestry Commission warned: "There is a high risk of forest fires, not only because of the heat but because the grass has become more overgrown during the Covid-19 lockdown.

However, people continued to use disposable barbecues despite bans in the past.

**W**E held a successful inaugural training session via Microsoft Teams on the evening of 4 August and several people asked if we could use Microsoft Teams to re-introduce monthly meetings.

The Executive Committee think this is a really good idea, but monthly may be a little too frequent. We therefore propose to hold quarterly meetings initially, increasing the frequency if and when support warrants it.

Three-monthly would mean that the first meeting would be held in November, but that would be unwise (see the following section of my editorial) so I propose that we hold the first a couple of weeks before Christmas.

I look forward to receiving your suggestions for meeting topics.

**S**O why would it be unwise to hold our first quarterly meeting in November? Very simple really. We shall be holding our Annual General Meeting on Thursday 5 November 2020 at 19:30, via Microsoft Teams.

I shall be issuing the Agenda soon and I really do hope that as many of you as possible (including parish representatives) can join and maybe express your opinions.

At the very least it is your opportunity to elect your own Chairman, Co-ordinator and Executive Committee Members.

It will also be an opportunity for you all to meet our National Co-ordinator, Sam Village. Sam has kindly agreed to give an update on Tree Council matters and I thanks her for that. I just know that you will find her contribution well-worth listening to.

So put the date and time in your diary ... NOW!!!

**Y**ES it's true. 22 years ago today saw the publication of the first edition of Broadsheet. It was a bit different then of course. Just four pages and produced in black and white (on green paper) with a few clip-art images and no actual photographs.

There will be no big celebration for now though as we shall save that until next May when I look forward to publishing our 200th edition. I simply thought Broadsheet's 22nd birthday was worth a mention.

I will be very grateful to receive your ideas for ways to celebrate the 200th edition of Broadsheet. Surely it's a milestone worth celebrating? So get your thinking caps on and I look forward to hearing from you.

**H**OPEFULLY, this editorial will have whetted your appetite for what I hope you will find an information-packed edition of our monthly magazine.

As always, your comment/feedback will be greatly appreciated ... good or bad. How else am I expected to know if it is worth me writing this thing every month?

I do urge you all to read the Tree Council's draft response to the government consultation on the England Tree Strategy and then, if you haven't done so already, submit your own response. It really is important.

So I hope you enjoy this edition of Broadsheet and I trust that you all have a successful and satisfying September.

All the best,

John Fleetwood

# Draft Response to Government Consultation on the England Tree Strategy

**WE** have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to set out real, lasting commitments to England's trees and hedgerows, across all our urban and rural landscapes. This consultation, leading into the new England Tree Strategy, is important to help shape a green, tree-filled future.

**The tree Council welcomes the consultation and the efforts that have been made to publish it in good time for everyone to have time to contribute.**

We want a strategy that pushes even further and faster, providing funds to establish and protect trees across the widest spectrum of our urban and rural landscapes, and thinks of trees as assets, not liabilities. There should be input from a broad range of government departments (including Health, Education, Transport, Culture and Tourism) in order to recognise the many, diverse benefits trees offer humans, nature and the climate.

At present, our chief concern is to ensure that sufficient attention and funding goes into environments beyond large-scale forests and managed woodlands. This includes hedgerows, street trees, community orchards, wood pasture, parkland and the landscapes which house our precious ancient trees. A key component of achieving this will be to resource local authorities properly to create local strategies with clear local targets, recruit sufficient numbers of qualified tree officers, and establish and care for trees and hedgerows.

The eventual strategy should include a raft of intelligent statutory targets for England, based on quality data about our existing tree-scape and including clear reporting structures to ensure this happens. We also want to ensure residents, communities and volunteer-led organisations are educated and empowered to care for their local trees long-term.

The Tree Council's key priorities are that the strategy should:

**Fund and establish trees outside commercial forests and large managed woodlands**

- Recognise the importance of the entire English treescape, and its importance to wellbeing, heritage, ecology and biodiversity (that is, the ecosystems services trees provide), not simply for carbon capture, timber or energy crops.
- Offer equivalent funding, incentives and importance to establishing thriving hedgerows, urban and street trees, orchards and wood pasture as is provided to woodland trees and crop trees.
- Commitments to include targets for the planting of street, urban and peri-urban trees, and going beyond the traditional solutions, for example by including rooftop gardens on office/housing blocks in cities.
- Fund research into the benefits of trees within all our urban and rural landscapes, such as hedgerows, parks, wood pasture, and on streets.
- Fund research into the most effective ways of ensuring that trees achieve their full environmental and eco-system potential.

**Recognise the importance of local and regional tree strategies**

- The strategy should include firm commitment to support and fund local authorities to lead on local tree planting as a key component of local tree strategies, which includes more resources for Tree Officers – who are currently focused on statutory prevention (TPOs) rather than a duty to plant. The provision of more Tree Officers also aids community and volunteer involvement.

**Invest in hedgerows**

- Commit to establishing the 200,000 km with new trees, or rejuvenating) as per the recommendation of the Committee on Climate Change in May 2019. This should include planting hedge trees every 20 m (mature standard trees of the future, over and above the main hedging species).
- Fund research into how hedgerows can support national carbon and biodiversity goals, eg as wildlife corridors, as protectors of soil organic carbon (SOC).

**Set a raft of bold, clear, statutory targets**

- Set a target for England's contribution to the UK-wide target of planting 30,000 ha of trees each year by 2024.
- Targets should go up to 2050.
- Consider basing targets on canopy cover rather than hectareage, and include a target to increase trees established in the wider landscape (outside large managed woodlands).
- Include a target to establish, rejuvenate or 'fill-in' 200,000km hedgerow.
- Local authority to set targets to increase canopy cover at municipal level.
- Office of Environmental Protection to monitor, evaluate and report against the above targets.

**Set out an ambitious, legally protected, and biosecure long-term vision for a tree-filled future**

- Set out a vision for ongoing tree planting, establishment and care which will result in a future filled with trees in our streets, parks, woodlands, orchards, housing developments and public spaces.
- Provide formal and legal protection for our ancient and veteran trees wherever they live and recognise the notable trees which stand to be our future ancient and veteran trees.
- A commitment to develop bio-secure, UK grown, tree stock that supports commercial, local authority and community tree nurseries.
- Make land-based careers more visible and attractive throughout the education system, widening the offer for both technical and academic qualifications, to grow the next generation of professional tree people.
- Fund research into more sustainable methods of tree protection and include a

national commitment to move away from plastic tree guards.

- Effectively engage MHCLG, BEIS and Local Enterprise Partnerships, to recognise the role trees and nature recovery have in growing a sustainable and resilient skills-based local economy eg through Local Industrial Strategies.

**Empower communities and volunteer groups to care for their local trees**

- Fund tree establishment projects at the community level.
- Long-term support to enable volunteers and volunteer organisations to establish and care for local trees and hedgerows.
- Fund local authorities to provide more support and guidance on tree establishment projects to volunteer groups in their local area.
- Harness the power of technology to engage audiences, gather and share data, improve knowledge and efficiency

**THE** Tree Council would like the opportunity to comment on a written version of the draft strategy before it is finalised.

**The regular disconnect between the consultation narrative and the multiple-choice questions, coupled with the limited opportunity to give detailed and thoughtful answers, and our desire to see urban trees, ancient trees and hedgerows properly represented, makes it imperative for consultees to see and comment on a final, draft, written strategy before it is published.**

**What you can do.**

1. Respond to the consultation directly. To draw on any of The Tree Council responses, read our full draft response here. If you reference our response please mention The Tree Council, but avoid wholesale copy/paste as duplicate responses may garner less engagement.
2. Write to your MP, sharing a copy of your consultation response and asking them to ask George Eustice MP to oversee a strong England Tree Strategy.
3. Share the consultation with your networks (social channels, friends & family) and ask them to submit a response themselves.

**The Tree Council's Detailed Response**

**Which actions would address the financial barriers that prevent the creation of new woodland?**

- Consolidating the current range of woodland creation grants into one
- Increasing the payment rates for incentives for woodland creation
- Widening the eligibility criteria for applicants to our woodland creation grants so more

- applicants can apply
- Widening the eligibility criteria for the type of woodlands and tree planting that can be funded
- Providing a clear explanation and guarantees of how trees planted between now and 2024 will be considered under Environmental Land Management Scheme
- A quicker approval process for grant agreements
- Support if trees fail to establish due to no fault of the owner (for example, due to tree health or severe weather)
- Introducing mechanisms to realise a secure long-term cash flow for ecosystem services
- Introducing measures to stimulate more private investment (eg green finance) in woodland creation
- All funding mechanisms to include sufficient budget for proper tree maintenance and aftercare to ensure satisfactory survival rates for trees.

**Which actions would be most effective in addressing the financial barriers that prevent the creation of new woodland?**

- Widening the eligibility criteria for applicants to our woodland creation grants so more applicants can apply
- Providing a clear explanation and guarantees of how trees planted between now and 2024 will be considered under Environmental Land Management Scheme
- All funding mechanisms to include sufficient budget for proper tree maintenance and aftercare to ensure a satisfactory survival rates for trees.

**Woodlands provide a range of ecosystem services that provide benefits to businesses and society. How could government better encourage private investment in establishing trees and woodland creation?**

- Broaden the trees that are eligible for the Carbon Guarantee to include urban trees and hedgerows (and hedge trees).
- Raise awareness with the private/business community of the many benefits/ecosystems services of trees. Projects should be ecologically sound and led by experts. Only business partners who pass due diligence checks should be invited to avoid 'green-washing'.
- Government should advise Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) of the potential to include trees and woodlands in emerging Local Industrial Strategies, recognising the long-term local economic benefits of investing in trees, and the required skills, knowledge, partnership, supply chain and infrastructure.
- Offer businesses the opportunity to invest in landscape-scale, government and charity sector led programmes to establish trees, woodlands and hedgerows as wildlife corridors.
- Offer businesses the opportunity to sponsor roads of street trees and engage with residents to water and care for them.

**Which actions would address the non-financial barriers to the creation of new woodland?**

- Consolidating the current range of woodland creation grants into one
- Providing access to better information on the income streams well managed woodland can provide
- Providing land managers with better access to expert advice on woodland creation and forestry knowledge and skills
- Outreach to present the benefits of trees and forestry to land managers
- Outreach to present the benefits of trees and forestry to the investment community
- Outreach to present the benefits of trees and

- forestry to local communities
- Increasing availability of desired bio secure planting material
- Educate and enthuse a new generation to expand the forestry industry
- Developing new approaches to partnerships between land owners and woodland investors or managers which enable the landowner to retain ownership of the land
- Developing a supply of diverse and locally-appropriate seed and planting material by supporting community tree nurseries and other small nurseries that provide UK sourced and grown trees.
- Providing best practice guidance on how best to achieve tree cover through natural establishment (eg most suitable locations, ground preparation, fencing requirements and decisions on management over time).

**Which actions would be most effective in addressing the non-financial barriers to the creation of new woodland?**

- Providing land managers with better access to expert advice on woodland creation and forestry knowledge and skills
- Increasing availability of desired bio secure planting material
- Educate and enthuse a new generation to expand the forestry industry

**Which actions would address the regulatory barriers that prevent the creation of new woodland?**

- Local partners agreeing and setting priorities for woodland creation and other habitat restoration across landscapes
- Enabling regulatory decisions by the Forestry Commission which reflect the national obligation to meet net zero emissions by 2050 and achieve the investment in natural capital set out in our 25 Year Environment Plan
- Implementing a joint approach to land management across central government and its agencies including those responsible for protected landscapes
- Providing a clear explanation and guarantees of how trees planted between now and 2024 will be considered under Environmental Land Management Scheme

**Which actions would be most effective in addressing the regulatory barriers that prevent the creation of new woodland?**

- Local partners agreeing and setting priorities for woodland creation and other habitat restoration across landscapes
- Implementing a joint approach to land management across central government and its agencies including those responsible for protected landscapes
- Providing a clear explanation and guarantees of how trees planted between now and 2024 will be considered under Environmental Land Management Scheme

**How can we most effectively support the natural establishment of trees and woodland in the landscape?**

- Encourage a proper hedgerow management cycle, allowing hedgerows to become 'untidy' and hedge trees to grow at regular intervals
- Incentivise all types of landowners to promote long-term enhanced natural establishment, supported where necessary by seeding and management to promote diverse treescapes, and include in the new ELMS scheme
- Ensure effective tree protection eg management of pest populations, sufficient fencing, etc.
- Consider setting targets for local authorities, statutory public bodies and government agencies to lead by example and become early exemplars in establishing naturally regenerated woods and trees, understanding

where and how they can naturally establish trees/woodland

**Are there any other actions - beyond the options you have already selected or submitted - that would help land owners and managers to transform the level of woodland creation and increase the number of non-woodland trees in England?**

- Tree establishment which provides bio-diversity net gain and protects existing valuable habitats
- Intelligent targets based on quality data of existing treescapes, including:
  - Canopy cover (not hectareage)
  - More trees in the wider landscape (outside woodlands), including non-traditional solutions eg rooftop gardens
  - Planting 200,000 km of hedgerows
  - Support natural regeneration
- Fund local authorities to plant/protect/advise on trees
- Create a 'listing' scheme, like that for listed buildings, to protect veteran and ancient trees
- Government and related agencies, as landowners/managers, can establish trees on their land – and fast-track procurement rules for tree establishment activities

**Which of the following actions would be most effective in helping expand woodland creation in locations which deliver water, flood risk benefits and nature recovery?**

- Increasing grant payments for tree planting along water courses, steep sided slopes and difficult sites
- Providing better access to advice and guidance on woodland creation, forestry expertise and training
- Government to support local organisations and communities to deliver connectivity across the entire landscape to aid nature recovery and water management.

**What role could the nation's National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) play in increasing woodland cover?**

- National Parks could offer complete protection through the planning process for notable, veteran and ancient trees, and also to encourage the planting and/or natural establishment of trees and woodlands in any developments.
- AONBs can take advantage of the fact their geography and sphere of influence covers multiple local authority areas, to lead and facilitate partnerships and programmes that encourage tree planting and protection.
- Both could also act as host to local community seed nurseries.

**Protecting and improving our trees and woodland**

**Which actions would be most effective to increase protection for trees and woodland from unsustainable management?**

- More effective information sharing between government departments and their delivery bodies to inform decisions impacting on woodland, including to prevent woodland loss
- Refining the process of making Tree Preservation Orders, and clarifying the criteria to improve consistency in application of the policy across local authorities
- Far greater penalties/prosecution rates for those who contravene TPOs. Revenue from penalties should be ring-fenced for the local authority to fund local tree establishment.

**Which actions would best help the planning system support better protection and enhancement of the ancient and wider woodland environment and trees?**

- Providing support to fully complete revision of the Ancient Woodland Inventory (to include ancient woodlands under two hectares in area)
- Introduce a listing scheme for protecting individual ancient trees – The Tree Council and partners are exploring this and stand ready to advise.

**What actions would be most effective in reducing the use of plastics in forestry?**

- Fund research into effective non-plastic tree guards and use of other methods where possible eg fencing, wooden barriers

**Which actions would overcome financial barriers to woodland management?**

- Providing grant support for a wider range of management activities
- Providing grant support for the restoration of Plantations on Ancient Woodlands Sites (PAWS)
- Providing grants or loans for equipment, for example, harvesters
- Support to increase the productivity/supply chains for woodland products
- Support for land owner collaboration in woodland management
- Government requiring more domestic timber through procurement policies
- Wider definition of 'woodlands', including community - and local authority-owned and volunteer-managed woodlands, copses, 'urban forests' – trees throughout a municipality which provide greenery, habitat and amenity

**Which actions would be most effective at overcoming the financial barriers to woodland management?**

- Providing grant support for a wider range of management activities
- Government requiring more domestic timber through procurement policies
- Wider definition of 'woodlands', including community - and local authority-owned and volunteer-managed woodlands, copses, 'urban forests' – trees throughout a municipality which provide greenery, habitat and amenity

**Which actions would address the non-financial barriers to woodland management?**

- Providing user friendly woodland management services aimed at 'non forester' woodland owners
- Ensuring public recognition of woodlands that are managed sustainably (for example like Green Flag awards)
- Providing better communication of the benefits and need for woodland management with land managers and investors
- Training to increase the forestry skills capacity in agricultural workers
- Establish a wider definition of 'woodland' to include the urban forest and engage a wider range of landowners and skilled volunteers.

**Which actions would be most effective at overcoming the non-financial barriers to woodland management?**

- Providing user friendly woodland management services aimed at 'non forester' woodland owners
- Training to increase the forestry skills capacity in agricultural workers
- A wider definition of woodland to include the urban forest and a wider range of landowners and skilled volunteers

**Which actions would overcome the regulatory barriers to woodland management?**

- No response

**Which actions would be most effective at overcoming the regulatory barriers to woodland management?**

- No response

**If you own and/or manage woodland(s) that is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) what actions would help you most to bring that woodland(s) into management?**

- Provide good advice, clear guidelines and financial support for non-conventional management options that protect wildlife eg dormice boxes or the specific management of collections of high-value trees, for example groups of ancient coppice or pollards. Ensure the emerging ELMs scheme achieves this. Funding for research projects that will increase knowledge of the biodiversity and needs of the site and engage local interest and support through citizen science

**Which of the following actions would be most effective in improving plant biosecurity across England's trees and woodlands?**

- Managing the impact of invasive non-native plants which provide a pathway for disease through targeted action, ongoing management and monitoring, and wider education
- Developing a supply of diverse and locally-appropriate seed and planting material by supporting community tree nurseries and other small nurseries that provide UK sourced and grown trees.

**Which of the following actions are or would be most appropriate for England's trees and woodlands to contribute to climate change mitigation and helping to achieve net zero?**

- Planting predominantly native woodland to act as a long term store of carbon
- Encouraging agroforestry to increase the amount of carbon stored on productive farmland
- Strengthening the protection of all woodland to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation

**Which of these actions would be most effective in reducing damage to trees and woodlands caused by deer?**

- Supporting a range of approaches to tree protection, including fencing and other alternatives to plastic tree guards
- Better advice and guidance on the value of and options to control damage by deer

**Which of these actions would be most effective in reducing the damage to trees and woodlands caused by grey squirrels?**

- Researching contraception to prevent breeding
- Reintroducing animals to help control squirrels, such as pine martens and goshawks

**Engaging people with trees and woodlands**

**Are any of the following significant barriers to securing and maintaining street trees?**

- Appropriate standards and guidance for securing the right trees in the right places
- The funding and skills for ongoing maintenance of street trees over their lifetime
- Placing green infrastructure, including street trees, on same level of priority as other forms of infrastructure, recognising their multiple benefits to people, place and wildlife.

**How could government overcome the barriers to securing and maintaining street trees you have identified in question 31?**

**Please explain how government overcome the barriers to securing and maintaining street trees you identified in question 31**

- Local and regional tree strategies which link with the national tree strategy, to include a succession strategy for street trees and including a target for increased canopy cover
- Local authorities to be adequately funded to plant street trees – to recruit qualified staff, to

write and implement tree strategies and to plant and care for street trees

- NPPF to be strengthened to bring green infrastructure up to the same level of importance and protection as other infrastructure
- To strengthen TPOs and increase fines for developers who contravene them

**Which of these actions would be most effective in increasing the number/coverage of trees in and around urban areas?**

- Ranked in order of preference from most preferred to least:
- Development and implementation of Local Tree and Woodland Strategies and local planning policies - setting local targets for tree canopy cover and recognition that trees and woodlands are key components of green infrastructure, with equal status to other green and built infrastructure
- Promotion through national policy (including England Tree Strategy and national planning policy) including recognition that trees and woodlands are key components of green infrastructure, with equal status to other green and built infrastructure
- Provide funding at the community level for tree projects eg copse restoration; street tree projects; community orchards
- Promotion through national guidance (such as green infrastructure, planning and design, and code/street guidance, eg, Manual for Streets) - stronger inclusion of appropriate engineering solutions
- Training for practitioners, including highways engineers and others
- Creating new community forests in areas of greatest need
- Providing better support for community forests in areas of greatest need

**Which actions would most help the preparation and implementation of local Tree and Woodland Strategies?**

- Ranked from most preferred to least preferred:
- Preparing national guidance on developing Local Tree and Woodland Strategies
- Recognising trees and woodlands as key components of green infrastructure, with equal status to green and built infrastructure
- Setting local targets for tree canopy cover
- Strengthening technical expertise in tree and woodland management in local authorities
- Using canopy cover as a measure to monitor the scale and development of the urban forest
- Strategies as supplementary planning documents
- Standardising the approach to measuring the value of the urban forest resource
- Agreeing national data standards for urban trees

**Which actions would most effectively engage people in the management and creation of their local woodlands?**

- Ranked from most preferred to least:
- Facilitating networks to exchange ideas and share good practice
- Providing more training opportunities to support woodland management and creation
- Enabling community groups to participate in the management of their local woodland
- Enabling community groups to influence decision making about the management of their local woodland
- Providing legal support to community groups for the acquisition or lease of woodland
- Providing better support for community forests in areas of greatest need
- Creating new community forests in areas of greatest need
- Supporting the growth of woodland social enterprise in and around towns and cities

**Which actions by government would be most effective in addressing barriers to peoples' access to trees and woodlands?**

- Ranked from most to least preferred:
- Supporting people to become trained/ accredited to better facilitate contact (learning and health) with nature
- Creating new accessible woodlands in and around towns and cities
- Improving the quality of access by investing in infrastructure (car parks, trails, path surfacing, signage, seating)
- Regulating to maintain access rights when creating new woodland
- Supporting woodland access through existing incentives and rights of way
- Supporting woodland access with bespoke incentives, simply to allow access
- Offering more generous woodland management incentives for those woodlands with public access

**Which of the following do you most value about trees and woodland?**

- Places to exercise and relax and engage with nature
- Places for nature
- As a feature within towns and cities

**Which of these actions would best address the funding challenge for the planting and on-going maintenance of trees in urban areas?**

- Making central funding available to supplement private finance for establishing

trees in existing developments.

- Using planning levers to require developers to plant trees relating to new development on streets and other public spaces
- Schemes as in Cambridge and Wales where families collect and plant a tree for their newborn child. It's personal, so they care for it.

### Supporting the economy

**39. What could the England Tree Strategy do to encourage the use of timber in construction?)**

- Encouraging planning requirements to incorporate sustainable materials
- Amending public procurement standards to support Grown in Britain certified forest products, incorporate sustainable materials and signal long-term demand

**How could policy about the permanency of woodlands better support tree establishment for agro forestry or energy crops?**

- Not sure

**Which actions would best increase the uptake of energy forestry?**

- Providing financial support for the capital costs of energy forestry
- Providing better advice and guidance on energy forestry

**Which actions would best increase the planting of more trees on farms?**

- Providing incentives for a wider range of tree

planting on farms

- Incentivising establishment, filling-in and improved management and rejuvenation of hedgerows

**Which actions would best increase agroforestry, woodland creation and management on tenanted farmland?**

- Providing industry led guidance, best practice and case studies of how tenants and landlords can work together to deliver benefits for both parties from diversification into tree planting and agroforestry on tenanted land
- Reviewing how tenancy agreements approach the responsibility for and rights to trees

**What are the most urgent shortages in the workforce capacity needed to increase woodland creation, maintenance and management?**

- Forestry educators
- Land agents, surveyors and architects with specialist forest knowledge

**Which actions would best strengthen productivity in forestry supply chains?**

- Providing support for productivity/supply chains for woodland products
- Facilitating collaborative working between woodland owners
- Developing options for private investment for ecosystem services that drive woodland management



# Right Tree, Right Place, Right Reason

*A blog by Mark Broadmeadow on the Forestry Commission website*

**O**VER the past year there has been much discussion about the benefits of tree planting and the crucial role of woodland in the fight against climate change; indeed, the scale of planting was one of the discussion points raised during the 2019 general election campaign. However, I've also come across questions and commentary about the impact that tree planting can have on existing environments, such as species rich grassland and peatland, and the wildlife it provides homes to, criticism that tree planting initiatives will only result in monoculture plantations and that productive forests have little role to play in the fight against climate change.

**Sadly, few people outside those who work with woodlands know about the checks and balances surrounding forestry in the UK and if they do it's unfortunately often discussed in the context of bureaucracy and red tape.**

The reality is that the UK is in the envious position of having a robust and widely welcomed forestry standard in place - the [k that this world](#) - which the Forestry Commission is responsible for implementing in England.

It has been developed over the past 30 plus years as a direct response to the 'Earth Summit' in 1992. It was first published in 1998 and is now into its fourth edition. There are 41 legal requirements, 61 good practice requirements and 312 guideline bullets defining the UK's approach to sustainable forest management in terms of biodiversity, water, soils, climate change, people, historic environment and landscape.

The UKFS is not just a tome that sits on the shelf - it's a requirement for accessing forestry grants, for receiving a felling licence and for obtaining consent to plant a new woodland larger than two hectares in any landscape and for smaller woodlands in sensitive landscapes,

under the [Environmental Impact Assessment regulations](#).

The Forestry Commission assesses woodland creation proposals against the UKFS before giving approval and carrying out checks to ensure that woodland owners and managers comply with forestry regulations. Taken together, this robust regulatory framework prevents the establishment of monoculture plantations, trees being planted on deep peat or on valuable priority habitats and provides a high level of scrutiny to protect landscapes and the wider environment. In effect it's a blueprint for the right tree in the right place for the right reason.

Turning to what is the right woodland to plant for addressing the huge challenge of the climate emergency - well the simple answer is all woodland, as long as it is UKFS compliant and has received regulatory consent; it's also a strong argument for not diluting standards to accelerate planting. We need new native woodland, established either through planting or natural colonisation where we are confident it will succeed.

We also need mixed woodlands and productive forests to satisfy society's demand for timber - bearing in mind we produce only 20% of the timber that we use in the UK; we are also going to need more intensively managed,

but well-designed, short rotation forestry to provide a feedstock for the future bio-economy. If we do not produce sustainable timber in our own woodlands, it will come from elsewhere where our high environmental standards may not be upheld.

There has also been commentary that we should not be planting productive woodlands because so little of UK timber locks up carbon in the long term through its use in construction; this misses half the story of trees and carbon - product substitution. If wood is not used for pallets or fencing, what is the alternative? Steel, concrete and high density plastic, requiring large quantities of energy for their production and drawing on limited natural resources, rather than sustainably grown timber.

This is just a brief insight into sustainable forestry and how it is practised in England. With the government commitment to plant up to 30,000 hectares of trees per year, across the UK, by 2025, the UKFS will be more important than ever. It will ensure that the standards for the planning, design and sustainable management of forests and woodlands in the UK use an approach based on internationally recognised science and best practice, with the right tree, planted in the right place and for the right reasons.



# Biggest Landowners not Growing Enough Trees

An article by Fiona Harvey published on [www.theguardian.com](http://www.theguardian.com)

**M**ANY of England's biggest landowners are not doing enough to plant trees to tackle the climate crisis, according to new data. Government departments, companies such as United Utilities and Network Rail, the royal family and organisations such as the Church of England and the National Trust are among the biggest owners of land in the country, but most have forest cover on their land that is only slightly above the national average, despite having pledged to reduce their carbon footprint.

Tree cover makes up about 10% of England's overall land area, but out of the top 10 landowners, only the Forestry Commission had a substantially greater forested area than this average, according to data compiled for the first time by Friends of the Earth.

That shows most of the biggest landowners could and should do more to plant trees, according to the campaigning charity, which is calling for a doubling of the UK's forest cover as part of the push to net zero carbon emissions.

"Much of England is owned by a very small number of landowners, who have a responsibility to better use their land in a way that helps address the climate and nature crises facing us all," said Guy Shrubsole, a trees campaigner at Friends of the Earth. "A big part of [tackling these crises] means growing more trees, which would remove planet-wrecking carbon from the air and provide homes for wildlife."

The Ministry of Defence and Highways England are both government bodies, with 15% and 12% tree cover on their land in England respectively. The government has pledged to ensure more land is devoted to woodland, as part of its England Tree Strategy. Shrubsole said the government should do more on its own estate, and more to enable other landowners to plant trees.

"[The government] didn't even set a tree target for the country," he said. "This lack of ambition shows a complete disregard for the climate crisis. Ministers must turn this around, by committing to a target to double UK tree cover, and providing better incentives for landowners to grow more trees and re-wild their estates."

Some of the organisations named in the report are embarking on tree-planting programmes, which will substantially increase the amount of tree cover on their land. For instance, the National Trust announced in January plans for 20m new trees on its estate, which would cover an area one-and-a-half times the size of Manchester, or the equivalent of 42 Sherwood Forests.

Patrick Begg, the outdoors and natural resources director at the National Trust, said: "We are absolutely supportive of planting more trees, across England, Wales and Northern Ireland. [Our 20m tree plan] will ensure we meet the Committee on Climate Change recommendations of an increase in woodland cover from 10% to 17% in England and Wales by 2050."

The Duchy of Cornwall is also conducting a natural capital assessment of its land, which is likely to result in more tree planting, and the

## The Landowner League Table for Woodland Cover

Landowner	Acreage owned in England	Woodland, acres	Proportion woodland
Forestry Commission	489,814	414,293	85%
National Trust	474,641	84,433	18%
MOD	397,098	60,311	15%
Crown Estate	264,233	40,558	15%
United Utilities	141,000	16,849	12%
Highways England	114,314	13,538	12%
Network Rail	100,525	10,693	11%
RSPB	127,032	12,133	10%
Duchy of Cornwall	130,639	7,361	6%
Church Commissioners	105,000	3,215	4%
England	32,000,000	3,240,000	10%

water companies – including United Utilities, which currently has only 17,000 hectares of woodland among its 141,000 hectares – have pledged to plant 11m trees.

In some cases, landowners are also constrained by the nature of their land and the uses to which it can be put. For instance, the Duchy of Cornwall's landholdings include a large section of Dartmoor, which by its moorland nature lacks trees, and some of the RSPB's holdings are wetlands.

The Duchy, alongside other major landowners named in the report, such as the Crown Estate and National Trust, also maintains a lot of farmland, much of which cannot be converted without harming the UK's food production capacity.

However, Friends of the Earth said more must be done to encourage forestry schemes on marginal agricultural land if the UK is to meet its net zero carbon targets, and said many of the tree-planting schemes planned by the top ten landowners were inadequate.

The group said water companies' plans for 11m trees would cover a tiny proportion of their overall holdings, and that the companies could go much further. For instance, a large amount of the land owned by United Utilities is given over to rough grazing, which in former times, with less intensive farming, would have contained more trees.

A spokesperson for United Utilities said: "We must balance the sometimes competing interests of water quality, biodiversity, farming and access and recreation. Tree-planting plays an important role, which is why we have planted 2m trees since 1995 and we plan to plant 1m more over the next ten years."

National Rail, which is named in the report as having 11% tree cover on its land, has been criticised in recent years for felling large numbers of trackside trees. The company did not respond to the Guardian's request for comment.

A spokesperson for the Duchy of Cornwall told the Guardian: "Over the last 20 years, in his role as Duke of Cornwall, the Prince of Wales has increased Duchy woodland by more than half, through planting and purchasing, totalling approximately 20,000 trees. Throughout his tenure, the Duke has ensured that most of his woodland is managed in-house by the Duchy estate."

The Church of England disputed the Friends of the Earth analysis, and said its tree cover was much higher than the 3-4% that the report suggested. A spokesperson for the Church Commissioners for England said: "We do not recognise the data that is presented, as it is incomplete and does not show the full picture. At the end of December, the commissioners owned 102,000 acres of forest land. The Commissioners planted over 2.6m trees in 2019."

A spokesperson for Highways England said: "We take our environmental responsibilities very seriously and are one of the largest tree-planting organisations in the country. For example, last year we started a major programme of tree and shrub planting along two major roads in the south-west in a bid to connect a 105-mile corridor of wildlife habitat."

Friends of the Earth compiled its findings by examining land registry data, geographic information system mapping, and the National Forest Inventory.

A MoD spokesperson said: "We are committed to making the Defence estate as sustainable as possible and have planted 1.3m trees in the last decade, with plans to plant a further 2m."

"The Defence estate is primarily used for training, which requires large areas of open land for troops and armoured vehicles to manoeuvre freely. We continue to identify areas where new woodland can be planted that support our military training needs."

# Tree Wardening in Salhouse

*By James Cleaver, Salhouse Tree Warden*

**H**ELLO fellow tree wardens! I was so pleased to join your ranks as the Salhouse Tree Warden earlier this year, partly because it's good to find like-minded people but also as an outlet for trying to do something positive for the earth and others. You will have read in John's previous articles that the UK has 13% woodland cover and the Committee on Climate Change recommend that by 2050 this is increased to 19%, that's 30,000 hectares additional woodland a year.

I'm a numbers guy by trade so immediately crunched the numbers to see how the magic 30,000 hectares annual target relates to my efforts in Salhouse:

$\frac{\text{Parish area } 896 \text{ ha}}{\text{UK area } 24,249,500 \text{ ha}} \times 30,000 \text{ ha}$

That equals 1.11 hectares a year ... or another way of visualising this is a football pitch length, squared.

Now while some may see this as a daunting challenge, I see it as a massive and exciting opportunity to be part of the generation that preserved, enhanced and re-greened the precious environment that sustains, entertains and educates us.

If like me you have tried growing your own trees from nut or seed, you will have felt the excitement of seeing a white shoot for the first time and the awe of what an acorn does so naturally and vigorously. And to think it took me 40 years to appreciate this, employing them as catapult ammo when a nipper, although I'd like to think now that I was unwittingly seed bombing and a few rogue projectiles may have grown into trees!

During my Tree Warden's introductory walk around Salhouse I could not wait to show John my tree growing experiments of hazel, oak, willow, sycamore, sweet chestnut, horse chestnut and giant redwood and a fridge full of the seed of potential future forests (Max is a very tolerant wife).

John pondered and said 'would you be interested in starting a tree nursery?' After some careful consideration I came to realise that you cannot plant a tree without a tree, correct? So, if I grow more trees there will be more trees to plant. That's the reason I became a Tree Warden in the first place, I just wanted to plant trees.

This autumn I am planning to start the 'Salhouse Community Tree Nursery' to grow trees and shrubs from seed, nut and cutting for use in local planting projects and throughout the Tree Council Broadland Network. The Nursery is registered with the Forestry Commission as a supplier of Forest Reproductive Material (FRM) and I have secured some great sites to collect from including Blickling Estate and Salhouse Broad.

Would you like to be involved with the Nursery? If so please email me at [Salhousetreewarden@gmail.com](mailto:Salhousetreewarden@gmail.com). I would welcome any help in various forms and there will be many opportunities, such as



- building and preparing the nursery beds and readying storage;
- collecting and processing nuts, seeds and fruit;
- planting, watering, monitoring, weeding and maintenance;
- lining out; and
- digging out and bagging for final planting out.

A seed collecting event will be held at Blickling on Sunday 11 October from 09:00 to 13:00 as part of the Tree Council's Seed Gathering Season. Please email me for more details if you are interested in joining.

I have not secured the nursery land yet but have made various enquiries. Ideally it would be somewhere near to Salhouse, with access to water and about 20x20m or 400-500m<sup>2</sup>. If this is something you may be able to help with please do contact me! You will have seen we have a mast year in Norfolk with oaks and beech smothered in nuts, hopefully we can grow a few thousand trees next year.

While I have been researching tree growing advice on the internet, including the ever helpful Facebook page 'Tree Planting UK' and the fantastic resource of The Conservation Volunteers (TCV), I would really appreciate any

advice and experience you may have in growing trees or if you know of any good resources. If you have any advice please do email me, trees are my favourite subject as Max my wife will testify.

#### *Editor's Comment.*

*I sincerely hope that several of you will step forward to support James in this excellent venture. He has worked very hard to get his started and deserves success.*

*When we first discussed the idea of a nursery, I idly said that I would check with The Tree Council to ensure there were no reasons why James should not proceed.*

*Jon Stokes said that he could see no reason but would check with the Forestry Commission and Defra first. "I'm 99.9% sure that it will be ok" he started.*

*Oh what a tangled, indecisive mess that led us into and months passed with, apparently, nobody willing to make a decision or give a definitive answer so in the end I told James that as nobody could say that he could proceed we would change our question ... and nobody told us that we could **not** proceed.*

*So please email James today and lend your full support. He deserves it.*

# Climate Change: New UK Law to Curb Deforestation in Supply Chains

An article by Matt McGrath published on [www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk)

**U**K businesses will have to show that their products and supply lines are free from illegal deforestation, under government plans. A proposed law would require larger companies operating in the UK to show where commodities such as cocoa, soy, rubber and palm oil originated from. It would be illegal to use products that fail to comply with laws to protect nature in those origin nations.

However, critics though say the plan is flawed and lacks detail on penalties.

- [Deforestation link to Amazon soya and beef exports](#)
- ['Unacceptable' losses of older trees in 2019](#)
- [Amazon land activist shot dead in Brazil](#)

There has been growing dissatisfaction among consumers about products that are connected to illegal deforestation, especially in the Amazon.

According to a new survey from environmental group, WWF, 67% of British consumers want the government to do more to tackle the issue. Some 81% of respondents in the survey said there should be greater transparency about the origins of products that are imported into the UK.

Fuelling these concerns are reports showing that deforestation in the Amazon has increased sharply this year. The felling of trees and the clearing of land, usually for agriculture, is responsible for 11% of global greenhouse gas emissions. The vast majority of it is illegal.

The UK government now says it wants to address this issue by introducing a law to ensure that the supply chains of larger companies and the products they sell are free from illegal deforestation.

Companies would have to ensure that commodities such as palm and soy were produced in line with local laws protecting forests and other natural ecosystems. Businesses would have to publish information showing the origins of products or face fines.

"There is a hugely important connection between the products we buy and their wider environmental footprint, which is why the government is consulting today on new measures that would make it illegal for businesses in the UK to use commodities that are not grown in accordance with local laws," said international environment minister Lord Goldsmith.

"Ahead of hosting the UN climate change conference next year, the UK has a duty to lead the way in combating the biodiversity and nature crisis now upon us."

The plans for a new law were given a cautious welcome by some environmental campaigners.

"This consultation is a welcome first step in the fight to tackle the loss of our planet's irreplaceable natural wonders such as the Amazon and in the pursuit of supply chains free from products that contribute to deforestation," said Ruth Chambers, from the Greener UK coalition.

"The evidence linking deforestation with climate change, biodiversity loss and the spread

of zoonotic diseases is compelling. A new law is an important part of the solution and is urgently needed.

However, others argued that the proposal was flawed and did nothing tackle demand.

"Companies including supermarkets and fast food retailers must make full transparency of supply chains a condition of trade," said Greenpeace UK.

"That will mean reducing the amount of high risk commodities like meat, dairy, animal feed soya and palm oil they're buying."

"Proactively, the UK government and industry needs to support a just transition at home and in forest regions to food systems that work with nature, including the restoration of natural ecosystems."

As the host of the delayed climate conference, COP26, the UK is under pressure to show international leadership on climate issues. Deforestation is one of the key issues where the government hopes to see progress made on the international stage.

In June, ministers committed an £16m in funding to help scale up environmentally friendly farming and forest conservation in the Amazon.

Details of the consultation on the proposed new law can be found [here](#). It will run for six weeks.

## Valerie Saberton - Drayton Tree Warden

It is with deepest sadness and regret that I have to report the sudden passing of Valerie Saberton, one of the Drayton Tree Wardens, on Thursday 20 August 2020. Those of us privileged enough to have known her will remember a happy, energetic lady who inspired others to "do good things".

I understand from Joy Ramsey, Valerie's long-time friend and fellow Tree Warden in Drayton, that Valerie was 81 years of age, although you would never have believed it!! She leaves a husband of 53 years and two fine sons and our sincerest sympathies go to them.

Apparently, Valerie had been feeling unwell and went to hospital for tests, but on admission her condition rapidly deteriorated.

Jamie Henry at Broadland District Council said "such a shame, such a lovely lady" and Joy said to me on the 'phone "Valerie will always be missed but definitely never forgotten.

# Some Amazing Tree Facts

**T**HERE are around 3 trillion trees on Earth, according to a global study led by researchers from Yale University. That includes over 60,000 known tree species, more than half of which are endemic — meaning they're found in only one country. Brazil, Colombia and Indonesia are home to the most tree species. The bad news: there are 46% fewer trees today than at the start of human civilization.

Trees clearly can't uproot themselves and move, but their population centres can shift over time in response to climate pressures. A study looking at 86 trees species between 1980 and 2015 in the eastern USA found that 73% moved west, where rainfall is increasing. Others headed to the poles, apparently to escape heat. On average, they moved about 16km (10 miles) per decade.

Trees not only give us shade, they can also mitigate extreme temperatures by transpiring — absorbing the sun's radiation and releasing water into the air through their leaves. Urban areas can become sweltering "heat islands" in summer, but a 2019 study from the US found that tree canopy cover of 40% or more could lower summer temperatures in cities by as much as 5°C.

Trees draw CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere and are therefore crucial in the fight against climate change. They can also use their leaves to filter particulate matter and toxic gases like nitrogen dioxide and sulphur dioxide from the air. A recent UK study found that silver birch, yew and elder trees could reduce particles at rates of

79%, 71% and 70% respectively.

Trees can reduce our stress levels and help us feel happier and healthier. Several studies have shown that spending time in nature, or even just looking at trees or flowers through a window, can lower blood pressure, boost the immune system, improve sleep, reduce depression and anxiety, and even speed up recovery after surgery.

Forests have their own communication systems, almost like an underground internet, that allows trees to swap nutrients and send warnings about drought or disease. They interact via networks of soil fungi, known as mycorrhizal networks. Research by ecologist Suzanne Simard has shown that paper birch and fir trees use this system to send water, carbon and nutrients back and forth.

Trees cannot flee if their leaves are being devoured by a hungry herbivore, but what they can do is release chemicals — volatile organic compounds — into the air to warn nearby members of the same species there's a threat in the area. Studies show that other trees respond by boosting their own production of anti-herbivore toxins, which, in the case of acacias, makes their leaves bitter.

When besieged by bugs or parasites, some species, including apple trees and tomato, cucumber and lima bean plants, release compounds into the air to alert the attackers'

predator. Most often, these predators are insects, but a European study showed that trees infested with caterpillars also put out chemical signals to attract caterpillar-eating birds, such as the great tit.

Trees are the oldest living organisms on Earth. One individual can survive hundreds, even thousands of years. According to the OldList, an officially dated record of ancient trees, the oldest known living individual is a bristlecone pine in California's White Mountains. Named Methuselah, it's around 4,850 years old. Its exact location is kept a secret to protect it from vandals.

A photograph can't really do justice to the world's tallest trees: redwoods. The tallest known living specimen is a coast redwood called Hyperion measuring 115.85 m — more than Big Ben or the Statue of Liberty. The giant, discovered in 2006 in California, is believed to be several hundred years old.

California is also home to a giant sequoia named General Sherman, thought to be the biggest living tree when it comes to volume. It stretches to a height of 83.8 m and is 7.7 m in diameter. The title of the world's widest tree goes to the Arbol del Tule, a Montezuma cypress in the Mexican state of Oaxaca. It has a diameter of 11.6 m and circumference of 42 m.

## Your Tree Planting Requirements

In last month's edition of Broadsheet I asked those of you who have requested tree planting funding to let me know your detailed requirements by the end of August in order that I may finalise matters with Jamie Henry, get orders placed and have plants ready for delivery in October.

Unfortunately, several of you have yet to get back to me.

This is jeopardising the whole operation and is most unfair to those who have co-operated.

If you no longer require funding then please let me know immediately so that I can re-allocate the money. Quite a few of you failed to get your requests in to me in time and have therefore been disappointed so I'm sure that I will have no trouble in re-allocation of the funds.

So, please convert your wish list into a detailed list as soon as possible. If you fail to use it you will most likely lose it!!

## Broadland Tree Warden Network AGM 2020

As I stated in my editorial, this year's Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 5 November 2020 via Microsoft Teams, starting at 19:30. It is most important that as many of you as possible attend and we welcome representatives from Town and Parish Councils and Parish Meetings.

I'm delighted to be able to report that Sam Village, The Tree Council's National Tree Warden Co-ordinator, will be joining the meeting and will give a report on the Tree Council's activities along with other news of great relevance to Tree Wardens.

In addition, of course, we have to elect a Chairman, Network Co-ordinator, and Executive Committee members for the coming year. The team that we hope will continue our progress during 2020-2021.

If you are unfamiliar with Microsoft Teams then let me know and I shall arrange a training session so that you can enjoy our meeting to the full.

# Tick-Borne Babesiosis Reaches England

An article published on [www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk)

**PEOPLE** are being urged to be on alert for tick bites, following the diagnosis for the first time in England of a rare illness. Public Health England (PHE) says the risk to the public is "very low", but it's important to be "tick aware" when enjoying green spaces this summer. Babesiosis is caused by a parasite which infects red blood cells.

A second "probable" case of another rare infection spread by infected ticks has also been diagnosed. Tick-borne encephalitis virus (TBE) is already circulating in mainland Europe and Scandinavia, as well as Asia. It reached the UK last year.

Dr Katherine Russell of PHE said cases of babesiosis and TBE in England are rare and the risk of being infected remains "very low".

She said "Lyme disease remains the most common tick-borne infection in England. Ticks are most active between spring and autumn, so it is sensible to take some precautions to avoid being bitten when enjoying the outdoors. Seek medical advice if you start to feel unwell after a tick bite."

To avoid tick bites PHE says you should follow these guidelines:

- Keep to footpaths and avoid long grass when out walking
- Wear appropriate clothing such as a long-sleeved shirt, and trousers tucked into

your socks, to make it less likely that a tick will bite and attach

- Consider the use of repellents containing DEET
- Make it a habit to carry out a tick check regularly when you're outdoors and when you get home
- If you have been bitten by a tick, it should be removed as soon as possible, using fine-tipped tweezers or a tick removal tool
- Contact your GP promptly if you begin to feel unwell, remembering to tell them you were bitten by a tick or recently spent time outdoors.

So, how rare is babesiosis? PHE say they tested hundreds of ticks at sites in Devon close to where the person with babesiosis lives, but all had tested negative and tests on blood samples taken from deer from Hampshire in areas close to where the person with TBE lives, had also tested negative. Both patients are being treated in hospital.

According to the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, babesiosis is transmitted mainly by ticks which become infected by feeding on infected cattle, roe deer

and rodents. There have been 39 known human cases on the European continent. Outside Europe, human babesiosis occurs mainly in the US.

Most people with babesiosis will have either no symptoms or mild symptoms of infection. However, people with weakened immune systems can become very ill, complaining of flu-like symptoms such as fever, chills, muscle ache, fatigue and jaundice.

Around two-thirds of people with TBE infections will have no symptoms. For those who do, flu-like symptoms such as fever, headache and fatigue can lead to meningitis, encephalitis and paralysis.

PHE says if you develop flu-like symptoms after being bitten by a tick, you should visit your GP, or go to hospital if you:

- Get a stiff neck and a severe headache
- Get a pain when looking at bright lights
- Have a seizure (fit)
- Have a change in behaviour - such as sudden confusion
- Develop weakness or loss of movement in part of the body.

## Scientists Unlock Alpine Trees' Molecular Defence

An article by Mark Kinver published on [www.bbc.co.uk/news](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news)

**RESEARCHERS** have found a way to tackle a disease that threatens thousands of hectares of Alpine forests each year. Needle bladder rust causes Norway spruce needles to yellow and fall out, causing a significant reduction in growth. Scientists in Austria have unlocked a natural defence mechanism that the species can use to fend off the potentially fatal pathogen. The findings have been published in the BMC Genomics journal.

Disease is one of the major threats facing trees around the globe, especially in a warming world where many organisms are finding themselves living in an environment in which they are under increasing levels of stress.

It is widely predicted that invasive pathogens, and the insects that can spread them, are expected to thrive in a world experiencing climate change.

In evolutionary terms, harmful pathogens developed alongside plants' attempts to protect themselves, creating a multi-millennia cold war between biological kingdoms. It is a natural defence mechanism that a team of scientists utilised to create a system to protect the Norway spruce from needle bladder rust.

"Our research seeks to curb this disease

unravelling the molecular defence mechanism of Norway spruce against needle bladder rust infection," explained co-author Carlos Trujillo Moya, a researcher from the Austrian Research Centre for Forests.

Dr Trujillo Moya and colleagues have continued to monitor Norway spruce trees in the mountains of Austria, allowing the team to select trees that seem to display a resistance to the disease. From these trees, the team were able to generate clones and then study the genes, as well as studying the production of defence chemical compounds.

Dr Trujillo Moya told BBC News that trees that displayed a resistance to the needle bladder rust defended themselves via a "hypersensitive response".

"This defence mechanism consists in the production of a complex artillery of proteins and chemical compounds that isolate the fungus in

the attacked leaves," he explained.

"The infected part of the leaf dies in a controlled way and thus prevents the fungus from spreading throughout the rest of the tree. "This response occurs two to three weeks after the infection and lasts for at least one month."

The team said the findings represented "enormous progress" in the way Norway spruce trees are selected for their resistance to the needle bladder rust pathogen (*Chrysomyxa rhododendron*).

"Our finding allows to better identify resistant clones and promote the establishment of replanting programmes by using selected trees, based on most effective hypersensitive defence response," Dr Trujillo Moya observed.

He concluded by saying this research helps tackle one of the main issues facing the ecological and economic sustainability of Alpine ecosystems.

# UK's Most Endangered Bat Species Discovered in South Norfolk Village

*An article by Emily Thomson published on [www.edp24.co.uk](http://www.edp24.co.uk)*

**A** VILLAGE is leading the way in bat conservation, after efforts to record the nocturnal creatures revealed Norfolk is home to some of the most endangered species. Janet Trewin, a journalist, from New Buckenham, has become “batty about bats” after she got involved with the Norfolk Bat Survey, which aims to educate communities and help researchers to record and identify different species.

The project was introduced by Dr Stuart Newson, senior research ecologist at the British Trust for Ornithology, back in 2013 and he has since set up locations across Norfolk where bat-lovers can borrow specialised equipment to find out exactly what has been flying around their homes at night.

Furthermore, Ms Trewin, who has used the equipment in hundreds of locations around her village, has discovered New Buckenham is home to an array of bat species.

She said: “In 2016 I was put onto the neighbourhood planning committee, part of the parish council, but New Buckenham is a conservation village. We have listed buildings and a castle so we are not expected to build houses.

“That doesn’t mean we won’t need to in future, so my thoughts were that we need to know how important the green scene is around



us. That was when we found out there are very few records about the wildlife here.

“So I found the Norfolk Bat Survey, I got a bat box and we quickly discovered that we had a completely surprising range of bats.”

There are 18 bat species recorded in the UK and at least nine were discovered in the village, which includes the brown long-eared bat, the Pipistrelle, Daubenton’s bat, Leisler’s bat, Noctule, Soprano pipistrelle and Natterer’s bat.

However, the most important discoveries were the Barbastelle, a red listed species and the most endangered of all bats in the UK, and the Serotine.

Dr Newson said: “The New Buckenham findings are very interesting. We’re learning all the time. The range of bats is impressive and certainly wouldn’t be found in built up areas.

“Within Norfolk the Barbastelles are quite localised, but on a national scale you really see how important Norfolk is for bats. I think it is quite surprising that people who didn’t know about bats are now real advocates for bat conservation in that little village.”

Ms Trewin added: “The fields, the village allotments, the church yard, these kinds of things are all features that matter. We have discovered we have some the most endangered bats here, it’s great fun and simple to do, but most importantly we now have official records and we know how important it is to protect them, because bats like Norfolk too.

“There are all these other extraordinary creatures, the more people get involved, the more we will discover.”

## Eulogy for the Ash

*An article by Joy Lo Dico published on the Financial Times website*

**O**UT near Stroud in the west of England, my little house in the woods is circled by ash trees. But where once I looked up and admired their brushstroke leaves and branches that turned skywards, during the past two summers I’ve watched their leaves turn black and eventually their naked branches in summer. Half the skyline is dying.

The spores that cause ash dieback were first identified in the UK in 2012, coming in from the continent, and have since rampaged across the country. Tree surgeons and foresters I speak to say felling ash trees is now the majority of their work. The carcasses are being piled high.

“Best punt a few down,” says Will, one of the local foresters as we inspect the trees around my home. A few? Maybe one in seven of the mature trees on the land are ash. How do we understand the magnitude of this loss?

Five years ago, it was estimated that the UK was home to 125m ash trees in woods, with up to 60m elsewhere. Those numbers are diminishing fast. Salisbury Plain, the home of Stonehenge, is being cleared of them; Sheffield

has a quarter of a million, of which only a fraction are likely to survive. I repeat to myself the line from Auden’s *Bucolics*, “a small grove massacred to the last ash . . .”

The last time we lost trees to a disease in such large numbers was in the 1970s. It was a strain of Dutch Elm Disease, a fungus that hitched a ride on logs shipped from North America. In a matter of months an elm, which has a place in the British imagination second only to the oak, could become merely firewood. A few re-grow from suckers, but then die young.

I had little interest in nature as a child, but I remember hearing the phrase “Dutch Elm Disease” repeated again and again on the evening news. It came to signify a turning point, an irretrievable loss. It was also the time of another deep recession.

I often wonder why we attach such sentiment to trees. I am as guilty as the rest. Friends have witnessed me resting my hands on

trees that have been condemned, offering what? A sort of consolation.

Some of Britain’s trees are crops, not unlike barley, just larger by some magnitude of zeros. But they are also so much more. The grandest seem like survivors from a lost world, where the gods and the monsters of our imagination lived, “when”, in the poet AE Housman’s words, “winds were in the oakenshaws and all the cauldrons tolled”.

While city parks are our arboreal zoos, our woods, though semi-tamed by our chainsaws, still point us backwards. If the city asks the fundamental question “where are we going?”, the woods ask the opposite: “where did we come from?”

In Auden’s poem, they are the place beyond the reach of church and state, where morals are loosened, while the nightingales sing above. This is where we find our own nature. Auden concludes sardonically that “a culture is no

better than its woods." It isn't the woods that bring savagery, it is too much civilisation.

When you head back towards the wild there is more than just the romanticism of the magnificent trees. There is fungi and decay, viruses and sharp teeth. To walk in the woods is to be reminded that things live, mutate, grow, flourish, and die.

Someone suggested recently that, to slow the spread of ash dieback, one could rake-up all the leaves in autumn. They harbour the spores. However, this seems to go against the spirit of

our woods. Do we really want more manicured parkland?

Our grief over the ash is a human grief, our attempts to control its loss part of our culture. But in nature there is always the possibility of regeneration. Once this tree recession is over, wildflowers will spring up, drunk on the light, then saplings will find space, some brambles of course, and in 10, 15 years new woods.

Last week I tramped across the parts of my woods with public footpaths, tying blue ribbons around the few ash trees that looked like they

were still in with a chance. Maybe one in 10 will make it before their leaves fell and the healthy would be difficult to distinguish from the sick. The fellers will arrive in a few months.

Down a bank, I was surprised. There, in a conclave of ash, was a tree I'd not noticed before: it was an elm, but not one of the several young sickly ones I'd already come across. It was stout and in full leaf. Here was something which, without any human intervention, planned to survive. Dammit, I thought: there's hope.

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## UK Peat Emissions Could Cancel Forest Benefits

*An article by Roger Harrabin, BBC environment analyst*

**E**MISSIONS from UK peatland could cancel out all carbon reduction achieved through new and existing forests, warns the countryside charity CPRE. It says many degraded peatlands are actually increasing carbon emissions. Yet, it says, there has been much more focus from the government and media on forests than on peat bogs.

**The government's advisory committee on climate change told BBC News that it agreed with the conclusions of the analysis.**

Both that committee and the CPRE are urging more ambitious action to protect and enhance peatlands.

A peat bog is a Jekyll and Hyde thing. A wet, pristine peat bog soaks up CO<sub>2</sub> and, unlike trees, has no limit to the amount of carbon it captures. Trees only capture CO<sub>2</sub> until they are mature.

However, a dry, degraded bog – like many in England's uplands – is a big source of CO<sub>2</sub> as the carbon in the bog oxidises. So restoring bogs by filling up drainage ditches is a highly cost-effective way of reducing emissions.

The CPRE points out that around 18.5 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions come from peatlands every year in the UK. The

same amount of emissions would be captured through existing and proposed forest, but crucially that is not before 2050 to 2055 when the trees will be fully grown.

In other words, whilst forestry and peat restoration both need to be done, the best value lies with improving peat.

Ministers aim to publish a peat strategy, but this has been delayed. A government response to the CPRE's warning has been requested.

Environmentalists insist the government strategy must ban peat extraction for gardens. Currently, suppliers are supposed to be phasing out peat voluntarily – but campaigners say it's far too slow.

Tom Fyans from CPRE said: 'The government has paid too little attention to emissions from peatland. As things stand, they aren't even properly included in current emissions monitoring.

"This seriously threatens the effectiveness

of other nature-based solutions, like tree planting, in tackling the climate emergency.

"We need much greater levels of investment in restoring or rewetting peatlands, and we need a strategy for a fair and managed transition to move businesses away from dependency on destructive use of peatlands."

It is estimated there are over three billion tonnes of carbon stored in the peatlands in the UK – equivalent to all carbon stored in the forests of the UK, Germany and France put together.

Only 22% of the UK's peatlands are estimated to remain in a "near-natural" state – that is when they are not contributing to global heating.

Peatlands also have a huge capacity to store carbon, flood waters and provide a haven for wildlife.

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## Southwark Tree Officers Managing Asset Worth £165m

**W**AS most interested to read an article on <http://www.prolandscapermagazine.com> by Nina Mason reporting that a recent study of the publicly-owned trees in the London Borough of Southwark has shown the value of the asset managed by the local authority.

**The study, carried out by urban forest specialists Treeconomics using i-Tree Eco, discovered that the trees owned and managed by the London borough would have a replacement cost of more than £165m.**

In addition, using Southwark's own tree inventory, Treeconomics calculated that the trees managed by the council remove in excess of 21t of air-borne pollutants, valued at more than £135,000 each year, and store over 57,000t of carbon, valued at over £14m per year. They also divert over 35,000m<sup>3</sup> of storm water away from the local sewers each year, which is worth an estimated £21,183 in avoided storm water treatment costs.

The benefits provided by these trees will grow as the trees do. The benefits linked to health and wellbeing cannot currently be measured using i-Tree; but Treeconomics says the annual benefits figure of almost £400,000 is certainly an underestimation. By valuing the benefits that its trees are providing, Southwark Council now has an evidence base with which to mitigate for development impacts, inform land use changes and, through planned intervention, avoid losses to its natural capital.

The results of the study will certainly help the council to make informed management decisions about its green infrastructure. As a follow up to the i-Tree Eco inventory project, Southwark commissioned Treeconomics to create a Tree Planting Opportunity Map to highlight areas with tree planting potential throughout the borough. The mapping exercise

showed that if, over time, all actual plantable space was to become tree covered, Southwark's canopy cover could increase from 19.9% to 34.9%

Cllr Rebecca Lury, Cabinet Member for culture, leisure, equalities and communities, comments: "In Southwark, we are committed to nurturing our existing 82,000 trees, and planting more. As an inner London borough, we value the vital role that our trees play in helping to improve air quality, as well the other multiple benefits they offer to local communities and neighbourhoods.

"We welcome Treeconomics and their expertise. This commission will help us to further quantify the environmental benefits that Southwark's trees provides to local people and better inform our current and future management, of Southwark's urban forest."

# New Book Explores History of Coggeshall's 800-Year-Old Oak Tree

*A review by Tom Dalby published on [www.gazette-news.co.uk](http://www.gazette-news.co.uk)*

**I**N so many ways, university professor James Canton's book contemplating humanity's connection to the mighty oak tree has arrived at the perfect time. James, 53, penned *The Oak Papers* after spending two years visiting the 800-year-old Honywood Oak, which sits in the Marks Hall estate, in Coggeshall.

**The book has been in the works since 2012, but James admits he has only just "scratched the bark" on our link, reliance and fascination with this ancient species of tree.**

The book has already attracted significant interest. An abridged version was recently read as BBC Radio 4's Book of the Week.

Its timing is interesting, as many have recently discovered a renewed love for the nature on our doorsteps amid the coronavirus pandemic, but it is also set against the backdrop of an ever-increasing focus and reliance on machines and technology, with humanity drawing further away from things born of seed and earth.

"With the Oxford Junior Dictionary removing words like 'acorn' from its pages, it rather feels like there is a risk future generations won't care much for nature at all, but in many other ways, lockdown has been amazing for people rediscovering the value of just going down to the park, or going for walks through fields" said James.

"The pandemic has forced people to stay local and appreciate their neighbourhood. I live rurally, but am originally from urban London, so find it so nice to be in this part of the country."

A lecturer in literature at Essex University and a father-of-three, James, who lives near Halstead, became fascinated with the



Honywood Oak during his 17 years working as a teacher at Honywood School, when he would pass the tree daily.

While the magnificent tree was James' inspiration, it also served as his gateway to a deeper examination of humanity's connection with the oak.

The book draws upon the history of the estate, where a forest of 300 oaks was felled, as well as interviews and conversations with experts, forestry scientists and naturalists.

"I spent a long time by the Honywood Oak, but also a long time in the British Library, speaking to forestry scientists and seeking clarity on how trees communicate with each other," said James.

"In the past 20 years or so there has only just developed an appreciation for how plants communicate which is kind of mind-blowing in itself. Over time I built up more and more of an enthusiasm and passion for it."

James garnered an understanding of the species of birds and bugs which make their home in the delicate ecosystem of the Honywood Oak.

"It started from a 'nature' point of view and I quite quickly realised there is a close association between humans and oak trees, which has existed since pre-history," he said.

"In Britain we have associated ourselves with oak trees right through the period of the

Empire and our Imperial history – the HMS Victory for example was made out of 6,000 trees, 2,000 of them were oak.

"British identity is linked to them, which we all know but perhaps don't really think about and appreciate anymore. If you look around the globe at wherever they grow, countries connect with them in a different way. Germany sees them as essential to national identity, as does Latvia and in Central America."

However, at the heart of the book lies ponderings on human connectivity with nature – the calm and stillness reflected onto us by our living world.

It is a difficult feeling to describe, but James attempts this in the book's concluding words as he sits beneath the Honywood in the morning sun: "The oak stands massive, iron cast in this fading darkness – a vast, round-shouldered presence. A breeze stirs the leaves, a breath that seems to seep from the dawn. The barking of the deer destroys the silence with a fierce, devilish cry. Then it is gone and the vacuum is filled with peace."

Above all, the book examines how nature is a place away from the anxieties, pressures and noise of daily life.

Published by Canongate books, *The Oak Papers* was launched on 30 July and is available online and in stores in hardback for £13.



# Ancient 2,000-Year-Old Redwoods Have Survived California Wildfires

An article by Ariel Zilber and Marlene Lenthang published on [www.dailymail.co.uk](http://www.dailymail.co.uk)

**WHEN** a massive wildfire swept through California's oldest state park last month it was feared many trees in a grove of old-growth redwoods, some of them 2,000 years old and among the tallest living things on Earth, may finally have succumbed, but an Associated Press reporter and photographer hiked the renowned Redwood Trail at Big Basin Redwoods State Park and confirmed most of the ancient redwoods had withstood the blaze. Among the survivors is one dubbed Mother of the Forest.

**"That is such good news, I can't tell you how much that gives me peace of mind,"** said Laura McLendon, Conservation Director for the Sempervirens Fund, an environmental group dedicated to the protection of redwoods and their habitats.

Redwood forests are meant to burn, she said, so reports earlier this week that the state park was 'gone' were misleading.

The historic park headquarters is gone, as are many small buildings and campground infrastructure that went up in flames as fire swept through the park about 45 miles south of San Francisco. "But the forest is not gone" McLendon said.

"It will regrow. Every old growth redwood I've ever seen, in Big Basin and other parks, has fire scars on them. They've been through multiple fires, possibly worse than this."

When forest fires, windstorms and lightning hit redwood trees, those that don't topple can re-sprout. Mother of the Forest, for example, used to be 329 feet tall, the tallest tree in the park. After the top broke off in a storm, a new trunk sprouted where the old growth had been.

Trees that fall feed the forest floor and become nurse trees from which new redwoods grow. Forest critters, from banana slugs to insects, thrive under logs. Last month, Steller's jays searched for insects around the park's partially burned outdoor amphitheatre and woodpeckers could be heard hammering on trees.

Occasionally a thundering crash echoed through the valley as large branches or burning trees fell.

When Big Basin opened in 1902 it marked the genesis of redwood conservation. The park now receives about 250,000 visitors a year from around the world, and millions have walked the Redwood Trail.

The park only recently reopened after COVID-19 related closures and now is closed - because of the fire. The road in is blocked by several large trees that fell across it, some waist-high, some still on fire.

While there is a great deal of work to be done rebuilding campgrounds, clearing trails and managing damaged madrones, oaks and firs, Big Basin will recover, McLendon said. "The forest, in some ways, is resetting," she said.

State Parks District Superintendent Chris

Spohrer said he was pleased to know the redwoods had survived. He said an assessment team had only been able to check buildings so far, and that he hopes they can inspect the trees in the coming days. "The reason those trees are so old is because they are really resilient," he said.

On 27 August three massive wildfires were raging in Northern California after they were ignited by more than 13,000 lightning strikes since the middle of that month, scorching through 1,875 square miles of land and killing seven people. Toward the end of August firefighters had a brief respite from the flames as humidity rose, but the state is still reeling from dozens of blazes including two of record-breaking size.

More than 600 wildfires have sparked state-wide and burned through more than 1.2 million acres since mid-August, according to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. More than 1,200 buildings have been destroyed and 14,000 firefighters have been deployed, including some on 24-hour shifts.

Now firefighters are facing off with three large fire complexes surrounding the Bay Area, all sparked by lightning: the LNU Lightning Complex, the SCU Lightning Complex, and the Santa Cruz Fire also known as the CZU Lightning Fire. The fires are so powerful smoke is visible from outer space, stretching hundreds of miles over the Pacific Ocean.

However, things are looking up. A warning about dry lightning and gusty winds that could trigger more fires was lifted for the San Francisco Bay Area toward the end of the month.

"Mother Nature's helped us quite a bit," Billy See, the Cal Fire incident commander for a complex of fires burning south of San Francisco, said. Yet, a quarter of a million of people are still under evacuation orders and warnings.

Officials are warning people to not return to their homes amid the blazes. Six people who returned to a restricted area south of San Francisco to check on their properties were surprised by fire and had to be rescued, the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office said.

The fires have claimed seven lives so far. Firefighters battling a fire in the Santa Cruz Mountains south of San Francisco discovered the body of a 70-year-old man in a remote area called Last Chance. He had been reported missing and police had to use a helicopter to reach him in an area of about 40 off-the-grid homes that had been under an evacuation

order.

"This is one of the darkest periods we've been in with this fire," Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office Chief Deputy Chris Clark said on the discovery of the man's body.

The LNU Fire and SCU fires have both burned more than 500 square miles. The LNU blaze in wine country has been the most deadly and destructive blaze of them all - leaving five dead and 845 homes destroyed in its wake. Three of those victims were in a home that was under an evacuation order when they died.

As of 24 August the LNU fire, located in the northern Bay Area and Central Valley, is the second largest in the state's recorded history. It spans 350,030 acres and is just 22% contained.

The SCU Lightning Complex stretched 349,196 acres and was 10% contained as of 24 August. The SCU Lightning Complex fire, located east of San Jose, is the third-largest fire in the state's recorded history.

"The size and complexity of this fire is not one we've seen in times past," Cal Fire Chief Shana Jones said.

Cal Fire spokesman Steve Kaufmann said lightning was responsible for about 585 fires in the past week and that more than 1.1million acres have been scorched since 15 August - more than five times the size of New York City of the entire state of Rhode Island set on fire.

As of 24 August more than 10million people in the West were under red-flag warnings, which means warm temperatures, low humidity and strong winds provide for an increased risk of fire danger, according to the National Weather Service.

The fires have been further complicated by evacuations amid the coronavirus pandemic and looting in some areas.

"What we're hearing from the community is that there's a lot of looting going on" Santa Cruz County Sheriff Jim Hart said, adding that 100 officers were patrolling areas and anyone not authorised to be in evacuation zones would be arrested.

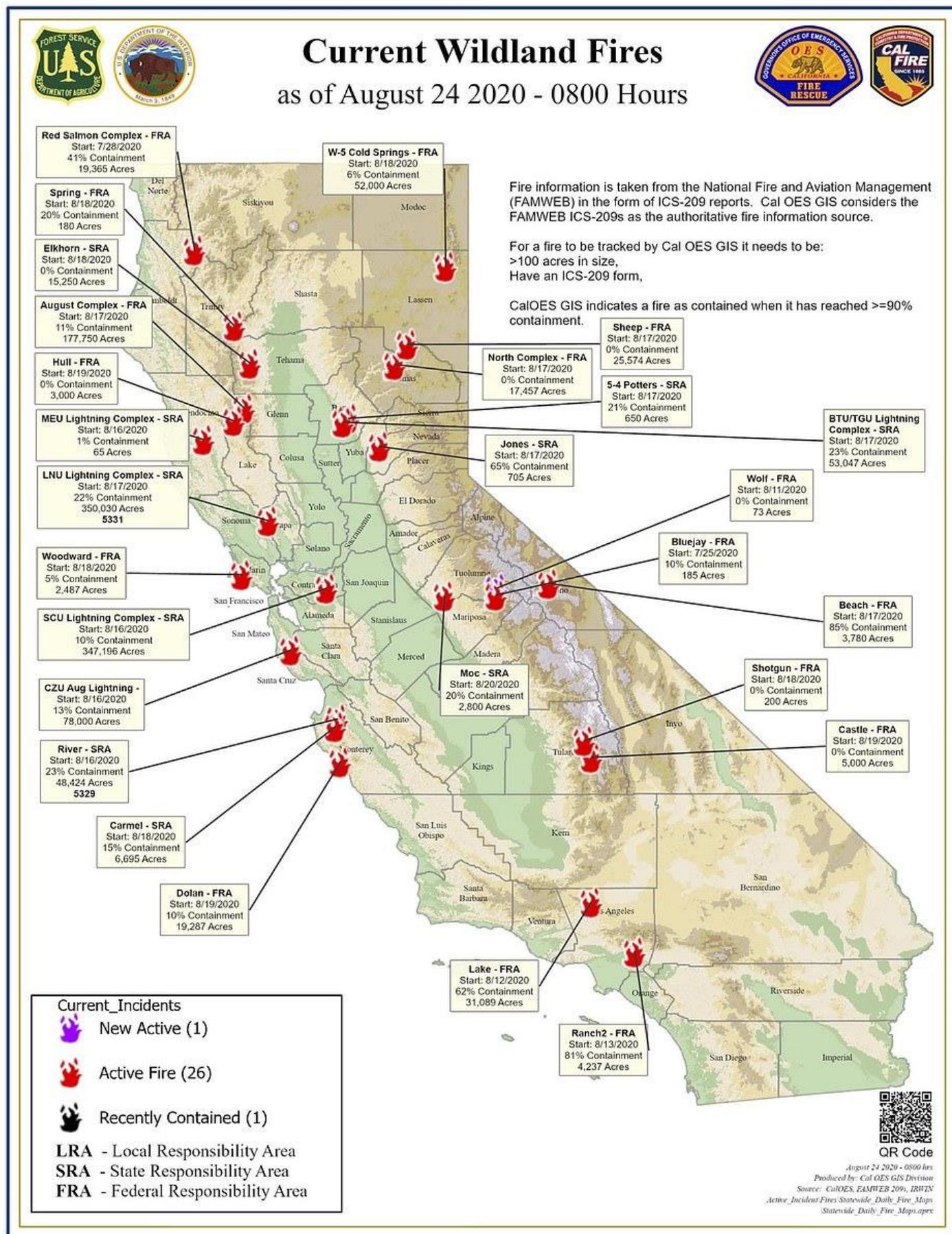
Fire commander Chief Mark Brunton with Cal Fire was one of the victims robbed while trying to face the fires. He said after he left his fire vehicle to help direct operations someone entered it, stole personal items including a wallet and 'drained his bank account.'

Gov Newsom has issued a checklist for residents to take face masks, sanitation supplies, important documents, medication and three days' worth of food and water. Newsom said the state received a Presidential Major Disaster Declaration due to the fires meaning

President Trump released federal aid to supplement recovery efforts in Lake, Napa, San Mateo, Santa Cruz, Solano, Sonoma, and Yolo counties.

This year there's been a spike in wildfires. So far in 2020 there's been 7,014 fires compared to 4,292 at this time in California last year, Gov Gavin Newsom said. Last year,

wildfires charred a total of 260,000 acres and killed three people, according to Cal Fire.



# Tree Preservation Orders and Conservation Area News

## Broadland Tree Preservation Orders Served, Confirmed and Revoked

TPO Number	Address	Served	Trees Protected	Status
2020 No 1 (1303)	Robin Hill, 16 South Walsham Road, <b>Acle</b>	17/02/2020	All trees on site	Provisional
2020 No 2 (1304)	Agricultural land north of Buxton Road, <b>Aylsham</b>	19/02/2020	2 x oak	Confirmed without modification on the 19/08/2020
2020 No 3 (1305)	Land at Wood Green, <b>Salhouse</b>	09/03/2020	1 x Leyland cypress	Provisional
2020 No 4 (1306)	Land rear of 48 Spixworth Road, <b>Old Catton</b>	29/04/2020	T1 oak, T2 deodar cedar T3 copper beech T4 yew	Provisional
2020 No 5 (1307)	66 Charles Close, <b>Wroxham</b>	26/05/2020	1 x Atlas cedar	Provisional
2020 No 6 (1308)	19 Millgate, <b>Aylsham</b>	17/08/2020	2 x Scots pine	Provisional

## Current Works to Trees Subject to a Tree Preservation Order and Section 211 Notifications for Works to Trees Within Conservation Areas

App No	Address	Cat	Species / Requested Works	Decision
20191487	Thatched House, 10 The Street, <b>Coltishall</b>	211	Coppicing of 6 willow and 3 silver birch. Currently 8m in Height.	19/09/2019
20191569	68 St Williams Way, <b>Thorpe St Andrew</b>	TPO	T1 oak - end weight reduction. Reduce width from 13.5m to 8m.	28/11/2019
20191764	The Loft, Aylsham Water Mill, Mill Row, <b>Aylsham</b>	211	Lime – fell.	08/11/2019
20191768	Belt Farm, Mill Row, <b>Aylsham</b>	211	T1- fell. T2 yew - crown lift to 4m & reduce laterals to rear of property by 2-2.5m. T3 sycamore - remove to coppice. T4 - remove all sycamore stems and holly 5m of garden wall.	13/11/2019
20191982	Bircham Centre, Market Place, <b>Reepham</b>	211	T1 and T2 holly – fell.	31/12/2019
20200431	19 Breck Farm Lane, <b>Taverham</b>	TPO	T1 cedar – fell.	03/03/2020
20200484	23 Station New Road, <b>Brundall</b>	TPO	T1 sycamore - fell. T2 sycamore - reduce lateral branches on property side only from 6m to 4m, reduce height from 15m to 13m and remove 3 x suckering stems at base. T3 sycamore - remove secondary rubbing limb and reduce property side from 5m to 2.5m. T4 sycamore - remove 3 x suckers/saplings growing at base and reduce large limb on property side from 5m to 3m.	Withdrawn
20200864	Speckled Wood, Pyebush Lane, <b>Acle</b>	TPO	T1 <i>Pinus nigra</i> - reduce crown by 1.5m, reducing height from 23m to 21.5m and crown spread from 12m to 10.5m. G2 Leyland cypress, T3 <i>Pinus nigra</i> , T4 ash (dead) and T3 – fell.	Split decision
20200963	38 Keys Drive, <b>Wroxham</b>	TPO	T7 lime – fell.	Refused
20200999	Appletree Cottage, 21 The Hill, <b>Coltishall</b>	TPO	Cedar - current height approx 15m. Crown clean to remove dead branches at the bottom up to approx 1.5m height and crown clean to thin approx 10%.	Approved
20201006	17 Belmore Close, <b>Thorpe St Andrew</b>	TPO	T1 beech - reduce crown by 2m and crown lift to 5m, crown clean and removal of deadwood (thin by a maximum of 10%). Current height around 20m and crown spread 22m. T2 beech - crown lift to 5m to provide sufficient clearance over surrounding gardens and outbuildings.	Approved
20201009	17 Belmore Close, <b>Thorpe St Andrew</b>	TPO	T1 beech - reduce crown by 1.5-2m in order to reduce effects of suppression by neighbouring beech tree and to match proposed work to neighbouring beech tree. Crown lift to 5m.	Approved

20201033	38 Wilks Farm Drive, <b>Sprowston</b>	TPO	Oak - trim branches back to border of the property.	Refused
20201042	2 Old Rectory Close, <b>Thorpe St Andrew</b>	TPO	G1 yews - reduce by 2m as part of ongoing arboricultural management and shade alleviation, removal of ivy and deadwood. Current height 10m to be reduced to 8m G2 holly - reduce by 1m as part of ongoing arboricultural management and shade alleviation. Current height 5m and 6m to be reduced to 4m and 5m.	Approved
20201090	10A West End Avenue, <b>Brundall</b>	TPO	T1 horse chestnut - weight reduce by 2m off the height (not affecting overall height), 2m on west side (from 7m to 5m) and 2m on other sides (from 7m to 6m).	Split decision
20201101	Fuchsia House, 4 Barnby Road, <b>Badersfield</b>	TPO	G5 cherry x 2 – fell. T123 oak - crown clean to remove deadwood, promote health and reduce risk of dead wood falling onto property or persons. 2 replacement trees (milkflower Cotoneaster labelled 5 & 6) have already been planted and established.	Split decision
20201110	1 South Avenue, <b>Thorpe St Andrew</b>	TPO	T1 Monterey cypress - remove previously topped stem towards north, raise remaining canopy to 4/5 m, clean crown of dead suppressed crossing branches. T3 Lawson cypress – fell.	Approved
20201112	St Margarets House, 1 Staithe Way Road, <b>Wroxham</b>	211	T1 fir 0= - fell – heavy decline.	02/06/2020
20201119	Meadow View, 102 Lower Street, <b>Salhouse</b>		T1 cedar - crown reduction in height from 5m to 4.5m and in radial spread from 2m to 1.5 m.	05/06/2020
20201121	Glenmaric, Marsh Road, <b>Halvergate</b>	TPO	TPO 1 - dead walnut – fell. TPO 2 - horse chestnut - I would like to remove branches from this tree as the branches are growing around the telephone cable. Current estimated height is 25m, crown thin by 2%.	Approved
20201122	20 Bircham Road, <b>Reepham</b>	TPO	T1 ornamental tree and T2, T3, T4, T5, T6 & T7 leylandii – remove and replace with mixed species shrubs to fence height, which will enhance the house and garden.	Approved
20201127	20 Saint Davids Drive, <b>Great Little Plumstead</b>	TPO	T1 & T2 oak - crown reduction and thin mature trees forming single canopy, extended limbs to be reduced by 1-2m to reduce sail factor and end weight as one of the oaks has a heavy inclination toward multiple targets including a house. The trees are in good health and showing positive vitality. The lightweight nature of the proposed pruning will only enhance the trees' structure and hopefully strengthen interior growth for years to come. They are of large amenity value to an otherwise built up area lacking trees. Deadwood removal and a light crown raise of 4-5m would also be requested to allow vehicles to pass without contact, and to reduce detritus falling from the canopies.	Split decision
20201175	Land at Haveringland Hall Park, <b>Haveringland</b>	TPO	No 4 lodges- 2 x ash – fell. 1A lodge- skinny Scots pine growing through canopy of neighbouring sycamore - fell. 10 Lakeside- Silver birch - remove large limb over caravan to balance the tree canopy. 35 Lakeview - leaning oak - fell. 16 Lakeside - 3 x leylandii – fell. 17 Lakeside - small conifer - fell. 1 Arboretum – oak - raise and crown clean.	15/06/2020
20201178	18 Millgate, <b>Aylsham</b>	211	T1 beech - reduce over-extending lateral branches to south from 9m to 4m. T2 oak - reduce over-extending branches to north side from 8m to 5m and to give the canopy a 15 % thin.	Approved
20201192	29 & 26 Seton Road, <b>Taverham</b>	TPO	T10 oak - remove 2 lower limbs over garden (height approx 18m) G7 beech - height approx 20m - reduce extended limb in upper crown to SW by approx 2m. Reduce additional branches overhanging the garage by 1.5m.	Approved
20201205	Holme Hale, Chapel Street, <b>Cawston</b>	211	Lombardy poplar x 2 - reduce height from approx 22m to 11m.	Approved
20201211	93 Garrick Green, <b>Old Catton</b>	TPO	T1 sycamore in rear garden - crown raise to 5m all around, crown clean, thin 25% of smaller branches and remove large branch overhanging garden to rear.	Split decision
20201224	24 Hastings Avenue, <b>Hellesdon</b>	TPO	Lop large bows overhanging rear garden.	Withdrawn
20201226	Under Ridge, Beech Road, <b>Wroxham</b>	211	Beech – fell.	Approved
20201237	198 Thunder Lane, <b>Thorpe St Andrew</b>	TPO	T1 sweet chestnut - remove first low bough growing toward property raising crown from 3.5m to approx 4.5m over driveway. No change to spread or height. Remove larger deadwood.	Approved

20201238	196 Thunder Lane, <b>Thorpe St Andrew</b>	TPO	T1 sweet chestnut - remove first two boughs growing over driveway; raise crown from 3m to 4.5m; remove bough touching street lamp to clear light to pathway. No height or width reduction	Approved
20201239	5 Seago Vale, <b>Taverham</b>	TPO	T1 oak and T3, t5 & T6 sycamore – fell. T2 beech & sycamore - tip back from property by 2-3m reducing. T4 sycamore - reduce from 20m to 17m.	18/06/2020
20201248	5 Chapel Lane, <b>Thorpe St Andrew</b>	TPO	T1 sycamore & T2 hawthorn - reduce height from 7.5m to 3.5m; prune back from building, reducing spread from 6m to 4m.	Approved
20201249	Maybrook, 10 Blofield Road, <b>Brundall</b>	TPO	Copper birch located in next door neighbours' garden at 8 Blofield Road - reduce 2 branches over hanging near to my house. Branches stick out and visually make tree look unbalanced. I shall hire a cherry picker to reduce branches in proportion to rest of the tree.	Approved
20201251	31 Oakdale Road, <b>Brundall</b>	TPO	2 x <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> approximately 12m & 15m tall - remove due to creating excessive shade in garden. There are only two trees in our garden and they are caught under the umbrella of A1 protected trees of TPO 1972 No.7 (247).	Refused
20201252	Newlands, 9 School Lane, <b>Thorpe St Andrew</b>	TPO	T1 oak - reduce height from approx 20m to approx 14m. Tree is dangerously close to property and there is history of tree failure on this steep bank. Customer wants to preserve the trees as they are holding the bank together. T2 oak - reduce from approx 20m to approx 14m as above tree is close to property and on a steep bank. T3 oak reduce from approx 6m to 14m as above. Happy to take advice and a site meeting a must.	29/06/2020
20201255	53 Hungate Street, <b>Aylsham</b>	211	Grey spruce – fell.	Approved
20201261	Stevelyn, Sir Williams Lane, <b>Aylsham</b>	211	Removal of fallen Laburnum tree in driveway. Fir trees - trim branches back and trim top of trees.	Approved
20201263	Church Lodge, The Street, <b>Halvergate</b>	211	T1 tulip tree - complete removal of lowest branch overhanging garage due to building works commencing shortly and garage roof height will be raised.	Approved
20201269	Crossways, 17 Cromer Road, <b>Aylsham</b>	211	Cherry – fell.	Approved
20201270	62 Maple Drive, <b>Taverham</b>	TPO	Cherry - Reduce height from 7.5m to 5m. Maple – fell.	Split decision
20201287	18 The Avenue, <b>Wroxham</b>	TPO	G9 Scots pine – fell.	Refused
20201300	Daisy Cottage, 19 Millgate, <b>Aylsham</b>	211	T1 & T2 pine – fell.	TPO required
20201302	The Laurels, 20 Norwich Road, <b>Horstead</b>	211	T2 lime – fell.	29/06/2020
20201326	6B Westbourne Road, <b>Coltishall</b>	TPO	G1 lime - fell	08/07/2020
20201328	Holiday House, Church Street, <b>Old Catton</b>	211	T1 holm oak - crown raise to 3m and crown reduce by 1.5m, current height 8 - 9m. T2 copper beech - crown raise to 3m and crown reduce by 2 - 2.5m, current height 10m. G3 oak & sycamore - crown raise to 3m, crown reduce by 1.5 - 2m and crown thin by 10%.	Approved
20201329	The Hollies, Beech Road, <b>Wroxham</b>	211	T1 yew - reduce by 2 - 2.5m to form smaller hedgerow with adjacent conifers. T2 <i>Eucalyptus</i> - re-pollard to previous growth point/knuckles.	Approved
20201336	23 Firethorn Close, <b>Taverham</b>	TPO	Oak in rear garden - current height 12m, crown raise by 4-5m to allow daylight into garden (removing excessive shading) and to remove overhanging branches in the adjacent properties.	Approved
20201337	15 Buckthorn Close, <b>Taverham</b>	TPO	Oak in the grounds of car park at Mulberry Court, Taverham - height 8-10m. Cut overhanging branches which are approx 3m that overhang property of 15 Buckthorn Close. These are causing excessive shading and sap damage to car.	Split decision
20201340	St Giles, 6 Claypit Road, Foulsham, <b>Dereham</b>	211	T1 yew - reduce height by 3-4m from 13m to 9-10m and spread from 7-8m to 4-5m to remove from neighbours' roof. T2 sycamore - reduce height by 3-4m from 16m to 12-13m and spread from 9m to 5-6m to take away from main house roof and highway; crown lift to 5.2m. T3 laurel and T4 eucalyptus – fell.	Approved
20201343	4 Swansgate, <b>Old Catton</b>	TPO	T1 & T2 – whitebeams – fell.	Refused
20201345	Cawdy, 16 Lower Street, <b>Salhouse</b>	211	Silver birch - 14m, fell. Silver birch - 13m, crown reduce by 2-2.5m. Beech trees in neighbouring property - reduce overhanging branches back to boundary.	Approved

20201359	The Grange, Doctors Road, <b>Blofield</b>	TPO	T1 sycamore - approx. 20m in height. Raise crown to approx 6m on north-west/south-west aspect of tree to match previous works carried out on opposite side by reducing back to primary and secondary growth points where practicably possible.	Approved
20201361	Centre of pond 175m from South Barn, Buxton Lodge Barns 57m from unnamed road, Mill Reach, Buxton with Lamas	TPO	T5 willow- reduce to /pollard at 4m. Currently a 10m tree lost 2 major limbs from main union at 3m in winds on 4/5 July 2020. Reduction recommended to reduce risk of complete tree failure and loss. Risk to car parking area and livestock in meadow from hazardous limbs.	Approved
20201364	25 Thorpe Avenue, <b>Thorpe St Andrew</b>	TPO	T1 oak – fell.	14/07/2020
20201369	39 Bure Way, <b>Aylsham</b>	211	2 x <i>Prunus cerasifera</i> (cherry plum) - fell	Approved
20201371	Aylsham High School, Sir Williams Lane, <b>Aylsham</b>	211	Oak – reduce by 30%	10/07/2020
20201373	67 Low Road, <b>Hellesdon</b>	TPO	T1 plum, T2 pine, T3 yew, T4 bullace, T5 & T9 cypress, T6 birch, T7 spruce, T8 holly, T12 Norway maple and T13 oak – fell. T10 crimson maple - no work required. T11 cypress - raise by clear stemming up to 2.5 to 3m.	16/07/2020
20201380	89C Yarmouth Road, <b>Thorpe St Andrew</b>	211	T1, T2 & T3 sycamores - reduce western portion of crowns by 2.5m in order to alleviate bias. T4 <i>Acer</i> - crown lift to provide 4m and reduce eastern aspect of crown by 2m.	17/07/2020
20201381	8 Woodland Drive, <b>Thorpe End</b>	211	<i>Prunus</i> - crown reduce from 4.8m to 2.4m in height and width. Holly, leaning silver birch and 17 conifers on rear boundary – fell. Willow - crown reduce from 9m in height and width to 6m.	Approved
20201386	Ivy Cottage, 13 Yarmouth Road, <b>Thorpe St Andrew</b>	211	T1 field maple - fell due to undesirable planting plot and location.	Approved
20201388	2 Yare Valley Rise, <b>Brundall</b>	TPO	T1, T2 and T3 conifers and T4 beech- reduce overhang from path and road by up to 1-2m. T5 holly & T6 lime– remove epicormic growth at base and crown lift by 2-2.5m. T7 yew - remove epicormic growth at base. T8 & T9 yew - remove epicormic growth at base and light trim off path if required.	Approved
20201401	3 Library Close, Blofield, <b>Norwich</b>	TPO	T1 beech - reduce lowest lateral branches by 2-3m on south of canopy (crown spread 9m to 7m) away from house. T2 oak - prune two branches back to the main stem on south of canopy, away from house, (as discussed with tree officer). T3 & T4 laurel – fell. G1 sycamore - crown raise to 4.5m to avoid conflict neighbouring property and allow more light onto woodland floor.	Approved
20201404	7 Colkett Drive, <b>Old Catton</b>	TPO	G3 Scots pine - crown lift by 1.8m. Lateral and height reduction of approx 1.8m to top right corner. Left hand branch currently at approx 7m above ground level and approx 6m in length, selective reduction of approx 1.5m to fit with existing canopy outline. Crown thin by approx 10%.	22/07/2020
20201410	6 Library Close, <b>Blofield</b>	TPO	<i>Acer</i> - reduce northern spread from 8 to 6.5m and western spread from 9 to 7.5m to alleviate bias caused by neighbouring pine. Crown lift to 5.5m to alleviate impact on recently planted pleached trees. Pine - remove deadwood and inspect crown for further defects. Sycamore – fell.	23/07/2020
20201412	The Pines, 8 Parkside Drive, <b>Old Catton</b>	211	T1 holly - reduce height from 8m to 4m. T2 holly - reduce crown from 5m to 3.5m.	23/07/2020
20201415	2 Swansgate, <b>Old Catton</b>	TPO	Sycamore – fell.	Refused
20201420	69 Garrick Green, <b>Old Catton</b>	TPO	T1 sycamore - crown lift to 6m and clean out crown removing deadwood and smaller crossing branches. T2 sycamore - crown lift to 6m, reduce branches approaching on yew by up to 2m and clean out crown removing deadwood and smaller crossing branches. T3 yew - reduce lower branches up to approximately 5m by up to 2m over neighbours' garden.	24/07/2020
20201422	Dolphin House, 15 Lower Street, <b>Salhouse</b>	211	Horse chestnut – fell. Sweet chestnut - slight raise over garden. Oak - crown raise to 2.5m, reduce rough ends on oak to shape. Hawthorn - reduce by 2-2.5m. Siberian fir - crown raise to 1.6m. Magnolia - crown reduce.	Approved
20201424	3 Owen Court, Saint Andrews Park, <b>Thorpe St Andrew</b>	TPO	W2 oak - current height 12m. Reduce crown by 2m, thin sections of prolific reactive growth, general management.	Approved

20201427	Church Farm, 6 Booton Road, <b>Cawston</b>	211	T1 & T6 horse chestnut, T2 lime, T3 beech, T5 spruce x 3 and G1 row of roadside conifers – fell. T4 holly x 2 - reduce to bush to re-form, height 5m to 2m.	Approved
20201435	62 Charles Close, <b>Wroxham</b>	TPO	T1 lime - lift crown to 3m to maintain clear access on public footpath. Crown reduction to approx 8m (h) x 4m (w), maintaining sympathetic overall shape, to arrest spread of branches into other trees nearby. Crown thin by 25-30% to reduce overcrowding. T2 larch - fell. Tree has never flourished as it is being suffocated by proximity of the lime. Neither tree can benefit from being close. Do not wish to re-plant as it is so close to other trees. T3 goat willow - fell. This tree is being smothered by adjacent birch. Do not wish to re-plant as it is so close to other trees. T4 copper beech – crown lift to 3m. Reduce crown to 8m (h) x 5m (w), maintaining a sympathetic overall shape. Carry out some crown thinning - approx 20%. T5 laburnum and T6 lilac (these are so close/entwined that they almost appear as one shrub!) - Fell. These are very much past their best as they appear to ha ?????	27/07/2020
20201440	Oak House, 16A Hurn Road, <b>Drayton</b>	TPO	T12 & T15 pine - dead, remove.	Approved
20201441	Aylsham High School, Sir Williams Lane, <b>Aylsham</b>	211	Beech - reduce crown by 30% to prevent failure to property at 2 Gashouse Hill.	Approved
20201449	34 High Street, <b>Coltishall</b>	211	T2 sycamore - fell.	Approved
20201451	Manor Road, <b>Horsham Newton St Faiths</b>	TPO	T1 oak - reduce low laterals inside the RPA which falls within the development of the property - 3 laterals - remove 2-3m leaving 6-8m. Inside RPA to Airspade root prune to allow footing of development to be dug. T2 walnut - remove lowest lateral and lateral that has been cut and left with a blank end - the dominant side limb bias to the site to raise by removing 2 laterals and pruning back the remainder to lessen the loading by approx 1-1.5m and leaving 1.5-2m.	Approved
20201457	Hillside Farm, 98 Lower Street, <b>Salhouse</b>	TPO	20 x conifer (exact species unknown) – fell as follows. T1 dead or dying, insecure. T2 growing through adjacent red maple, multiple stems, layered into ground, ivy-bound. T3 part dead, distorted shape. T4 & T5 green only at extremities, competing for light. T6, T9, T10 & T20 green only at extremities, competing for light, ivy-bound, poor. T7 green only at extremities, competing for light, broken bough due to storm damage. T8 dead or dying, poor condition, ivy-bound. T11 dead, insecure, ivy-bound. T12 & T14 dead or dying, insecure, ivy-bound. T13 dead or dying, insecure, heavy ivy infestation spreading to adjacent Scots pine. T15 dead, broken, only supported by T14. T16 green only at extremities, very heavy ivy, insecure, poor. T17 no sign of life, very heavy ivy, poor. T18 dead, fallen, only supported by T7. T19 green only at extremities, competing for light, ivy-bound, poor.	30/07/2020
20201459	Between 30 and 32 Plumstead Road, <b>Great Little Plumstead</b>	211	Oak – fell.	27/07/2020
20201460	55 Bishops Close, <b>Thorpe St Andrew</b>	211	8 x leylandii – fell.	28/07/2020
20201461	10 Macmillan Way, <b>Great Little Plumstead</b>	TPO	T1 & T5 unknown spp, T2 & T4 silver birch & T3 hawthorn – fell. T6 unknown species – reduce current height 7.5m to 4.5-6m.	03/08/2020
20201463	19 Millgate, <b>Aylsham</b>	211	T1 & T2 Scots pine – fell.	29/07/2020
20201465	Park House, Petersons Lane, <b>Aylsham</b>	211	Conifer - reduce to the same height as the hedge.	29/07/2020
20201466	Orford Cottage, The Moor, <b>Reepham</b>	211	T1 birch – fell.	29/07/2020
20201474	39 Charles Close, <b>Wroxham</b>	211	Leylandii – remove.	30/07/2020
20201477	14 The Street, <b>Coltishall</b>	211	Copper beech - current height 7m, crown reduce by 1.5-2m, removing infected and dead wood. Maple - current height 7m, crown reduce by 2m, remove deadwood and branches that are dying back.	30/07/2020
20201485	9 Breck Farm Lane, <b>Taverham</b>	TPO	Oak - current height 11.6m and spread 17.4m. Crown reduction of 2m to height to 9.6m and reduce to 14m in width (at widest point). Reduce two lowest branches in driveway by 20% to 4m.	17/08/2020

20201487	10 Juniper Way, <b>Taverham</b>	TPO	T1 oak - reduce the canopy back to previous pollard points. Re-growth to be removed to 4-5m leaving the stem at 8-9m.	Approved
20201488	Point House, 5 High Street, <b>Coltishall</b>	211	T1 & T2 lime - crown lift to 5.2m over driveway.	21/07/2020
20201491	199 Norwich Road, <b>Wroxham</b>	211	L1, L2, L3, L4 & L5 leylandii – fell. H1 hawthorn - crown reduction from 6 to 3.5m high and 3.5 to 2.4m wide.	04/08/2020
20201495	51 Charles Close, <b>Wroxham</b>	211	T1 cherry - reduce by approx 3m to a height of 12m and width of 5m, reshape and rebalance the crown. T5 & T11 oak and T9 sycamore - fell. T8 silver birch - dead – fell.	31/07/2020
20201510	157 Norwich Road, <b>Wroxham</b>	TPO	2 x oak - remove all dead wood/branches and cut/trim back the branches with excessive growth at the end and little or no growth along branch. If there is sufficient growth part way along the branch, it will be taken back to the growth, as long as the branch is then able to hold the weight of any new additional growth.	11/08/2020
20201511	Manor Farm, The Moor, <b>Reepham</b>	211	Ash – fell.	03/08/2020
20201513	Swallow House, Buckenham Road <b>Lingwood and Burlingham</b>	TPO	T1 ash – fell. T2 copper beech - spread 20m & height 15m - reduce lower 50% of crown by 2m and upper 50% by 1.5m and crown thin by 10%. T3 & T4 lime - spread 12m & height 12m - reduce crown by 2m. T5 sycamore - spread 10m and height 12m - pollard to 7m. T6 lime - reduce by 1.5m. Current spread 10m and height 12m.	07/08/2020
20201519	8 Western Avenue, <b>Thorpe St Andrew</b>	211	T1 purple plum - remove overhanging branches. T2 birch – fell. T3 Norway maple - remove branch to the north west originating at 7m.	10/08/2020
20201522	Norbrey, 58 Bishops Close, <b>Thorpe St Andrew</b>	211	Tree species unknown - crown reduction from 2 to 1m from top of the trunk, remove side shoots from main trunk.	10/08/2020
20201525	Bayfield Cottage, 20 High Street, <b>Foulsham</b>	211	T1 & T2 small willow, T3 & T4 small copper beech and T5 & T6 ash – fell.	11/08/2020
20201532	4 Manor Close, <b>Buxton With Lamas</b>	TPO	T1 silver birch - current height 20m reduce to 15m, current width 12m reduce to 8m.	20/08/2020
20201534	40A Harvey Lane, <b>Thorpe St Andrew</b>	TPO	T1 oak - approx 21m in height. To raise approx 5-6m on eastern aspect overhanging garden retaining lateral length of canopy. T2 oak - approx 19m in height. To raise approx 5-6m on eastern aspect overhanging garden retaining lateral length of canopy. Both trees will be deadwooded within area of work. Raising will be done by removing branches back to primary and secondary growth points but not to stem. There will be no reduction in crown area.	12/08/2020
20201546	84 Norwich Road, <b>Wroxham</b>	211	T1 sycamore – remove. T2 cherry - prune southern crown back by 40 cm from 2m to 1.6m to clear path	13/08/2020
20201564	Thatched Cottages, 4 Top Road, <b>Belaulgh</b>	TPO	T1 conifer & G4 5 x conifer – fell. T2 sycamore & T3 beech - clear phone lines. T5 sycamore - clear phone and power lines, reduce by 2.5m-3m and raise to 3m-3.5m	13/08/2020
20201565	27 Greenacres, Church Lane, <b>Burgh Next Aylsham</b>	211	T1 yew - crown lift to 2m, approx height 1.5m. Crown reduction by 1.5m to 2m, approx 11m. T2 weeping pear & T3 black mulberry - crown reduction back to previous points. T5 <i>Prunus</i> - height 4m - reduce by 1m and shape. T6 sweet gum - height 5.2m - reduce by 1.5m and shape. T7 <i>Parotia persila</i> - height 4.2m - reduce by 1m and shape. T8 birch - height 4.5m - reduce by 1.5m and shape. T9 beech - height 4.5m - reduce by 1m and shape. T10 maple - height 5.7m - reduce lower branches by 2m and shape. T11, 12 & 13 - reduce lower branch over lawn. T19 white mulberry - crown reduction back to previous points.	12/08/2020
20201580	Holly Cottage, 22 Church Lane, <b>Wroxham</b>	211	G1 & G4 conifers, T2 golden conifer, G3 hollies (G3) – fell.	21/08/2020
20201882	Goosepie Farm, Booton Road, <b>Cawston</b>	211	T1 sycamore – fell. T2 - willow - approx height 12m reduction away from northern buildings approx 1.5 reduction.	21/08/2020
20201586	19 Barnby Road, <b>Badersfield</b>	TPO	Removal of dead hawthorn.	Approved

20201591	5 Western Avenue, <b>Thorpe St Andrew</b>	211	Row of Lawson cypress - reduce height from 8m to 6m. Silver birch reduce height from 16m to 12m. Silver birch reduce height from 13m to 9m. Tip back neighbours beech trees by 1-2m. Silver birch group reduce height by 2-3m	18/08/2020
20201593	Lime Tree House, 16B Harvey Lane, <b>Thorpe St Andrew</b>	TPO	T1 – T8 sycamores - fell and replant with silver birch, small-leaved lime, hornbeam and occasional wild service tree.	18/08/2020
20201596	19 Silvergate Lane , <b>Blickling</b>	TPO	Holly - fell	19/08/2020

**Explanatory Notes:**

- 1) App No is the unique Broadland District Council Planning Application number allocated to the application to carry out work and is the number by which progress of the application may be traced. Any comment, objection, support or request for information should quote this number.
- 2) Address is the address to which the application for work relates. In other words, it is the address where the trees for which the application is made are located.
- 3) Cat (ie Category) denotes the type of application. TPO = works to trees subject to a Tree Preservation Order; or  
211 = Section 211 Notifications for Works to Trees Within Conservation Areas
- 4) Species / Requested Works is the species of the tree(s) concerned and details of the work proposed. A reference such as T1, T2 or G1 may also appear and that is simply a reference to the tree(s) on the TPO, Conservation Order or simply on the application.
- 5) Received is either the date on which the application was received by Broadland District Council or the actual decision.
- 6) This list is not intended to be a definitive list of all the relevant details. The reader should always refer to the specific application on the Broadland District Council "Planning Explorer" at <https://secure.broadland.gov.uk/Northgate/PlanningExplorer/GeneralSearch.aspx> to view the application or read the Council's decision.