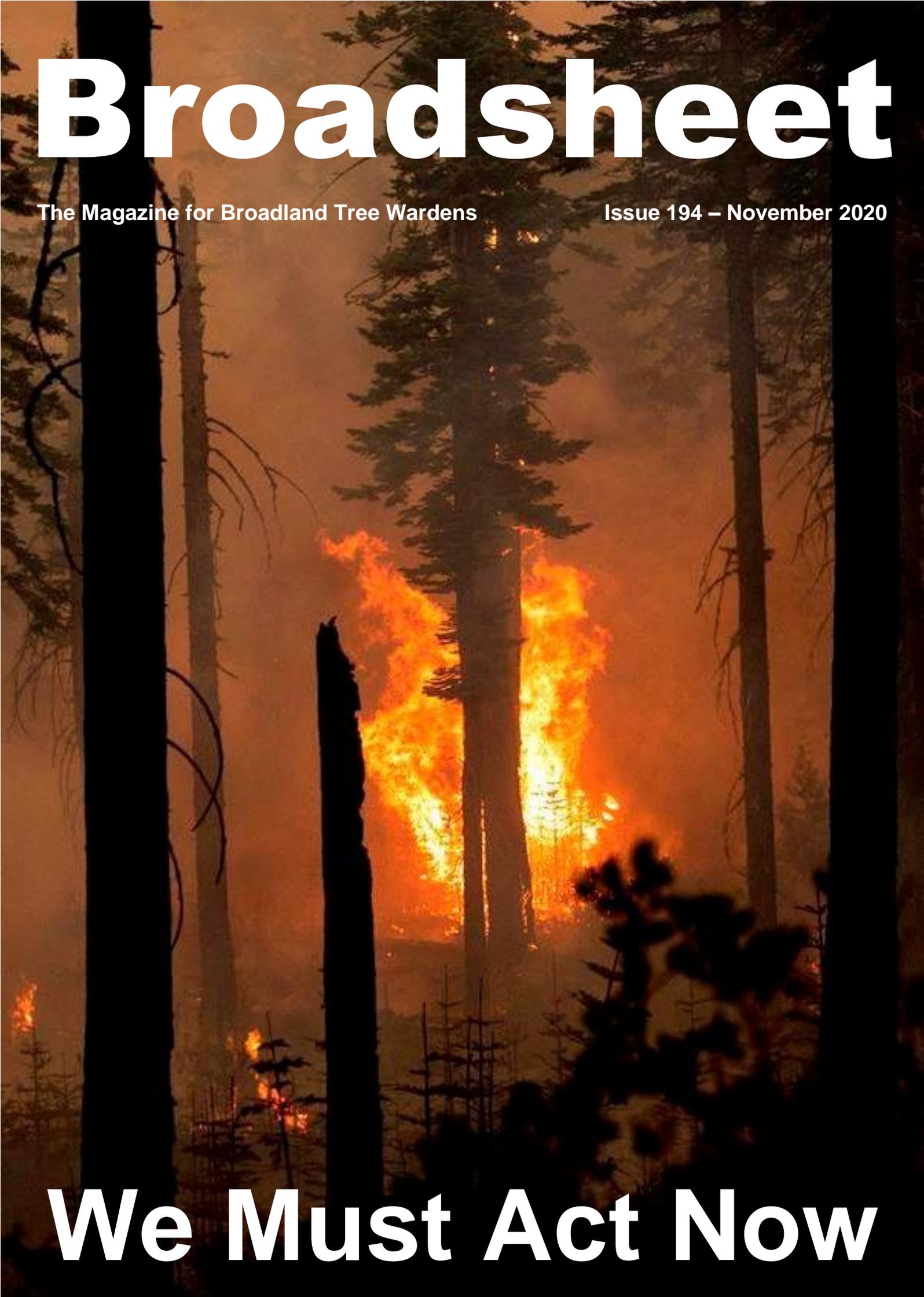


Broadsheet



The Magazine for Broadland Tree Wardens

Issue 194 – November 2020

We Must Act Now

Broadsheet

The Monthly Magazine for
Broadland Tree Wardens



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This Month's Cover Picture

A forest burns and with it goodness knows how many creatures will perish. We have to act to prevent such fires and the time to act is NOW!!

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We Must Act Now

SO often over recent years Broadsheet has reported and commented on forest fires across the world. Those in the USA and Australia have made the biggest headlines but such fires have occurred in nearly every country around the globe.

New WWF research reveals that the bush fires that raged across Australia from June 2019 to February 2020 harmed 143 million mammals including 25,000 koalas and millions of kangaroos, 2.46 billion reptiles, 180 million birds and 51 million frogs. It's a difficult number to comprehend isn't it? All those creatures burned to death.

Australia's record-breaking fire season was intensified by the worsening climate crisis. With rising temperatures and prolonged drought fuelling the bushfires, WWF-Australia CEO Dermot O'Gorman said the research "gives other countries a window into the future of mega-fires and their devastating impact on wildlife." Without climate action at the scale recommended by the IPCC, the strength and frequency of extreme fires will continue to grow.

Professor Chris Dickman from Sydney University said the findings show how drastically fires can shrink biodiversity. To preserve species, he emphasised the need to channel sadness into action: "How quickly can we decarbonise? How quickly can we stop our manic land clearing?"

The interim report recommends improving habitat connectivity to help species escape fires, identifying and protecting unburnt habitat crucial to threatened species, improving fire prevention and management, and establishing rapid response teams to help species impacted by fire. A final report on the study is expected soon.

It is difficult to find wildlife numbers killed in the Californian fires. Perhaps they don't value wildlife as much as other countries? However, it is known that many black bears perished and southern California's mountain lion population, already imperilled by fragmentation of its habitat by human development, could end up especially hard hit.

Even here at home we have experienced fires. Maybe not on the scale of Australia and California, but devastating nevertheless.

It has to be said that all forest fires are a direct result of action by *Homo sapiens*. Climate change deniers have argued that there has been a "pause" or a "slowdown" in rising global temperatures, but several recent studies, have disproved this claim. Scientists say that unless we curb global-warming emissions, average United States temperatures could increase by up to 10°F over the next century.

Global warming occurs when carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other air pollutants and greenhouse gases collect in the atmosphere and absorb sunlight and solar radiation that have bounced off the earth's surface. Normally, this radiation would escape into space but these pollutants, which can last for years to centuries in the atmosphere, trap the heat and cause the planet to get hotter. That's what's known as the greenhouse effect.

So just who is responsible for that? We are! Isn't it really time to wake up and smell the coffee?

We all appear to blame world governments for the lack of action but let me ask 'who elected the world governments in the first place?' The Americans elected Donald Trump (though they have the opportunity to dump him at the next election!). Brazil elected Bolsonaro and can, given the will, get rid of him.

Our government appears to have "seen the light" and is definitely talking the talk. Trouble is words won't prevent a koala bear being burned to death or, looking at the UK, a family of hedgehogs perishing in unbelievable agony.

The last thing the world needs now is more hot air, so cut the chat and start to act.

I personally don't think it matters which party the UK has in government. When it comes to the crunch they are all the same. For example, when the opposition criticises the government's actions over the control (or lack of it) of COVID-19, it says the government is wrong but it doesn't actually say what it would do instead. They all promise so much but deliver so little.

The time for positive action is now and if a section of the community is put out by the introduction of strict controls then tough.

All new houses must be built with solar panels. All factories and office blocks must fit solar panels or wind turbines within five years.

We must all cut our dependency on meat, remembering that it takes 6kg of grain to raise 1kg of beef.

Non-recyclable tree guards must be banned within three years and non-recyclable packaging must be banned within five years. Only then will environmentally friendly alternatives be developed.

Yes, it will be challenging but in that time scale that I have given how many more cuddly koalas, magnificent bears and cute hedgehogs in that time?

We can longer allow species to become extinct. I could go on (yes, I know I usually do) but I'm sure you get my drift. However, this edition of Broadsheet carries several articles that inform you of the sorry state of this planet ... just in case you didn't know already

Just remember. The one species this planet can survive without is *Homo sapiens*.

AN article by the excellent BBC environment analyst Roger Harrabin revealed that September was the warmest on record globally, according to the weather service Copernicus.

It was 0.05°C hotter than September last year, which in turn set the previous record high for the month. Scientists say it's a clear indication of temperatures being driven up by emissions from human society.

Copernicus, which is the European Union's Earth observation programme, said warmth in the Siberian Arctic continues way above

average and it confirmed that Arctic sea ice is at its second lowest extent since satellite records began.

This year is also projected to become the warmest on record for Europe, even if temperatures cool somewhat from now on.

The elevated heat globally contributed to record wildfires in California and Australia. It also helped fuel the hottest day on record - a searing 54.4°C (130°F) in Death Valley - and it had a hand in the torrential downpours that inundated the south of France with more than half a metre of rain in a day.

Météo-France, the French met office, said a downpour like this was expected once in 100 years. They had two in a month.

Samantha Burgess, deputy director of the Copernicus Climate Change Service, told BBC News: "Some of these events are extraordinary, although we mustn't create a false expectation that temperatures will go up year on year. Climate and weather are highly variable, but we predicted that these sort of events would happen, given our effect on the climate."

Weather records are always being broken naturally, but meteorologists say they're disturbed by some of the new extremes. The UK is not immune. It enjoyed its sunniest spring on record; August saw a record number of days overtopping 34°C; and the town of Reading has just endured its wettest ever 48-hour period.

Ed Hawkins, from Reading University, told us: "We have been saying this for decades. More and more greenhouse gases will lead to more and more warming."

He warned these events are being experienced with just one degree of warming globally above the long-term average, while under current rates of decarbonisation the world is heading for three degrees.

"One degree of heating is dangerous for some people, as we've seen," he said. "Two degrees is more dangerous still, and three degrees even more dangerous. We really don't want to find out what that'll be like."

The records were released as the UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson said the UK would combat climate change by becoming the Saudi Arabia of wind energy. His speech was welcomed by environmentalists, but critics said he needed to back up his promises with policies and budgets

I T'S not just the UK government that permits the felling of ancient, veteran and/or culturally significant trees. The bulldozing of a tree sacred to Aboriginal people in order to clear land for a highway has sparked anger in Australia.

Protesters have long camped at the site in Victoria to defend culturally significant trees, including some where local Djab Wurrung women have traditionally gone to give birth, but state authorities cut down the Djab Wurrung "directions tree" on Monday, the activists said.

Officials defended the felling, saying the tree was not on a protection list.

In a deal last year, Aboriginal landowners negotiated with the Victorian government to save around a dozen of 250 "culturally significant" trees from destruction. However, activists independent of the Aboriginal land group have remained at the site near Buangor to try to save more trees.

Victoria Police said they had arrested 25 protesters who refused to leave the site as land clearing work continued. Footage posted by activists on social media showed officers forcibly dragging people away, and some pro-

testers who had climbed into the trees.

Authorities said the tree removed was a fiddleback thought to be about 100 years old, but protesters said it was in fact a yellow box species. They estimated it was 350 years old.

Many condemned the news of its destruction.

"Absolutely gutted and feel the pain of our ancestors right now," tweeted Lidia Thorpe, the first federal Aboriginal senator for the state of Victoria, and a Djab Wurrung woman.

Aboriginal writer Celeste Liddle blamed the state government for "cutting down a sacred part of Djab Wurrung heritage".

Many Aboriginal people say the land is paramount to their identity. Djab Wurrung activists have previously compared the cultural importance of trees in the area to a church or other spiritual place.

Among trees that will be protected are two "birthing" trees. These are centuries-old trees where women have also buried their placentas after giving birth, as part of a cultural tradition.

Critics were also angry at the timing of the destruction, noting it had coincided with the high-profile announcement of an end to lockdown in the state capital, Melbourne.

Victoria's government has staunchly defended the 12km expansion project of a road between Melbourne and Adelaide, arguing it will reduce traffic accidents.

"With more than 100 crashes on the Western Highway in recent years, including 11 deaths, we're getting on with this urgent safety upgrade that will save lives," it said in a statement. It said it hadn't touched a separate tree identified as "directions tree" - which is protected - and suggested the activists' classification had differed from the land group's.

State officials said the project had received approval from traditional owner groups and passed federal environmental and legal checks. "We've listened to Aboriginal voices every step of the way," said a spokesman.

Earlier this year, the destruction of ancient Aboriginal caves in Western Australia by a mining company also prompted a public outcry, and criticism of Australia's cultural heritage laws. Due to the backlash, Rio Tinto's boss Jean-Sébastien Jacques announced he would step down.

I WAS disturbed, though not surprised, to read an article by Jessica Murray the Guardian website that lawyers have warned HS2 it might be felling trees illegally, after an ecology report found evidence of one of the UK's rarest bat species in an area of ancient woodland being cleared for the high-speed rail line.

Legal firm Leigh Day has written to HS2 Ltd urging the company to halt activity at Jones' Hill wood, near Wendover in Buckinghamshire, as it does not have a licence to carry out work that could disturb rare barbastelle bat roosts. They say to continue doing so could be a criminal offence.

Three independent ecologists used bat detector equipment to track the barbastelles, a protected species listed as "near threatened" on the global IUCN red list, and compiled a report of their findings.

Paul Powlesland, a barrister at Garden Court Chambers and founder of Lawyers for Nature, which is involved in the case, said: "This is the best evidence that Lawyers for Nature have seen of protective wildlife being interfered

with by HS2 without a licence. [We] don't really like to cry wolf about these things."

"We've asked them to stop work and get an independent ecologist, who's separate from HS2, to do a proper survey of the woods. If they don't, then they would appear to be happy going ahead in circumstances in which they may be committing a wildlife crime."

One of the report's authors is the ecologist Kevin Hand, the vice-president of the Cambridge Natural History Society, who said: "It is such a rare bat that we really need to protect every colony, and the law is very clear about that: every colony is protected. The last thing any of us wants are bats destroyed, whether you're for HS2 or against HS2 is irrelevant really."

HS2 Ltd said it had not identified any bat roosts on its land in Jones' Hill Wood and that its own surveys over the past six months had been limited by illegal trespassers - those protesting to protect the woods.

It said it was carrying out further surveys now the trespassers had been evicted, and said one of the trees identified in the report as a barbastelle roost had previously been climbed by protesters, which may have disturbed the animals.

The barbastelle is found in southern and central England and Wales, and very few breeding sites are known in the UK. It is thought that extensive loss of woodland is a significant reason for its rarity.

Tom Short, a solicitor with Leigh Day, said: "It is our understanding that although HS2 Ltd holds a 'class licence' from Natural England in respect of bats Natural England has confirmed that Jones' Hill Wood has not been registered under the class licence and thus that licence does not authorise works at this site.

"In any event, the class licence does not cover any operations affecting barbastelle bats, whether at this site or any other."

An HS2 Ltd spokesperson said: "HS2 takes its legal obligations seriously, and all our ecology work is carried out in accordance with the law. It is designed to minimise disturbance to wildlife, including bats, in accordance with the HS2 phase one code of construction practice and all relevant wildlife legislation.

"If bat roosts are identified, licences from Natural England will be sought to ensure that we have the right safeguarding in place. Professionally qualified environmental staff are on site during operations and all works are overlooked by an ecological clerk of works."

Natural England's national operations director, Dave Slater, said: "Any works that impact bats or other protected species can only take place under licence, and it is for HS2 to determine if their proposed works can be carried out without causing harm. If not, then they need to apply for a licence from Natural England.

"If a member of the public is concerned that a wildlife crime is being committed, they should report the incident to their local police force."

UNFORTUNATELY, HS2 is very good with words but its actions are ... shall will say... somewhat questionable?

One of Britain's oldest and largest wild pear trees, the 250-year-old Cublington Pear, sat on the route of phase one of the controversial rail link, just outside Leamington Spa in Warwickshire. HS2 Ltd cut it down on Tuesday 20 October, just five years after it was voted England's Tree of the Year.

The Woodland Trust, which ran the 2015 competition, said more than 10,000 votes were

cast by the public in favour of the winner. The second largest of its kind in the UK, the wild tree had stood for generations atop a hill near South Cubbington Wood, on the outskirts of Leamington Spa.

Campaigners had hoped they could save the wood, home to the beloved pear tree, following an announcement by Transport secretary Grant Shapps in September. He said ancient woodland removal would be stopped during a government review into the project unless 'absolutely necessary to avoid major cost and schedule impacts.'

However, despite the promise, the Woodland Trust claims work on moving soil and tree stumps from the wood in Warwick was started in early October and it has accused HS2 bosses of using a loophole to get the work underway.

Stop HS2 protesters even set up a camp in the woods nearby in a desperate attempt to stop the demolition but were moved on by police. They watched in tears as workmen using diggers and saws took just 90 minutes to hack the tree down.

A spokesperson for local group Save Cubbington Woods Stop HS2 said: "Today is a historic day. HS2 has begun felling the iconic Cubbington pear tree. A tree much loved by the local community. A familiar place for walkers to take shelter from wind, rain and sun. Part of our heritage and landscape.

"England Tree of the year 2015. A home for precious biodiversity. It has also become symbolic with much of the stop HS2 campaign and representative of all that we 'fight' and peacefully protest for not just stopping the ill-conceived madness of HS2 but the destruction of our wild spaces, our natural world all adding to the climate and ecological crisis. Millions of years of history heritage, landscape and biodiversity are being lost in minutes by man and machine.

"For anyone thinking it's just a tree, it's much more than that and symbolic of much of what is wrong with this world today and this seemingly relentless path of destruction we are currently on."

Cubbington villager John Taylor, 50, said: "It's one of the saddest days of my life. The tree has meant so much to people around here and to see it reduced to twigs in a matter of minutes is just heart-breaking. We thought we might have saved it when the government said they would review the removal of ancient trees but it's gone. When the grief passes, people around here are going to be very, very angry. This vandalism of nature will never be forgiven or forgotten."

Warwick and Leamington MP Matt Western previously wrote to transport secretary Grant Shapps to note a nearby golf course in Kenilworth was to be part-cleared to make way for HS2, until the line was re-routed to save the 18th hole.

Mr Western said: "I've been campaigning to save this tree for a while. This is a sad day for our local area and our beautiful natural environment. HS2 Ltd has much to answer for, including why the 18th hole on a golf course could be saved but this wondrous pear tree could not. I will continue to pursue this to ensure we get answers."

An online petition to save the tree was signed by 21,510 people but the Government said it would not intervene.

In an official response on 7 October, a government spokesperson said: "HS2 Ltd explored all possible options to avoid removing the tree, but due to its age and condition removal cannot be avoided. A professional evaluation of all options was carried out by environmental experts to evaluate the structural

integrity and vitality of the Cubbington Pear Tree and how this pertains to the tree's status as an ancient or veteran tree."

The government added that more than 40 new trees are being grown from cuttings taken from the tree to "provide the most efficient option to allow the long-term retention of the remnant tree and its progeny."

The trail of destruction left by HS2 will be remembered for years. Surely we must act now to prevent any further destruction.

WHEN word got out that the European Commission planned to include a commitment to plant three billion trees as part of President Ursula von der Leyen's European Green Deal, environmental NGOs almost spat out their morning fair trade coffee.

In terms of numbers alone, the pledge has raised eyebrows: three billion trees over ten years is three hundred million a year, or around 800,000 every day. When asked about the number of trees planted since May 2020, a spokesperson for the European Commission did not have figures, pointing instead to local counters maintained by some EU regions and member states.

One, a counter by the Belgian state of Flanders, showed 232,968 plantings since October 2019. The other, from the Czech Republic, showed almost 800,000 new plantings but did not give a timeframe.

"We are still working on this and are also considering options for counting, or common methodologies," the spokesperson said, but it isn't the question of whether the EU could plant three billion trees that had environmentalists rattled when the strategy was revealed. It was the question of whether it should. While massive reforestation grabs headlines, experts say tree-planting actually does little to stop what is really messing up the climate, the rampant burning of fossil fuels.

Little surprise then that oil and gas companies are such big fans. In July 2019, Total announced that it would invest \$100 million (£77.25 million) in forest protection, soon after both Shell and Eni committed to offsetting emissions with forest conservation.

In the Netherlands, this included giving motorists the option to purchase carbon credits at the petrol pump in order to offset the climate impact of driving their vehicles - an initiative that, while making drivers feel better, will do nothing to prevent them actually driving their cars.

Then in February, even President Donald Trump, hardly the world's most-renowned environmentalist, supported tree planting in his State of the Union address, supporting House Republicans' so-called 'Trillion Trees Act'.

At the time, the move was described by Greenpeace as a "feel good" initiative that "lack[ed] real action to restore forests and expand clean energy", which was "not only part of a dangerous distraction from the climate crisis, but represents logging industry greenwashing".

Greenpeace has been similarly critical of the European Commission's three billion trees pledge, pointing out that, much like in the US, reforestation can distract from the real efforts to combat climate change.

"The potential climate and biodiversity benefits to planting trees are limited, but the risks of greenwashing are endless," said Sini Eräjää, Greenpeace EU agriculture and forest campaigner. "Companies are quick to claim

credit for the carbon stored in trees planted but reluctant to reduce emissions in the first place. "Rather than tree planting, we should protect and restore the priceless forests that are currently under threat, and make the real cuts to emissions instead of offsetting."

In the Biodiversity strategy, the EC says that the EU Forest Strategy, due to be released in 2021, and the three billion tree strategy in particular will create jobs, including in the collection and cultivation of seeds, the planting of seedlings and the monitoring of their growth.

Gabriel Paun at Agent Green, a non-profit NGO for environmental protection in Romania, believes the target is feasible as long as the land is identified for this new growth by the first quarter of 2021. Paun said there are real examples of where such projects have been effective, including Costa Rica, which has increased its forested area from 25% in 1990 to 52% in 2020.

In doing so, Costa Rica used both carrots and sticks. A ban on deforestation and an elimination of subsidies to livestock farmers were the latter, but the former, involving communities in re-planting and rewards for record plantings, were just as important. It is an approach Paun would like to see in his native Romania, where illegal logging is, he says, "out of control".

However, echoing the comments from Greenpeace, Paun said that there is little genuine will to stop illegal deforestation in Romania, with authorities detecting only 1% of it, he estimates. One of the biggest challenges facing the EC in its plans, therefore, may not be planting new trees but protecting the ones that are already fully-grown.

He said "More wood is burned annually than legally cut, and high-capacity non-intensive wood processing plants have been built that put unprecedented stress on the forest. The phenomenon of illegal logging has not even slowed down, despite the efforts of some state institutions and public pressure."

WAS pleased to read on the Yorkshire Post website that one of Sheffield Council's senior politicians said it will consider ordering an independent inquiry into what caused the multiple failings around its controversial policy to fell thousands of street trees.

Cabinet member for streetscene, Mark Jones, told The Yorkshire Post such an inquiry could be part of the "healing process" following a damning report by the Local Government Ombudsman earlier this week which found the council had misled the public, misrepresented expert advice and acted with a "lack of honesty" over the issue.

He said: "I think we can't take anything off the table or we risk going back to where we were before. Whatever we do going forward, it needs to be real and genuine. Whatever we do needs to be genuinely a reconciliation process, not looking for revenge."

Around 5,500 trees - 2,000 of them healthy but deemed to be damaging pavements and road surfaces - were chopped down and replaced with saplings under a £2 billion highways project called Streets Ahead that started in 2012. Felling work was paused in spring 2018 as growing protests against the work attracted international condemnation when dozens of police officers and private security guards were sent to support the operations and multiple arrests were made

The council also made attempts in court to have a number of demonstrators jailed for breaching a protest injunction, with three given suspended jail sentences.

A new strategy has since been introduced following lengthy talks with campaigners and hundreds of previously at-risk trees have now been saved from the axe through solutions such as kerb repairs.

One of the key findings of the Ombudsman's report was that prior to the change in approach, the council had taken the "unacceptable" decision to publish official strategy documents which said its contract Amey would consider 14 possible fixes before removing any tree.

The council repeatedly claimed in public that removing trees was a "last resort" but the Ombudsman found the 14 fixes were never part of the contract and Amey "would never use some of the 'solutions' referred to".

Cllr Jones, who was elected as a councillor in 2016 and took up his cabinet post last year, said he was unable to explain what had gone so wrong.

"That is the bit I can't quite get my head around," he said. "The desire was to develop better roads and somewhere along the way we seemed to lose sight that the trees are not just something that damaged them but have value in themselves. At some stage that seems to have got lost. I don't know how that happened."

The Ombudsman has given Sheffield Council three months to respond to explain what action it plans to take or proposes to take as a result of its findings and will then decide whether sufficient steps have been taken to put things right. As part of the process, the findings of the report must be discussed by councillors either at a cabinet meeting, during full council or an "appropriately delegated committee".

Cllr Jones said the idea of ordering an independent inquiry - something that campaigners have long called for - into what went wrong is likely to be among the discussion points but said he could not yet say whether one would be ordered.

"There may be, there may not be. There may still be need for one or there may not be one," he said. "We need to reflect on everything and where we are. It may be needed as part of the healing process."

AT last month's meeting (via Zoom) of the Tree Council's Tree Warden Advisory Group, Jon Stokes asked us all to ensure that we have a copy of The Tree Council's publication "Ash Dieback Disease – A Guide for Tree Owners"

Ash dieback disease is likely to infect up to 80% of UK ash trees. [New guidance](#) published by The Tree Council, Defra and the Forestry Commission will help homeowners and land managers deal with the impact of ash dieback disease on trees on their land. The tree disease causes infected trees to decline, and in some cases die, potentially posing health and safety risks depending on their location.

Anyone with a tree on their land has a legal responsibility to ensure that risk posed by the tree is kept within appropriate limits, particularly if they are next to a busy road, public pathway or community grounds. The new guidance will help homeowners and land managers who have ash trees on their land understand their options for managing affected ash trees, while at the same time minimising the ecological impact caused by the highly damaging tree disease.

The guidance provides simple steps to help identify ash trees on private land; assess their condition on a simple scale of 1 – 4; and consider tree management options if ash dieback disease is suspected

Sara Lom, CEO of The Tree Council, said: "Ash trees are a treasured presence in our urban and rural landscapes, including amongst our hedgerows, but sadly, due to ash dieback disease, some may now present a risk. It is vital that people who own gardens or manage land containing ash trees not only understand their responsibilities, but also how they can help give ash the best chance of survival for the future. This guidance helps them assess the safety risks and encourages owners to keep the trees in the landscape when it is safe to do so, where they can continue to provide ecological benefits."

Nicola Spence, Defra's Chief Plant Health Officer, said: "This year we are celebrating the International Year of Plant Health, an opportunity to recognise the importance of healthy plants and the role we can all play to safeguard our natural environment. So I urge those who have ash trees in their gardens or on their land to familiarise themselves with the Tree Council's guidance on dealing with the impact of ash dieback.

"Ash dieback is a damaging disease to our native ash trees as well as our timber industry which is why since 2012 the Government has invested more than £6m into ash dieback research and £4.5m to strengthen biosecurity at the border."

Ash is the third most common broadleaved tree species in Britain. It provides valuable habitats for over 1,000 wildlife species, including mammals, birds, invertebrates, plants and lichens. This makes the small proportion of ash trees that are expected to be tolerant to the disease, crucial to the future of ash trees in the UK.

The guidance describes how tree owners can help the next generation of ash trees survive, through retaining trees where it is safe to do so. If felling is necessary, then trunks/branches can be left as deadwood to continue offering benefits as a wildlife habitat.

This publication is a must for all Tree Wardens and you should ensure that your parishes are aware of it.

IAM delighted to report that Jo Parmenter's idea to celebrate thirty years of Tree Wardening has been adopted by The Tree Council.

Jo suggested that, as the scheme was born out of the terrible Dutch elm disease losses across the country, it would be fitting for Networks to plant a disease-resistant elm *Ulmus* 'New Horizon' and the Tree Council has agreed.

Trouble is that these trees are extremely expensive meaning that the Tree Council can only afford to supply thirty of them and there are far more Networks than that.

However, I submitted our request prior to the scheme opening and as Jo thought of the idea in the first place, then an elm will be finding its way to Reedham for Jo to plant in a suitable position.

The Network will provide a suitable plaque to accompany the tree and ensure maximum publicity for the planting event.

So thanks Jo for a great idea and ensuring that little old Broadland Tree Warden Network is well and truly at the forefront of the thirty years celebrations.

WITH the planting season upon us and the COVID-19 pandemic apparently as rampant as ever, I make no apologies for reiterating the advice I issued on 3 September 2020.

The Tree Council, The Woodland Trust, The Arboricultural Association, The Conservation Volunteers, The London Tree Officers Association and The Orchard Project have issued guidance for best practice for tree planting events with social distancing.

It is non-negotiable that all Broadland Tree Wardens shall adhere to this best practice at all times and shall include such guidance in their Event Risk Assessments which should be produced for all events.

I have attached a copy of my original letter just in case you didn't think it was important at the time and I strongly advise you to read it again and digest the contents.

A tree planting event that ignores this guidance and is subsequently found to be responsible for spreading COVID-19 risks bringing The Broadland Tree Warden Network, The Tree Council, Broadland District Council (because they supplied the trees) and, perhaps, the town or parish council they represent into disrepute.

Let me make it abundantly clear that should one of you be guilty of ignoring this guidance then you will find that my sloping shoulders are covered in more Teflon than you've ever seen before and I will protect this Network and those other organisations totally.

You? Do you get on well with lions?

GREAT to read in the EDP that campers who left behind their rubbish in woodland have been fined and ordered to write a letter of apology.

The group of five, aged between 17 and 20, later admitted leaving a tent, chairs, fire pit and a "significant" amount of litter in Kenninghall Woods.

A complaint over fly-tipping was first lodged in July and, using footage on social media and information from residents, Breckland Council tracked down the driver of a car linked to the gathering.

After the group's remaining members came forward, they co-operated with an investigation and were fined a total of £240 in fixed penalty notices. In addition, they have been ordered to write a letter of apology to the local body which manages the woods, Kenninghall Lands Trust.

Gordon Bambridge, Breckland's executive member for environmental services, said: "It's incredibly disappointing that a group of individuals carelessly littered in a much-loved area of conservation. "I am glad the group came forward and worked with the council to resolve this issue."

SO, this is quite a bumper edition of your magazine. Indeed, it is the largest in Broadsheet's 194 edition history!

I trust that it will fill the void left by the curtailment of our Tree Warden activities resulting from COVID-19. It will be something extra for you to read.

All the best

John Fleetwood

'Total Destruction': Why Fires are Tearing Across South America

A disturbing article by Uki Goñi in Rosario, Sam Cowie in Santarém and William Costa in Asunción published on www.theguardian.com

WILDFIRES, mostly caused by land clearing for cattle grazing and soya production, have set four nations ablaze. Primatologist Martin Kowalewski is measuring the scale of the fires raging across Latin America not in satellite images, but in the number of caraya monkeys (black-and-gold howlers) that have succumbed to the flames.

"Of the 20 family groups that we used to trace in the wild, each group consisting of seven or eight monkeys, at least five groups were burned alive," he tells the Guardian.

Other animals have also perished at San Cayetano, a nature reserve in Argentina's north-eastern province of Corrientes. "Carpinchos (giant South American rodents), otters, two species of fox, guazú deer, yacaré caimans, turtles, snakes. Birds are better at escaping the fire, but that was before all the deforestation. Now they have nowhere to go because there is nowhere else. The forest is so fragmented that they have nowhere to nest."

Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Bolivia this year have seen a raging tsunami of fires, in what may become the longest and most destructive environmental crisis faced by the four neighbouring countries.

The main areas affected are the Gran Chaco forest that straddles Argentina, Bolivia and Paraguay, the Brazilian and Bolivian Amazon, the Pantanal wetlands shared by Brazil and Paraguay, and Argentina's vast Paraná Delta wetlands.

In Argentina, half of the country's 23 provinces are enduring the worst fires in decades, causing sore eyes and breathing difficulties in a number of smoke-invaded cities, while destroying wildlife from endangered monkeys to jaguars, as well as birds and reptiles. Parts of its heavily deforested northern Gran Chaco are burning, as are the country's eastern Paraná Delta wetlands, where fires skip from one cattle-grazing island to the next, forming gigantic walls of flame.

In Paraguay a national emergency was declared on 1 October as more than 12,000 outbreaks were recorded and the capital, Asunción, choked on dense smoke. Wildfires in the Paraguayan Gran Chaco forest have been so extensive that newspapers ran front-page stories with such headlines as "Paraguay burns", "In between flames" and "Help! Somebody help us".

Omar Cabanellas, mayor of the Chaco town of General Briguez, says a local man died in "totally uncontrollable" fires that affected nearly 600 square miles. "It completely overwhelmed us," he says. "There were dead wild animals everywhere. The ranches are totally burnt."

The fires are also rampant in Bolivia, the land-locked nation next to Brazil, Argentina and Paraguay, home to extensive areas of the Amazon and Gran Chaco forests. On 16 September, Bolivia declared a state of emergency because of widespread fires, fanned



by strong winds and temperatures above 45°C. Government estimates the loss up to September 2020 at about 2,400 square miles.

Fires in Brazil's Amazon are the worst in a decade, satellite data has shown, driven by high levels of deforestation, mostly to make way for cattle pasture and soy plantations, two commodities that have grown in value during the pandemic. As much as 40% of the Brazilian Amazon is nearing the tipping point of turning from forest into savannah. Further south, more than a quarter of the Pantanal, the world's largest tropical wetlands, has been on fire this year, a combination of arson and drought driven by the climate crisis.

"We sleep breathing smoke and wake up breathing smoke," Laura Ferreira da Silva of the Quilombo Mata Cavalo community, which was founded by escaped slaves, tells the Guardian.

In all four countries the fires have been driven by a number of forces, but particularly the extensive deforestation of the past two decades.

In Argentina, Kowalewski says: "There's a pattern of total destruction. Here in Corrientes, deforestation is driven by cattle grazing and timber production. In the Gran Chaco in northern Argentina and Paraguay it's primarily soya. In the Pantanal it's all soya. In Córdoba it's real estate interests clearing land for housing estates. In every case it is powerful business lobbies that benefit a small group of people at the expense of the rest of society."

"A total 95% of forest fires are the result of human intervention," a recent report from the Argentinian government's national fire management service asserts and in Paraguay Luis Recalde, an environmental consultant, says the key causes of the fires are the impact of regional deforestation on the climate, the use of fire to clear land for agriculture and illegal marijuana plantations, and the state's extremely poor enforcement of environmental laws.

"It's rare for the rules to be followed," he says. Paraguay's wildfires have been concentrated in its Gran Chaco region, which has some of the world's highest deforestation rates, largely driven by cattle ranching.

The pandemic has further complicated the situation. In Argentina, "the COVID-19 pandemic has reduced the capacity of authorities to act", says environmental policy researcher Elisabeth Mohle, of the National University of General San Martín in the province of Buenos Aires. "The national parks, for example, were closed down, so they couldn't control forests and grasslands for early signs of wildfires. Then there's a tremendous lack of responsibility on the part of producers and landowners, their prevailing logic is to deforest with fire and damn the consequences."

Furthermore, in Brazil, since the pandemic began, environmental officials have admitted they have scaled back enforcement operations, while others have been fired and demoted for political reasons.

Meanwhile, Brazil's far-right populist president, Jair Bolsonaro, told the United Nations general assembly that Brazil is the victim of an international disinformation campaign backed by "shady interests".

"What we have is authorities that question numbers, question the extent of the fires, question the capacity of satellites to monitor and detect ... this ends up directly encouraging those who commit (environmental) crimes," says Raoni Rajão, co-ordinator of laboratory for the study of environmental services management at the Federal University of Minas Gerais.



The response to the fires has often been driven by heroic amateurs. Jorge Martini and his group of volunteers, the Cosquín Environmental Brigade, have been battling the recent fires in Argentina. A couple of weeks ago, when they ran out of water near the town of Huerta Grande, they thought they would have to give up, but a

group of local people formed a human chain to supply more water.

"They're filling our tank with buckets, how about that?" a visibly moved Martini says in a video he captured of the event.

The scale of destruction is hard to measure. "We know that in Córdoba some 180,000 hectares (nearly 700 square miles – bigger than Greater London) have burned so far this year, but we don't have an exact area for the totality of the fires," says Sandra Torrucio, a scientist monitoring satellite images at Argentina's space agency.

However, researcher Mohle warns against blaming the producers alone. "There is a lack of climate awareness in general and a failure by the authorities to communicate the gravity of the crisis. The fires in Australia had more coverage in Argentina's media than the fires in Argentina are having today."

The damage is affecting the perception of this region. "Each tree that is cut down in the Amazon and each animal burned in the Pantanal transforms Brazil further into an environmental pariah," says Marcio Astrini, executive secretary of the Climate Observatory, a network of civil society organisations.

However, there may be a way forward, suggests Kowalewski. He believes that humans should take a cue from the monkeys he studies. "We are told that individual action is the answer. Individual recycling, individual cutting back on consumption, but the cumulative effect of individual actions is a lie. You'll never see a monkey defending a tree on its own. Male and female monkeys band together to defend it in groups. Collective action is the identifying characteristic of primates. They're more cooperative than egotistical."

The Frightening Implications of California's First Million-Acre Fire

An article by Hayley Smith, Rong-Gong Lin II published on www.latimes.com

It was mid-August and California was experiencing yet another bout of extreme weather. In Death Valley, the thermometer at the Furnace Creek Visitor Center displayed one of the hottest, if not the hottest, temperatures ever recorded on Earth: 130 degrees. Up in Northern California, an unusually fierce lightning storm lighted up the skies and ignited numerous wildfires, stretching from the Salinas Valley and the Santa Cruz Mountains north into the Mendocino National Forest and beyond.

More than 12,000 lightning strikes were recorded over the next 96 hours. In the weeks that followed, 37 of those small fires morphed and merged into what was to become the largest wildfire California had ever seen: the August Complex.

On Monday, it reached "gigafire" status, burning more than 1 million acres, setting a new record for the state and offering what experts say is a terrifying window into how climate change and other factors such as mismanaged forests are worsening the state's fire danger.

"It's almost just kind of like a debt that we've accrued, and that we're finally paying on it," said Brandon Collins, a fire scientist at UC Berkeley.

In the 50 days since that lightning storm set the area ablaze, the August Complex has expanded into seven counties, including Mendocino, Humboldt, Trinity, Tehama, Glenn, Lake and Colusa. Even Monday, it continued to threaten communities as firefighters struggled to gain greater control of the inferno.

The sheer size of the fire is hard to fathom. "It makes up more than all of the fires that occurred between 1932 and 1999," Gov Gavin Newsom said on 5 October. "If that's not proof-point testament to climate change, I don't know what is."

The August Complex has contributed to the worst fire season California has ever recorded: 4 million acres in California have burned to date,



far exceeding the previous record of more than 1.8 million set in 2018. One firefighter, Diane Jones, 63, lost her life trying to battle the blaze.

"This is a wake-up call," said Bill Patzert, a climatologist who spent several decades at the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory in La Cañada Flintridge. "California burns every year, but it didn't burn a half a century ago like it is today. The stage is evolving."

Increased global temperatures driven by carbon emissions also contributed to 2020's extreme fire conditions. California saw its hottest August on record, only to break at least six more temperature records in September. Fourteen of the last 21 years have also seen below-average rainfall in the state.

Combined, the factors were a recipe for creating the vast swaths of bone-dry vegetation that have fed the August Complex for weeks. The fire has burned its way through three national forests, including Mendocino, Shasta-Trinity and Six Rivers.

"I can't remember when we got any rain last," said Mendocino National Forest spokeswoman Punky Moore.

Moore described an endless string of hot, dry, smoky days for fire crews battling the blaze, often amid low visibility and steep, rocky terrain. Nearly 4,000 aerial and ground personnel from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and the U S Forest Service as well as 138 National Guard personnel and crews from as far away as Montana, Texas, Washington and New Jersey are on hand to assist the fight.

"There were several times when the fires doubled in size," Moore said of the August Complex's growth. "When they doubled in size, we knew it was going to get large."

There are a number of reasons why the blaze got so big. Severe bouts of lightning have struck Northern California and caused a huge number of wildfires before; it happens roughly every 15 years or so, such as during the lightning-sparked fires of June 2008 and those that formed around September 1987, said Scott Stephens, professor of fire science at UC Berkeley.

However, while the 1987 and 2008 fires happened to hit mostly remote country, like in the Sierra Nevada and Klamath mountain ranges, this year the lightning also extended to the urban Bay Area. The result was that the state was particularly stretched for firefighting manpower, and much of the firefighting attention was focused on the Bay Area, and officials could not afford more resources on more rural fires like the August Complex.

"It was just an overwhelming number of fires early and then resources that were then stretched thin and this one, just based on a prioritisation, was given a lower priority and it continued to get bigger and bigger." Stephens said

The mix of widespread dry lightning with the hottest August on record in California that dried out the vegetation primed the landscape for disaster.

"Climate change is predisposing the fuels into drier conditions," Stephens said. "We know the fire season length is also increasing ... so it's absolutely right that climate change is making this more challenging."

A recent report in the journal *Environmental Research Letters* said that climate change was increasing the likelihood of extreme autumn wildfire conditions across California.

"We found that climate change has already more than doubled the frequency of extreme autumn wildfire conditions in California over the past 40 years," co-author Daniel Swain, a UCLA climate scientist, wrote recently.

Despite its rural origins, the legacy of the August Complex fire has been acutely felt by millions of Californians sending huge amounts of smoke and ash that blotted the sun across the north and led to apocalyptic skies that left the San Francisco Bay Area in an orange, toxic twilight for much of 9 September. The Bay Area experienced a record 30 consecutive "Spare the Air" days warning of unhealthy air quality.

The plumes of smoke even "were getting down to Southern California; it's getting to Arizona," said Collins, the UC Berkeley fire scientist, but the legacy of the August Complex fire may also end up being partly positive. The blaze has received less public attention not only because of the lack of destruction in major urban

areas, but also because of its relatively slow rate of growth.

Unlike the North Complex fire which killed 15 people and raced across Butte County in a single day or the Creek fire in the Sierra National Forest, which spurred the evacuation of campers by helicopter, the slower spread of the August Complex fire may mean the flames burned less intensely and left more surviving trees.

That would set the stage for relatively more ecological benefits than a hotter, more intense fire that burns virtually everything to a moonscape, as has been the case in other California wildfires this year. If that hypothesis ends up being true, it could show how a large, but not particularly intense, fire can be used to help sustainably manage forests.

Scientists have long warned that the unnatural suppression of forest fires for decades has caused forests to become overgrown, meaning that when fires do burn, they burn so intensely there are large expanses of wildlands that are virtually incinerated, instead of allowing the largest trees to live on, as happened more commonly before the modern era.

Scientists have long advocated for better management of forests with more prescribed burns and logging, not of the most lucrative large trees, which are fire resistant and anchor the ecosystem, but the smaller trees that have far less economic value.

The unhealthy states of California's other forests led to horrific lasting damage to their ecosystems, possibly in ways that won't be healed in our lifetime, if ever. In the North Complex fire, where swaths of land of 5,000 to 10,000 acres of forest have been destroyed, conifers may have been destroyed permanently and won't return naturally.

When giant stretches of forest land are decimated by intense fire, what was once forest can end up converting into another type of landscape, such as one dominated by shrubs and shrubs can burn more often, worsening the fire risk to California.

The hope among experts is that the devastating wildfires will help spark US and state officials to enact sweeping changes needed to reduce fuels from forests so they burn less intensely.

A major challenge will be dealing with the nearly 150 million dead, drought-stressed trees in California, which fuelled the rapid spread of the Creek fire in the Sierra National Forest. The burning vegetation generated a cloud so heavy with smoke and moisture it collapsed downward, causing the fire to spread in many directions.

"It's going to require some careful but deliberate burning — intentional burning," Collins said.

The August Complex fire is just over 50% contained and will probably continue to burn for several weeks to come.

"Everybody's ready for a break, but everybody's doing what they have to do," said Christine McMorrow, a spokeswoman for Cal Fire.

As for what the record-breaking gigafire means for the future of the state so many call home — experts say it probably isn't good.

"Now that the climate is changing, fire season is not just in the fall — it's year-round," Patzert said.

That means more flames, more smoke and more lost acreage are very likely in store.

"The all-natural California of John Muir is definitely in the rear view window," he said.

Woodland in UK 'Could be Doubled'

An article by Emily Beament published on <https://theecologist.org/>

WOODLAND cover in some of England's national parks is lower than it is in major cities, an assessment by Friends of the Earth suggests. Research mapping woodland in the 10 English national parks, which would once have been filled with temperate rainforest and wild woods, shows just 15% of these landscapes are now wooded, the green group said.

Its report, supported by players of the People's Postcode Lottery, suggests that the amount of woodland cover in the national parks could be more than doubled without harming other important habitat and land.

Friends of the Earth said the national parks, which cover a tenth of England, were not rising to the challenge of the nature and climate crises by increasing woodland cover and looking after other habitats such as peatbogs.

The assessment suggests woodland cover in the Yorkshire Dales stands at 4.1%, lower than London's 4.5%, and in the Peak District is at 8.4%, lower than Leeds where it is 9.8%.

Sheffield's 13.3% tree cover is higher than levels in the Lake District and the Dartmoor, according to the findings.

The analysis suggests that there is potential for the national parks to have total woodland cover of close to 35%, without infringing on

important habitats, land designated as wildlife sites, valuable farmland or lower quality land regularly used for growing crops, or peatland.

Friends of the Earth also warned that data it has got from Natural England shows only 26% of protected habitats in national parks, such as peatland, is in a healthy state, compared to 39% of those sites across England as a whole.

The findings come after the Government announced it would be protecting an extra 400,000 hectares of land in England for nature to bring the total amount protected up to 30% by 2030 to reverse declines in wildlife and habitats.

However, while the Government says 26% of land in England is already protected, conservationists warn that includes national parks and areas of outstanding natural beauty (AONBs) which do not necessarily focus on nature.

Friends of the Earth trees campaigner, Danny Gross, said: "England's national parks have not risen to the challenge of the climate and nature crisis. This isn't even listed in their core purposes set out by the government.

"National parks cover roughly a tenth of

England's land and offer enormous opportunities for natural climate solutions, such as woodland creation and peatland restoration, which would also go a long way to support new wildlife.

"We have a chance to make England's national parks trailblazers for natural climate solutions such as woodland and other precious habitats. It's time for National Park Authorities, the government and landowners to step up and work together to fight the climate crisis."

Laura Chow, head of charities at People's Postcode Lottery, said: "England's forests and woodlands have a vital role to play in the fight against climate change and this research provides a fascinating insight into the potential level of tree cover which could be achieved in the country's national parks.

"Our players have raised more than £30 million for charities working to protect and enhance our woodland and the wildlife which depends upon it for survival. By doing so, they're also helping limit our impact on the climate."

From Little Acorns: into the Woods in Search of Britain's Ancient Oak Trees

An article by James Canton published on www.theguardian.com

WALK along a deer path barely visible between the bracken. The late-morning sunshine is dappled, leaf-filtered. “There!” says Claire. She is my companion for the day. We are tree hunters, seeking out aged oaks in this Eden of ancient woodland. She has just spotted one and leads the way through the fronds. We are in the wild expanses of Wiltshire’s Savernake Forest, near Marlborough, surrounded by the North Wessex Downs. A few miles away are the prehistoric wonders of Avebury and Silbury Hill, but our interest lies in the woods.

I have travelled from my home in north Essex to meet some of Britain’s oldest inhabitants. This is a new forest to me, a vast area covering some 1,800 hectares (4,500 acres). Though such tree-scapes once covered much of the land, now only 2.4% of Britain is ancient woodland.

We fall silent as we step gently through the undergrowth to the oak before us and reach out to touch the rough bark. We circle the oak like tree creepers. A still fills the air. Above me, the vast canopy of branches and leaves reaches a hundred feet into the blue sky.

The oak beside us has sat on the same spot for 500 years. It is this simple fact that makes these oaks guardians of their locales. Something in that steadfastness is endlessly appealing. It also makes them quite easy to track and trace: to find your closest ancient oak, simply search the Ancient Tree Forum – an inventory of the oldest, best-known and most revered trees in Britain. Or head to one of the remaining areas of ancient woodland and simply wander. There is a distinct delight in stumbling across these aged figures of the forest.

We move on. In the wilds of Savernake Forest, Claire and I will walk away the day in the fractured leaf-light, getting gloriously lost, arriving every now and then at another aged oak whose limbs stretch in a different way, whose entire demeanour is distinct and which we cannot pass by without a greeting.

My search for ancient oaks started when I visited an 800-year-old called the Honywood Oak on the Marks Hall estate, near Coggeshall in Essex. I wanted to get to know more of the ecosystem of an oak tree, to learn of the complex array of creatures from birds to bees to minute insects that live within it. For the next two years, I spent many hours beside that oak at all times of the day and night, in rain and sun and snow. I also unearthed the story of the 300 other ancient oak trees on that same estate, which were cut down in the 1950s for timber.

Of the many other ancient woodlands that I visited, none could match for scale the Forest of Dean in Gloucestershire, which extends across 42 square miles. There you can walk along wooded glades up to the rocky heights of Symonds Yat, where you may also see peregrine falcons as you gaze down on the River Wye far below.

Then there are the delights of the forests that were once deer hunting grounds, such as at Hatfield Forest in Essex, with its stunning aged



pollarded oaks and hornbeams.

At Windsor Great Park, 2,020 hectares of what was once royal hunting forest are mostly now accessible to the public. One of its oaks even gets a mention in Shakespeare’s *The Merry Wives of Windsor* as the haunt of local stag-horned ghost Herne the Hunter.

Yet many of the surviving ancient woodlands of Britain are rather smaller parcels of greenery. One of my favourites is Queen’s Wood in Highgate, north London: it is home to a number of wonderful aged oaks, four of which are currently being actively protected from felling by the Save the Queen’s Wood Oaks campaign.

I have learned, too, how oak trees are closely tied to human existence, culturally and historically. Wherever oaks grow around the globe, people have connected with them. In prehistoric Britain, the druids were protectors of the oaks. “Druid” is a Celtic word formed from *dru*, meaning “oak”, and *wid*, “to see or know”. The druids had “oak knowledge”.

Today, the ancient oaks could do with some more protection. In Britain, many fine old oaks are still being felled to make way for new development. Huge infrastructure projects such as HS2 are tearing out trees that are centuries old. Some majestic oaks have been felled along the Fosse Way in Warwickshire; a 300-year-old oak was recently cut down near Leamington. We would do well to remember the vital role that ancient oaks play. A single 400-year-old oak can support more than 2,000 bird, insect, fungus and lichen species. Each tree also produces

234,000 litres of oxygen a year.

We may no longer rely on oak trees to build our homes, or to keep us warm and fed during winter, but there are still very good reasons to head out into the ancient woodlands. Japanese *shinrin-yoku*, or forest bathing, is gaining increasing interest in Britain. The positive effects of heading into the trees are becoming better understood. Science is showing that merely stepping out into green spaces improves wellbeing.

“There are certain phytoncides – chemicals given off by plants, including oak trees – which can affect our physiology,” says environmental psychologist Dr Mike Rogerson. “It’s the basis for aromatherapy. Some of these phytoncides relax, some stimulate, and some even boost our immune systems.”

No wonder, then, that Claire and I fairly skipped about the overgrown pathways of Savernake Forest. The very air was full of goodness, while our childlike delight at the aged oaks we found was born of a connection with oaks that our neolithic ancestors would have understood. With the delicious touch of autumn now in the air and a slanting, low sunlight slicing across dewy grass and lighting the leaves as the last acorns fall from the trees, this is the perfect time to explore the precious remaining ancient woodlands of Britain and meet some of the venerable oaks that still live on these lands.

Going down to the woods is good for you. We are calmer and happier beings when we step into the trees.

Savernake Forest, near Marlborough,

Wiltshire, Britain's only privately owned forest, is managed by the Forestry Commission – a status that is maintained by shutting the forest to the public one day a year – and it contains many ancient oaks. The oldest of the pollarded trees is the Big Belly Oak beside the A346 – one of the 50 Great British Trees named in honour of the Queen's Golden Jubilee. It has a girth of 11 metres, which dates the oak to 1,000-1,100 years old. Radiohead's 2011 album *The King of Limbs* is named after Savernake's King of Limbs oak, which can be found near Tottenham House.

Epping Forest in Essex is a vast, 2,400-hectare area of ancient woodland running south from Epping in Essex to Forest Gate in Greater London. The best way to explore the aged trees here is to follow the veteran tree trail offered by the Ancient Tree Forum. Epping Forest District Council has also created a guide to the favourite trees of the forest, but it's very rewarding to simply wander the footpaths through the woods,

as poets such as John Clare and Alfred Lord Tennyson did in the 19th century.

Sherwood Forest in Edwinstowe, Nottinghamshire is the famed woodland home of Robin Hood and his Merry Men. It houses the wonderful Major Oak, Robin's main hideout according to local folklore. The oak is between 800 and 1,000 years old and well worth a visit. Since Victorian times it has had to be artificially supported, several massive limbs propped up by scaffolds. The 375-hectare forest is home to hundreds of other ancient oaks. A variety of well-marked walks and trails lead around the ancient woodlands, following in Robin's footsteps. Parking is free for RSPB members, £4 for non-members

Buchan Woods, near Newton Stewart, Dumfries is a delightful 42-hectare ancient woodland of upland oak and open water in one of Britain's least-inhabited areas and is wonderful to simply wander in. There's an impressive list of species to keep an eye out for,

including pied flycatcher, redstart, tree pipit, meadow pipit, grasshopper warbler, wood warbler, Leisler's and pipistrelle bats, red squirrels, tawny owls and dark green fritillary butterflies. More adventurous souls might head to the Glentool Oakwoods, where there is even more sense of being lost and alone in the woods.

Staverton Park and the Thicks, in Wantisden, Suffolk is a rather well-hidden gem covering 80 hectares. This site of special scientific interest is a former deer park that consists of ancient woodland dotted with mature pollarded oaks. Some of the largest holly trees in Britain are here too. Access is via a public footpath through this really magical place.

James Canton is director of the Wild Writing: Literature & Landscape MA course at the University of Essex and author of The Oak Papers

Gardens Help Towns and Cities Beat Countryside for Tree Cover

By Wesley Stephenson, BBC Data Journalist

URBAN areas are not all high-rise flats and offices, they are also where you'll find many of the country's trees. Two London boroughs - Camden and Croydon - were among the top 20 places in England and Wales with the most tree cover, a research project has found.

Meanwhile largely rural areas had some of the least, including part of the Lake District and the Yorkshire Dales.

Garden trees are boosting numbers in towns, while farming helps explain some of the low rural rankings.

Bluesky International, an aerial survey company who carried out the work with the help of mapping specialist Esri UK, say they have detected around 400 million trees so far but there are still more to find.

Most trees are clustered in the south. In Camden and Croydon almost a third of the borough is covered in trees. Croydon has several areas of woodland and Camden includes Hampstead Heath and Primrose Hill.

However, when the data is mapped you can see the distinct pattern of tree lined streets and trees in gardens that help push up the percentage.

Surrey Heath has the largest percentage of trees, but the area "has seen quite a recent transformation," John Tucker from the Woodland Trust says.

"If you look back 60, 80, 100 years a lot of this area was open heathland and would have been managed and grazed." As livestock farming became less economical though, the area has returned to woodland.

The bottom areas are mainly rural. The place with the lowest tree cover is South Holland, an area of mainly farmland on The Wash in Lincolnshire. It is closely followed by neighbouring Boston.

This part of the east coast, all the way to

East Yorkshire, features in the bottom 20 areas.

"These areas were swept of trees for farming and have never recovered," says Dr Paul Brindley, an expert in trees and planning at Sheffield University's Department of Landscape Architecture.

Perhaps more surprising though are that areas in the bottom 20 include parts of the Yorkshire Dales National Park and an area of the Lake District. Richmondshire and Craven between them cover a large part of the Yorkshire Dales but have only 6% tree cover.

Eden, an area that includes Ullswater and parts of the North Pennine area of outstanding national beauty has just 7%. After the ice-age this area would have been 80-90% trees according to Peter Leeson from the Woodland Trust, but the demand for wood over history has meant trees have been felled and used for everything from wood fuel to building mines.

Many areas have also been cleared to make way for fields for animals to graze and sheep can have a secondary effect of eating new trees before they get a chance to establish.

Dr Brindley says it is important to know where the trees are because it can help assess their impact. "It's not just like there's one thing they're providing benefits for - there are a wide range of benefits."

Studies show green spaces and trees in particular can help improve people's health and wellbeing as well as helping with bio-diversity. Bees in particular like trees. They also play an important role in cooling our urban areas which often generate more heat than the surrounding rural areas because of the number of buildings, people and vehicles.

Cllr Adam Harrison, cabinet member on Camden Council believes trees play an important role in the wellbeing of people in his borough. "They can improve air and water quality, reduce noise pollution, support wildlife and are fantastic for improving mental and physical health" he says.

The 20 areas with the most tree cover are Surrey Heath, Waverley, Bracknell Forest, Runnymede, Woking, Mole Valley, Elmbridge, Guildford, Neath Port Talbot, New Forest, Mid Sussex, Rushmoor, Hart, South Bucks, Reigate and Banstead, Camden, Cannock Chase, Croydon, Chichester, Epsom and Ewell and Tunbridge Wells,

The 20 areas with the least tree cover are South Holland, Boston, Fenland, Barrow-in-Furness, City of London, Thanet, East Riding of Yorkshire, East Cambridgeshire, Craven, North Kesteven, East Lindsey, Richmondshire, Hartlepool, Fylde, Isle of Anglesey, North Lincolnshire, Rochford, North East Lincolnshire, Eden and Rossendale.

The trees have been detected using machine learning. Bluesky International combine their own high resolution aerial photographs, terrain maps and surface maps.

Using these three data sources and a machine learning algorithm they can work out which objects are trees and which are not. From this they create their National Tree Map which has been mapped by Esri UK.

They believe they have a good estimate for tree cover in different parts of the country but they cannot put an exact figure on the number of trees in England and Wales.



Update on UK Tree Policy and How You Can be a Voice for Trees

*An article by The Tree Council CEO Sara Lom
published on The Tree Council Website*

THESE are turbulent times and the tree planting pledges made at last year's election may feel a long time ago. However, the coming year continues to be a vital time for UK trees. Every month sees another important consultation announced or deadline looming on policies or strategies which will determine the future care and support of trees in our cities, towns and villages, as well as the countryside. So here is an update on the latest tree policy to keep you informed and to ask you please, to continue to be a voice for our precious trees and hedgerows, street trees and orchards across the country.

England Tree Strategy – more needed to ensure a strategy with 'teeth'

Over the summer, the government launched a consultation on a new England Tree Strategy. Thank you to every tree lover and all the Tree Wardens who sent in a response.

While we welcomed the public consultation and the efforts made to consult widely, the multiple-choice format made it difficult to respond in the detail we wished. We wanted the strategy to have clear and ambitious targets, especially for non-woodland trees (read [our response here](#).)

So, in addition to submitting our own response, The Tree Council brought together a coalition of leading conservation and environment charities to discuss how we could push even further for a strong, well-resourced, well-integrated strategy for trees. We sent our shared response to Minister for the Environment, Lord Goldsmith, who responded immediately and positively to our recommendations. You can [read a summary of our collective response here](#).

It is unlikely the strategy will be published before next spring, but we have agreement from Lord Goldsmith that the coalition will be able to meet with him and discuss the written draft before it is finalised.

EFRA committee wants to know more

After the public consultation above had closed, the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (EFRA) select committee (a small group of MPs or members of the House of Lords set up to investigate a specific issue in detail) opened an inquiry into tree planting and woodlands. The inquiry aims to explore 'whether the [tree planting] targets are the right ones, whether the right types of trees will be planted in the right places, and whether enough is being done to protect existing woodlands'.

This is a further opportunity to push for a robust tree strategy, with ambitious, legally-binding targets for new trees and hedgerows – one which gives as much focus to trees in our cities, streets and parks as it does to woodlands and commercial forests. This is an open inquiry and the committee welcomes written evidence until 19 November.

[Find out more](#)



Local tree strategies

Local authorities are important custodians and managers of civic trees and it is just as important for them to have clear and well-resourced strategies, as it is to have a strong strategy at national level. Tree Wardens in Wirral have achieved a major victory for their borough's trees by working with their community to develop a tree strategy, which has been adopted with all-party support.

The Wirral Tree Strategy acknowledges the wide-ranging value of trees and their importance to the health and wellbeing of ourselves, as well as the planet. It commits to increase tree cover in the borough to at least 10% within ten years. The Council also pledges to plant at least two trees for every tree it must fell for safety reasons. The result is a powerful demonstration of having champions for trees at a local level. Many congratulations to the Wirral Tree Wardens – we hope many other local authorities across the country will follow your lead.

[More about our local tree strategy work](#)

Planning reform raises concern for trees and other green infrastructure

Government is currently consulting on a wholesale reform of the planning system in England. The reforms aim to 'cut red tape but maintain standards', achieve carbon-neutral home build by 2050 and decrease the time it takes to develop local housing plans (only 50% of local areas currently have an up-to-date

plan).

In the new system, local areas will designate their land into three categories: Growth, Renewal and Protected Areas. Government aims to harness the latest mapping technology and introduce an infrastructure levy with a simple, rules-based system to replace the current process of developer contributions. Finally, there is a commitment to build homes with green spaces and parks close to hand and where tree-lined streets are the norm.

However, environment and conservation charities have expressed major concern about the impact of the reforms for several reasons. Firstly, the reforms will effectively cut democratic input into the planning process by half (there will be input at the local planning stage but no longer for final consent). Secondly, it is not clear how green infrastructure such as trees will fit into the new plans. Will green infrastructure have the same level of importance as other types of infrastructure such as roads and utilities?

We will be responding to the consultation and encourage tree-lovers to do the same. You can fill in the online questions or submit a written consultation directly via email. We will publish our response on our website when it is complete.

[Find out more](#)

Thank you for caring for trees and the future of our planet.

Problems with Neighbouring Trees

SINCE the start of the COVID-19 lockdown and most Broadland District Council staff working from home, I have received an increasing number of requests for information from members of the public because my telephone number appears on the Broadland District Council website. One of the most common problems has been people experiencing problems from their neighbours' trees.

Now, I can't be the only Tree Warden who is asked for advice on such matters so I thought I would share the facts of the matter with you.

I found an article by Abigail Taylor published on <http://www.problemneighbours.co.uk> very helpful and I thought I would share it with you.

If your property shares a boundary with a neighbour's property, there are a few aspects of the law (and good neighbourliness) that you need to bear in mind when growing trees or hedges. This guide covers what you need to know and also what you can do if you are having problems with your neighbour's trees.

Be careful to establish if any trees are subject to a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) or is within a Conservation Area. Broadland District Council will be able to tell you this. If you cut down a tree with a TPO or within a Conservation Area, you will be guilty of an offence under section 210 or 211 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

You have a common law right to cut back tree branches that overhang your property. It is, however, always best to discuss with your neighbour about any trees or hedges you wish to cut back before doing so.

The law states that any branches cut off belong to the person on whose land the tree originally grew, so you should ask your neighbour if they want them back, or if they are happy for you to dispose of them.

Do not just throw trimmings back over the boundary - this could constitute 'fly tipping'. Ask your neighbour whether they would like any trimmings back.

Equally any fruit on trees, even if they are growing on branches which overhang your property, still belongs to your neighbour. You are therefore stealing if you pick these for yourself without your neighbours' permission.

If you are pruning a neighbour's tree, be careful that you do not damage the tree further back than your boundary. If you damage the tree on their side, they may claim against you for the replacement cost of the tree.

If you choose to cut down overhanging branches, or trim trees, you will have to pay for the cost of doing so yourself. Try speaking to your neighbour however as you may be able to reach some sort of agreement in relation to any gardening work required, though they are not obliged to contribute to this cost. Note that you are not entitled to access to your neighbour's property to enable you to trim the branches on your side of the boundary without their permission.

Sometimes you may be unsure who owns the trees causing you concerns or the trees may be part of a shared boundary and you are unsure who is responsible for their maintenance:

A tree belongs to whoever owns the property upon which the tree trunk originally grows, even if the branches or roots have begun to spread onto another property. The owner has a duty to maintain this tree so that it does not

cause a hazard. Therefore if branches are broken and hanging precariously, the owner should remove these.

If a tree is planted on the border line between properties, you should check your Property Title Documents to see if these give ownership to one property. If not, you both share the duty to maintain the trees and these should not be cut down without prior consent from both owners. To check your title deeds visit the land registry website or call them on 0844 892 1111.

There is no such thing as 'no man's land'. All land and therefore all trees are owned by somebody.

If you can't decide by looking at the original Property Deeds who owns a tree, a court will be able to decide for you. However this is an expensive resolution and so it may be better to simply agree ownership between you and your neighbour.

You cannot force your neighbour to remove overhanging branches or fallen leaves on your property. However, if these cause excessive damage you can sue them for the cost of repair. It is, however, always better to try to amicably resolve any disputes with your neighbours before resorting to the courts, which is often a long and potentially expensive process. Remember you still have to live next to this person, so an amicable solution will often lead to a more comfortable living environment.

If any damage was caused by a tree from your neighbour's property but this was due to 'an Act of God', such as a thunderstorm or the phenomenon 'summer branch drop', any damage was not foreseeable. Your neighbour will not therefore be responsible for this. If any damage caused to your property is severe, you may wish to contact your Buildings Insurance Company about this.

Falling leaves, fruit, flowers and pollen are annoying but you cannot legally ask your neighbour to prevent this or remove any fallen debris. Liability to remove any fallen leaves etc lies with the owner of the Property affected (or the Tenants if they have maintenance obligations which include gardening).

Whilst falling leaves etc are annoying, they are not legally a 'nuisance', which has a very specific meaning.

The Rights of Light Act 1959 states that if a Property has received daylight for the last 20 years (the minimum prescribed period), they may be entitled to continue to receive that light. This means that if your neighbour builds a large fence or there are large trees which restrict the daylight your property receives (for example by blocking daylight reaching a window), you may be able to apply to the courts for your daylight to be restored, or for any injunction to prevent a proposed fence being built.

If trees have a TPO, this suggests that the property does not have a Right to Light, as it will not have had a continuous period of daylight for at least 20 years. Usually the only way you can prune a tree with a TPO is if it has become dangerous.

There is no right to direct sunlight, only

daylight. Even if you have a right to light, the amount of light is restricted to approximately equivalent to one foot of candlelight.

You do not have any right to a view which is obscured by trees. Equally you have no right to not have a view if trees previously covered an undesirable feature such as a brick wall.

If you are concerned that a tree is diseased or damaged and poses a danger due to having fallen, or being at risk of falling, you should contact the owner of the land on which the tree is growing. If the land belongs to the local council, contact them to request that the tree is cut down or pruned.

If you are unable to contact the land owner or they refuse to take action, contact your local council's Environmental Health Office. The owner is not under any legal duty to take action, but will be liable if a tree they knew to be damaged caused damage to property or injury to a person.

As prevention is often better than waiting for damage or injury to occur however, the Environmental Health Office may be able to invoke the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 if the tree poses an immediate risk to property or people. This allows them to serve notice on the land owner to make the tree safe. If they fail to do so, the Environmental Health Office may undertake this work themselves. The land owner would then usually be charged for any gardening required.

Finally, you may sometimes need to access a neighbour's property to do essential maintenance on your own. You have rights under the Access to Neighbouring Land Act 1992, but for the most part you should rarely have to concern yourself with this Act if you have a decent relationship with your neighbours.

From time to time, each and every one of us will have to repair or replace things on our property which might require ourselves or workers carrying out work on our behalf to gain access to our neighbour's land in order to resolve the problem.

Generally, it's a simple matter of letting your neighbour know what work you're intending to carry out and to ask their permission if you can gain access their land and in order to conduct the work and to arrange a suitable time. Nevertheless, disputes can arise or you might just not get on with your neighbour and both of these issues can make it difficult to carry out the work.

However, the Access to Neighbouring Land Act 1992 can facilitate matters in some cases, if you need to resort to a more formal solution. Therefore, it's good to know your rights with regard to this matter, what the Act covers and, often more crucially, what it doesn't.

In order to grant an access order the court must be convinced that the reasons you need to gain access to a neighbour's land, if they have been flatly refused permission, are valid as contained within the Act. Valid reasons for granting an access order would include the maintenance, renovation or repair of a property (or parts of it) in order to preserve it; the clearing

or repair of any sewers, drains, cables or pipes; the removal or filling in of a ditch; and the felling of a tree, plant or hedge (or parts of it) which have died, become diseased or which have become insecurely rooted and unstable which is likely to pose a danger

The basic interpretation of the law here is that the work must relate to the 'preservation' of an existing structure as opposed to granting permission to gain access to a neighbour's land in order to make it easier to construct a new development, such as a new conservatory or extension.

Therefore, even if you have been granted planning permission for a 'new build', this does

NOT mean that you can automatically gain access to a neighbour's land if parts of the work need to be carried out from their side of the boundary line. That is not covered by the Act and any such work in this instance would have to be agreed to by both you and your neighbours themselves.

In some cases, the courts can refuse to grant an access order if they decide that in doing so, it could cause severe hardship to your neighbour or land owner, or that it would significantly reduce their capacity for enjoying their own land.

If an access order is agreed to by the courts, it must then specify exactly the work which

needs to be carried out, the date work will commence and the date it must be completed by. Obviously, if the date is not suitable to your neighbour, they can request an alternative date. It would also be your responsibility to pay any compensation to the landowner, ie your neighbour, should they incur any financial loss, or put right any incidental damage that might result to their land or property as a result of the work you're having carried out.

So, there you have it, but please remember that before getting embroiled in a legal dispute you should ALWAYS consult a solicitor first.

John Fleetwood

Fears Over 'Weakening' of UK Green Watchdog

An article by Roger Harrabin published on www.bbc.co.uk

CAMPAIGNERS fear that the legal body designed to protect the environment on behalf of citizens is being undermined by the UK government. Ministers promised that after Brexit, laws on air, water and waste would be policed by an independent Office for Environmental Protection (OEP).

Previously, these laws were enforced by European courts, which prosecuted EU governments that breached green rules.

Ministers promised the OEP would be similarly independent, but they now want to grant themselves powers to "advise" the new body. These plans were revealed in a tabled amendment to the Environment Bill.

Critics fear ministers may counsel the OEP against taking the government to court if it breaches laws.

Ruth Chambers from the umbrella group Greener UK told BBC News: "This provides a 'get out of jail free' card for the government to direct the watchdog away from awkward or inconvenient cases. It completely undermines claims that it will be independent.

"This is a clear and simple weakening of environmental protection. Our nature, air and water quality is being put at further risk. We urge ministers to reconsider."

The government insists it's committed to ensuring the independence of the OEP. It says the body should gain greatest benefit by focusing its prosecutions on the most serious cases.

A spokesperson told BBC News: "The Environment Secretary will not be able to intervene in decision-making about specific or

individual cases. The Bill will also ensure the new body will have the power to scrutinise environmental policy and law, investigate complaints and take enforcement action against public authorities where necessary."

However, Greener UK's concerns are echoed by Dr Stephanie Wray from the environmental consultancy RSK. She told BBC News: "The government says the OEP should focus resources on the most serious cases, but this assumes that it is only big, high-profile cases that seriously affect the environment.

"In fact, small-scale chipping away at biodiversity, or myriad small breaches of air pollution limits, all add up. This would allow the government to potentially override the independence of the OEP by directing it towards or away from particular cases to suit political motives.

"Areas where the government was not meeting its targets, like waste, the circular economy, or the water framework directive, might be areas the OEP could be directed not to focus on."

MPs are determined to ensure the legal framework for the new body is water-tight.

Two chairs of Parliamentary committees, Neil Parish (Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) and Philip Dunne (Environmental Audit Committee), have asked ministers for

guarantees about its independence, governance and budget.

The government has already insisted that it will appoint the leadership of the OEP.

Nervous environmentalists remember the history of the Environment Agency, which was set up under statute to be independent.

Becky Willis, professor in practice at the Lancaster Environment Centre, said "The Labour government said it wanted the agency to be a strong independent voice championing the environment, but subsequent governments got fed up of being criticised - so they basically silenced the agency over a period of time, and chairmen and women were told not to criticise ministers openly."

The agency is now hugged so tight to government that its press enquiries are handled by the government itself.

Tom Burke, a former government adviser and the chair of think-tank E3G, told BBC News: "People would be right to be highly suspicious. Ministers made a promise on the independence of the OEP they knew they wouldn't keep. Now they're taking it back by stealth. The acid test will be whether the OEP gets its own website independent of government - if not, it will be compromised."

The MPs have set a deadline of 6 November for a response from the Environment Secretary.

The Week Boris Johnson Turned Green, or did he?

An article by Roger Harrabin, BBC environment analyst

YOU could be forgiven for thinking that the first week in October was the week Boris Johnson really grasped the perilous state of the planet. After a long silence on environmental issues, he made not one but three “green” speeches to the UN biodiversity summit in New York.

At first sight, his promises looked ambitious: take the headline on a Downing Street press release which read “PM commits to protect 30% of UK land in boost for biodiversity”.

Nearly a third of UK land protected for nature... that's impressive, right? Well, not according to some.

Environmentalists called the press release a masterpiece of spin: it gave the impression that 30% of land would be protected for biological diversity, but as campaigners pointed out, the UK's proposed protected area would mainly refer to land protected for beauty, not wildlife.

The “30 by 30” target was initially proposed by international green groups in 2018, and clearly referred to nature protection, not land-scape value, but much of the area to be included in the UK's proud 30% target are principally managed for walkers, tourists and sheep, not rare plants and insects.

In fact, some protected uplands are actually relatively poor in biodiversity, following decades of overgrazing.

That means the government's only firm promise that week – after three prime ministerial speeches – is to safeguard just 4% more of the UK's land for nature. That's hardly an urgent response to what the PM calls a crisis.

So what was the PM's contribution to the summit?

Well, it pulsed with colour. He warned: “Consider the pangolin – that scaly mammalian miracle of evolution boasting a prehensile tongue that is somehow attached to its pelvis. I don't believe any of us would choose to bequeath a planet on which such a wonderfully bizarre little creature is as unfamiliar to future generations as dinosaurs and dodos are to us today.”

However, his scaly tribute bore no further new policies.

What about climate pledges? Well, the previous week, on the subject of climate change, the PM flamboyantly predicted that the UK could be the “Saudi Arabia” of wind power. He declared himself an “evangelist” for the extremely expensive technology of CCS – carbon capture and storage, which buries CO₂ in underground rocks.

He heralded a revolution for hydrogen fuel and said the UK would get more nuclear power. He also said Britain would phase out sales of new petrol cars earlier than planned, but he didn't say when and didn't give any details of other policies in his in-tray, or how they would be funded.

As the UK prepares to host next year's world climate summit, the PM's critics say he must urgently underpin his words with cash and timetables for delivery.

Former Tory minister Sir Nicholas Soames wrote in the Times that, despite recent rhetoric, the UK is falling behind on carbon-cutting generally and on the high-level diplomacy needed to unite international partners. He said: “The government must wake up to the challenge in front of it and realise that the diplomatic landscape is the toughest it has been.”



So, what's the PM doing right for the environment?

To be fair, the government is making pioneering moves in some areas of green policy. It's committing to break the link between deforestation and UK supply chains and it's helped lead the Global Ocean Alliance, which aims to protect at least 30% of the world's oceans by 2030.

The UK's Blue Belt programme is a little-publicised but major initiative on track to protect marine areas the size of India, but real firm action is proving more elusive than words. Greenpeace was so incensed by what it called a lack of enforcement of marine zones that it dropped boulders in the North Sea to obstruct fishing.

On farming, the government also has - in theory - a good news story to tell. It has

attracted admirers with its scheme to swap the widely-reviled EU farm policy for a grant system based on wildlife protection rather than farm size, but now it seems the need to keep farmers in business may prompt ministers to raid the planned nature protection budget.

Meanwhile, the government's ambitious Environment Bill would enshrine biodiversity targets in law if only it wasn't stuck in the Commons for a want of Parliamentary time.

Does that mean the green promises are worthless?

The Guardian columnist George Monbiot offered a bleak assessment on the week's pronouncements. “It's the hope I can't stand,” he said. “Every few years, governments gather to make solemn promises about the action they will take to defend the living world, then break them before the ink is dry. Wherever Johnson has been, a trail of broken promises litters his path like roadkill.”

Tony Juniper, head of Natural England, prefers to focus on potential. He told me: “If you look at it in the round, the government has an awful lot of good policies in the pipeline. If they manage to deliver their programme it'll be a huge achievement.”

He said work was already under way to improve biodiversity in areas protected mainly for landscape value. If that succeeds, he said, it would make the 30% protection figure more impressive.

Mr Juniper's guarded optimism was echoed by Julian Glover, who

conducted last year's government-funded review into National Parks. He told me: “This is a rare chance to get reform, funding and more for nature and people. Environmentalists are right to point out today's big problems but I hope they will use this chance to get change and not just complain that because things for nature are often dire now there's no chance of a government helping make them better. It's good the PM wants to talk about the issue - let's encourage him to back action.”

It's rumoured that Mr Johnson was prompted to make the recent flurry of green announcements after being embarrassed by the reaction to his derogatory comments about rare newts in a speech on planning.

The big question now is what will nudge him to put finance and targets to the ideas in his green in tray?

McDonald's Among Food Firms Urging Tougher Deforestation Rules

An article by Roger Harrabin, BBC environment analyst

FOOD firms in the UK including McDonald's are urging the government to toughen up rules designed to protect rainforests. Ministers are planning a new law forbidding big firms to use produce from illegally deforested land, but the firms say the law should apply to all deforestation, whether it's legal or illegal. That's because the effect on the climate, and on nature, is the same if trees are felled legally or not.

The firms have written a letter to the government on the closing day of its consultation on forest protection. It says: "Restricting action to illegal deforestation would not achieve halting the loss of natural ecosystems, especially when governments have discretion to decide what is legal."

The 21 signatories include including Unilever, Tesco, Lidl, Nando's, Nestle, the convenience food maker Greencore and the chicken producer Pilgrim's Pride.

Currently the government's plans refer only to major companies like these, but the signatories say this would allow medium-sized firms to continue importing large amounts of commodities from previously forested land. They are pressing for a level playing field so smaller operators don't gain a competitive advantage.

The letter represents something of a breakthrough for environmental campaigners. They've have long argued that it's pointless for the UK to protect its own landscape - as the Prime Minister says he intends - if ingredients in food or fodder such as beef, cocoa, soy, rubber and palm oil have contributed to environmental destruction abroad.

Robin Willoughby, from the green group Mighty Earth said: "The proposed legislation would continue to allow rampant deforestation in hotspots such as Indonesia and Brazil (where much of the deforestation is legal). With the Amazon in flames and forests being cut down at an alarming rate, Nature doesn't recognise the difference between legal and illegal deforestation."

A government spokesperson agreed that the expansion of agriculture should not damage other ecosystems and promised ministers would explore ways of avoiding this "displacement" effect.

The spokesperson said tackling illegal



forest-felling was the obvious place to start. "Our proposed approach is designed to tackle illegal deforestation which accounts for nearly 50% of deforestation globally, but nearer 90% in key biomes, including part of the Amazon. Were existing forest laws in Brazil to be properly enforced, experts believe that forest cover would increase by 10%."

Chris Brown, Sustainable Sourcing Director at Asda, said: "We welcome efforts the government has made so far to tackle deforestation, but current plans won't do enough to protect fragile ecosystems. We need comprehensive reporting up and down the supply chain, alongside incentives for suppliers who move towards more environmentally-responsible production."

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

According to a recent survey from the environment group, WWF, 67% of British consumers say they want the government to do more to tackle the issue. Some 81% of

respondents wanted greater transparency about the origins of products 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 estimated to be responsible for 11% of global greenhouse gas emissions.

Although some environmentalists have supported the letter to government, other say the proposed targets are inadequate. McDonald's, for instance, has set a deadline of 2030 for removing rainforest products from its supply chain - a date critics say is far too late.

The issue is complicated, though. The group Palm Oil Monitor fears the effects of proposed changes on small farmers in remote areas.

It said: "Not all deforestation is bad. If a developing nation needs to cut forests to plant crops and feed its people, this cannot be considered bad."

Our Annual General Meeting - Thursday 5 November 2020

What foresight we had to set the date of our AGM for Guy Fawkes Night. As it will not be possible to hold an event this will give you something to do instead!! You've all received the formal notice and Agenda so you have the necessary Microsoft Teams link. Simply click on it and you will have full access.

Sam Village, the Tree Council's National Tree Warden Co-ordinator will be joining us so it will be a good opportunity for you all to meet her. Don't be late!!

When Language Kills

An article by Natalia Doran from Urban Squirrels, published in the ASWA publication Animal Watch

CAN language kill animals? Do we consent to this killing simply by certain words? It is actually quite hard to kill another sentient creature. In order to do it we usually have to rebrand them, either as food, as pests, as vermin, or as a danger to the public. The killing can then be called food production, management, control, culling, balancing out or protecting biodiversity.

To kill fellow human beings we first have to change the label of the persons we intend to kill to 'enemy' and with non-human animals we also have to first change the label, both to ease our conscience and to hide the killing from others and before we know it, the killing gets out of control and no one knows any longer why it has happened or how to stop it.

This is certainly true in the case of animals that are classed as 'invasive alien species'. A rather extreme example is the humble grey squirrel, residing in the UK since the 19th century and endlessly entertaining city dwellers in particular with their agility and intelligence. As a result of their status as 'invasive aliens', they are mercilessly persecuted, a process that passed beyond absurd in December 2019 when a law came into effect that punishes with a prison sentence of up to two years any wildlife rescuer who returns back to the wild a grey squirrel they took in for rehabilitation.

The grey squirrel is accused of causing deforestation (not true according to Forestry Commission research), of causing the decline of songbirds (not true according to an extensive government-funded monitoring programme), of killing off red squirrels (who were in severe decline, due to habitat loss, before grey squirrels were introduced) and all because grey squirrels are on the list of 'invasive alien species'.

So, who exactly are these dangerous 'aliens'? The species in question, ranging from plant like Japanese knotweed to animals such as signal crayfish, muntjac deer and aforementioned grey squirrels, have the misfortune of not having lived in Great Britain since the formation of the English Channel about 8,000 years ago (which would make them native), or since the 12th century (which would make them naturalised).

Historically, they could almost be described of victims of fashion. In the 19th century the fashion was to collect animals and plants from all over the British Empire and try to establish them on different continents. The process was called 'acclimatisation' and was considered cutting-edge science. It was in this atmosphere that grey squirrels, for example, were brought over from America 150 years ago. Unfortunately for the bushy-tailed ones, the pendulum of fashion has swung in the opposite direction and introduced species are now considered public enemy number one.

One could, of course, argue that the



unpopularity of these species is not a question of fashion, but of science, namely their ecological impact, but science formulates its agenda and reports its conclusions in words, in concepts, and it is important that these concepts are neutral and impartial as well as equal to the task of conveying facts. The concept of 'invasive species', however, falls far short of these requirements.

First of all, it is highly charged emotionally, conveying a feeling of "Help, we are being invaded!" Instead of 'invasive' we could say 'highly successful' or 'adaptable'. The scientific facts behind the statements would remain exactly the same. We would simply be adding the extra semantic layer of "aren't they impressive" instead of "help, we are being invaded!"

A more neutral expression would be 'widespread' species. Scientific fact and nothing else. Plus the word 'alien' in this context sounds biased. It suggests that a species does not belong here, but that something does not belong here is not an evidence-based judgement. It is a value judgement.

Habitats change, sometimes beyond all recognition, and an animal that did well in it 300 years ago (such as the red squirrel) is not necessarily going to do well in the new changed

habitat, whereas an introduced species (such as the grey squirrel) can become an accidental but nonetheless good ecological fit.

So why should the history of dispersal, rather than present-day ecological fitness determine who belongs and who does not? The neutral expression 'widespread introduced species' seems far more appropriate for scientific communication than the emotive and biased 'invasive alien species'.

'Invasive alien species' terminology is also problematic in purely scientific terms. As an instrument for formulating and exchanging scientific ideas, it is too blunt. Andrew Chew and Matthew Hamilton point out in an essay entitled, *The Rise and Fall of Biotic Nativeness: A Historical Perspective*, the term in question does not accomplish any theoretical work other than justifying human intervention in nature.

The authors point out that the very idea of biotic nativeness is scientifically obsolete. They write, "This is a pre-Darwinian conceptual framework, worked out before a full description of natural selection, before ecology and genetics; and none of these offer to reinvigorate it". In other words, if scientific research and communication is guided by 'invasive alien species' considerations, it amounts to taking modern science and stuffing it into a pre-

Darwinian conceptual straightjacket and it gets worse.

In an article published recently in the *Journal of Agricultural and Environmental Ethics*, Meera Iona Inglis notes a parallel between automatic rejection of introduced animal species with the portrayal of human immigrants as dangerous invaders. Something that makes 'invasive alien species' rhetoric both misleading and morally inappropriate. It is worth noting that many social media accounts that advocate the killing of great squirrels, for example, will also carry politically far right comment.

In the same article Dr Inglis highlights yet another moral problem with the 'invasion' narrative. Vilifying introduced species can be a distraction from far more significant problems in conservation. Problems that relate to human activity. "The invasive species is too often used as a political tool to scapegoat other living things for problems that are in fact caused or exacerbated by humans", she writes.

To illustrate her argument one could add the following point. The latest UK State of Nature Report points to two main problems for wildlife. Intensive farming and climate change. However, tackling these issues would bring the government into conflict with powerful commercial interests, whereas grey squirrels and other 'invasive alien species' are an easy target and can be legislated against with impunity.

Perhaps the most famous, and certainly articulate public opponent of the 'invasion' narrative is the award-winning environmental journalist Fred Pearce. In his book entitled *The New Wild*, with the subtitle *Why Invasive Species Will be Nature's Salvation* he argues

that we should rather celebrate the 'new wild' of a mix of species, including non-native ones, who are, in many cases, nature's own way of overcoming the damage that humanity has done to the common environment.

An example that he does not give, but that easily comes to mind, is our own grey squirrel. Our current habitat, except for some parts of Scotland, simply cannot support red squirrel populations, but the far more adaptable grey squirrels can survive in our ecological mess and perform the role in the ecosystem that their red cousins used to play. Are we grateful? No. We choose to label them as 'invasive' and persecute this species that is nature's own way of dealing with the environmental problems that we created.

As with all public discussion, any criticism also draws counter-criticism. Those who object to the use of 'invasive alien species' vocabulary have been called science deniers. This counter-criticism, however, rather misses the point of exactly what is denied. It is not the science that is rejected but the conceptual tools that the science operates with. This is not the same thing.

Science does not make moral decisions for us. Science can tell us, for example, that in certain habitats one species outcompetes another (eg the grey squirrel outcompetes the red in most British habitats), but science does not tell us to kill-off the more successful grey squirrels and artificially maintain the red squirrels in conditions that are not suitable for them. This is a moral decision and one that is not helped by the automatic adoption of 'invasion' terminology.

So let us not be taken in by words. 'Invasive alien species' rhetoric leads to animal cruelty on

a massive scale. Once labelled 'invasive alien species' animals lose what little moral protection they had and are exposed to unimaginable mistreatment, from being denied help from vets to being culled (another euphemism for killed, of course) in their thousands and millions.

Grey squirrels, for example, are trapped, transferred to a bag and hit on the head by an army of volunteers recruited by conservation charities. These acts were first described as 'bludgeoning' in the press, but the newspapers were later forced to change this to 'cranial dispatch', another linguistic trick for us to watch out for.

Some other examples of language being used to cover up activities that the public may find distasteful are; 'managing the ecosystem', 'protecting biodiversity' and balancing the habitat'. These can all be euphemisms for killing animals that some humans think should not be there.

Editor's note: 'protecting biodiversity' can also be a term used to describe positive action, such as replanting of hedgerows or introducing field margins where wildflowers and grasses are left to grow to support insect, bird and small mammal species.

If we love animals we should be careful about the language we use and be prepared to examine the language that others use so that we do not sleepwalk into condoning animal cruelty that is normally abhorrent to us. In the English-speaking world we have all heard that "sticks and stones will break my bones but words will never harm me". For millions of animals it is, sadly, not true.

Newcastle's Red Squirrels Feared Extinct at Breeding Site

An article published on www.bbc.co.uk/news

RED SQUIRRELS are feared to have died out in a city believed to be home to England's only remaining urban population. The endangered species is mostly restricted to remote parts of Northumberland, Cumbria and the south coast. Cameras at their last known breeding site in Newcastle have not captured any footage of the animals for months.

Campaigners said they were "heartbroken". Rachel Locke, from Save Newcastle Wildlife, said Havannah Nature Reserve in Hazlerigg had been "their last stronghold in the city".

"We are deeply disappointed by Newcastle City Council and Urban Green Newcastle's lack of commitment to safeguarding the future of this UK endangered species," she said.

The group had warned new housing developments to the north of the city would threaten the squirrel population.

Newcastle City Council said it had funded support and monitoring of red squirrels at the reserve. "We must acknowledge that this is set against a backdrop of their gradual decline across the country," a spokesperson said.



Urban Green Newcastle, which took over running Newcastle's green spaces from the city council in 2019, said it was focusing on

"maintaining and managing the varied habitats" of the reserve and hoped the "red squirrel population will once more grow and thrive".

There are about 140,000 red squirrels in the UK compared to 2.5 million grey squirrels, which were introduced from North America in the 1800s and have replaced reds across almost all of England and Wales.

The Wildlife Trusts warn that red squirrels could become extinct in England in 10 years, the Local Democracy Reporting Service said.

In June vandals cut down trees, started fires and left beer bottles and food packets at the nature reserve. During one 48 hour period firefighters were called out to the site five times.

Hedgehog Road Deaths in UK 'as High as 335,000'

An article published on www.bbc.co.uk/news

UP to 335,000 hedgehogs are dying each year on UK roads, a study suggests. The figure represents a three-fold mortality rate on 2016 data, described as "alarming" by a team at Nottingham Trent University (NTU) researchers. A study in 2016 put the UK road death figure at 100,000 but experts suggested that was a "mid-line estimate".

Researchers said measures such as tunnels and speed bumps "could" protect the animals but ultimately relied on drivers' behaviour to change.

PhD student Lauren Moore led the review, which has been jointly funded by wildlife charity People's Trust for Endangered Species (PTES) and NTU.

Recent estimates put the hedgehog population in England, Wales and Scotland at about one million, compared with 30 million in the 1950s.

"Hedgehog roadkill is sadly a very familiar sight both in the UK and in Europe," Ms Moore said.



The research considered a number of measures to protect the creatures, including speed bumps, road signs and tunnels, but concluded none would be effective without help

from drivers.

"Although we know some hedgehogs use road-crossing structures, we don't yet know how effective these solutions are. Changing drivers' behaviour has been shown to be difficult to achieve and sustain, reducing the potential for meaningful reductions in roadkill Ms Moore continued.

She thought the solution may lie in a combination of measures constructed "in carefully chosen locations" close to hedgehog hotspots.

Nida Al-Fulaij, grants manager at PTES, said: "With thousands of hedgehogs killed on UK roads every year, the continuous development of road networks, without any mitigation, puts this already endangered species at even further risk."

'Outrageous and Heartbreaking' - Anger as Trees are Cut Down Beside Railway Line

An article by Clarissa Place published on www.eveningnews24.co.uk

THE felling of dozens of trees along a railway line has been criticised by residents living along the line as "outrageous" and "heartbreaking." Neighbours in Yarmouth Road said they were not made aware of the work started by Network Rail to remove trees all along the Norwich to Sheringham line.

Trees have been cut down and turned into bark, which residents say removes their sound and wind barrier as well as reduces their privacy between the line and the back of their properties.

Louise Brooks has written to Network Rail criticising the work saying taking all of the trees and plant life to ground level will undermine the train line in years to come.

She wrote: "This is outrageous behaviour, with no thought gone into this.

"There is so much wildlife in the trees, nests with array of beautiful birds and bats live in this area. Residents will have no privacy as the train line is high, trains will pass and look straight into

residents' homes.

"There is absolutely no need to completely take everything away with a chain saw. It could be trimmed back, some plant life would not disrupt the train line."

Network Rail said falling trees could impact on safety of the railway and disrupt services.

A spokesman said: "We're always balancing the needs of the environment and those who live by the railway with the needs and safety of those who rely on our railway every day. We carry out this sort of maintenance in this area on a yearly basis and our work is compliant with all the applicable environmental laws."

Another Yarmouth Road resident Sophie Greenwood initially thought tree surgeons were working on a patch of the trees but said it was heartbreaking to learn the felling will occur all

the way along the Norwich to Sheringham line.

She said: "It just seems so extreme for the sake of a few leaves. This is really sad, it doesn't need to happen. I've watched that David Attenborough film on Netflix and you just think save the trees."

Marie Warnes and Graham Richardson have seen all of the trees taken down from behind their property. Ms Warnes said: "It's criminal really. The trees gave cover from the train, they were a barrier from the noise of the train which there seems to be more of, the nature has nothing now

"There could be erosion from the embankment. So many issues. The trouble is the powers that be at Network Rail don't live here and don't care. They just sit there and give orders."

Find a Specific Tree Pest or Disease

Invaluable information published on the Forestry Commission website

THE pests and diseases listed below are either present in the United Kingdom or pose the greatest threat of entering. Some of the information is still being developed. To learn more about a particular pest or disease simply click on the entry to be taken to that item on the Forestry Commission website

Tree pests in alphabetical order

- [Asian longhorn beetle \(*Anoplophora glabripennis*\)](#)
- [Bronze birch borer \(*Agrilus anxius*\)](#)
- [Budworms \(multiple species\)](#)
- [Citrus longhorn beetle \(*Anoplophora chinensis*\)](#)
- [Eight-toothed European spruce bark beetle \(*Ips typographus*\)](#)
- [Elm zig-zag sawfly \(*Aproceros leucopoda*\)](#)
- [Emerald ash borer \(*Agrilus planipennis*\)](#)
- [Great spruce bark beetle \(*Dendroctonus micans*\)](#)
- [Green spruce aphid \(*Elatobium abietinum*\)](#)
- [Gypsy moth \(*Lymantria dispar*\)](#)
- [Horse chestnut leaf miner \(*Cameraria ohridella*\)](#)
- [Large pine weevil \(*Hylobius abietis*\)](#)
- [Oak pinhole borer \(*Platypus cylindrus*\)](#)
- [Oak processionary moth \(*Thaumetopoea processionea*\)](#)
- [Oriental chestnut gall wasp \(*Dryocosmus kuriphilus*\)](#)

- [Pine processionary moth \(*Thaumetopoea pityocampa*\)](#)
- [Pine-tree lappet moth \(*Dendrolimus pini*\)](#)
- [Pinewood nematode \(*Bursaphelenchus xylophilus*\)](#)
- [Red-necked longhorn beetle \(*Aromia bungii*\)](#)
- [Siberian coniferous silk moth \(*Dendrolimus sibiricus*\)](#)
- [Two-lined chestnut borer \(*Agrilus bilineatus*\)](#)
- [Two-spotted oak buprestid \(*Agrilus biguttatus*\)](#)

Tree diseases in alphabetical order

- [Acute oak decline](#)
- [Ash dieback / Chalara ash dieback \(*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*\)](#)
- [Canker stain of plane \(*Ceratocystis platanii*\)](#)
- [Chronic oak dieback](#)
- [Conifer root and butt rot \(*Heterobasidion annosum*\)](#)
- [Dothistroma needle blight of pine \(*Dothistroma septosporum*\)](#)
- [Dutch elm disease \(*Ophiostoma novo-ulmi*\)](#)

- [Elbow-patch crust disease of plane \(*Fomitiporia punctata*\)](#)
- [Elm yellows phytoplasma \(*Candidatus Phytoplasma ulmi*\)](#)
- [Horse chestnut bleeding canker \(*Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *aesculi*\)](#)
- [Massaria disease of plane trees \(*Splanchnonema platanii*\)](#)
- [Neonectria disease of fir trees \(*Neonectria neomacrospora*\)](#)
- [Oak lace bug \(*Corythucha arcuata*\)](#)
- [Oak wilt \(*Ceratocystis fagacearum*\)](#)
- [Phytophthora alni of alder](#)
- [Phytophthora austrocedri](#)
- [Phytophthora kernoviae](#)
- [Phytophthora lateralis](#)
- [Phytophthora ramorum](#)
- [Pitch canker of pine \(*Fusarium circinatum*\)](#)
- [Sirococcus blight \(*Sirococcus tsugae*\)](#)
- [Sweet chestnut blight \(*Cryphonectria parasitica*\)](#)
- [Thousand cankers disease \(*Geosmithia morbida*\)](#)
- [Xylella \(*Xylella fastidiosa*\)](#)

Woodland Trust to Plant 50 Million Trees Over 5 Years to Fight Climate Crisis

An article by Emily Beament published on www.independent.co.uk

THE WOODLAND TRUST is pledging to plant 50 million trees by 2025 to help tackle the climate crisis. It is also urging millions of people to join its “big climate fightback” by planting trees this November to build support to sustain the biggest mass planting campaign the country has seen, in the next few years.

The efforts come in the face of the impacts of Covid-19, with tree planting rates falling despite the need to increase woodland cover to store carbon and tackle the climate crisis.

As part of the push, the Woodland Trust is sending more than 600,000 free trees to community groups and schools over the next few weeks and it is announcing a new “emergency tree fund” worth up to £1m to support local authorities to plant trees and create woods, which will be piloted with 12 councils and rolled out further if successful.

In the big climate fightback, which is supported by players of People’s Postcode Lottery, people are being urged to plant trees, or if they cannot do that, they can take action such as lobbying MPs and donating money to the

campaign.

The Woodland Trust is also calling for efforts to turn words into action following the government’s pledge to plant 30,000 hectares of woodland a year to help meet targets to cut emissions to zero overall by 2050. The conservation charity said that translates to around 50 million trees a year.

The Woodland Trust’s Darren Moorcroft said: “A year on from many big promises and statements about the need for more trees in order to achieve carbon net zero by 2050, they mainly remain just that, words.”

He said the Trust planted more than four million trees in 2019, but that was well below what was needed in the UK to meet climate change targets.

“Today I outline our commitment to

establish 50 million trees by 2025 to achieve our 10 year aim of a tree for everyone in the UK. This would more than double our most successful year ever and state our ambition to plant 10 million trees a year to 2025 and further, 20 per cent of the entire UK yearly target as set out by the government.”

Furthermore he said: “Our role in tackling the climate crisis won’t rest - we know the clock is ticking and we must act now. Trees are nature’s most powerful weapons in the fight against climate change.

“Together we can achieve remarkable things and I ask people today, please do your bit, join our climate change army, plant a tree in November, use your voice for trees and woods, support our cause and help us to continue our collective Big Climate Fightback.”

Ypres Chestnut Tree Battered but Unbowed by Wars Wins Belgian Award

An article by Daniel Boffey published on www.theguardian.com

A CHESTNUT TREE that survived both the bombardment of Ypres in the First World War and a desperate hunt for firewood during the second has been named Belgium's tree of the year in recognition of its survival in the face of adversity. The tree is the sole survivor of a chestnut avenue planted 160 years ago when the city's medieval fortifications were turned into a public park

It had been left as little more than a stump by the brutal warfare that raged around it between 1914 and 1918, but the tree's roots were deep and strong enough for it grow back into four separate trunks as Ypres, or leper as it is known in Belgium, was rebuilt in the years following the Great War.

It came to flank the rebuilt Menin Gate through which British soldiers had famously marched on their way to the nearby front and from where the last post is still sounded every evening at 8pm by volunteers.

The chestnut then survived the hunt for firewood during Germany's occupation of Belgium in the Second World War, due to the apparent danger of falling branches damaging the nearby homes.

"The people of leper cut down many trees," said Lieven Stubbe, who is head of the local council's landscape department. "They were cold and needed wood to burn in their stoves. [But] because the tree is on a slope, the trunks threatened to fall on the houses."

The tree is now 20m (65ft) tall with a 30m wide crown. The base trunk has a 9.2m circumference. It is one of only two trees in Ypres to have survived both world wars. The second is a three-stemmed hazel tree by the city

ramparts.

Valentijn Despeghel, a city alderman, said: "The chestnut is a monument, but it also exudes symbolic power. The four-trunk tree illustrates leper's power to survive. It's a living and especially vital monument that with a bit of luck can live for a further century."

The tree of the year award comes with a €2,500 (£2,266) prize for the local authority to spend on its preservation. The chestnut will now compete for next year's European tree of the year award against 15 others from around the continent.

Salhouse Community Tree Nursery

LAST December I recruited a new, very enthusiastic Tree Warden, James Cleaver, Tree Warden for Salhouse. James had a host of ambitious ideas (just like we all had when we started) and wanted to try anything and everything (just like we all did when we started). He joined every planting project we had.

Whilst giving James his inaugural training I visited his house and he proudly showed me his back garden which he had devoted to raising trees from seed ... thousands of 'em!

He then showed me the freezers in his house that he had taken over for suspension of seed ... much to his wife's disgust!!

So, I asked if he would like to organize a tree nursery for the Network and it was like lighting the blue touch paper on a firework!!

However, James soon hit an establishment brick wall though because I asked the Tree Council if there was any reason why a Network could not create its own nursery. Jon Stokes said that he was 99.999% sure all would be ok but he would ask Defra and the Forestry Commission just to make sure.

Oh dear. We would see the finest example of establishment incompetence you could wish to encounter. Neither could give Jon any reason for James not to create his own nursery, but then again they wouldn't say it was ok.

Now, James isn't someone to hang about and he set off obtaining the necessary licences, advice and knowledge required for his venture and I told The Tree Council that as nobody would say that James couldn't do it, he would!!

It was then that he reached an even bigger

mountain to overcome. He needed some land. After much searching he spoke to Jamie Henry at Broadland District Council who gave him hope and began investigating a certain site the Council owned.

Meanwhile James asked everyone and anyone if they had some land he could use. None of his neighbours would let him have their gardens (let alone their freezers!). Norwich City point blank refused to allow him to use the penalty area at the Barclay End of Carrow Road and the Highway Authority said no to him using the Thicket roundabout.

Not to be downhearted, James eventually obtained agreement to use a plot of land at 'Black Barn', Norwich Road, Salhouse, NR13 6QG and I was delighted when he telephoned me last weekend to let me know.

An elated James told me "This is a massive step towards growing trees of local provenance for our future and I could not have dreamt of a better site and situation. A massive thank you to a very kind individual."

The nursery aims to produce trees and shrubs of local provenance for use in public tree planting projects, giving something back to nature and the community and leaving a positive legacy. It will also facilitate the sharing of knowledge and skills about trees and the environment in a safe and friendly group of volunteers.

Putting down nursery roots came not a

moment too soon as the acorns James had been collecting were "rooting all over the place". He has sown 3,000 already – a forest in the making. The oaks have had a 'mast' year (something that occurs every 3-4 years) so thousands of acorns have covered our paths. It definitely helped James get off to a flying start.

The nursery welcomes help from all those who care about providing more trees for planting and, in time, it is hoped that it will become a hub for the community. The Network is pleased to be providing funds for James to purchase some essential tools and equipment.

If you wish to help him then he will be at the nursery on 7 November (09:00 -12:00), 14 November 10:00-13:00) and 21 November 09:00-12:00).

As COVID-19 rules restrict numbers to just six, it is essential that you contact James at salhousetreewarden@gmail.com BEFORE VISITING so that you don't have a wasted journey as he will be strictly applying that rule.

So let this be a lesson to us all. If at first you don't succeed ... don't give up.

Congratulations James. You are an example to us all and you deserve every success that will inevitably come your way.

Finally, James reminded me of a Native American proverb. "We don't inherit the land from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children."

Dr Jo's Corner

The column by Jo Parmenter, our Tree Warden for Reedham

Wildflower of the Month Marsh clubmoss *Lycopodiella inundata*

HORSFORD Woods and Houghen Plantation are part of a large area of plantation woodland to the north-west of Norwich, in the triangle between the A140 Cromer Road and the A1067 Fakenham Road. The woodland, which is a mixture of conifers with some broad-leaved species such as sweet chestnut, was planted on heathland and bog in the latter part of the 19th century. Before then, it was one of the best-known sites in East Anglia for a host of rare heath, fen and bog plants, which were gradually lost as the forest cover expanded and the land was partially drained.

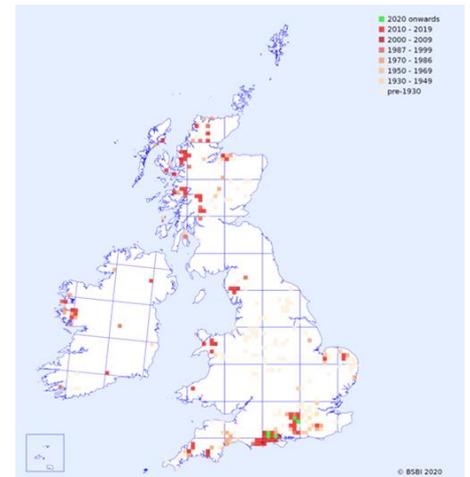
In recent years, Broadland District Council has taken over Horsford Woods, and also Houghen Plantation a little way to the south-west, and have started removing some of the plantation woodland and restoring areas of dry and wet heath with an ambition to create a new amenity country park for local residents, alongside managing important areas for wildlife.

None of this would have been possible without a small but dedicated number of local conservation volunteer groups who have been regularly coming to site for many years. That said, if you would like to get involved, please do get in touch with Sarah Burston at sarah.burston@broadland.gov.uk who has recently been appointed as project co-ordinator.

Recently, a thrilling discovery was made: the uncommon marsh clubmoss, *Lycopodiella inundata* was found in one of these restored areas, in a patch of wet heath which had had its tree cover removed and the underlying leaf litter scraped away to reveal the underlying sandy soils, which are surface-wet in summer and subject to shallow flooding in the winter.

The ground here is very infertile, and it has taken a while for three different species of heather, and also western gorse to recolonise, and along with them in boggy patches are sundew and two small colonies of the marsh clubmoss, which is now found at only two other sites in the county.

The main populations in Britain are found in



the south of England, in the New Forest and on heaths in Hampshire and Surrey. It is Nationally Scarce, a Schedule 41 species and is considered Endangered.

Despite the name, clubmosses are not mosses but a type of vascular (higher) plant, although in a separate class of plants to the ferns and flowering plants.

Other interesting plant species which can be found at these sites include marsh gentian *Gentiana pneumonanthe*, goldenrod *Solidago virgaurea*, eared willow *Salix aurita*, sundew *Drosera rotundifolia*, hawkweeds *Hieracium sabaudum*, western gorse *Ulex gallii*, tormentil *Potentilla erecta* and lesser spearwort *Ranunculus lingua*.

Jo Parmenter & Sarah Burston

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, Acle	17/02/2020	All trees on site	Provisional
2020 No 3 (1305)	Land at Wood Green, Salhouse	09/03/2020	1 x Leyland cypress	Provisional
2020 No 4 (1306)	Land rear of 48 Spixworth Road, Old Catton	29/04/2020	T1 oak, T2 deodar cedar T3 copper beech T4 yew	Provisional
2020 No 5 (1307)	66 Charles Close, Wroxham	26/05/2020	1 x Atlas cedar	Provisional
2020 No 6 (1308)	19 Millgate, Aylsham	17/08/2020	2 x Scots pine	Provisional
2020 No 7 (1309)	Lime Tree House, 16b Harvey Lane, Thorpe St Andrew.	28/09/2020	All trees of whatever species.	Provisional
2020 No 8 (1310)	Land south of Heydon Road, Aylsham.	08/10/2020	2 x oak	Provisional
2020 No 9 (1311)	Former Royal Norwich Golf Club, Drayton High Road, Hellesdon	16/10/2020	All trees of whatever species	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, Coltishall	211	Coppicing of 6 willow and 3 silver birch. Currently 8m in Height.	Approved
20191569	68 St Williams Way, Thorpe St Andrew	TPO	T1 oak - end weight reduction. Reduce width from 13.5m 8m.	28/11/2019
20191764	The Loft, Aylsham Water Mill, Mill Row, Aylsham	211	Lime – fell.	Approved
20191768	Belt Farm, Mill Row, Aylsham	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.	Approved
20191982	Bircham Centre, Market Place, Reepham	211	T1 and T2 holly – fell.	31/12/2019
20201112	St Margarets House, 1 Staithe Way Road, Wroxham	211	T1 fir 0= fell – heavy decline.	Approved
20201119	Meadow View, 102 Lower Street, Salhouse		T1 cedar - crown reduction in height from 5m to 4.5m and in radial spread from 2m to 1.5 m.	Approved
20201239	5 Sego Vale, Taverham	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.	Appeal lodged
20201410	6 Library Close, Blofield	TPO	Acer - 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.	Approved
20201459	Between 30 and 32 Plumstead Road, Great Little Plumstead	211	Oak – fell.	Withdrawn
20201485	9 Breck Farm Lane, Taverham	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.	Approved

20201495	51 Charles Close, Wroxham	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.	Approved
20201500	2 Millers Way, Horsford	TPO	Oak on property of 2 Millers Way, driveway bordering Millers Way, front east side of property. Sketch plan tree marked as TPO Works required, (trim back branches overhanging property and road side). Crown lift or raise. Crown reduction. Crown thin.	05/08/2020
20201513	Swallow House, Buckenham Road Lingwood and Burlingham	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
20201532	4 Manor Close, Buxton With Lamas	TPO	T1 silver birch - current height 20m reduce to 15m, current width 12m reduce to 8m.	20/08/2020
20201539	Land to rear of 22 Astley Road, Little Plumstead	TPO	T1 oak - no reduction in height of 22m but reduce east side of crown back from 8m to 3m by removing 5m.	26/08/2020
20201558	Charles House, Beech Avenue, Taverham	TPO	T16 purple leaved <i>Acer</i> - a street lamp is in the middle of the tree canopy and the branches have previously broken the lamp. I would like to cut away the small branches around the lamp just enough to prevent this happening again. The parish council have warned me of this problem in the past. T14 oak - reduce width of canopy by 1.2m as the required clearance from the house	14/08/2020
20201566	2 Sylvan Way, Taverham	TPO	T1 sycamore - crown lift to 4.5m over 3a Orchard Bank. Reduce lower long laterals growing towards 3a Orchard Bank to create 3m clearance.	07/09/2020
20201567	Wherry Court, 149 Yarmouth Road, Thorpe St Andrew	TPO	T1 cedar – fell and replace.	Approved
20201569	1 St Clements Way, Brundall	TPO	T1 oak - prune back branches overhanging roof from 6 to 3m.	Approved
20201581	3 Bulwer Close, Buxton With Lamas	TPO	Yew - crown raise to 2.5 - 3m and reduce by 3 - 3.5m.	Split Decision
20201583	62 Howell Road, Drayton	TPO	T1 Scots pine and T2 oak - dead, fell	21/08/2020
20201586	19 Barnby Road, Badersfield	TPO	Removal of dead hawthorn.	Approved
20201602	20 Barnby Road, Badersfield	TPO	T24 oak - reduce overhang towards house by up to 4m, back to suitable growth points.	26/08/2020
20201603	182 Thunder Lane, Thorpe St Andrew	TPO	T1 beech – remove. T2 copper beech - reduce crown radius from 8.5 to 6.5m and height from 19 to 17m to prevent failure of over-extended limbs.	Withdrawn
20201605	The Old Smithy, 39 Wood Lane, Burgh next Aylsham	211	T1 larch – fell.	Approved
20201613	8 Oxcroft, Acle	TPO	W1 whitebeam - thin by up to 15%. A1 ash - crown lift over car park by approx 2.5m. A2 ash - crown lift over car park by approx 2.5m and deadwood. C1 cherry - reduce up to 1.8m remove branches. C2 cherry - reduce laterals toward garden by up to 1.2m.	Approved
20201614	74 Sandy Lane, Taverham	TPO	S1 sycamore - thin by up to 15% and reduce laterals toward house by up to 3.3m giving a finished radius of approx 5.6m.	Approved
20201637	64 Wilks Farm Drive, Sprowston	TPO	Pear- reduce and reshape by 2% and crown lift to 3m, removing all arisings from site.	Withdrawn
20201646	St Anthony, 58 Norwich Road, Horstead With Stanninghall	211	T1 sycamore - bifurcated stems approx 30cm diameter each. Removal of south-west leaning stem as it leans toward road and interferes with 'phone wire. Pollard remaining stem to 6m height.	Approved
20201651	Oakdene, 21 Station Road, Salhouse	TPO	T1 lime - reduce extremity on western portion of the crown by 2m and remove major deadwood. Current height 20m. T2 beech - crown lift to 5m and reduce crown by 1.5m. Current height 20m. T3 lime crown lift to 4m. T4 oak - remove major deadwood and crown lift over road to 5.5m. T5 oak reduce eastern portion over road by 2m, T6 sycamore – fell. Causing conflict with oak. G6 horse chestnut and beech - crown lift to 5m.	01/09/2020
20201654	Avenue Edge, 143 Norwich Road, Wroxham	TPO	Silver birch- reduce height of main stem to height of secondary canopy to reduce risk of breakout. (See picture added).	01/09/2020

20201656	14 Birchwood, Thorpe St Andrew	TPO	T1 beech - reduce lateral branches up to a height of 12m by a maximum of 2m. Current spread 20m.	Approved
20201657	1 The Waterside, Hellesdon	TPO	T351 walnut - raise crown over lawn allowing 2m clearance. T383 beech - raise crown over road allowing 5.2m clearance.	01/09/2020
20201659	Heydon Hall, The Street, Heydon	211	T1 holm oak – fell due to wind damage.	Approved
20201661	9 Manor Close, Buxton With Lamas	TPO	T1 oak - full reduction by 4.5m in height and reduce any lower branches to maintain shape. Tree is tall and is excessively shading garden at 9 Manor close. T2 beech - reduction of lateral limbs by 3m and reduce very top branches by 4m to match crown. Lateral limbs stretch across the garden and over a greenhouse in adjacent property. Tree has very one-sided growth due to competition for light. This reduction should help balance the tree	03/09/2020
20201663	118 Taverham Road, Taverham	TPO	Tree works as listed in specification of works.	Approved
20201667	The Laurels, 222 Fakenham Road, Taverham	TPO	T1 - 3.6m lateral reduction (hanging over Fakenham Road), 5.5m crown lift over road and crown lift over neighbours' drive. T2 - reduce branch off phone line. T3 - reduce lateral over garage by up to 2.4m.	04/09/2020
20201668	300 St Faiths Road, Old Catton	TPO	T1 leylandii - crown lift over training building roof by 2m. T2 beech - reduce by 3m max on east and west tapering-in to the top of the tree. T3 & T4 ash - remove. T5 ash - remove canopy to leave trunk. Group of 3 sycamores – remove.	04/09/2020
20201678	5 Seton Road, Taverham	TPO	T1 oak - crown lift over grass to 5m & remove major dead wood. T2 oak - crown lift in 3 no gardens at rear by removal of droppers being pruned back to laterals and removal of major dead wood of 40mm and above.	Approved
20201681	Pheasant House, 1 Pheasant Walk, South Walsham	TPO	G1 group of Scots pine forming a plantation - silviculturally thin to remove dead and diseased, weak and crowded trees to benefit remaining trees and allow them to develop. Total volume of timber to be removed approx 3.2 m ³ . Ash within woodland- raise crown to 3m. Beech - deadwood and cut back to give clearance to driveway so 2.5m radius on driveway side only.	08/09/2020
20201690	179 Norwich Road, Wroxham	211	T1 monkey puzzle tree – remove. T2 sycamore - remove side branches overhanging and laying on neighbouring bungalow roof. T3 sycamore – remove.	09/09/2020
20201691	94 Fakenham Road, Drayton	TPO	G1 mixed spp - crown lift to 5.5m on west in order to provide clearance over planned access driveway for new development. G2 mixed spp - reduce eastern portion of trees in order to provide clearance from new properties and gardens.	09/09/2020
20201694	Avenue Edge, 143 Norwich Road, Wroxham	211	Eucalyptus - re-pollard back to previous pollard point.	Approved
20201699	188 Thunder Lane, Thorpe St Andrew	TPO	Horse chestnut - trim back branches overhanging Thunder Lane (outside front of 190 Thunder Lane) by approx 3m to edge of footpath adjoining road. Current length to trunk approx. 8.5m Trim branches closest to house at 190 Thunder Lane by approx 2.5m. Trim back 2m to trunk of lower branches overhanging front raised garden at 190 Thunder Lane.	10/09/2020
20201703	Broadway, 6 Staitheaway Road, Wroxham	211	T1 cedar - crown reduce to 3.5m and reduce by 2-2.25m. Current height 13-14m, width 9-10m approx..	Approved
20201704	Wood Lodge, Park Road, Wroxham	211	T1, T2, T3 ash – remove.	Approved
20201706	25 Orchard Bank, Drayton	TPO	Oak - crown raise to approx 5.5m to suitable growing points.	03/09/2020
20201707	3 Oakfield Road, Aylsham	211	T1 silver birch – fell. T2 & T3 silver birch - reduce height by 3m from 7-8m to 4-5m. T4 Eucalyptus - reduce height by 3-4m from 7-8m to 4m.	04/09/2020
20201708	10 The Maltings, Millgate, Aylsham	211	Cherry – fell.	Approved
20201710	Field House, Heydon Road, Aylsham	211	Whitebeam – fell.	Approved
20201715	6 Plumstead Road, Thorpe End	?	T1 cedar - reduce laterals by 1.5m and crown thin by 10%. G2 and G3 leylandii – remove.	14/09/2020

20201717	12 Bircham Road, Reepham	211	T1 black cherry <i>Prunus nigra</i> located in corner of front garden adjacent to pavement - proposed crown reduction, We would like to keep tree but cut it back to a safe overall size (height and width) to create a more balanced shape that is suitable to its location and still looks attractive. The branches have become tall, wide and straggly. After heavy rain the branches are low because of how saturated they are. Earlier in the year one small branch a third of the way up snapped and fell, though still attached to tree. We would therefore like to reduce the crown in order to improve safety. T2 cherry located in rear corner of back garden, adjacent to rear fence - proposed removal as close to ground as possible. We propose to replace it with a large shrub. The cherry tree has become very big for the size of the garden, overhangs the neighbours greenhouse, has roots that are getting close to our shed and big raised roots by fence and coming up through ???	14/09/2020
20201719	18 Bircham Road, Reepham	211	T1 yew - reduce outer peripheral crown by up to 3m to improve shape and form. T2 beech - reduce the west facing crown by 1.5m to reduce crown and conflict towards property. T3 evergreen oak - reduce over-extended laterals back by up to 3.5m including limb towards road. Reduce west crown towards garage by up to 3m.	Approved
20201723	18 Seton Road, Taverham	TPO	T17 oak - trunk leaning over boundary (there are plans in place to build a road) risk that this may destroy new boundary fence and risk to road - propose to coppice. T21 chestnut - this has died and is now leaning towards boundary fence to be removed if deemed a risk. T1 oak – split in trunk is weighted with branches and tree surgeon has suggested removal of some of these limbs and deadwooding to preserve tree. T25 oak - leaning limb, recommended to coppice to enable new re-growth of the tree. T19 oak deadwooding required and recommended by tree surgeon to remove lower branches to promote growth. T23 & T27 laurel - some coppicing to promote re-growth and reduce excessive shading in some areas. General woodland to be assessed for thinning of saplings, including holly.	14/09/2020
20201726	32 Bircham Road, Reepham	TPO	T1 - reduce 3 lateral limbs by 3m and secondary leader by approx 2-3m. T3 - reduce canopy by 2-3m. T2 - reduce loading by approx 2m, to leave the limbs 6-8m.	02/09/2020
20201737	Harrier Barn, Hall Farm Close, Halvergate	211	Ash - approx 9-10 m high, raise over driveway by re-shaping by approx 1.5 m. 3x field maples - approx 5-6 m. raise over driveway by re-shaping by approximately 1.5 m.	17/09/2020
20201743	The Furs, The Havaker, Reedham	TPO	T1 holm oak - has had branch split out. I believe my customers contacted your office by e-mail at the time. There is potential for more limbs to break out in the future and the customer would like to brace the tree to prolong its life and stability. I don't believe the tree would benefit from a reduction and believe this is the best option, with your backing	17/09/2020
20201744	Chapter li, Hemblington Road, Strumpshaw	TPO	T1 ash – re-pollard to previous point around 9m leaving some of smaller, lower branches to give cover and shape. T2 ash – re-pollard to previous points around 10m again leaving some lower branches to give it a shape.	17/09/2020
20201745	82 Shakespeare Way, Taverham	TPO	T3 silver birch – fell.	03/09/2020
20201746	The Granary, 45 School Road, Reepham	211	I wish to remove an apple tree - old and unattractive. I propose to replace this tree with a magnolia.	17/09/2020
20201749	Paddock Cottage, North Street, Blofield	TPO	Sycamore - lower lateral limb + crown lifting to 6m because tree is growing downwards encroaching into x'x' garden and causing a hazard to young children playing	18/09/2020
20201750	Evergreen Cottage, 7 Woodland Drive, Great Little Plumstead	?	Fell one spruce and two conifers to front of property. Trees have grown large and are interfering with the horse chestnuts that were planted as part of the original Thorpe End Garden Village development in the 1930's. Spruce is beginning to restrict access to driveway. No proposal to re-plant any replacement trees as they may interfere with the mature horse chestnuts to the front of the property.	18/09/2020

20201757	Hill House, 2 Skinners Lane, Wroxham	?	1. dead tree of unknown species covered in dense ivy - reduce to 3m height then possibly fell. It overhangs the river and public slipway and could endanger users of the public staithe next door. 2. sycamore - close to riverbank and will become much too large for this location in the garden. Fell. 3. poplar - will become much too big for this location in garden. Fell. 4. 7 x alder right on the eroding river bank. Reduce each to one main vertical trunk, removing trunks that are extending over the river. We hope to defer the day they fall into the river. Some have been so reduced before.	18/09/2020
20201760	Land West of Abbey Farm Commercial Park, Church Street, Horsham St Faith	?	G1 5 x ash and sycamore and G19 1 x verge tree - full details provided within the attached cover letter.	21/09/2020
20201762	The White House, Mill Lane, Great Witchingham	TPO	Beech TPO 2012 No 45 (1118) - please refer to the report by Richard Ravencroft who recommends the tree should be dismantled in its entirety as soon as possible due to a branch falling into the garden of my neighbour (Gothic House, The Street, Lenwade) bringing down a power line and the presence of <i>Meripilus giganteus</i> on the roots and base of the tree. The tree has also been inspected by Ian Flatters, arboricultural consultant for Target Trees who fully agrees the beech should be dismantled. Replace with one <i>Liquidamber</i> in the same area.	21/09/2020
20201763	6 Lodge Place, Thorpe St Andrew	?	T1 sweet chestnut - reduce north western canopy from 9m to 7m and remove dead wood to redress the weight and visual balance following recent wind damage to the northern canopy. T2 & T3 oak and T4 & T5 beech - remove dead wood.	21/09/2020
20201766	Blickling Hall, Estate Barn, Blickling Road, Blickling	?	1 sycamore - fell because of excessive included bark in main stem, weight largely towards the property and overhanging garden shed. 2 sycamore - fell because of included bark and evidence of large pocket of rot in and around the main union, also heavily leaning over garden outbuilding. 3 oak - fell because of potential risk to residents caused by sudden branch drop pertaining to brown cubical rot in main stem and branches; crown dying back excessively. Replant may be possible here, although other healthier oaks surround the tree, so replacement may not be necessary. 4 sycamore - almost complete crown dieback over past 12 months, little or no leaf cover this summer; mainly crown overhangs main visitor route from the hall and park (medium usage zone). Replanting not necessary - natural regeneration in the woodland adjacent. 5 horse chestnut - fell because of major dysfunction in main stem and crown failure and overextended limbs over a permissive footpath.	Approved
20201771	3 Barber Place, Thorpe St Andrew	?	T1, T2, T3, T4 and T5 sycamore - reduce to a height of 6m in order to regenerate as a pollard. Conflict with overhead utilities, excessive shading and recent branch failures would all be alleviated/eliminated by the proposed work.	22/09/2020
20201775	86 Charles Close, Wroxham	211	Scots pine x 2 and ash - fell and re-plant.	Approved
20201784	Swallow Barn, Hall Drive, Salhouse	211	T1 willow - pollard at 4-45m, below failed split main stem current height 6-7m. Damage from recent high winds. T2 willow - current height 7m, reduce by 1.5-2m and crown raise over neighbouring land by 3m. T3 willow - current height 7.5m reduce by 2m to avoid wind throw.	Approved
20201797	Forge Cottage, The Street, Oulton	211	Silver birch tree in rear garden and bordering driveway of The Forge and rear garden of The Old Post Office. Reduce and re-shape tree.	25/09/2020
20201800	The Willows, Frettenham Road, Frettenham	?	T1 oak and T2 & T5 sycamore - crown reduce by 2-25m and crown raise to 3m. T3 ash - crown raise to 4m over play area. T4 elder, T6 ash, T7 alder and T9 sycamore – fell. T10 sycamore - raise crown to 3m, reduce branches away from the house by 2.5-3m. T12 ash - raise crown by 3m. T13 & T14 sycamore - raise branches over car port to 4m.	15/09/2020
20201803	Crofts, 3 Cromer Road, Aylsham	211	Indian bean <i>Catalpa bignonioides</i> – fell. Tree has previously lost its top (or has been topped) and there is a 50cm deep cavity at the base with possible brown cubicle heartwood rot. A survey was carried out in June 2019 by Norwich Norse Environmental Ltd and they stated the condition of the tree was poor.	28/09/2020

20201804	18 Barnby Road, Badersfield	TPO	Cornelian cherry in back garden. 25% crown reduction as creating too much shade.	12/10/2020
20201815	98 Norwich Road, Wroxham	211	Conifer – fell.	23/09/2020
20201818	Knoll House, Blickling Road, Aylsham	211	Catalpa – dead. Remove	Approved
20201821	Wood Lodge, Park Road, Wroxham	211	T1 ash - remove due to ash dieback - 6.5m high. T2 holly - remove due to excessive shading - 9.5m high. T3 ash - remove due to ash dieback - 9.9m high.	28/09/2020
20201824	The White House, 33 Wroxham Road, Coltishall ,	211	T1 conifer - reduce height from approx 5.5 to approx 4m. G1 cherry x 2 & 1 poplar - reduce branches encroaching house from 16m high to 14m and from 10-14m wide to 8-12m. T3 yew - reduce crown by 0.5m from 2.8m high and 1.5m wide to 2.3m high and 1m wide. G2 ash & willow - reduce sections back to the boundary by 2m to eliminate risk of branch failure. Height 12m and width 8m. T4 sycamore - current height 12m, current width 6m. Crown reduce by 2m and raise clear of building by 2m.	28/09/2020
20201826	5 Cromer Road, Aylsham	211	T1 sycamore – fell.	29/09/2020
20201827	1 St Margarets House, Staithway Road, Wroxham	211	T1 cedar - approx 14 to 15m high, situated close to house and recent high winds caused several limb failures. Reduce crown by 4 to 4.5m to avoid further damage. T2 <i>Acacia</i> - approx 7m high and 12m spread, crown reduce by 2-3m and crown raise to 2.5-3m.	15/09/2020
20201828	45 Low Road, Hellesdon	TPO	Cherry – fell.	09/10/2011
20201833	Beech House, 16 Cromer Road, Aylsham	211	Beech – fell. Replacement to be planted.	01/10/2020
20201835	26 Rosemary Road, Sprowston	TPO	T11 Scots pine – fell. T22 common oak - reduce laterals by up to 2m; current width 7m, reduce to 5m. T27 & T35 common beech - crown raise to 4m. T36 common beech - reduce laterals from 9m to 5.5m wide. T37 common beech - reduce crown by 1.5m; current height and width 13m/6.5m, reduce to 10m/5m. T38 common beech - reduce laterals by 2m; current height and width 10m/8m, reduce to 7m/5m. T39 common beech - reduce crown by up to 2m; current height and width 12m/8m, reduce to 10m/6m; T40 common beech - crown raise to 5m. T41 copper beech - reduce crown by 1.5m, current height and width 14m/7m, reduce to 12m/5.5m. T44 common oak - reduce laterals by up to 2m; current width 7m reduce to 5m. T46 common oak - reduce laterals by 1m, reduce width from 6m to 5m.	06/10/2020
20201837	39 Charles Close, Wroxham	211	2 x silver birch – fell.	17/09/2020
20201844	105 Taverham Road, Taverham	TPO	T5 and T6 <i>Thuja</i> – low amenity value. Fell for development purposes and replace with apple <i>Malus evereste</i> and Sargent's cherry <i>Prunus sargentii</i> . Replanting to be at the front of 103 Taverham Road.	02/10/2020
20201845	The Rectory, 9 Lawn Crescent, Thorpe End	211	T1 horse chestnut - re-pollard; current height 10.6m with a width of 4m to each cardinal point - pollarding will leave tree approx. 4.6m above ground level. T2 horse chestnut - fell and replace with mature horse chestnut.	28/09/2020
20201846	20 College Close, Coltishall	TPO	T1 oak - current height 14m by 12m wide; reduce crown by 2.5-3m due to a recent wind shear failure in the upper crown.	28/09/2020
20201848	62 Nursery Close, Acle	TPO	T1 <i>Macrocarpa</i> - current height 15-16m, spread 13-14m. 4-4.5m reduction on extended limbs to reduce end weight and reduce risk of further failures. Remove dysfunctional limb at 4m which is displaying fibre buckling.	30/09/2020
20201849	60 Charles Close, Wroxham	211	T1 crab apple - crown raise to 2m and reduce to 2.5-5m on lateral branches. Current height 4m, spread 8-9m. T2 & T3 beech and oak (neighbours' trees) - current height 12m; reduce overhanging limbs back to boundary by 3m.	30/09/2020
20201850	24 Breck Farm Lane, Taverham	TPO	Hawthorn – dead. Remove.	02/10/2020
20201851	5 Pavilion Mews, Saint Andrews Park, Thorpe St Andrew	TPO	3 x limes - re-pollard to previous points. Height 6 to 8m.	30/09/2020
20201866	Chapel Bungalow, 89A Drayton High Road, Drayton	TPO	T1 oak - crown thin by a maximum of 20% and reduce crown by approx 15%. This would reduce the height to approx 15m and the width of the crown to around 12 – 13.5m.	06/10/2020

20201867	3 Malthouse Yard, Reepham	211	T1 hazel - crown reduce by no more than 3m back to previous pollard points. Lower crown raised to 4.5m over terrace and around 1m over roof and garden wall. Remove dense epicormics to rear of stem to reduce pressure on wall. T2 pear – reduce crown over garden room and terrace by 1m. T3 cotoneaster stem in conflict with gable end - reduce to ground level and reduce remaining side laterals to give clearance 1m from building fabric. T4 sycamore - reduce peripheral crown over boundary of No 3 by 1.5m and raise crown to 5.5m over driveway.	25/09/2020
20201875	Riverview Cottage, 47 High Street, Coltishall	211	T2 <i>Salix alba</i> - pollard from 30m in height to 20m. T4 <i>Salix alba</i> - currently approx 15m in height. Reduce to a monolith with a final height of approx 2m due to leaning stem and decay within main stem at approx 1m in height. T5 <i>Salix alba</i> - reduce primary lateral stem facing towards house from approx 22 to 15m in height (nearest suitable growth points) to reduce wind loading and to balance the tree. Reduce stem closest to neighbouring property (No 45) from approx 22 to 15m in height to maintain weight distribution. T6 <i>Salix babylonica</i> - remove secondary lateral limbs (approx 7m) from over water in order to reduce weight maintaining arched feature over public footpath. T7 <i>Salix babylonica</i> – fell.	07/10/2020
20201877	The Manor House, Church Street, Old Catton	TPO	T1 elm - reduce crown by 1.5m all over increasing to 2.5m on south side to reduce the over-extended branch. From approx 16 to 14.5m in height, from 12 to 8m north / south spread, and from 10 to 8.5m east / west spread.	17/10/2020
20201878	Great Witchingham Church, Heath Lane, Great Witchingham	TPO	G1 x 7 lime - remove lower epicormic growth up to first main branches. Current height 22m. T1 & T2 lime - current height 22m. Reduce away from house giving clearance of approx 2m.	02/10/2020
20201879	School House, The Street, Oulton	211	Fir – fell.	06/10/2020
20201886	Lion House, 5 Unicorn Yard, Aylsham	211	W1 corkscrew willow in rear garden adjacent to neighbour's boundary - current height 6m, pollard to 4m. A1 rowan - reduce height from approx 7m to 5m and reshape.	08/10/2020
20201887	31 St Andrews Avenue, Thorpe St Andrew	TPO	T1 cherry - reduce northern portion of crown by 1.5m from current spread 5.5m to 4m, crown lift on eastern portion of crown to a height of 2.5m over pathway and 5m over road and reduce branch growing over driveway on south-western aspect of crown by 1.5m.	08/10/2020
20201891	28 Barnby Road, Badersfield ,	TPO	T74 cherry - crown reduce by approx 25%. Reduce height by 3.5m from 15m to 11.5m; northern spread by 3m from 12m to 9m; southern spread by 2m from 10m to 8m; western spread by 4.5m from 12m to 7.5m; and eastern spread by 4m from 10m to 6m. Crown raise to 5 m over road.	21/10/2020
20201896	96 Norwich Road, Wroxham	211	Oak - remove deadwood, broken branches/hangers and rubbing branches. Crown lift to 5m over driveway entrance and public pedestrian footpath.	09/10/2020
20201899	69 Spixworth Road, Old Catton	211	Portuguese laurel – fell.	07/10/2020
20201906	24 South Avenue, Thorpe St Andrew	211	Self-seeded sycamore with old historical damage to lateral branch. Remove part of damaged branch only to allow tree to regenerate closer to main trunk.	12/10/2020
20201909	Woodfold, 24 Woodland Drive, Thorpe End	211	T1 <i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i> – fell.	12/10/2020
20201914	56 Mulberry Court, Taverham	YPO	T339 oak - cut back by 2-3 m along boundary (to bring in line with fence) and visitors parking space.	22/10/2020
20201915	Paradise House, Schoolhouse Lane, Aylsham	TPO	T8 beech – fell.	12/10/2020

20201917	7 Saint Edmunds Road, Taverham	TPO	T1 oak - lateral reduction of branch growing over garden (towards bird table) by up to 3.6 m to suitable growing point. Elsewhere reduce lower branches over garden toward house by up to 2.4m to suitable growing point. Approx radial reduction from 11m to 7.4m. T2 oak - lateral reduction of branch growing over fence into neighbours' garden (no 5) of up to 3.6 m to suitable growing point. Elsewhere reduce lower branches over garden toward house by up to 2.4 m to a suitable growing point. Approx radial reduction from 11 m to 7.4 m. T3 beech - lateral reduction of lowest branch growing over fence into the neighbours' garden (no 5), of up to 2.4 m to suitable growing point. Elsewhere reduce lower branches over garden toward house by up to 2.4 m to suitable growing point. Approx radial reduction from 11.5 m to 7.9 m.	19/10/2020
20201921	55 Charles Close, Wroxham	TPO	T1 oak - raise canopy to 5.5m. T2 sycamore – fell. T3 oak - crown thin by 5m by removing internal epicormic growth G4 birch - reduce height from 6m to 5m, by removing new growth from old reduction points.	12/10/2020
20201922	5, 6 & 7 Pavilion Mews, St Andrews Park, Thorpe St Andrew	TPO	T3, T4 & T5 limes - current height 6m approx, re-pollard to previous points at 3m high.	12/10/2020
20201951	6 Library Close, Blofield	TPO	T1 sycamore - pollard to a height of 6m. Compression fork with crack leading to base of tree on stem leaning toward neighbouring property. Heartwood exposure near base of tree. Current height of tree around 20m. T2 & T3 lime - reduce southern aspect of tree by 3m (current spread in southern aspect 7m).	15/10/2020
20201952	Glenlyn, 7 Copeman Road, Little Plumstead	TPO	T1 silver birch - fell and replant with <i>Amalanchier</i> 'Robin Hill' 12cm girth.	15/10/2020
20201953	Ivy Cottage, 13 Yarmouth Road, Thorpe St Andrew	211	T1 beech – fell.	15/10/2020
20201955	69 Hall Lane, Drayton	TPO	T1 & T2 sycamore and T3 oak- reduce crown by 50%. T4 Lawson cypress - strip off growth suppressing T3 or pollard to small stump. T5 oak – fell. T6 oak - remove branches overhanging boundary. T7, T8 & T9 Lawson cypress - pollard to half current height. T10 Douglas fir - reduce height by 60%. T11 larch - reduce by 40%. T12 Douglas fir - remove broken branch. T13 & T14 Lawson cypress - pollard by 50%.	07/10/2020
20201965	Crofts, 3 Cromer Road, Aylsham	211	2 x Lawson cypress - reduce height by 5m from 16m to 11m.	16/10/2020
20201966	24 Thunder Lane, Thorpe St Andrew	211	T1 sycamore – fell.	16/10/2020
20201969	Little Plumstead Hospital, Broadland Clinic Admission Unit, Hospital Road, Little Plumstead	TPO	T3 oak - reduce height from 10m to 8m. T9 beech - current height 16m. Crown reduce by up to 4m back to viable growth points.	19/10/2020
20201971	14 Barnby Road, Badersfield	TPO	Sycamore - remove epicormic growth extending onto road.	19/10/2020
20201973	Redwoods, 3 Hartwell Road, Wroxham	211	T1 plum - current height 7m, spread 9m to reduce by 2m. Crown raise to 3m. T2 beech & T3 lime - crown reduce by 3m and crown raise to 3m reducing end weight and height. Current height 15m. G4 x 5 conifers - height 9-11m all suppressed and tall for stem diameter. Remove. T5 holly- remove. Current height 8-9m. Replant. T6 sycamore - crown reduce by 3m, current height 12m. T7 sycamore - reduce overhanging limbs back to the boundary. Largest limb 2m over garden. T8 conifer - height 8m. Remove.	16/10/2020
20201974	14 Barnby Road, Badersfield	211	Scots pine – fell and replant with suitable tree.	20/10/2020
20201978	192 Plumstead Road East, Thorpe St Andrew	TPO	T1 sweet chestnut - reduce height by approx 3m from 18 to 15m removing split and damaged branches. Remove branches off phone lines running through the tree by 1m.	21/10/2020
20201979	Barneswood House, Hall Drive, Salhouse	211	T5 ash and T7 Norway spruce – fell.	16/10/2020

20201980	29 Garden Cottage, The Avenues, Wroxham	211	T1 oak - raise crown over road by 3.5m for clear vehicle access. Crown reduce by 3-3.5m to reduce wind throw. Current height 15m with a spread of 18m. T2 pine - current height 16m, spread 18m. Crown reduce by 3-3.5m. T3 copper maple - current height 6m, spread 4m. Pollard to 2.5m	16/10/2020
20201985	Ghost Hill Wood, Shakespeare Way, Taverham	TPO	T123 sycamore - thin crown by 15%.	19/10/2020
20202019	11 Haverscroft Close, Taverham	TPO	Oak in rear of garden of Mrs Ginn at 11 Haverscroft Close is heavily overshadowing bungalow of Mrs Grosse of 5 Haverscroft Close and is in need of having a few limbs cut back. plus the tree is growing heavily on the left hand side ddu to other trees grown alongside it on the right hand side so in my opinion needs this work to balance the tree out.	26/10/2020
20202021	The Hollies, 43 Waterloo Road, Hainford	TPO	T1 tulip tree – fell.	26/10/2020
20202023	2 Barberry Close, Taverham	TPO	T10 oak – fell.	26/10/2020
20202029	Redwood, 92 Charles Close, Wroxham	TPO	T1 wellingtonia <i>Sequoiadendron giganteum</i> – Fell . A recent structural survey of the property shows th location and size of tree is causing structural damage and removal has been recommended. In addition, tree shows signs of several large weakened unions likely caused by storm damage and previous management of tree. In the event of these unions failing, severe damage to property is likely. Although tree is a beautiful specimen, the risk it is posing is now high. Tree does not suggest many feasible options for retention as lower growth is all of a long pendulate nature Any kind of considerable height reduction would create more exposure to these already weak limbs. I would be keen to meet with the TO to discuss any other options that may be available. I propose we lower all branches with conventional rigging practice and then use a mobile crane to safely lift the stem away in sections to reduce the risk of damage to property etc.	27/10/2020
20202030	Forge Cottage, 25 The Street, South Walsham	TPO	T1 sycamore - remove deadwood and crossing branches. Raise canopy to 4m. Remove one over-extended lateral branch that has grown towards an undesirable location within the garden. Due to tree's form and good vitality removal of this limb will be inconsequential to the shape of the crown.	27/10/2020
20202036	Caledonian House, 2 Pheasant Walk, South Walsham	TPO	T1 oak - proposed reduction of adjacent conifers will leave oak leader exposed. A 4m reduction is proposed to alleviate exposure. Current height is around 12m.	28/10/2020
20202038	Rowangarth, Heydon Road, Aylsham	TPO	T2 oak - cut back damaged branch and rebalance north side of the tree.	28/10/2020
20202040	42 Springfield Road, Taverham	TPO	Oak - crown thin by 25% to allow light into garden and reduce sail weight.	27/10/2020
20202042	12 Belmore Close, Thorpe St Andrew	TPO	Beech - remove broken bough.	27/10/2020
20202043	12 Belmore Close, Thorpe St Andrew	TPO	Beech - remove broken bough.	27/10/2020

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) Decision 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.

**Please don't forget our AGM
on Thursday 5 November 2020**