

# Broadsheet

A large, ancient tree trunk with a hollowed-out section, set against a background of autumn foliage. The tree's bark is thick and textured, with a prominent vertical crevice and a large, irregular hole. The surrounding branches are covered in yellow and orange leaves, suggesting an autumn setting. The ground is covered with fallen leaves and some green grass.

The Magazine for Broadland Tree Wardens

Issue 222 – September 2023

## Who Can We Believe?

# Broadsheet

The Monthly Magazine for  
Broadland Tree Wardens



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## This Month's Cover Picture

A spectacular 9.6m ancient pedunculate oak on the Acton Scott Estate, Shropshire. A lapsed pollard dating all the way back to medieval times, according to historical records. It is completely hollow with some slits that you can peer through, but still has an entire bole. Most definitely a WOW tree!!

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# Who Can We Believe?

**L**OOKING back through those rose-tinted glasses that you tend to wear at my age, I have to ask the question "who can I believe?" I remember that our government, whatever political party it represented, treated the electorate with a modicum of respect. We weren't treated as idiots.

All that started to change when government promises persuaded the country to vote to leave the EU ... but that was only the start.

Since then we have seen a stream of lies and, quite frankly, total incompetence as successive prime ministers have come and gone and we have suffered mistake, mis-truths and, quite frankly, down right lies.

Having an economy that is shot to bits is one thing but having our treasured National Health Service stripped of adequate funding is another. I could fill this edition of Broadsheet with a load of other things but I will concentrate on our environment. Our precious fragile environment.

So, I make no apologies for dedicating much of this edition of Broadsheet to climate change and global warming. I might even send a copy to 10 Downing Street!!!

**O**N a disastrous day for our precious environment, Prime Minister Rishi Sunak used a helicopter to travel to Norwich from London on 29 August. The premier was in Hethersett to visit a new-build estate after an announcement that the government would weaken environmental rules to increase housing developments.

He also had a meeting with Kuwait Crown Prince Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah in the early afternoon.

A train journey to Norwich from the capital normally takes around one hour and 45 minutes, with a return journey costing around £50 ... if there were no strikes that day, of course!

The EDP reported that a Downing Street spokesperson said: "The Prime Minister regularly uses all forms of travel. His travel plans will vary and are always decided in consideration to the best use of his time."

Mr Sunak has been criticised in the past by Labour for "jetting around the country on taxpayer's money like an A-list celeb" for taking planes around England.

His apparent fondness for air travel has also seen his environmental credentials questioned due to private air transport's heavy impact on climate change. Certainly, that day Mr Sunak's environmental credentials were blown to pieces as he announced that Ministers propose scrapping pollution rules to build more homes.

Writing on the BBC News website, lone Wells and Sam Francis reported that EU-era water pollution restrictions for housing developments are to be scrapped in a bid to build more homes, the government has announced.

Up to 100,000 new homes could be built by 2030 if rules around building houses near waterways in protected areas are loosened, the government said. Ministers argue water pollution from new homes is "very small" and will be offset by £280m of investment.

However, environmental groups described the move as "disgraceful".

The change will lead to "lots more poo in our rivers" and "not solve root causes of housing problem," Wildlife Trust chief executive Craig

Bennett said.

However, developers welcomed the plans, saying nutrient neutrality rules prevented thousands of homes from being built.

Stewart Baseley, executive chairman of the Home Builders Federation, said housebuilding had been blocked "despite wide acknowledgement that occupants of new homes are responsible for only a tiny fraction of the waste water finding its ways into rivers and streams".

Natural England rules mean 62 local authorities cannot allow new developments unless builders can prove their projects are "nutrient neutral" in protected areas, including Somerset, Norfolk, Teesside, Kent, Wiltshire and the Solent.

The government have announced plans to scrap these rules through an amendment, or change, to the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill, currently going through the House of Lords. By removing the restrictions, developers will deliver an extra £18bn in economic activity, the government said.

Alongside the move the government is announcing new environmental measures including doubling investment to £280m for the Nutrient Mitigation Scheme run by Natural England.

The new environmental measures will mostly target farming and water companies to restore protected waterways. An extra £166m in grants will be made available to farmers for improved slurry storage to reducing nutrient run off into rivers and wetland.

The government said it is also working on new laws expected to "drive significant investment" from water companies to upgrade wastewater treatment works.

A project is "nutrient neutral" if it can prove it will not add extra nutrients to the surrounding water.

While nutrients may sound healthy, flooding an area with substances such as phosphates and nitrates can reduce the quality of water, harm wildlife and cause excess algae growth.

The nutrient neutral rules have been in place since 2019 following a ruling by the European Court of Justice.

In protected areas across England, developers must prove they will not cause any nutrients to seep into nearby water for new building projects to be granted nutrient neutral status before they can begin building - rather than allowing builders to mitigate the impact of their work across multiple developments.

Research by the Environmental Audit Committee in Parliament found agricultural pollution is "the most common factor" for ecological damage in the UK's rivers and other water bodies.

However, housing developments can also pose a risk due the wastewater and sewage that can come from new homes - as well as the runoff from construction sites.

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said a "disproportionate and poorly targeted old EU ruling" had blocked thousands of homes being built in the UK.

"Thankfully we can now reverse that, and alongside that we are investing hundreds of



millions of pounds to continue protecting and enhancing our precious natural environment," he said.

Environment Secretary Thérèse Coffey said: "These new plans will cut nutrients and help support England's precious habitats whilst unlocking the new homes that local communities need."

Labour's shadow housing secretary Lisa Nandy said: "With housebuilding projected to fall to the lowest level since World War Two and our rivers full of sewage, the Conservatives are failing on both housing and the environment."

In addition, Lib Dem leader Sir Ed Davey said: "Our rivers and our seas need more protection, not less".

The Wildlife Trust's Mr Bennett told BBC Radio 4's Today programme the nutrient neutral rules are "very modest" as they "require the housebuilders not to cut pollution, but just to stop it getting worse".

"Unfortunately, the housebuilders have been adept over many years at wriggling out of their environmental commitments and they've succeeded yet again," Mr Bennett added.

Clean rivers campaigner Feargal Sharkey has described the government's scrapping of pollution rules as "a complete and utter shambles". He told BBC Radio 4's the World at One programme "the environment has now been left to fend for itself".

Water pollution became a highly politicised issue over the summer, with the Liberal Democrats accusing water firms in England and Wales of failing to reveal how much sewage was being pumped into rivers, lakes and coastlines.

Industry body Water UK called the claim "fabricated and completely false", saying firms were fixing the problem.

**M**ANY proposed housing developments are on hold because developers cannot connect to mains sewers that are already overloaded and their obvious alternative ... septic tanks ... cannot meet phosphate mitigation requirements.

These new plans by Sunak's government will mean that those requirement will be relaxed and phosphate run-off will pollute our rivers and water courses.

Earlier this year it was revealed that 44% of septic tanks in Donegal failed inspection in 2022.

In January it was revealed that some residents in Cornwall were facing overflowing septic tanks and homes flooding with domestic sewage because South West Water had temporarily closed some of its waste treatment sites to commercial operators wishing to empty

septic tank contents.

It said there had been a rise in demand at the sites because of rain filling tanks.

Lawyers are warning of a growing number of incidents of septic tank conveyancing negligence, which could prove costly for homebuyers. House buyers are being warned of what is described as a little-known property rule concerning homes with a septic tank that may lead to a £100,000 fine if not complied with.

In January 2015, new Government regulations came in regarding how septic tank waste is disposed of, their state of repair and the suitability of their size. The new ruling was designed to minimise the environmental impact of sewage on UK rivers and other waterways.

Applicable homeowners were given until January 2020 to upgrade their tanks to ensure compliance with the regulation.

However, professional negligence law firm Been Let Down believes that the vast majority of tanks haven't yet been updated, because owners either aren't aware they are required to do so or have put it off due to the cost, which can be as much as £20,000.

Mr Sunak's government's plans could greatly increase these problems.

**A**MY GIBBONS reported on the Telegraph website that a leading charity has warned that the Tories are set to miss a manifesto tree planting promise, as figures reveal barely any progress has been made towards the goal since the 2019 election.

The Conservatives pledged to plant an extra 30,000 hectares of trees a year by the end of this Parliament as part of their plan to "invest in nature", but the latest statistics show the Government has failed to hit even half of the UK-wide target in any year since, with annual rates remaining fairly stagnant at around 13,000 to 14,000ha.

Provisional figures suggest planting actually declined over the past year, dropping below 13,000ha for the first time since 2017-18. Prior to that, levels had fluctuated since the election, reaching a peak in 2021-22.

The latest available data for the whole of the UK is for woodland areas only, meaning trees planted elsewhere, such as in farms, parks and urban settings, are not included.

Meanwhile, the key public sector fund for tree planting in England has been flagged "red" by a Government watchdog, meaning that successful delivery of the programme appears to be unachievable.

The Nature For Climate Fund (NCF) was downgraded from an "amber" rating by the

Infrastructure and Projects Authority (IPA), which assesses the progress of major Government schemes.

It comes as Tory clashes on green issues are proving a headache for Rishi Sunak, with frustrated MPs keen to mitigate the impact of the Government's net zero plans on households already hit hard by the cost of living crisis.

The Woodland Trust, the UK's largest woodland conservation charity, warned the current trajectory suggests it is "extremely unlikely" the Tories will hit their 30,000ha target by 2024-25 when the five-year parliamentary term comes to an end.

Nick Phillips, principal forestry policy advocate, said the charity expects planting to rise again next year, but "radical changes in approach" are needed if the Conservatives are to stand a chance of reaching their goal.

"Meeting the target would require creation rates to more than double at UK level. Something that hasn't been seen for decades," he said.

Tree policy in the UK is a devolved matter. In England alone, the aim is to plant 7,500ha per year by the end of this Parliament, but the provisional figures show just 3,130ha of new woodland were created in 2022-23, and 9,280ha in total since 2019-20.

The numbers are slightly higher when trees planted outside of woodland are taken into account, with the sum for 2022-23 rising to 3,627ha. The more comprehensive statistics for the UK as a whole are expected to be published next month.

The initial figures suggest planting in England has risen significantly over the past year by roughly 1,000ha, while Wales has also seen an increase. However, a decline in Scotland, which accounts for the biggest portion of new woodland each year, means the UK-wide total has dipped.

Jon Stokes, director of trees, science and research at the Tree Council, was positive about the general direction of travel, praising the Government's commitment to tree planting in recent years, especially outside woodland, and stressing that "aspirational targets" are important. However, he made clear this will not be a "one Parliament job", as "five years in tree terms is nothing".

Asked if he thought ministers were unlikely to achieve 30,000 ha per year by the end of this Parliament, he said: "We will need long-term commitment from all Parliaments, all parties, to this journey, because it's a huge journey that we're on, and it's a necessary journey. It will be a long-term mission and it is part of everybody's need to get us to that place."

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) insisted tree planting rates are at their "highest in a decade", but acknowledged there is "much more to do".

Responding to the downgrading of its tree planting fund, the department said there are several key enablers required to match the NCF's planned trajectory that are not certain, including landowner demand.

Last year, the National Audit Office, another watchdog, warned that landowners had been "discouraged from committing land to tree planting" because of uncertainty over the Government's priorities.

A "red" rating from the IPA signifies that "successful delivery of the project appears to be unachievable".

It means there are "major issues with project definition, schedule, budget, quality and/or benefits delivery, which at this stage do not appear to be manageable or resolvable". The project "may need re-scoping and/or its overall

viability reassessed”.

A Defra spokesman said: “Tree planting rates are at their highest for a decade, but we know there is more to do and will continue to work with partners to increase the nation’s tree cover.

“Since the start of this Parliament, we have planted or supported the planting of 13 million trees and will have invested £650 million by May 2024 in transforming England’s treescapes. We are also continuing on delivering our legal target to have 16.5 per cent of England’s total land area covered by trees by 2050.”

On the NCF, the department said: “We can be proud of the UK’s record as a world leader on net zero and restoring nature. The Nature for Climate Fund is an integral part in improving landscapes and creating new habitats, capturing carbon and supporting nature recovery. It has already led to the planting of 13 million trees and the restoration of 20,000 hectares of peatland.

“While the Infrastructure Projects Authority report highlights challenges, we are seeing positive engagement from landowners, farmers and the private sector in our funds and we are continually refining our approaches to deliver our environmental targets.”

**THE wildfires in southern Mediterranean have brought climate change to the top of the news agenda and have also whipped up a storm on social media. People calling for climate action, like Dragons’ Den star Deborah Meaden, have been branded as alarmists, reported Dougal Shaw, Business Reporter, BBC News.**

Meaden has publicly faced down critics on online platforms like X (formerly called Twitter) when accused of exaggerating climate change. Despite the hostility her public stance generates, it is an issue she is passionate about.

“The climate change problem is here and now,” Meaden told the BBC at a recent event. People are increasingly waking up to the idea and this has big implications for businesses, she says.

“People are joining the dots,” says Meaden. “We can’t assume we’ve got time to sort the planet any more. It was probably about six or seven years ago when I really woke up to the fact.”

However, she is of course well known not as a scientist or social activist, but as a famous face of business. Much of the damage to the planet driving climate change is caused by big businesses, as they supply us with the necessities - and luxuries - of modern life.

They are increasingly being forced to rethink their policies, thanks to consumer pressure, says Meaden.

“Consumers have woken up to the power they have in their pockets in the past five or six years,” she says. “They are telling businesses you need to change the way you do things. They want to make sure businesses are reducing their planetary impact and businesses will - and do - listen to the consumer.”

Some large companies have been caught out greenwashing, paying lip service to sustainability, but not putting it into practice, but many genuinely want to commit to change, Meaden told Bupa’s eco-Disruptive event in London, which earlier this month ran a competition for start-ups in the sustainability sector.

While consumers can influence big businesses to become more responsible through their spending power, Meaden reckons, it is actually new breeds of small, start-up companies that will bring those businesses the radical ideas they need to change their ways.

While large companies have resources and deep pockets, they don’t always have the ability to focus on the kinds of new ideas that have to be experimented with, to become more sustainable, she argues.

Large, public companies can also face inertia on climate change because they are subject to the demands of their shareholders, who are focused on short-term profits.

This is where start-ups come in. They are more agile and their small teams can laser-focus on new ideas, says Meaden.

Many start-up founders with bold ideas aren’t in fact trying to be the next all-conquering Facebook. From the outset, they are looking to be acquired by a larger company after they’ve proved their potential - making life-changing amounts of money for the founding members when they sell.

Since large companies are on the lookout for green solutions right now, they are interested to acquire start-ups that can solve their sustainability issues for them, in areas like supply chains, waste or energy consumption.

So there is a good market now for start-ups to be in this space and drive the sustainability agenda at scale, says Meaden.

Many of these kinds of start-ups were represented at the eco-Disruptive Live event.

Australian start-up Cassava Bags won the overall competition, taking prize money of £200,000. It had developed a disposable, carrier bag that looks like it is made of plastic, but in fact dissolves in water.

The bags are made from starches processed from the root of the Cassava plant, which is grown in countries across south Asia, including Thailand. The bags dissolve in boiling water in around one minute, or over several days if left in the ocean, say the founders, though they can also withstand rain.

The start-up hopes that supermarkets will adopt their bags, though subsidies will be required to help them compete with established plastic rivals whose products are significantly cheaper.

Another firm at the event, Energygm, makes exercise bikes which generate electricity that can be stored in a battery, allowing gyms to use their own electricity rather than buy it from the grid.

“I have been concerned about sustainability and climate change for a very, very long time,” says Meaden, “but it was always something that was going to happen way into the future. But of course it isn’t, it’s happening now.”

**I WAS disappointed, though not at all surprised, to read in an article by Piriyanaga Thirunimalan published in the Daily Mail that figures show the more than 400,000 trees planted as part of a national roadwork scheme have died within five years.**

National Highways carried out nearly 40 big projects across England to compensate for mature trees felled by roadworks, but figures obtained by a freedom of information request revealed that an average of 30.4% of the saplings have died across nine projects, The Times reported.

The government-owned company was only able to provide figures for nine of its 38 big road projects, meaning the number of dead trees is likely higher. Experts warn Highways England has focused on the number of trees planted, rather than their survival.

At the Chowns Mill A45/A6 junction in Northamptonshire, the last of 2,500 saplings were planted under two years ago and only a quarter are still alive. In total, at least 405,000 of 945,000 trees planted since 2018 have died.

Tom Clancy from National Highways said: ‘We take our responsibility to the environment seriously and are exploring ways we can enhance the local landscape.’



**WRITING Broadsheet is never easy, but this month I have found it an even bigger challenge than usual because one of the subjects I feel that I must report on has continually moved/developed.**

That subject is forest fires. This month I must have changed what I have included about forest fires six times as they continue to become more serious.

Just take the tragedy in Hawaii for example. The wildfires began tearing through the island on 8 August and as I write this on 21 August wildfires on Hawaii’s Maui have killed at least 106 people, forced tens of thousands of residents and tourists to evacuate the island and devastated the historic resort city of Lahaina.

As you can imagine, formal identification of bodies recover is difficult, sometimes possible only via DNA and must be unspeakably distressing for those tasked with the job.

It is the deadliest U.S. wildfire in more than a century. The Big Island of Hawaii is also battling wildfires which, thankfully, have caused no fatalities to date.

Firefighting crews were still battling flare-ups. The largest fire in Lahaina was 85% contained as of early 16 August and had burned 2,170 acres (880 hectares), Maui County said, adding that there were no active threats. Another fire in upcountry/Kula was 75% contained and had charred 678 acres. Smaller fires elsewhere were 100% contained or extinguished.

The fires, which started the night of 8 August, wreaked widespread destruction in Lahaina. The city of about 13,000 people on north-western Maui was once a whaling centre and the Hawaiian Kingdom’s capital, and now draws 2 million tourists a year.

Cadaver dogs searched Lahaina’s charred ruins for victims and officials said it was likely the number of dead would rise.

The fire destroyed or damaged more than 2,200 buildings, 86% of them residential, officials said. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) estimates it will cost £4.3 billion to rebuild the town.

The Maui blaze is the deadliest U.S. wildfire since 1918, when northern Minnesota’s Cloquet Fire, which raged for more than four days, claimed 453 lives, according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). The deadliest wildfire in U.S. history, Wisconsin’s Peshtigo fire in 1871, killed 1,152.

Hawaii’s fires also constitute the most lethal disaster to hit the islands since a tsunami that killed 61 people in 1960, a year after Hawaii became a U.S. state.

Meanwhile, forest fires in Canada’s western province of British Columbia have intensified, with the number of people under evacuation orders doubling from a day earlier, as authorities warned of difficult days ahead.



The province declared a state of emergency on Friday to access temporary authoritative powers to tackle fire-related risks, as out-of-control fires ripped through interior British Columbia, partially shutting some sections of a key highway between the Pacific coast and the rest of western Canada, and destroying many properties.

"The current situation is grim," Premier Daniel Eby told reporters, saying some 35,000 people were under an evacuation order, and a further 30,000 were under an evacuation alert.

Eby said the province is in dire need of shelter for evacuees and firefighters and ordered a ban on non-essential travel to make more temporary accommodation available. Officials also urged residents to avoid operating drones in the fire zone, saying it could impede firefighting efforts.

The fire is centred around Kelowna, a city some 300km (180 miles) east of Vancouver, with a population of about 150,000.

Forest fires are not uncommon in Canada, but the spread of blazes and disruption underscore the severity of its worst wildfire season yet. About 140,000km<sup>2</sup> (54,054 square miles) of land, roughly the size of New York state, have already burned, and government officials project the fire season could stretch into autumn due to widespread drought-like conditions in Canada.

BC had experienced strong winds and dry lightning in the past few days due to a cold mass of air interacting with hot air built-up in the sultry summer. That intensified existing forest fires and ignited new ones.

"We are still in some critically dry conditions, and are still expecting difficult days ahead," said Jerrad Schroeder, deputy fire centre manager at the Kamloops Fire Centre.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau convened a meeting of key ministers and senior officials on Saturday to discuss wildfires. The Incident Response Group, which met for the second time this week, agreed to make "additional resources available" to both British Columbia and the Northwest Territories (NWT).

A wildfire burning out of control in Yellowknife, the capital city of NWT, had triggered evacuations of almost all of its 20,000 residents this week. One patient died when he

was being transferred out of Yellowknife, an NWT minister said on Saturday. Currently, the fire is not expected to reach city limits by the end of the weekend (20 August), officials said, with some rain and cooler temperatures helping to slow its progress.

The TransCanada highway was closed near Chase, around 400 km northeast of Vancouver, and between Hope, 150 km east of Vancouver, and the village of Lytton. The highway is the main east-west artery used by thousands of motorists and truckers heading to Vancouver, the country's busiest port.

Kip Lumquist, who works at a gift shop in Craigellachie, British Columbia, a tourist spot on the highway, said she saw a lot of devastation over the past week.

"It was crazy, we couldn't see the hills, the mountains, the trees, anything, probably (for) two and a half days," said Lumquist. "I drive a white vehicle, and when I walked out to get in my car... it's just black... It's devastating to the community."

By Friday, the fire in southern B.C. had grown more than a hundredfold in 24 hours and forced more than 2,400 properties to be evacuated.

The flames have destroyed several structures in West Kelowna and authorities have been warning that the province could potentially face the worst couple of days of the fire season this year. B.C. currently accounts for over a third of Canada's 1,062 active fires.

Some 5,000 customers are also without electricity in interior of the province, the main utility said. The fires have drained local resources and drawn in federal government assistance as well as support from 13 countries. At least four firefighters have died in the line of duty.

Not belittling the situation in British Columbia, it appears that there is an escape route available with sufficient warning for a safe evacuation. Sadly, however, that was not the case in Hawaii where most had no time to evacuate and those that did have time could only get as far as the sea.

A wildfire raging on the Spanish island of Tenerife has slowed its advance thanks to firefighters' efforts and more favourable

weather, allowing authorities to lift some restrictions for residents on 18 August.

The blaze broke out on 16 August in a mountainous national park around Spain's highest peak, the Mount Teide volcano, amid hot and dry weather. It burned through nearly 4,000 ha (9,900 acres) of vegetation, blanketing the island with smoke and ash.

More than 4,500 people were evacuated from their homes as a precaution as of 17 August, although no buildings had been destroyed. Almost 4,000 residents had been ordered to stay home.

Civil protection chief Montse Roman told a news conference that with an improved situation around the fire's head, restrictions on movement in areas further away from the blaze could be lifted. Around 1,700 people would still remain under confinement, he said. There were no more evacuations on 18 August.

So, thankfully, what threatened to be another major disaster appears to have been controlled, but the coming weeks promise to unfold more horrific news of human suffering, death and destruction.

How many trees must we now plant (globally) to replace those lost to these fires? Are the fires nature's way of telling us that our actions have created the conditions for them? Will we really take any notice?

When will the "civilised" and "developed" nations appreciate that the lives of poorer, less fortunate souls are as important as ours?

May the God's of those suffering and deceased take pity on them ... because those more fortunate won't!!

**I T is that time of the year when I must remind you all get working on those important tree planting plans for 2023-2024. Remember that the Network's tree planting budget is available on a strictly first come first served basis.**

I have already received a request for significant funding for the creation of a community orchard in Aylsham and that money is now secured for them.

On that subject I must congratulate Rob Dack, one of our two new Tree Wardens for the parish, for his ambitious enthusiasm in creating that exciting project. A full, detailed, Proposal Plan has been submitted to Aylsham Town Council and Rob and fellow Tree Warden for Aylsham, Keith Okey, are awaiting a decision.

I very much look forward to reporting more developments on their exciting plans.

**F**INALLY this month I must report some very sad news that I have received about one of our longest serving and much respected Tree Wardens.

I am very sorry to have to report the passing of Judith Tyler, one of our Tree Wardens for Taverham. Judy will be sadly missed by all of us who knew her.

There can be no doubt that Judith left her mark on our environment, something that we would all be proud to be remembered for.

I am sure that you will all join me in sending our sincerest condolences to Judith's family.

**Have a safe September and get working on your 2023-2024 tree planting plans.**

All the best.

John Fleetwood.

# Oak Processionary Moth 80km North of 'Buffer Zone'

## *The Tree Council and Jess Allan on TreeTalk*

**O**N JULY 4, Defra reported a new outbreak of Oak Processionary Moth (OPM) in the Long Eaton area of Derbyshire. This is significant news, because it means the pest has been found in the 'Pest Free Area', at a site more than 80km beyond the current 'Buffer Zone'. The Forestry Commission are responding accordingly, with eradication efforts and ongoing surveillance in the area to determine the source and extent of the outbreak. Members of the public in Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire have been asked to be vigilant, to check their oak trees for signs of OPM, and report any sightings to TreeAlert.

OPM may pose a threat to oak health when combined with other stressors (e.g. other pests and diseases, drought). Further to this, there are health risks to people, livestock, and pets from exposure to the caterpillars and nests, not least to those employed to do tree works and most likely to face repeated exposure.

The national OPM Management Programme seeks to minimise the spread of OPM containing it within the Established Area of London and surrounding counties. A new outbreak like this can seem surprising, especially so far from its known range.

It is understandably very difficult to contain insects once they are out in the environment! OPM can move to new oak trees in a few ways. As caterpillars they can process short distances across the ground between trees. They can disperse further as adult moths. The male moths are capable flyers, and can fly up to 50-100km, but of course they need the presence of females to establish a new population! Females can fly reasonable distances but have a known tendency to remain closer to where they emerged.

The final pathway is through accidental introduction to a new area as a result of human activity, specifically through the movement of oak trees or branches that have eggs on them; in fact, this is how OPM first arrived in the UK. It demonstrates why good biosecurity practice is so important and why there are restrictions on the trade and movement of oak trees.

No imports of oak from outside the EU are currently permitted, and certain criteria must be met for imports from within the EU. Within Great Britain, it is not permitted to move large oak trees from the Buffer Zone or Established Area into the Pest Free Area, unless they have been grown at a site with complete physical protection against OPM introduction and inspected to confirm they are pest free. If you are unsure of the current rules, please check out Defra's [webpage](#) for full details. Complying with them should reduce the likelihood of further outbreaks.

The Forestry Commission are taking robust action to try to contain the outbreak and eradicate OPM from the area. However, it is possible that it could have spread before it was noticed, so further monitoring will likely be in place for a while to ensure eradication efforts are effective.



Defra told Tree Talk: "A rigorous management programme is underway with the aim of eradicating the pest in this area. Defra will review if any further action is needed following the conclusion of extensive surveillance to fully understand the extent of the outbreak."

Ultimately, OPM is likely to continue spreading, although the measures in place should slow this down. This means that, over time, more local authorities and land managers will need to think about how they might respond to it. The key message is to develop a proportionate approach that protects oak trees and their vast biodiversity and heritage value, while also minimising OPM exposure to people and pet.

This can be done through a range of techniques, including targeted nest removals, signage, and encouraging people away from affected oak trees. Research on alternative control methods may direct us towards the use of nature-based solutions, which could encourage natural predators while also enhancing biodiversity and reducing costs.

Maybe we are in a gradual process of learning to live with OPM, just as we live with existing risks associated with the natural world – from wasp nests to stinging nettles. I live within the Established Area of OPM and have seen nests in several spots nearby over the last few summers. Their presence, in the local park or beside a footpath, does not put me off using those spaces. I avoid getting too close to certain trees at certain times of the year, and the local authority has put up signs on affected trees to keep people informed.

Nature is dynamic and complex, and that is part of its beauty. If we get to know how trees change across seasons and through the years under normal circumstances, we're far more likely to spot when something is wrong. Restoring our connection with nature can help

us take care of it. There are always risks involved in venturing outdoors, but armed with a little knowledge and awareness, we can enjoy it safely.

That said, we should do all we can to prevent any new pests and diseases arriving in Great Britain, which may have huge negative impacts, and continue to learn and research the best ways of protecting our trees and woodlands.

All of us involved in growing, transporting, planting, and managing trees have a role to play in protecting tree health, and making sure we have the best chance of a thriving, healthy treescape.

If you're procuring oak trees (or any other species!) don't be afraid to ask questions and check that tree nurseries are complying with any current biosecurity rules. Certification schemes like Plant Healthy and UK and Ireland Sourced and Grown are useful indicators of general good biosecurity practice. If you don't feel confident that a nursery has suitable measures in place, look for other options and don't take the risk.

Wherever you are in the country, keep your eyes open for signs of tree pests and diseases. If you suspect that you have seen OPM in the Pest Free Area or Buffer Zone, please report it immediately to TreeAlert, which is a simple online form. Having good evidence helps local and national government to adopt effective responses.

Jess Allan is The Tree Council's Science and Action Research Manager

### **Latest update from Defra**

Investigations including tracing and surveillance exercises are ongoing to identify the source of spread of Oak Processionary Moth to this area. As part of Defra's standard outbreak response, a tracing exercise is carried out by [APHA](#) to understand if any nurseries are impacted by the outbreak. In light of this finding, APHA are assessing all available import and movement data for imports of oak trees and additional tracing will be carried out where necessary. They are also working with the supplier to trace and visit any other planting sites associated with this case.

Find support for OPM management within the Established Area through the Tree Health Pilot:

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/tree-health-pilot-scheme-2023/grants-for-oak-with-oak-processionary-moth-opm](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/tree-health-pilot-scheme-2023/grants-for-oak-with-oak-processionary-moth-opm)

# Blind Spots Obscure Understanding of How Forests Affect Human Health

By Todd S Rosenstock, Dominic Rowland, Zara Liew, Katie Hickson, Lilly Zeitler, Stepha McMullin, et al published on *The Lancet*

**H**EALTH crises have raised awareness of the links between forests and human health. For example, outbreaks of Ebola virus and hypotheses about the origins of SARS-CoV-2 have highlighted the risk of zoonotic spillover events from forest-dwelling animals. Likewise, forest fires in Australia (2019–20), the Amazon rainforest (2019) and south-east Asia (2015) have drawn attention to the respiratory health effects on populations exposed to smoke and haze.

Other links between forests and health, such as the role of forests in mitigating natural disasters and regulating infectious disease vectors are well established but less well known outside the scientific community.

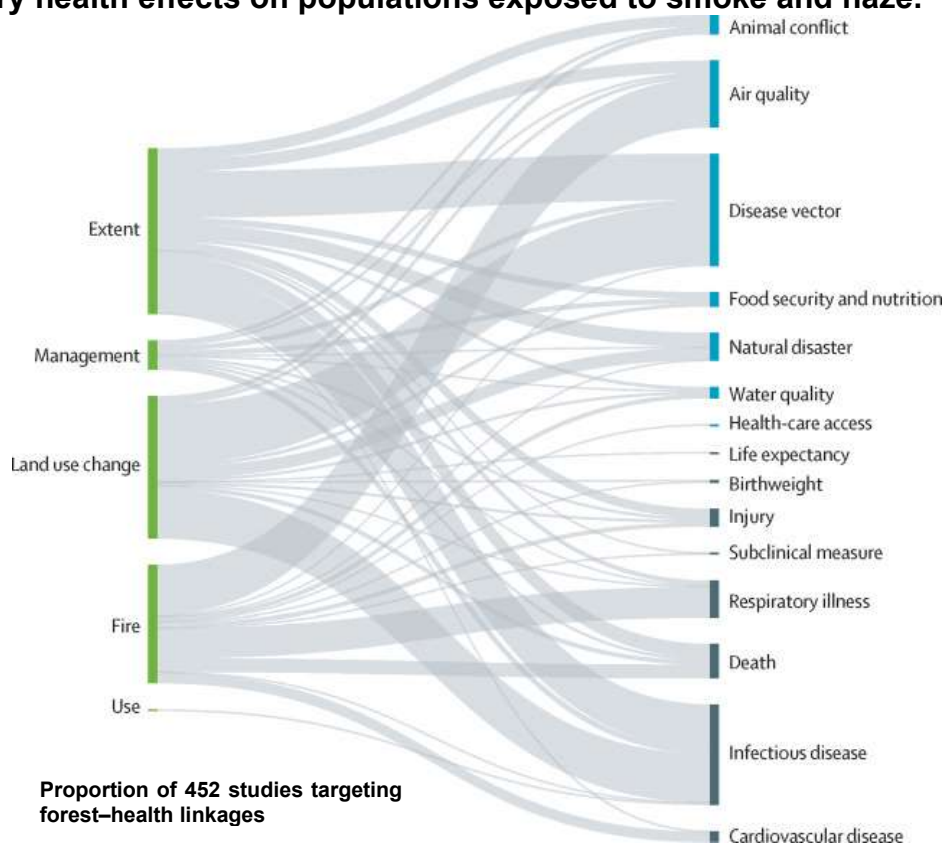
For example, the loss of coastal mangroves exacerbated morbidity and mortality following the 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami and forest loss amplified the effects of the 2021 flooding across Europe, contributing to injury, increased prevalence of waterborne diseases, and death.

Our understanding of the health benefits and risks forests present to humans is still incomplete. We must urgently detect blind spots in our knowledge to predict and mitigate future health effects caused by forest change. Our systematic global mapping of the empirical evidence linking forests, their management and human health outcomes reveals a number of geographical, methodological and thematic gaps. The 452 articles identified show that global research efforts are poorly aligned with at-risk populations revealing significant gaps in research effort on important forest–health pathways.

The studies' geographical distribution suggests that formal risk mapping could support the targeting of subsequent work in areas at greatest risk. A few countries dominate global research efforts; half of all studies occurred in one of six countries—the USA, Brazil, India, Malaysia, China, and Canada—and over 80% of the studies were in high-income and upper-middle-income countries. Less than 10% of studies occurred in sub-Saharan Africa, and only 4% occurred in forested low-income countries.

The studies only mentioned a few mechanisms linking forests to health (figure). The most studied pathways were those linking vector-borne disease transmission to forest extent or change (49%), and respiratory illnesses linked to forest fires (12%). Malaria and Lyme disease were well represented, accounting for 16% and 10% of all studies, and 30% and 20% of vector-borne disease studies, respectively. However, insufficient research examines the links between forest-related exposure and neglected tropical diseases such as Chagas disease, leishmaniasis, and dengue.

The study of forests and health linkages requires a new research approach, as the methods used in the reviewed literature are insufficient to describe the full impact of forests



on health. They often measure intermediate risk factors without considering the level of exposure of populations to risk factors. 47% of studies measured a health outcome directly and only 32% measured the intermediate risk factor and health outcome needed to examine a causal pathway.

Where causal mechanisms are well established, for example in studies linking forest fires to respiratory illness, or forest loss to disease vector prevalence, studies often do not include estimates of prevalence or exposure to health outcomes in human populations. Without knowing the size of populations exposed and quantifying risk factors for health outcomes, it is impossible to calculate the risk, morbidity, and mortality estimates needed to initiate action.

Likewise, estimates of the economic and social effects of forest–health interactions are needed to bring forest–health linkages to the attention of policy makers. Providing the evidence base needed will require breaking out of disciplinary silos, and clear indications of this progress would be a general increase in the number of publications or multi-disciplinary

journals beyond the 8% currently published.

Our systematic map suggests new forest and health research directions must be pursued. First, there must be increased research for neglected pathways and under-represented human populations, especially in sub-Saharan Africa and low-income countries with extensive forests and rapid forest-related land use change. Second, studies should, where possible, explicitly link intermediate outcomes to direct measures of human health, providing quantitative estimates of exposures and health burdens.

Finally, the complexity of forest and health pathways should be accounted for by scaling up transdisciplinary and multi-disciplinary approaches that involve cross-disciplinary collaboration among ecologists, economists, epidemiologists, anthropologists, geographers, and others. As we understand more than ever that the natural environment and public health are intertwined, not exploring these linkages using multidisciplinary perspectives would ignore the forests for the trees.

We declare no competing interests.

# Ocean Heat Record Broken, With Grim Implications for the Planet

By Georgina Rannard, Mark Poynting, Jana Tauschinski and Becky Dale, BBC climate reporter & data team

**T**HE OCEANS have hit their hottest ever recorded temperature as they soak up warmth from climate change, with dire implications for our planet's health. The average daily global sea surface temperature beat a 2016 record in August, according to the EU's climate change service Copernicus. It reached 20.96°C. That's far above the average for the time of year.

Oceans are a vital climate regulator. They soak up heat, produce half Earth's oxygen and drive weather patterns. Warmer waters have less ability to absorb carbon dioxide, meaning more of that planet-warming gas will stay in the atmosphere and it can also accelerate the melting of glaciers that flow into the ocean, leading to more sea level rise.

Hotter oceans and heatwaves disturb marine species like fish and whales as they move in search of cooler waters, upsetting the food chain. Experts warn that fish stocks could be affected.

Some predatory animals including sharks can become aggressive as they get confused in hotter temperatures.

"The water feels like a bath when you jump in. Right now there is widespread coral bleaching at shallow reefs in Florida and many corals have already died," says Dr Kathryn Lesneski, who is monitoring a marine heat-wave in the Gulf of Mexico for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

"We are putting oceans under more stress than we have done at any point in history," says Dr Matt Frost from the Plymouth Marine Lab in the UK, referring to how pollution and over-fishing also affect the oceans.

Scientists are also worried about the timing of this broken record.

"March should be when the oceans globally are warmest, not August or September. The fact that we've seen the record now makes me nervous about how much warmer the ocean may get between now and next March," says Dr Samantha Burgess from the Copernicus Climate Change Service.

"It is sobering to see this change happening so quickly. We had a 247 day-long marine heatwave in the UK between August 2022 and April 2023," says Prof Mike Burrows who is monitoring impacts on Scottish sea shores with the Scottish Association for Marine Science.

Scientists are investigating why the oceans are so hot right now but say that climate change is making the seas warmer as they absorb most of the heating from greenhouse gas emissions.

"The more we burn fossil fuels, the more excess heat will be taken out by the oceans, which means the longer it will take to stabilize them and get them back to where they were," explains Prof Samantha Burgess.

The new average temperature record beats one set in 2016 when the naturally occurring climate fluctuation El Niño was in full swing and at its most powerful.

El Niño happens when warm water rises to the surface off the west coast of South America, pushing up global temperatures.

Another El Niño has now started but scientists say it is still weak - meaning ocean temperatures are expected to rise further above average in the coming months.

The broken temperature record follows a series of marine heatwaves this year including in the UK, the North Atlantic, the Mediterranean and the Gulf of Mexico.

"The marine heatwaves that we're seeing are happening in unusual locations where we haven't expected them," says Prof Burgess.

In June, temperatures in UK waters were 3°C to 5°C higher than average, according to the Met Office and the European Space Agency.

In Florida, sea surface temperatures hit 38.44°C in late July - comparable to a hot tub. Normally temperatures should be between 23°C and 31°C, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

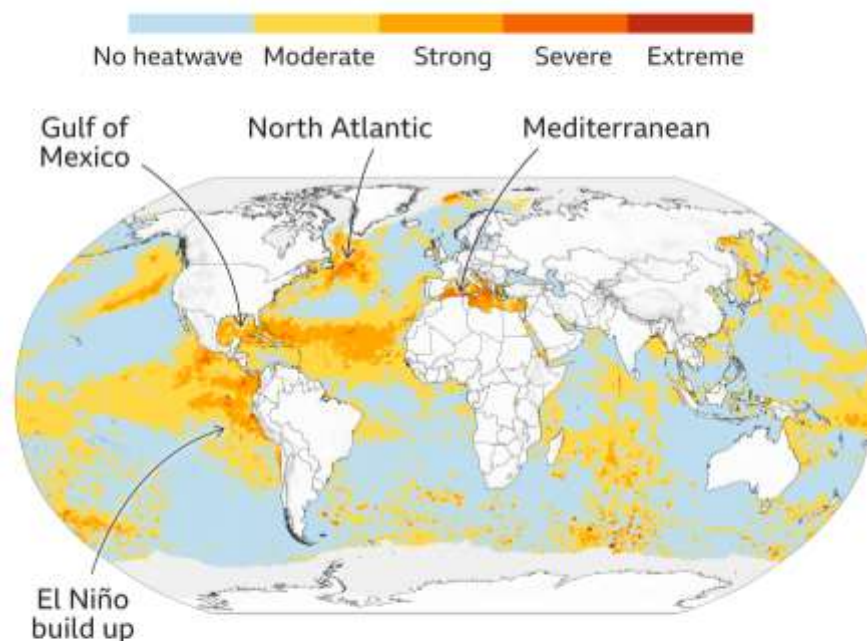
Marine heatwaves doubled in frequency between 1982 and 2016, and have become more intense and longer since the 1980s, according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

While air temperatures have seen some dramatic in-creses in recent years, the oceans take longer to heat up, even though they have absorbed 90% of the Earth's warming from greenhouse gas emissions.

However, there are signs now that ocean temperatures may be catching up. One theory is a lot of the heat has been stored in ocean depths, which is now coming to the surface, possibly linked to El Niño, says Dr Karina von Schuckmann at Mercator Ocean International.

While scientists have known that the sea surface would continue to warm up because of greenhouse gas emissions, they are still investigating exactly why temperatures have surged so far above previous years.

## Multiple marine heatwaves across the globe Severity of marine heatwaves on 24 July 2023



Note: heatwave classifications are calculated from sea surface temperatures. Areas affected by sea ice are excluded and shown in grey.

Source: NOAA Coral Reef Watch, reference period 1985 to 2012





# What is Net Zero and How are the UK and Other Countries Doing?

*An article published on the BBC News website*

**T**HE UK risks falling behind in its efforts to reach "net zero" by 2050 without much faster action, according to the government's independent climate advisers. The 2050 target is a key part of the UK's international commitments, which are designed to avoid the worst impacts of climate change.

**Net zero means no longer adding to the total amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.**

Greenhouse gases include carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and methane. CO<sub>2</sub> is released when oil, gas and coal are burned in homes, factories and to power transport. Methane is produced through farming and landfill. These gases increase global temperatures by trapping the sun's energy.

Meanwhile, rapid deforestation across the world means there are fewer trees to absorb CO<sub>2</sub>.

Under the 2015 Paris climate agreement, 197 countries agreed to try to limit global temperature rises to 1.5°C by 2100. To achieve this, scientists said that net zero CO<sub>2</sub> emissions should be reached by 2050.

However, the UN now wants countries to bring forward their net zero targets by a decade to avoid what it called "the growing climate disaster".

Not all emissions can be reduced to zero, so those that remain need to be matched by actively removing greenhouse gases from the atmosphere. This is known as "offsetting".

Natural offsetting methods include planting trees and restoring peatlands.

One industrial method is carbon capture and storage which involves using machinery to remove CO<sub>2</sub> from the air and store it, often deep underground. However, the technology is still emerging and remains expensive.

Although offsetting is important, it can only cancel out a small fraction of current greenhouse gas emissions.

So scientists say drastic cuts to fossil fuel use are essential to meet the net zero goal.

To help reach net zero by 2050, the UK has made a series of ambitious pledges including:

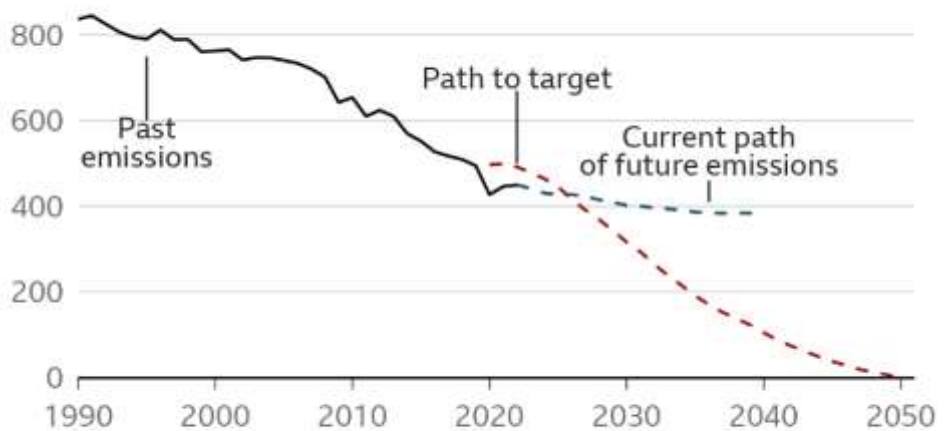
- generating all electricity from clean sources by 2035, including wind, solar and nuclear projects
- banning new petrol and diesel cars from 2030
- installing 600,000 heat pumps a year by 2028 to replace gas boilers
- using carbon capture to remove between 20 and 30 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> a year by 2030

The government released an updated net zero strategy in March, but many climate experts criticised the announcement for lacking significant new policies or extra investment.

The UK needs to reduce its emissions by 68% by 2030 compared with 1990 levels, in line with the Paris Agreement - a key step towards net zero by 2050.

## UK will miss targets without stronger action

Megatonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalent greenhouse gas emissions per year



Emissions data for 2022 is provisional. Future emissions could be higher or lower. Past and future emissions from UK gov, target path from Climate Change Committee. Includes international aviation and shipping bunkers.

Source: Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, CCC



However, despite the new strategy, the government's independent climate advisers now say they are "markedly" less confident than a year ago that the UK will meet the 2050 target.

While the most significant changes need to come from government, individuals will also have to play their part to help reach net zero. This could include:

- taking fewer flights
- reducing energy use
- improving home insulation and energy efficiency
- switching to electric vehicles
- replacing gas central heating with electric systems such as heat pumps
- eating less red meat

Around 140 countries have pledged to reach net zero, covering about 90% of global emissions. However, not all have set a 2050 deadline.

China - currently the biggest producer of CO<sub>2</sub> worldwide - aims for "carbon neutrality" by 2060. Its plans to cut emissions aren't fully developed, but its renewable energy sector has been growing rapidly.

The US has historically been the biggest carbon emitter, and still emits more than China per head. It has pledged to reach net zero by

2050. In August 2022, it announced a major green investment package called the Inflation Reduction Act, which aims to boost renewables and other clean technologies.

The EU, the third biggest emitter of CO<sub>2</sub>, also has a 2050 net zero target. In March it announced its own green investment package, called the Net Zero Industry Act.

India and Russia are also key emitters. They have pledged to reach net zero by 2070 and 2060 respectively, but have published few policies to back this up.

There's controversy about how some countries might try to reach net zero.

For instance, a country might record lower emissions if it imported energy-intensive goods from overseas, rather than producing the goods itself, but in reality, it wouldn't have reduced the total amount of greenhouse gases going into the atmosphere.

There are also schemes that enable rich countries to offset their emissions by paying poorer countries to switch to cleaner fuels.

However, some climate scientists worry this could let wealthier nations avoid reducing their fossil fuel usage, by taking advantage of a switch to cleaner fuels in poorer countries which may have happened anyway.

# Are Carbon Credit Verification Schemes Flawed?

*An article by Victoria Schneider published on the Mongabay website*

**SIX MONTHS** ago, journalists from the Guardian, Die ZEIT and SourceMaterial published data showing that up to 90% of the carbon credits issued by Verra, the world's largest certifying agency, are worthless. Now the Rainforest Foundation UK says three other verification schemes - the World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility, the UNFCCC REDD+ Results system, as well as the newer verification program ART-TREE - can misrepresent the real-life impact of carbon offsets.

The UK-based campaign group says manipulated baselines and structural flaws in the validation and verification of projects have resulted in the release of millions of credits onto the voluntary carbon market, that do not match real reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

"All of the schemes can to some extent be 'gamed' to generate non-meaningful credits, adding to climate change, and do not supply the steady stream of funding needed to protect forests, particularly those that rely on voluntary carbon markets," RFUK CEO Joe Eisen told Mongabay.

The report includes Gabon as an example. The Central African country issued 90.6 million REDD+ results-based credits verified by the UNFCCC's REDD+ program last year.

According to RFUK, the UNFCCC's technical experts found "methodological anomalies" in the baseline values used by the Gabonese government to calculate "increased carbon removal" resulting from policies that reduced logging activity and deforestation, but these did not prevent the verification of the credits.

"All [verification schemes], to a greater or lesser extent allow, or actively rely on, inflation or artificial 'adjustment' of baselines in order to create the impression of, or to increase, the claimed emissions reductions," the report reads.

REDD+ stands for "reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation," with the "+" representing activities around conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks. Carbon credits generated from REDD+ projects make up a large portion of credits available on the voluntary carbon market where they can be traded and used by companies and individuals to mitigate their carbon footprint.

Simon Counsell, former director of RFUK and expert on conservation, human rights and nature-based solutions, led a team which measured the four carbon credit verification programs against 13 criteria Counsell's team developed, including requirements for additionality (the crucial question of determining what a project adds to already-existing efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions) and mechanisms to ensure that a REDD project has positive effects for Indigenous peoples and local communities, and the environment.



The team also assessed each scheme's provisions for ensuring deforestation and carbon storage achieved by a project are permanent, enduring in the long run, after it has been verified.

Jo Anderson, co-founder of CarbonTanzania, a social enterprise which has implemented three offset projects in East Africa, two of which are certified under Verra's scheme, said that the new report's findings are ideologically motivated and oversimplified. Referring to a recent statement from indigenous communities in support of REDD+ schemes, he said that there is evidence that climate finance can achieve measurable results.

"We are all working towards using models and monitoring processes that lead to an ever-increasing accuracy of our estimates of emission reductions," Anderson said.

"Currently, the system is not perfect, but it is improving," wrote Ana Haurie, the CEO of carbon business Respira International, in an email to Mongabay. "In a crisis that requires an urgent response, the Voluntary Carbon Market (VCM) is one of the best tools available right now to protect and restore the world's natural carbon capture technology — forests."

Mongabay also contacted all four certifying bodies, but only received a response from Verra.

"We understand the system is not perfect," wrote Anne Thiel, a Verra spokesperson, in an email. "REDD is based on a counterfactual scenario; it is an approach that seeks to prevent something from happening. The calculation of emission reductions that result from this work is inevitably less clear-cut than in other cases."

Verra recently announced that it is updating its REDD methodology. The certifier says that the new rules that will come into force by 2025 will have a different approach to baseline-setting. The non-profit has hired the US-based consultancy Aster Global Environmental Solutions to audit their new offset rules. However, Aster has been linked to cases of inflating emissions reductions in Zimbabwe and approving a project in Kenya despite community concerns.

"We will have to see whether this makes the fundamental changes that are required or is just more tinkering around the edges of a flawed system," Eisen said.

He suggested that it is time to assess the viability of non-market alternatives, like debt relief for poor countries and global levies on fossil fuel extraction, which would tackle the underlying causes of climate change while working with Indigenous peoples to protect forests.

# Amazon Nations Fall Short of Agreed Goal to End Deforestation

By Christy Cooney in London and Katy Watson in Belém, Brazil for BBC News

**T**HE eight countries that share the Amazon basin have fallen short of an agreed goal to end deforestation. Delegates from the countries are meeting in the Brazilian city of Belém for a two-day summit on the issue, the first such gathering in 14 years. A joint declaration on 8 August created an alliance to combat deforestation, but left each country to pursue its own conservation goals. Preserving the Amazon is a central part of efforts to tackle climate change.

Ahead of the summit, Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva had called for a common goal of ending deforestation by 2030, a policy his own government has already adopted.

Around 60% of the Amazon, the largest rainforest in the world, lies in Brazil. The other countries represented at the gathering are Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela.

In his opening speech on 8 August, Lula spoke of the "severe worsening of the climate crisis" and said "the challenges of our era, and the opportunities arising from them, demand we act in unison. It has never been so urgent".

Deforestation in Brazil has fallen dramatically since Lula won the presidency from predecessor Jair Bolsonaro, who favoured development over conservation, but thousands of sq km continue to be lost each year.

The joint statement, named the Belém declaration, said the new alliance would aim to "prevent the Amazon from reaching a point of no return".

It also included commitments to enhance co-operation on issues like water management, health, sustainable development and common negotiating positions at global climate summits.

Some will be disappointed the language is not stronger, but the summit has signalled a desire among countries in the region to work towards solutions to one of the biggest challenges of our time.

There have been differences in opinion in some areas. Colombia's President, Gustavo Petro, for example, wants other countries to match his pledge to ban new oil exploration, while Brazil is considering exploring new areas at the mouth of the Amazon river.

Despite the differences, the gathering has undoubtedly given this region a voice when it comes to combatting climate change, and is being viewed as a precursor to the 2025 UN Climate Change conference, which will also be held in Belém.

The summit opened on the same day that the European Union's climate change panel confirmed that July had been the hottest month on record globally.

The billions of trees that make up the Amazon hold vast amounts of carbon, accumulated over centuries, and every year their leaves continue to absorb carbon dioxide that would otherwise remain in the atmosphere and contribute to the rise in global temperatures.

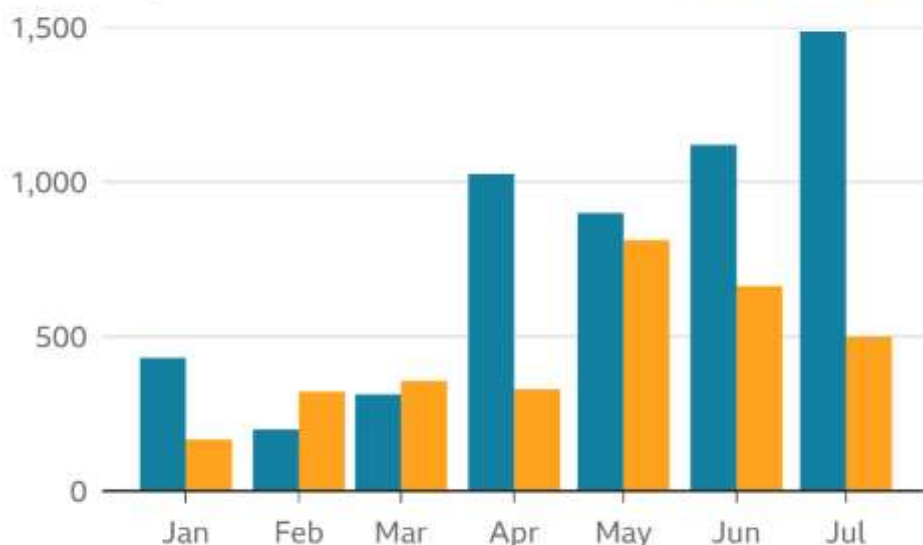
The world has already warmed by about 1.1°C since the industrial era began and temperatures will keep rising unless

governments around the world make steep cuts to emissions.



## Amazon deforestation 2022 vs 2023

Area in sq km lost in the first seven months of 2022 and 2023



Source: Brazil's National Institute for Space Research (INPE)



# Burning Mangrove Trees for a Living: 'I'd Quit Tomorrow if I Could'

By Raja Lumbanrau and Lorna Hankin, BBC World Service

**INDONESIA** has more mangrove trees than any other country but there's growing concern about the "dangerous" rate they are being cut down, turned into charcoal and exported to places such as Europe, China and Japan. People involved in the work know the trees are important for the environment and would like to quit but they see no other way to survive.

Inside a wooden hut, near his house on the island of Borneo, Nurhadi keeps two furnaces burning all year round. The 68-year-old employs at least a dozen people.

Four men cut up wood collected from mangrove trees, while another throws it into a furnace made from earth and stones. Once burned, the wood is cooled and packaged, ready to be sold.

Mangrove wood is very hard and dense but not very durable, which makes it ideal for charcoal production and particularly good for barbecues, but it is a resource-intensive process with little return.

Sixteen tonnes of raw material produces only three tonnes of charcoal. "If I produce less than three tonnes, it's a loss," Nurhadi says. Once costs are taken into account, he estimates he only makes a profit of about \$1,250 (£1,000) per year.

"There's no money in cutting down mangroves. Nobody gets rich from charcoal furnaces. We do this to have food on our plate," he explains.

A conversation he once had with a government official sums up his predicament: "He asked me: 'Are you ready to leave the charcoal business?' I answered: 'If you can provide farming land or other opportunities, I'd quit tomorrow.'"

Almost half of the 9,000 people in Nurhadi's village, Batu Ampar, rely on mangrove charcoal for a living, a tradition dating back to the 1940s. Some families like Nurhadi's have been doing this for generations - his father and grandfather owned the same furnaces, so he says this is the only work he knows.

Indonesia is home to 20% of the world's mangroves, and Nurhadi's area, the Kuba Raya Regency has the biggest mangrove forest in the western part of Indonesian Borneo.

However, the number of furnaces is increasing. In 2000 there were 90 but today there are at least 490 and that is speeding up deforestation.

Arsyad Al Amin, who is involved in a local research project, predicts that the Batu Ampar mangrove forest will only last for another 74 years if things carry on as they are. "It will all be gone in 2096," the researcher from the Bogor Agricultural Institute says.

Thick, dense forest areas of mangrove canopy have decreased so much that bare patches can now be seen from planes overhead.

"If there is no effort to accelerate rehabilitation, this is dangerous. We desperately need intervention," he warns.

Deep in the forest, an hour north of Batu Ampar village by boat, dozens of mangrove

trees have been cut down. The people living along the river breathe in air mingled with the smoke coming from rows of furnaces.

There are areas in this forest where it is legal to take wood, but as the number of furnaces grows, it gets harder to source raw materials and loggers venture further into the protected areas.

Among the sound of monkey chatter and birdsong is the unmistakable sound of a chainsaw revving up.

We speak to some men who are cutting down an average-sized mangrove tree. "We would not cut down the big trees," says one lumberjack who refuses to reveal his name because he is operating in a protected forest. He's wearing minimal safety gear. "A logger died from being crushed by wood when cutting," he says. "This is a high risk job, but my children need to eat."



"It hasn't been successful yet. It's hard to break something that has been done from generation to generation."

However, one man who quit the charcoal business says the government needs to do more. "We feel like we were left alone without the government's support. If they do have programmes, maybe they only came to the head of the village. No-one came to us," 39-year-old Suheri says.

Ten years ago, he used to run two furnaces but decided to stop after a peatland fire smothered his village in smoke. "I thought that if the fire happened in our mangrove forest, we'd be devastated," he explains.

Before the pandemic, he tried farming mud crab in mangrove aquaculture, but the venture failed. "I suffered a huge loss, and I am in debt because of it," he says. Now he collects honey from the forest's bees instead.

Suheri uses his boat to navigate the waterways and can spend hours looking for beehives that are ready to be harvested.

When he spots one, he puts on a homemade hat with a veil, climbs up the tree and uses smoke from burned nipah leaves to distract the bees. "There are many risks with collecting honey - mud, wild animals, snakes and crocodiles. The least of the risks is getting stung by the bees," he says with a little laugh.

If he is lucky, Suheri can collect up to five bottles of honey in a day, with one bottle of raw, wild forest honey selling for \$10 (£8). It's a very good price but he says he can't count on just honey for a living because "the harvesting season is uncertain".

When he's not in the forest looking for honey, Suheri breeds croaker fish but the eggs are expensive and there is a high chance they will die.

Even though it's not easy, he says he is determined to find something other than the furnaces to make money, in the hope it inspires others in his village to stop cutting down mangrove trees to make charcoal.

"I have to do better... If I want people to change, I have to succeed!" he exclaims

## Mangrove forests:

- Tackle climate change, by reducing carbon in the atmosphere - some do this up to 10 times better than forests on land.
- Protect people from coastal erosion, storm surges and tsunamis
- Provide nurseries for tropical fish
- Shield coral reefs from storms and heat waves
- Boost economies of many developing countries

Source: *The Ocean Agency*

The local environment and forestry agency claims it's been hard to enforce the regulations on illegal logging.

"There are too many home furnaces and a large number of locals involved in this activity," spokesman Adi Yani says.

He also thinks that if they impose the rules strictly "it has the potential to cause social unrest".

"Repressive law enforcement" was carried out a few years ago against loggers and furnace owners in Batu Ampar village, says an official with the local government, Herbimo Utoyo. But, he adds, "it never reached court because it is viewed as a tradition, a culture".

He also says the government has offered to train people how to farm honey from the forest and produce palm sugar to try to move them away from the charcoal industry, but he admits:

# A Quest to Protect Australia's Forests

An article published on [www.mashable.com](http://www.mashable.com)

**I**n the sun-drenched land of Australia, where vibrant ecosystems once thrived, a symphony of natural wonder and ecological balance painted the landscape. The eucalyptus-scented breeze, the rustle of leaves, and the gentle gaze of koalas perched high in the trees. All once stood as testaments to the beauty and resilience of Australia's forests, but the echoes of deforestation, the ravages of climate change and the scars of ferocious wildfires have left a profound impact, challenging the very fabric of these precious ecosystems.

**These State Forests are located in Gumbaynggirr country in New South Wales, Australia. The continued logging of these natural resources throughout the eastern forests of Australia serves as a signal for increased awareness and an opportunity for collective action.**

Here we take a closer look at what's at stake and how we can collectively address this crucial issue. It is a chance for change, before the impacts become irreversible. A chance that will ensure a sustainable future for both our environment and the communities that rely on it.

Before the 1970s mature trees were harvested from State Forests in a more sustainable manner. Men with bow saws set out to carefully select specific trees, minimising damage to the surrounding environment - a task once essential for sheltering our growing population. Before the technology boom, we collaborated with the land, taking only what was necessary to build and sustain our community.

Today, the logging landscape has changed. A technologically evolved society ushered in a transformation in the logging industry. The days of hand tools have given way to heavy machinery that tears through the landscape in pursuit of trees. Vast hectares are now stripped down to bare soil. These 40-tonne machines compact the dry ground, hindering the forest's natural growth, healing and regeneration.

A common misconception prevails: that mature timber serves high-value purposes for homes and shelters. In reality, these century-old trees are relegated to "low-grade materials." They're more likely to become wood chips, pallets and even firewood, prompting a crucial question: Why do we permit this depletion of our valued ecosystem when sustainable tree farming offers a viable and eco-friendly alternative?

Logging has consequences beyond the environment. It affects both local wildlife and carbon stores in these ancient forests.

There is also the unseen financial burden carried by Australians through taxes. According to the NSW Forestry Corporation's (2021-22) annual report, logging native forests not only threatens species on the brink of extinction but also costs taxpayers millions. The report reveals NSW taxpayers unknowingly fund the felling of forests the public wishes to protect, making this practice not only environmentally but also economically unsustainable.

In the 2020-21 fiscal year, the native forestry division of the NSW Government's logging operations

faced a substantial \$20 million (£10 million) loss, translating to a \$441 (£220) per-hectare charge on taxpayers for logging essential native forests. It also exposed that the Forestry Corporation has run as a loss-making business unit for over a decade. The industry relies on the lucrative and more sustainable plantation sector to offset these losses.

Employment becomes a point of contention from the logging industry. Its advocates suggest that without it, livelihoods and the economy will suffer, but the forestry and logging sector plays a relatively minor role in the Australian job market. Those employed in forestry and logging within NSW representing less than 0.1% of the total workforce, or just over 1,000 workers outlined by the WWF commissioned Frontier Economics report.

The potential job losses anticipated following the end of deforestation could be mitigated by a thriving tourism industry. The Great Koala National Park offers the potential for nature-based tourism earnings to exceed any losses incurred.

Nestled within Australia's diverse landscapes stands a treasured emblem of its natural beauty: our beloved koala. But these gentle creatures face an uphill battle against habitat loss, disease, and shrinking food sources. The urgency to secure their future compels us to take a stand and ensure the preservation of these remarkable animals, including the ecosystems they inhabit.

The vision of The Great Australian Koala Park embodies comprehensive conservation. The Great Koala National Park would be the world's first national park dedicated to protecting koalas. The project seeks not only to safeguard existing koala habitats but also to restore and expand these vital areas, ensuring the long-term survival of these iconic species.

Preserving koala habitats goes beyond their survival; it nurtures diverse ecosystems.

Eucalyptus forests, which are vital for these marsupials, create complex habitats supporting various life forms. These forests are more than koala homes; they're essential water catchments and vital carbon stores, playing a huge role in the fight against climate change.

This initiative also aims to protect various endangered species. It includes species that rely on old-growth and hollow trees, like yellow-bellied gliders, greater gliders, and glossy black cockatoos. Stopping logging in this area sparks forest renewal, enabling koalas and native flora and fauna to thrive and contribute to the ecosystem's rejuvenation process.

Plus, the potential economic impact is noteworthy, with nature-based tourism emerging as a multi-billion dollar industry in NSW. Destination NSW has committed substantial support to this burgeoning industry. Granting \$3.5 million (£1.75 million) in the 2022-2023 period to foster this growing sector. The financial benefits clearly outweigh taxpayer-funded logging practices in the region.

When it comes to preserving Australia's natural wonders, everyone can contribute in meaningful ways. Raising awareness and engaging in conversations about the importance of conservation can spark positive and real change.

Practicing responsible tourism and embracing eco-friendly habits can also make a notable impact. By staying on designated paths, minimising waste, and choosing eco-conscious travel options, you can help protect these fragile ecosystems. Through supporting sustainable policies, such as reducing plastic use and backing wildlife-friendly products, simple actions can go a long way to aiding in conservation of the environment.

Taking action together now is crucial, and supporting initiatives like the Great Australian Koala Park is a powerful way we can make an impact. Donating, volunteering or becoming a sponsor all directly contributes to the cause. When you visit their website, you'll discover a range of ways to engage and help spread the reach of this initiative.

As we stand at this crossroads, the choice is clear: embrace sustainable practices and protect our natural treasures. Together we can ensure a future where both wildlife and humans can thrive.

*Together, HP and WWF are harnessing the power of forests to achieve ambitious sustainability goals, benefit climate and biodiversity, and produce meaningful results for our planet and all who live here. You can learn more about [WWF's partnership with HP here](#).*



# Mind-Blowing Secrets of Wales'

## Ancient Trees Planted 5,000 Years Ago

An article by Lucy John published on [www.walesonline.co.uk](http://www.walesonline.co.uk)

**W**ALKING around St Cynog's churchyard in Defynnog you can feel the vastness of human history. Built on the site of a Celtic church and burial ground, the 15th century stone building that stands today still has features that take you back hundreds or thousands of years. Stonework in the north vestry wall may date back to the 11th century while a richly carved font is inscribed with Runic letters, the only example in Wales of a Runic inscription.

However, towering above the graveyard just north of the church is something shrouded in myth, legend and folklore that likely predates all of this.

It is the ancient Defynnog yew tree, a contender for the oldest tree in the UK. The largest of four large yews within the churchyard, it forms nine distinct stems springing from a base which has an overall circumference of 11m, or 36 feet, according to Coflein.

As you stand in the exact same spot as your ancestors did throughout its 3,000 to 5,000 years at the site, you don't have to be religious or spiritual to feel something magical as you gaze up at its infinite twisting branches and touch its rough bark.

Perhaps even more extraordinary, however, is that this ancient tree is less protected than the much younger church beside it. Janis Fry, based in Carmarthenshire, is an artist and yew tree expert who has studied ancient yews for more than 40 years. In 2018 she set up a petition calling for their legal protection, which has so far gained more than 300,000 signatures.

Describing the trees' significance, she said: "Yews appear in all cultures [in the] northern hemisphere before the Romans. They were extremely important and considered as an axis mundi (representing the connection between heaven and earth) by many tribes. They were planted as tribal centres, which was something that went on for generations so tribal people could refer back to their ancestors through the tree. It was a spiritual centre.

"You also have the indigenous yews, which are the oldest living yews. Yews not planted by humans. The oldest ones would have survived the Ice Age, so they're pre-Ice Age. Their roots would have been dragged by glaciers and then deposited on top of land stone cliffs and then when the ice retreated they re-grew. However, the sacred yews were brought here by people from the holy lands [including] Egypt and Armenia."

Wales has the largest number of yews per its size than any other country in Europe. According to the Ancient Yew Group, Wales has 407 ancient or veteran yews (more than 500 years old) compared to 978 in England, bearing in mind that England is roughly six times the size of Wales. France has 77 while Germany and Spain have just four each.

"We don't know exactly why Wales has so many yews," Janis said. "But it is thought they were planted in remote areas of Wales for protection so they would continue to exist right into the future. The Celtic saints were based



here so they would have brought the trees here. Wales needs to make more of this because it's important nationally."

The tree in Defynnog is a contender for the UK's oldest tree along with Fortingall Yew in Perthshire. Although each is estimated to be somewhere between 2,000 and 5,000 years old, the tree in Defynnog is healthier and more impressive to look at, Janis said.

"If you go to Fortingall the tree is very decrepit, it's nothing like our tree in Defynnog which is incredibly healthy and enormous," she said. "It looks like two trees, but it's one tree that split in two about 600 years ago, when it would have been struck by lightning. Having split up, part of the tree walked away and then the bark came around to complete where it had been broken. The yew always finds ways of regeneration and that's one of the ways it does it. We had its DNA tested and both parts are exactly the same tree, it's connected by its roots underground."

At St Cynog's church there is what is thought to be a Roman doorway. Although it can't be proved, it is thought that the doorway was built for people to view the tree and experience its aura.

Janis said: "There are the remains of a Roman doorway at the back of the church who Martin Parmer of the Alliance of Religions and Conservation pointed this doorway out to me and said the only plausible reason for that and the window is that it was built to view the tree.

When I take people there to view the tree, they always find that the best place to view the tree is at the Roman doorway. Churches are often built near yews because Christianity took over the old religious and pagan sites. They were considered to be places of power."

Janis said in recent years she had seen an increased interest in yews from members of the public. She said she believes this has happened as more people search for purpose and hope following the pandemic as well as the current economic climate.

She said: "I think people still have ceremonies around them. I quite often go to Dyfannog and see traces of pagan ceremonies that have quite clearly taken place there. If you go to Dyfannog and spend time with the tree, you might feel something. At the very least you are taken back centuries. It's awe inspiring to see something that's so old but still very healthy.

"I also run tree tourism of these ancient yews and people come to Wales from America and Australia to see our yews. People are very interested. I don't know what the reason is for this interest, but I think it's to do with the economic crisis and the idea that our existence is threatened, because this is the tree of life. That's why it was so important in ancient times and that is why people are turning to it once again. They're looking at how we save humanity. I think people are looking back for answers in the present crisis."

Janis said she started the petition because she is concerned that Wales, as well as the rest of the UK, will lose these special trees because of their lack of legal protection.

"I am concerned about the fact there is no legal protection around them in the UK," she said. "They are so important because they are the oldest living things on earth and particularly important in Wales because it has the largest collection of them on earth."

"I'm very concerned at the moment about a tree at St Teilo's Church in Llanarth, Monmouthshire. A tree surgeon advised the Church in Wales that the tree was dangerous and unstable which I think is rubbish as it's one of the most stable yews I have ever seen, with its base at least six feet and shaped like an onion. These are the oldest living beings on earth and a tree surgeon persuaded the Church in Wales to let it get covered in brambles to deter people from

going near it. Luckily concerned community members got together and cleared it. The worst thing that can happen is that these trees go missing and I'm trying to make it known."

**Editor's comment. I still think that the Forthingall Yew is more impressive ... not to mention older!**

# Tree Planting to Mark the Coronation of King Charles III

*A GOV.UK publication*

**T**HOUSANDS of trees are set to be planted to mark the coronation of His Majesty King Charles III with a new £2.5 million government fund launched on 5 August, celebrating His Majesty's passion for the environment. The new fund will enable local authorities to create green spaces and connect communities with nature as a permanent reminder of the Coronation, while helping meet the government's targets to treble tree planting rates by the end of this Parliament and ensure that 16.5% of land area is under tree cover by 2050.

The projects could include initiatives such as the creation of community orchards and tree nurseries, new 'Miyawaki' miniature woodlands in urban areas, and tree planting on farms.

This tree planting initiative aligns with His Majesty's interest in nature, having held a number of patronages for wildlife and conservation charities during his time serving as the Prince of Wales.

The Fund follows the launch of a number of initiatives to mark the Coronation of His Majesty earlier this year, including the renaming of England's longest national trail as the 'King Charles III England Coast Path', the launch of the 'King's series of National Nature Reserves', and Forestry England's creation of the first official Coronation Woodlands in April 2023.

Through the Government's Environmental Improvement Plan it wants to be the first generation to leave the environment in a better state than we inherited it and for more people to get out and experience our incredible wildlife and landscapes in this Coronation year.

Environment Secretary, Thérèse Coffey said "Building on the launch of the first Coronation Woodlands this year, I am delighted that communities across the country will be able to create new spaces to enjoy trees which will serve as a permanent reminder of His Majesty's Coronation in their local areas.

"These new trees will mark His Majesty's passion for trees and woodlands and deliver a range of benefits for the natural environment - from carbon sequestration, to habitat creation and the boosting of human health and wellbeing".

Chair of the Forestry Commission, Sir William Worsley said "I am delighted that today we are opening the Coronation Living Heritage Fund to commemorate the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III. This will enable

communities to grow new and diverse trees to enrich the environment in which people, wildlife, and nature coexist for generations to come".

Applications are welcome from upper tier local authorities and district and city councils in England, for grants between £10,000 - £50,000. Projects eligible for funding will cover:

- Coronation Community Orchards: to provide grants for local people and groups to establish community orchards;
- Coronation Miyawaki Woods: to plant miniature areas of woodland in urban areas using the Miyawaki method, involving careful soil preparation to rapidly plant dense native woodlands that are usually the size of a tennis court;
- Coronation tree packs: free or subsidised tree schemes, administered by local authorities for local residents and organisations;
- Trees on farms: to provide grants for local farmers and residents to plant trees on agricultural land;
- Small and Community tree nurseries: to support small and community-run tree nurseries to set-up, increase production, improve their biosecurity practices, or fund audits, advice, or support for the Plant Healthy Certification Scheme.

These projects will be run by local authorities that apply successfully to the fund. Other groups, such as parish councils and housing associations, that are keen to get involved can contact their relevant county, unitary, metropolitan borough or district council.

The fund will be open for five weeks from Saturday 5 August to Monday 11 September.

To apply, please visit this [page](#).

The Coronation Living Heritage Fund will make a total of £2.5 million available as part of Defra's Nature for Climate Fund, which has allocated £640 million for projects aimed at expanding and enhancing tree cover across England. The trees planted through this fund will capture carbon, restore and connect habitats,

while helping meet the government's targets to treble tree planting rates by the end of this Parliament and ensure that 16.5% of land area is under tree cover by 2050.

Defra will provide support to local authorities by sharing detailed 'how to' guides for each of the five types of eligible projects. Applications can be made by upper tier local authorities, which include county councils, unitary authorities, metropolitan and London boroughs, and combined authorities, as well as district and city councils. All others are classified as lower tier local authorities. Upper tier local authorities will be able to bid on behalf of lower tier local authorities, local residents, community groups, farmers, and landowners. These groups should get in touch with the tree officer or environmental team in their corresponding upper tier authority to ask them to submit an application on their behalf.

There are a number of existing Nature for Climate Fund initiatives where local communities can engage with and receive the benefits of local tree planting, including:

The Community Forests programme which works in and around towns and cities and where local need is greatest.

The [Local Authority Treescapes Fund](#) (LATF) which enables Local Authorities (LAs) and their partners, including schools, community groups and NGOs, to restore tree cover in urban and rural non-woodland areas.

The [Urban Tree Challenge Fund](#) provides 80% of standard costs for the planting and establishment of trees in urban and peri-urban areas.

- Read more information on the [Coronation Living Heritage Fund](#).
- Read more information on the [renaming of the England Coastal Path](#).
- Read more information on the [creation of the King's Series of Nature Reserves](#).
- Read more information on the [Coronation Woodland](#).

# Tropical Trees Use Social Distancing to Maintain Biodiversity

An article published on <https://news.utexas.edu>

**T**ROPICAL FORESTS often harbour hundreds of species of trees in a square mile, but scientists often struggle to understand how such a diversity of species can co-exist. In a study published in *Science*, researchers at The University of Texas at Austin have provided new insights into the answer by uncovering a key characteristic of the spatial distribution of adult trees.

Combining computational modelling with data collected during a 30-year period, the researchers discovered that adult trees in a Panamanian forest are three times as distant from other adults of the same species as what the proverbial “the apple doesn’t fall far from the tree” would suggest.

Annette Ostling, an associate professor with the University’s Oden Institute for Computational Engineering and Sciences and the Department of Integrative Biology, and postdoctoral researcher Michael Kalyuzhny used data collected from a forest research plot the size of 100 football fields located on Barro Colorado Island in the Panama Canal, which has been studied for the past 100 years. The researchers discovered the distance that the trees are from one another is much greater than the distance that seeds typically travel.

“This is a stepping stone to understanding the dynamics of things like carbon storage that matter in relation to climate change,” Ostling said. “It’s such a fundamental question that, even if the applications are not yet known,

there’s still a lot to learn, and this is one ingredient in understanding.”

The team wondered why there would be so much repulsion (repelling) of the juvenile from its parent tree. The only theoretical explanation is something that would prevent them from establishing near their parents.

Using computational models, they found each tree species is much more negatively affected by its own kind than by other species, probably because species suffer from species-specific enemies: pathogens such as fungi or herbivores such as insects. These enemies “make room” for other species to establish around every tree, leading to a more diverse forest and keeping any one species from dominating.

“Due to an abundance of available data on this particular forest, we knew the exact location of every tree and also how far seeds travel,” Kalyuzhny said. “We were able to ask: How should the forest look if trees just established where the seeds fell? With our computational models, it turned out that the real forest does not look like this at all – the real trees are much more far apart.”

In a time of an ongoing mass extinction, scientists have been working to better understand what determines species diversity.

The researchers said the study helps bridge the gap between contrasting theories on how forests are shaped and provides critical tools to learn how tropical forests in particular and their inhabitants change through time.

“Trees are the engineers that provide resources for the entire ecosystem, and since most of the species in the world reside in the tropics, we must better understand what maintains the biodiversity of planet Earth,” Kalyuzhny said. “Many medications are sourced from the tropics, including thousands of substances with anti-cancer activity. The research digs into this fundamental question about the natural world.”

In addition to Ostling and Kalyuzhny, the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute’s S Joseph Wright, a senior scientist and collaborator on this research, and Jeffrey K Lake of the University of Michigan co-authored the research.

The research was funded by the Michigan Life Sciences Fellowship, Zuckerman STEM Leadership Program, sabbatical support from the University of Michigan and Adrian College, MCubed, The University of Michigan, Associate Professor Support Fund, and the Ostling Lab at The University of Texas at Austin.

## Tropical Forests Face ‘Massive Leaf Death’ From Global Heating

An article by Oksana Pyzik for *The Guardian*

**T**ROPICAL forests could become so hot that some kinds of leaves will no longer be able to conduct photosynthesis, according to a study published in the journal *Nature*. The photosynthetic machinery in tropical trees begins to fail at about 46.7°C on average. The research suggests that forests may be nearing dangerous temperature thresholds sooner than expected.

Using a combination of high-resolution data from Nasa’s thermal imaging instruments on the International Space Station and ground-based experiments in tropical forests across the world, researchers found that a small fraction, approximately 0.01% of all

leaves, are already exposed to temperatures beyond their functional limits.

Models predict that once we hit a global temperature increase of 3.9°C, these forests might experience mass leaf damage.

Warming leaves, even if now in low numbers, act as a “canary in a coalmine for tropical ecosystems”, said Chris Doughty, an

associate professor of ecoinformatics at Northern Arizona University and the lead researcher of the study.

He said the leaf-warming experiments had revealed a nonlinear rise in temperatures. “We were really surprised that when we warmed leaves by 2, 3 or 4°C, the highest leaf temperatures actually increased by 8°C. This shows a concerning nonlinear feedback that we were not expecting,” said Doughty.



"If we adopt a do-nothing response to climate change and tropical forest air temperatures increase by greater than 4°C, there could be massive leaf death, possible tree mortality and species turnover across all tropical forests," he added.

In terms of global impact, "the photosynthetic response would be the tip of the iceberg in terms of effects – reduced carbon uptake, likely increased mortality and even triggering possible transitions from forest to savannah", said Mat Disney, a professor of remote sensing at University College London.

At least 50% of global CO<sub>2</sub> exchange occurs through forest canopies, which act as key regulators of our climate.

"The importance of this work is that it is a first look at the specific impact of this leaf-scale warming on photosynthesis in tropical forests," Disney said. "So while it is quite specific in one

sense, it also provides a really interesting look at one of the underpinning processes in this region, and what might happen to it in the near future if we don't act fast."

Avoiding high emissions in the first place was key to stabilising temperatures. "We should do all we can to avoid high-emissions scenarios. Under low-emissions scenarios, almost all tropical forest tree leaves can avoid death from overheating and the trees will survive," said Simon Lewis, a professor of global change science at University College London.

"Yet what the study doesn't look at is heat-waves. We still might see tree deaths from overheating for limited periods during heat-waves under lower-emissions scenarios. Given that trees are very long-lived, an isolated mass tree death event could have major impacts for the rest of the plants and animals that rely on these big trees in the rainforest canopy," Lewis

added.

Researchers suggest that the damage is not yet irreversible. "Our model projections are not destiny. It suggests that with some basic climate change mitigation, the tropics can avoid this fate," said Doughty. "Further, it helps pinpoint a few key areas that need further research, like whether tropical trees can change their upper temperature thresholds."

Disney urged people to take action. "Vote for politicians who are serious about addressing climate change and transitioning to low-carbon economies," he said. "More generally, we can all recognise the importance of supporting those countries and people who live in and rely on tropical forests economically, to help those transitions."

"But the serious changes to tropical forests that this work hints at don't just affect the local people – it's a global issue."

# Andy Murray Defeats Wildlife Campaigners to Expand Hotel in Historic Perthshire

*An article by Stephen Eighteen published on The Courier website*

**A**NDY MURRAY has defeated wildlife campaigners to expand his hotel in historic Perthshire. The tennis ace has been given planning permission to build nine woodland cabins on the grounds of his Cromlix Hotel near Dunblane, but Stirling Council's decision flew in the face of opposition from the Scottish Wildlife Trust, who cited the effect the scheme would have on breeding birds, frogs and toads.

**The charity said the siting of the cabins near to a pond was inappropriate and claimed the peaceful environment for wildlife would be ruined by the development.**

The Victorian mansion, built on land near Kinbuck that was once owned by local bishop James Chisholm, became a hotel in 1981. Murray and his then-girlfriend Kim Sears bought the property in early 2013 for a rumoured £1.8 million.

Following extensive refurbishment, they transformed the building into a 15-bedroom lodge, set in 34 acres of woodlands. The couple held their wedding reception at the Cromlix in April 2015.

The Murrays, who took over the management of the hotel from Inverlochy Castle Management International in December 2022, are working with Fergus Purdie Architects to realise the cabins. They will be split across three categories – water-based, treetop and circular woodland cabins.

In its objection, Scottish Wildlife Trust wrote: "We recognise that the grounds are valued as a financial asset. They are beyond value to nature. Ideally chalets will be relocated to a different area and the pond used as a nature-focused area for guests."

"With the people will come dogs, canoes and paddleboards probably leading to the loss of all the waterbirds."

"At present guests to the hotel are able to have a quiet walk to the pond and sit on the seat watching the wildlife in a lovely tranquil and quiet setting – this should be preserved for the future

and could be marketed as a place to come for woodland management and a biodiversity plan



wellbeing."

However, Stirling Council gave the green light after the Murrays pledged to put wildlife mitigation measures in place.

Its decision notice said: "The proposed development has been sensitively designed to reflect its location and would provide further quality accommodation for visitors to the area."

"The cabins are part of a long-term strategy to invest in Cromlix to ensure its long-term viability which will have a positive effect on the local and wider economy which is to be welcomed."

"Appropriate planning conditions such as a

will ensure that the woodland and its environment are appropriately managed and protected."

The decision has been criticised by Courier reader Kathryn Grant, of Falkirk. She wrote: "So breeding birds and amphibians have to make way for Andy and Kim Murray's luxury lodges at Cromlix Hotel."

"For a couple with estimated combined wealth exceeding £130 million, they know the price of everything but the value of nothing."

"Come the next tennis major, I will certainly be cheering on 'Anyone but Andy'."

# Millions of California Trees are Dying; Joshua Trees are Just the Latest Victims

By Hayley Smith, Staff Writer for the Los Angeles Times

**CALIFORNIANS** watched in dismay last month as the York fire seared through Mojave National Preserve, igniting a delicate desert landscape that may never fully recover. The fire chewed through stands of beloved Joshua trees, torching their tops and potentially incinerating their roots. Park officials fear that millions may have been burned in the fire, though the precise number of those killed will be hard to discern from the piles of ash that remain.

However, researchers say Joshua trees are just the latest species to suffer unprecedented losses amid a climate that is growing warmer and drier.

From towering sequoias to ancient bristlecone pines, millions of California trees are succumbing to worsening wildfires, severe drought, extreme heat, disease and other stressors that have been intensified by global warming. The losses, they say, will only accelerate.

"We've long known that the trends to anticipate in the 21st century are extended droughts and more active fire regimes, and these types of disturbances are having profound effects on forests statewide," said Ryan Tompkins, forest and natural resources advisor at the University of California Cooperative Extension.

About one-third of the state is covered by forested ecosystems, and they have always experienced some form of drought, fire and tree death, he said. "But the problem is we're seeing tree mortality rates that are far beyond those endemic levels. There's no doubt that climate is exacerbating what we're seeing."

Indeed, an estimated 36.3 million dead trees were counted across California in 2022., a notable increase from the 9.5 million dead trees counted the year before, according to a report from the U.S. Forest Service.

The dramatic die-offs were largely attributed to drought, disease and insects such as bark beetles, which prey on weakened trees. Douglas firs showed the biggest mortality rate increase, 1,650%, followed by white and red firs.

Pine trees are also growing more vulnerable to traditional threats. Since 2013, drought and bark beetles have killed thousands of bristlecone pines — considered the oldest trees on Earth — at Telescope Peak in Death Valley National Park. Some of the trees that died were as old as 1,612 years, according to one recent study.

Though the bristlecone is "revered for its extreme longevity and has been considered an icon of stability during periods of change," warming temperatures and extreme dryness are stressing the trees and leading to death, the study said. What's more, the beetles that kill them are flourishing amid the changing conditions at the high elevations where the trees typically grow.

Ponderosa pines are also suffering from bark beetles and heat-related stress, said Avery Hill, a postdoctoral researcher at the California Academy of Sciences. He noted that for every 1.8° of additional global warming, up to 40% more trees could die from beetle infestations.



Hill said "The climate has been changing, but it's the rate that matters and why it's the rate that matters is because the rate at which individual organisms and species and ecosystems can respond to climate change seems to be a lot slower than the actual rate of climate change today."

Hill recently co-authored a study that found about 20% of all conifer trees in California's Sierra Nevada are no longer compatible with their surrounding climate, a term he dubbed "zombie forests." These trees are losing their ability to reproduce and probably will not be able to replace themselves in the future, he said.

"Every species has a set of environmental conditions that it's best adapted to and can reproduce in and thrive in, and these components are biological but also related to climate," Hill said. "Climate is one of those environmental variables that, like a house of cards, a lot of other things are built upon."

His study came on the heels of another one published last November, which found that nearly a third of southern Sierra forests were killed by wildfires, drought and pestilence over the last decade.

Such dizzying losses were only amplified by the York fire, which produced harrowing images of Joshua trees alight as it burned through the Mojave.

"The reality is that Joshua trees are already in a state of decline because of global warming and increasing frequency of drought," ecologist James Cornett told The Times as the fire raged.

"And then on top of that, you throw on a fire like the York fire, and these trees are not likely to recover in our lifetime."

The potential loss of Joshua trees is becoming for Californians. Between 1985 and 2021, tree cover in California declined by 6.7% due largely to drought and fire, while Southern California saw the greatest loss of tree cover, research has found.

"California's climate is warming and drying fast enough that it's sort of lifting the lid off of where fire can go," said Jon Wang, an associate professor at the School of Biological Sciences at the University of Utah, who led the study.

That includes forests that are home to California's towering, ancient sequoia trees, which are also under siege as increasingly large, fast and frequent wildfires defeat their time-tested defences.

Though the trees evolved with fire and in fact depend on it for reproduction, Wang and other experts said they are not well equipped for the frequency and intensity of today's raging blazes.

Many Californians will remember the KNP Complex fire of 2021, which tore through Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks and produced an indelible image of the giant General Sherman tree wrapped in aluminium foil to protect it from the flames.

The fire, along with another blaze known as the Windy fire, scorched 27 giant sequoia groves and killed as many as 2,380 trees, according to the National Park Service.

The loss compounded that of the Castle fire, which burned in Sequoia National Park a year earlier and killed an estimated 10% of the world's giant sequoia population, stunning even experts as flames incinerated the trees' armoured bark.

However, climate change isn't the only driver of tree death in California, said Tompkins, of the UC Cooperative Extension. The density of forests is also making them more prone to burn, as decades of forest management policies allowed for a buildup of vegetation that can act as fuel for fires.

Drought, too, is a recurring cycle in the state, and significant mortality events have historically occurred on a somewhat periodic

basis, including during the drought of 2012 to 2016.

However, "what's concerning is the intensity and scale of mortality is growing," Tompkins said. He noted that the increasing loss of trees can have cascading impacts, including the loss of wildlife habitats for protected species.

Tree mortality may also affect the state's carbon reduction goals since trees help store and capture carbon, he said. The state's water supply is also connected to its forests, and the loss of tree cover could alter stream flows, affect water quality and have other negative implications.

Not all hope is lost, however. Some forests are transitioning to areas more suitable for their

growth, including cooler places at higher elevations where their seeds have a better chance of survival, Hill said.

Additionally, some forest managers are helping steer the state's forests toward a new ecology that can handle a hotter world, Wang said. That could include "nudging" adaptation through human intervention or allowing landscape changes to play out, such as a conifer forest that transitions to chaparral or shrubland after a fire.

"It might not be the same forest that our parents or grandparents knew," Wang said. "But it could still look like something that is valuable to us

# What Are Hollow Tree Trunks Good For?

*Sally Bavin, Woodland Trust Assistant Conservation Evidence Officer*

**IF THERE'S** one way to get close to nature, it's stepping inside a giant hollow tree, but why do trees hollow out and what are the benefits? Stand inside an ancient tree and you are standing inside a piece of history. Their hollow centres have even housed dinner parties, preacher's pulpits and bullpens. It's said that the centre of Lincolnshire's Bowthorpe Oak once held 39 people within its trunk!

A hollowing trunk is a natural process and not necessarily a sign of an ailing tree. The centre of the tree is deadwood which is slowly decayed by fungi. The fungi are perfectly happy in the deadwood and will rarely touch the living sapwood.

Trees spend years storing up minerals in the wood in the centre of the trunk. As this wood is decayed, the minerals are released and can be used once more by the tree. Along with the yearly supply of leaves and any decaying branches, the hollowing trunk is providing the tree with recycled nutrients, helping it to live longer.

A hollow trunk might react better in high winds too, allowing the tree to bend and reduce damage. Hollow trunks are ideal homes for a lot of wildlife. There's protection from extreme weather and the temperature will be much more constant than outside.

A hollowing trunk can provide a nesting or roost site for bats and birds. At the foot of the trunk, cavernous spaces are perfect for hedgehogs to hibernate or snakes to lay their eggs. Lots of fungi, epiphytes and invertebrates will also colonise a hollowing tree.

With a girth of over 12 metres, the Queen Elizabeth Oak in Cowdray Park, pictured here, is one of Britain's largest trees.

The Borrowdale Yews, Cumbria, were celebrated by Wordsworth in his 1803 poem, Yew Trees. The largest yew is over seven metres in girth and can hold four people.

The Marten Oak, Cheshire, was referred to as the largest tree in England in 1880. It has



served as a bullpen, a pigsty and a Wendy house over the years.

The Crowhurst Yew, Surrey, is a churchyard tree with a door built into the trunk to guard its hollow centre. In 1850 it housed a table and benches.

The Pulpit Yew, Denbighshire, North Wales is home to an outdoor lectern. Steps lead through the hollow of the tree up to a raised seat and podium where legend has it that John Wesley, founder of Methodism once preached.

The UK has thousands of ancient trees.

Volunteers have recorded over 180,000 for the Ancient Tree Inventory. Our oldest, some over a thousand years old, are important to our heritage and wildlife, yet they don't have the protection they need. It's time for this to change and you can help.

We're calling for strong, consistent laws and policies that value and protect our oldest and most important trees. A system similar to that for listed buildings or ancient monuments. Sign our petition calling for governments across the UK to protect our living legends.

# Tibetan Tree Rings Reveal How the Sun's Activity Affects Earth's Climate

An article by Lewis Dartnell published on [www.skyatnightmagazine.com](http://www.skyatnightmagazine.com)

**W**HILE astrology is nonsense, Earth and the life on it are certainly deeply affected by cosmic influences. For example, variations in the eccentricity of Earth's elliptical orbit around the Sun, as well as the tilt of its spin axis, are driven by the shifting balance of gravitational tugs from the Moon and the Sun, as well as the giant outer planets, especially Jupiter.

**These so-called Milankovitch cycles cause rhythmical variations in the intensity of the seasons and Earth's overall climate. The pulse of ice ages over the past 2.5 million years, for instance, is governed by the Milankovitch cycles.**

Slight variations in the Sun may also affect climate in smaller ways, such as periods when the solar magnetic field is weaker, meaning there are fewer sunspots, allow more galactic cosmic rays to reach Earth, potentially triggering greater cloud formation.

Scientists studying Earth's past climatic conditions rely on various sources of information, such as the ratio of different isotopes in Antarctic ice cores, sediments at the bottom of lakes and oceans, and tree rings.

Trees are sensitive to factors such as temperature and rainfall, so the rings of growth they produce in their branches and trunks each year serve as recorders of that area's local climate

Tree rings are generally thicker in warm and

wet years. Tree ring data may therefore reveal shorter-term patterns of variation in Earth's climate.

Vincent Courtillot and his colleagues at the Paris Institute of Earth Physics, Paris Cité University, studied a very special tree ring data set made available by Ouya Fang at the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing.

Juniper trees in the Dulan forest grow high on the northern Tibetan plateau, at altitudes between 3,000 and 4,500 metres above sea level.

This remoteness means these trees have been minimally affected by human influence throughout their lifespans, which range from 15 to 1,967 years old.

The team performed a statistical analysis of the thickness of growth rings in 469 trees and were able to identify a set of periodic variations over short timescales.

From this they found evidence of several repeating patterns within the ring thicknesses.

Two of these, with a period of 11 and 85 years, match up with patterns found from studying changes in sunspot numbers, named

the Schwabe cycle (the Solar Cycle) and Giesseberg cycle respectively.

However, the researchers also found a number of other cycles with periods between 3.3 years and more than 1,000 years, with as-yet unknown causes.

The well-known Milankovitch cycles operate over timescales of tens or hundreds of thousands of years, but Courtillot and his colleagues argue that their analysis of these tree rings reveal there could be much shorter cycles varying over centuries or even years.

This is a controversial claim and whether these shorter-timescale cycles are genuine or not will likely come out in the wash with further research, but the statistical analysis of the growth rings of such unique, ancient trees holds great promise for better understanding our planet's climatic history.

Courtillot describes these Tibetan junipers as "astro-geophysical observatories" – offering an intriguing link between living organisms and cosmic influences on Earth's climate.

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## Animals are as Important as Trees ... and Man

**M**ANY of you will know that I am as committed to the welfare of animals as I am to the welfare of trees and that is why I have become vegan. I don't write about that in Broadsheet because this magazine is concerned with the welfare and preservation of trees. However, if *Homo sapiens* continues to treat other animals as we do our trees, then we shall be the only animal species left on this planet.

**So, I was very pleased to read an article by Ian Green in Outrage, the campaign magazine of Animal Aid, the British animal rights organisation founded in 1977 by Jean Pink.**

Ian wrote the article just after the Welsh Parliament had voted to ban snares and, as he said, such moments don't come around too often. It is not a welfare improvement, but an uncompromising and complete ban.

A snare is a horrific trap, a wire loop placed among vegetation, designed to tighten around the body of any animal that steps into it. Trapped in the snare until ...

Many people are unaware of the scale of suffering that these traps cause, even thinking

that they are a minor countryside thing.. To give this ban some context, the compassionate leadership shown by the Welsh Senedd will prevent hundreds of thousands of animals from suffering each year.

Importantly, the Welsh parliament resisted the pressure from shooting organisations to weaken the legislation, rejecting calls to introduce a licensing system or to allow supposedly "human cable restraints".

The snares win is the result of a lot of hard work by Welsh politicians, years of awareness raising by campaigners and, importantly, majority public support. The perfect combination.

So, I wonder why we don't have a ban on the import of fur when fur farming has been

banned in the UK for decades, or a loophole free ban on hunting. All have this same winning combination.

Just maybe, the Time for Change campaign call on the Government to close loopholes in the 2004 Hunting Act that allow hunting with dogs to continue under the smokescreen of trail-hunting. The Hunting Act was a historic piece of legislation back in 2004, but it is one that needs fixing to ensure it is fit for purpose.

The Welsh parliament's vote on snares has revived optimism that that we can push for and chieve laws of substance to protect animals. It is time for change. It is time to ban snares across the rest of the UK and to end all the legislative loopholes that allow animal abuse to continue.

# Trees Discovered at Record-Breaking Altitudes in Scotland's Woodland

*An article by Will de Freitas, Environment Editor for The Conversation*

**T**HE SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS are celebrated for wide-open views of spectacular glens (valleys) and rugged peaks. After centuries of landscape change, particularly deforestation caused by humans, it is easy to forget how well trees can thrive there. However, new discoveries of small trees atop Scottish summits are surpassing the expectations of plant scientists and demonstrating opportunities for mountain woodland to make a comeback for the benefit of people, wildlife and fighting the climate crisis.

Forest clearance in Britain originally coincided with the introduction of agriculture. Since at least 3,000 years ago, trees and shrubs have been harvested for building materials, firewood and charcoal. Wildfire and controlled burning have also reduced their extent. However, the continuing decline of mountain woodland is mainly linked to overgrazing by domestic hill sheep (introduced in the 18th century) and increased numbers of red deer for sport shooting.

Woody plants, especially willows, are particularly appetising for these animals in the uplands where nutritious food can be harder to find. Overgrazing has caused an almost complete loss of the natural altitudinal treeline – the transition zone from the timberline, where trees grow upright and tall, to the upper boundary where they can establish in the harsh mountain climate.

Some fragments have managed to cling on to inaccessible cliff ledges. The iconic Scots pine is a feature of remnant treelines, particularly in the Cairngorms. These refuges also include birch, rowan and juniper, as well as arctic-alpine willows which are rare and endangered or vulnerable to extinction. Their habitat, montane willow scrub, typically forms at 600-900m above sea level, but has been reduced to a total area of approximately 10 hectares (15 football pitches) across the entire country.

The Scottish situation can be contrasted to southwest Norway, which is now more wooded because there has been less grazing and burning since the 19th century.

Nevertheless, citizen science has recently led us to 11 new altitudinal records for tree species in Britain, including a rowan at 1,150m in West Affric in Inverness-shire, and a birch at 1,026m on Ben Nevis, Britain's highest mountain, near Fort William. Some observations were at least 200m above previous known altitudes. Our discoveries are attributed primarily to increased biological recording, which is valuable for expanding knowledge of the environmental tolerances of plants.

These record-breakers are pioneers, stunted from growing at the extreme limits of their ability to cope with low temperatures and high wind speeds. The trees are outliers existing far beyond where the treeline is expected to



develop. They may only be knee- or even ankle-high, but their survival on our highest ground indicates huge potential for woodland and scrub to return across the slopes below.

Groundbreaking action in Scotland shows this aspiration is possible through tree planting, propagating rare species and protection from overgrazing. Once a large enough seed source exists, the trees will also emerge on their own via natural regeneration. Montane willow scrub now flourishes on the Ben Lawers range in the southern Highlands, while Caledonian pine-woods are reappearing on higher ground in the Cairngorms.

Furthermore, it's not just the trees that are to gain. Mountain woodland restoration supports vibrant flowers and a unique community of rare bumblebees, flies, butterflies and moths, as well as birds that are scarce or declining elsewhere in Britain, including ring ouzel, redpoll and grouse. Mammals such as hares, voles, deer and livestock also take advantage of the enhanced shelter and foliage.

Besides offering shade and a haven for wildlife, woodland and scrub stabilise steep slopes and give protection from the natural hazards of avalanches, rockfalls and landslides. Trees and shrubs also slow the flow of water over and within upland soils, holding moisture and facilitating a decrease in flooding downstream.

These benefits are called "nature-based solutions" because they are considered vitally

important for reducing threats from escalating climate change, including warming temperatures, extreme weather and soil erosion.

For the rewards to be delivered nationally, we now need to be bold and ambitious, like the trees that broke the altitudinal records. Land managers, policymakers and funding bodies must move forward from focusing on small areas of mountain woodland held behind fences. Through wider collaboration we can aim to reinstate a much more connected treeline throughout our uplands.

Landscape-scale deer management for lower density populations is required to remove the pressure of overgrazing and enable a balance between sustainable numbers of animals and tree growth. Enhancing rural employment and retaining invaluable skills in deer stalking will be essential for meeting this goal. Those estates already taking such an approach are showing significant capacity for regeneration and nature recovery.

Furthermore, the panoramic views for which Scotland is renowned? They will not be obscured by the return of our trees. Mountain woodland usually creates a patchwork mosaic together with open areas of grassland and moorland. Some soils are too wet and instead support peatlands and blanket bog.

Improving the health of all these habitats will allow our environment to nurture a high diversity of life and many associated benefits to people amidst the nature and climate emergency.

# Tick Bite in Woodland Leaves Man With Potentially Deadly Meat Allergy

An article by Georgina Cutler published on [www.gbnews.com](http://www.gbnews.com)

**C**HRISTOPHER GOLDMAN, a part-time dog walker, was bitten by a tick and has been left housebound with a serious allergy to red meat. He now suffers from alpha-gal syndrome, a tickborne illness which can cause anaphylaxis if he eats mammal meat such as beef, pork or lamb.

**The 28-year-old claims any exposure, including airborne transmission, to any mammal by-product including wool, dairy and leather will trigger a reaction.**

Following the incident, he now only wears vegan approved clothing and uses household products that are guaranteed animal free. He also carries an epi-pen everywhere he goes and wears an emergency contact bracelet.

Products that he suspects might contain mammal products have been piled up in a room at the front of the house.

The part-time dog walker said he was bitten by the parasite in a wooded area near his home in Woking in Surrey. He claims that he been bitten at least four times since December and

has since suffered eight fainting episodes, including five on the same day.

"I woke up with intense itching and I was very hot. I did not want to wake up my girlfriend so I went to the bathroom," Goldman told Sky News.

"My skin was crimson red and I had hives all over my body. I noticed a strange sensation in my hands, my face and my tongue began to swell. As my throat began to constrict I stood up and felt a 'wash' down to my feet."

The business production manager said his most serious episode was on 28 June. He added: "I just spent the time looking up at the ceiling, just waiting to either die or see what happened to me. It was definitely the most traumatic experience ever."

Goldman said he had eaten red meat

several hours before his anaphylaxis and suspected that could have been the trigger.

Despite his local hospital saying they were unaware of any related conditions, a private blood test confirmed his tick bites had developed into alpha-gal syndrome.

He said: "Doctors are telling people that it is psychosomatic, that it is anxiety or stress induced, and they're not getting help, but what I'm here to speak up about the debilitating side of this, leaving people housebound and with my life completely torn up, more research needs to be done because we're getting absolutely no help."

**Broadsheet has regularly warned readers of the dangers of tick bites. Take care. This could easily be you**

## Sentinel Treescapes Project

**O**N 9 AUGUST Anna Rodriguez, Joanne Collins, Paul Cowley and I attended a meeting with Rachel Gaulton (Newcastle University), Paul Brown (Fera) and Sam Village and Amelie Sells (Tree Council) to discuss the future of the Sentinel Treescapes Project and, in particular, our Network's future role. The meeting took place over dinner at The Recruiting Sargeant in Horstead

**We were delighted to receive print-outs of a presentation prepared by Paul Brown to report on the findings of the project to date. It was so rewarding to see the fruits of our labour.**

The project certainly has come a long way since I met Sam Village and Paul Brown in Brundall a couple of years ago to search for a suitable monitoring site and decide if our Network should be involved.

The project would like us to resume our activities this month for initially, one year, continuing to check, change and re-charge batteries as necessary and recording our observations. However, our first task will be to assess just how many batteries are non-operational.

Each of us has experienced problems with batteries apparently failing to charge ... even after three days! However, it is felt that is a fault with the chargers, although some batteries have failed.

That led to some discussion regarding the effectiveness of the sensors as they have not proved to be as robust as first hoped and the



project now has concerns regarding their value. Many sensors have seen their cables and connections failing, mainly due to corrosion.

Rachel, Paul Brown and I discussed the possibility of discontinuing the sensors and just relying on our visual assessments which have, in fact, proved to be very accurate. Whilst we shall lose some data such as sap rise, our visual observations can provide most things, if the 'phone app is modified slightly to suit.

Discussions regarding that will be on-going but, if agreed, will certainly save us a lot of time and effort.

The project also wants us to continue with our spreadsheet where we record our actions as that serves as a kind of diary. Indeed, that has proved to be of great value.

A PhD student will start this later month for a 3 year attachment to the project with a view to him eventually managing it. We very much look forward to meeting him.

So the project is very happy with what we are doing and I want to personally thank Anna and Joanne for being the "glue" that hold it all together and for doing most of the work. In addition I wish to thank Paul Cowley for taking over the day to day running of the project and organising it all so well.

# Saving Our Trees and Woodland

**M**ARTIN BOOTH reported on [www.bristol247.com](http://www.bristol247.com) that a crowdfunder has been launched to buy a wood in order to protect the land from development and “help it reach its potential for biodiversity and carbon sequestration”. The woodland known locally as Blackswarth Road Wood overlooks the River Avon between Avonview Cemetery and Crews Hole Road.

The five-acre patch of land is for sale by auction, with Hollis Morgan’s original listing saying that the plot is a parcel of “mature woodland with scope for residential development subject to consents”.

The land has previously been used as a formal terraced garden, a glass bottle manufactory, furnace, making fireclay and for allotments. The wood has not been managed over the last decade or so and has lost some of its diversity, with the land also used as a rubbish dump.

Crowdfunder organisers admit that “huge clean-up parties will be required to get this woodland back on track, but working with volunteers and contractors we can remove decades of rubbish and return this space to nature”.



Environmental charity Project Earth says that the site being listed for auction with mature woodland with scope for residential development “is highly misleading”.

On the crowdfunder page, they say: “There is no reasonable legal pathway to developing on this land. Previous planning has been rejected, and it is highly unlikely future permission will be given, but that doesn’t mean this ecosystem won’t be severely damaged or destroyed in the process.”

“Friends of Troopers Hill particularly value Blackswarth Wood as it forms part of a wildlife corridor through the Avon Valley conservation area that includes Troopers Hill. We don’t think there is any realistic prospect of a new owner getting permission to build on the site but we are concerned that someone might cause damage in trying to prove that building is feasible.”

Friends of Troopers Hill chair, Susan Acton-Campbell, said: “We really hope that the charity, Protect Earth, will be able to purchase the site to ensure that it is managed for wildlife and to enhance its biodiversity.”

A Bristol Tree Forum spokesperson added: “The decision to build on Brislington Meadows shows that SNI status gives no protection. Reserved Open Space land can be sold if it is ‘no longer needed for its open space function’.”

Protect Earth is currently restoring a 64-acre ancient replanted woodland in Cornwall to its former glory as a temperate rainforest, creating a 70-acre woodland on marginal grazing land in Powys and another 27 acres of woodland being created in Flintshire.

**R**UBY KITCHEN reported on the Yorkshire Post website that Weston Woods, a 20 acre site of mature deciduous woodland near Otley, was put up for sale earlier this year suggesting it could make a productive timber plantation.

Local groups, determined to save it, raised tens of thousands to put in their own successful bids, with the backing of a philanthropic loan from environmental campaigner Julia Davies, through her Funding Nature Project.

Now the Friends of Weston Woods has announced a new appeal to raise funds to repay the loan of £65,000, seeking donations or sponsorship for 3x3m squares of woodland.

More than 1,500 people and organisations, including Otley Town Council, have already supported the project so far by donating over £165,000. Details of how to donate to the campaign or sponsor a square can be found at <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/westonwoods-purchase>.

The Friends groups is made up of wildlife and environmental groups as well as donors to the initial appeal. A spokesman said: “Now that the legal proceedings to finalise the purchase are almost complete, we need to raise further funds to repay the generous loan of £65,000 which helped us to mount the successful bid earlier this year.”

“We are appealing to everyone who appreciates wildlife and supports our aims of holding a wood for the local community to make a donation to the new crowdfunding campaign.”

Weston Woods, also known as East Wood, is known for its springtime carpet of bluebells and wild garlic, and is alive with wildlife such as red kites, warblers, woodpeckers and owls.



The spokesperson added: “From the comments left on the fundraising site it is clear that this area of woodland is beloved by a large number of people; some children have even donated their pocket money. It is valued for the memories of playing there as children, the peace people find there, and also as a place where nature thrives.”

“There is a growing understanding that mature woodlands like these are not only vital for the wonderful habitats they provide, but also for the important part they play in holding and soaking up carbon, mitigating the release of carbon dioxide which adds to global warming.”

**N**ICK CLARK reported on the BBC News website that residents want a woodland site to be taken off a list of potential housing sites after inspectors upheld a decision to refuse a development.

Proposals by Southern Home Ownership for 221 homes at Beaufort Park in Crowthorne, Berkshire, were rejected by Bracknell Forest Council’s planning committee last year, raising concerns about parking, traffic congestion and blocked narrow roads.

Southern Home Ownership argued at an appeal hearing in June that it had provided enough space for parking. Planning inspector Rachel Pipkin rejected the appeal, citing a “poor” road layout and an “under-provision” of spaces for the country park would cause “significant harm” to road safety.

Andy Holley, of the Crowthorne Village Action Group, said he was “overjoyed” at the inspector’s decision and called for the area to be protected from future development.

“We can’t see any reason why Bracknell Forest Council should include that in their Local Plan,” he said.

Residents want the site removed from the council’s draft Local Plan, but this has been dismissed, but Councillor Guy Gillbe, member for planning and transport, said the inspector had only rejected the layout of the plans, not the idea that homes could be built there.

“The planning application appeal decision is one that focuses on a detailed scheme and did not challenge the principle of development. There is no intention to seek to remove this site from the draft Local Plan, which provides housing land for the next 15 years to meet the borough’s housing needs,” he added.

**B**ERNY TORRE reported on the Morning Star website that a campaigning barrister stepped in to help pensioners save trees shielding one of the poorest communities in London from a busy dual carriageway.

Paul Powlesland had just returned from court when he spotted four elderly community garden volunteers protesting with tree surgeons in the Harts Lane estate in Barking, east London.

Speaking from the site, the founder of Lawyers for Nature told the Morning Star the works only stopped after he threatened to get a ladder and climb the trees they were felling.

Mr Powlesland, who had planted trees in the area over the winter, said: “It’s all been kicking off. I tried to stop them this morning, they said they would, I went to court and when I came back local residents, older ladies, were trying to stop them.”

“They’ve been here all morning but because they are older they couldn’t actually get up. I was able to get up to a ladder and say ‘I’m going to climb this tree if you don’t stop.’”

“These trees are the archetypal what I would term social justice trees. They block one of the poorest communities in Barking from seeing and hearing the North Circular.”

He explained the trees were on Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime's (Mopac) land but towered over a public footpath in the estate, shielding it from noise and air pollution from the busy ring road.

Removing the trees would expose residents to the North Circular's concrete flypast and an up to 70ft tall tree was felled in the area days before.

He added: "To me it's absolutely flabbergasting that the Mopac would fell the trees down for seemingly no reason and make the lives of one of the poorest communities in London worse. These ladies have lived on the estate for decades and started a local community gardening club and help us plant trees on this estate.

"The local residents were on the footpath and effectively with the branches hanging over them. These are working-class pensioners who volunteer to make the place better. It's dangerous but it's also just really disrespectful."

His group, the River Roding Trust, has accused Barking and Dagenham Council of ignoring its application for a Tree Preservation Order on them, served nine months ago.

Mopac and the council have been contacted for comment.

**G** **GEORGIA REVELL, Community Reporter for the Bournemouth Echo, revealed that tree felling has sparked protests and chaos in a residential area of Highcliffe.**

Residents 'abused' workers and stood in front of their vehicles as they felled a ribbon of trees in Jesmond Wood on 9 August. Contractors arrived the previous morning to axe 46 dead trees at the request of developer Christopher Bulstrode.

Mr Bulstrode is currently appealing a refused application for 16 homes at the site off Jesmond Avenue, whilst also preparing a new and "greatly reduced" application for nine homes.

Although he is understood to have reached an agreement with the council's tree officer to remove the dead trees, the works have caused upset and anger amongst residents.

BCP Council says the landowner will be ordered to replace the trees that have been removed.

Laurent Le Gaffee, 70, said: "I've lived here about 20 years. Most of us residents moved here because it was a woodland and not houses opposite. I thought this woodland was sacrosanct, so it is upsetting."

Another resident, Susan Chitty, said: "I'm feeling really upset about it. It's an important nature reserve, with trees that are mature, and with lots of wildlife and birds. I'd be sad to see it go."

Highcliffe and Walkford ward councillor Andy Martin has offered assurances that BCP Council will be keeping a "very close eye" on what is happening at the site.

He added: "It is my view that Christopher Bulstrode is determined to destroy that woodland by building on it. Building properties will destroy the vital green ecological corridor that runs through Highcliffe."

Mr Bulstrode said he has visited the site in recent days but was forced to call police after facing "awful abuse" from residents.

He told the Daily Echo: "People were actually standing in front of machines when my guys were working, and they could've been seriously hurt. I'm the most hated man in Highcliffe for clearing property on my own private land. We have authority to do everything we've done."

Dorset Police confirmed receiving reports of a 'protest' at 10am on 9 August but said the group had dispersed and left the area by around 11am. The local neighbourhood policing team has been informed of the matter.

Tree Tech, which was employed to fell the trees, said its priority has remained the "safety of the public" and "preserving nature".

A company spokesperson said: "We've been working in collaboration with the local authority and there have been several preliminary onsite meetings to look at all the works and concerns. This includes, but isn't exclusive to, looking at a full wildlife assessment.

"We empathise with the locals and apologise for any noise disruption during this period, but all concerns and questions should be channelled to the council and local authority."

Samuel Fox, director of planning and destination at BCP Council said: "Senior members of our Arboriculture and Landscape management team visited Jesmond Wood on Tuesday 8th August to meet the tree surgeon and inspect the trees that were set to be felled.

"The team inspected the 46 trees individually and established that the ones currently being felled are dead, and as such are exempt from Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs).

"We will be imposing 're-plant' conditions on the site to ensure that the owners replace the trees that have died."

**B** **ILL JACOBS, Local Democracy Reporter for the Lancashire Telegraph, reported that Pleasington Golf Club is being redeveloped with the refurbishment of tees, bunkers and greens as well as heathland restoration, irrigation upgrades, the installation of beehives, the improvement of two quarries to encourage the return of sand martins, and other ecological enhancements.**

Rated as one of the North West's finest inland courses, the project aims to restore the historic club to its former glory. However the felling of dozens of trees for the six-year project has alarmed some local councillors and residents.

Removing trees on courses helps to improve the course and woodland condition, while also improving the playability of holes and restored angles the original course architects intended, while making the course more manageable for weaker players and more challenging for better golfers.

Mark Bleasdale, the general manager of Pleasington Golf Club, said this was part of a Forestry Commission approved thinning scheme to improve the health of the woodlands on the course which straddles Blackburn with Darwen and Chorley boroughs.

He added that between 4,000 and 6,000 trees will eventually be felled around the property, with new trees also planted in other areas.

Livesey with Pleasington Conservative Councillor, Derek Hardman, said: "I know many residents are unhappy about the number of mature trees that have been chopped down. I believe they are remodelling the golf course but why are they having to remove so many trees?"

"I have asked Blackburn with Darwen Council to look into it to see if any rules have been broken." His ward colleague, Cllr Mark Russell, added: "I'm disappointed at the loss of so many healthy trees. Pleasington is a fantastic course and the trees are a valued part of its character."

Explaining the felling programme as part of course improvements and restoration, Mr

Bleasdale said: "We appointed Ken Moodie, a golf course architect who specialises in restoring rare areas of heathland, to try and bring back the course's original look and design.

"The woodland management plan agreed with the Forestry Commission brought a much-needed proactive approach to tree management. Too many trees in the same space are unhealthy, as they all compete for the same light and never develop a full canopy. As such the club was required to start proactively managing the woodlands.

"A five-year thinning licence was granted by the Forestry Commission for the whole site in 2021, aiming at removing 20 to 30% of the 20,000 or so trees to improve the woodlands' health. Hundreds of new trees have also been planted in areas away from fine turf.

"The club has invested nearly £20,000 into a bore hole to feed its irrigation system, and two large ponds which had become very overgrown and lifeless are being reborn.

"The course is now four and half years into its six-year redevelopment, with three holes being restored each year, and the course is once again being recognised as one of the finest in the North West.

"Pleasington's course is renowned for its natural beauty, amazing views, heather and wild heathland feel. We feel we are once again restoring that, whilst also making the course more sustainable."

Dave Thornber, Blackburn with Darwen Council's arboricultural officer, said: The only involvement the planning authority has had is in relation to works to the protected trees opposite properties on Links Lane – removal of four dead ash trees, and works to a sycamore.

"Other tree works have been carried out on the course. The golf club does have a felling tree licence with the Forestry Commission."

**A** **LEXANDRIA SLATER, Facebook Community Reporter, reported that Neighbours in Waterfoot want the council to remove or trim a tree that has apparently been causing problems for more than two decades.**

Wendy Robinson, of St Anne's Crescent in Waterfoot, has lived in her home for more than 20 years and says it's been 10 years since the council trimmed the tree.

The tree, which is around 40ft tall, is blocking the light from coming into three homes, she says, as well as preventing Wendy from parking outside her house due to 'large branches dropping in bad weather'.

Wendy's next door neighbour, Kirsty Hargreaves, who has lived in St Anne's Crescent for about seven years, says she suffers with anxiety and the overgrown tree intensifies her anxiety.

Kirsty said: "I have panic attacks anyway, so when it's raining and windy outside I'm always thinking the tree is going to fall down, because the branches do fall off and smack the window when it's windy.

"The bad weather also makes my path really slippery because it's at a slope already, so the branches and leaves make that green slime on the path. I've recently dislocated my knee so that's a safety hazard. I have two children so we're worried about them getting hurt.

"My cat recently got stuck up the tree and the fire service had to come out and rescue her because she couldn't get down."

Wendy spoke to the fire crews when Cherry the cat was trapped in the tree on July 9, and asked how much the rescue was costing the fire service.

Wendy said: "If the tree was removed then



that wouldn't have happened. The firefighter added it up in front of me and said around £2,000. Kirsty was quoted £700 for someone to chop the tree down a few years ago but she couldn't afford that herself.

"The council say it's not their responsibility to maintain the tree but if the tree was trimmed or removed, it would've saved them money. "The tree is too big to maintain ourselves and too expensive to chop down."

Another concern of Wendy's is whether the tree's roots are growing under her home. She added: "My partner and I want to purchase this home eventually but we don't know where the roots are. If they're under our home then that will cause some damage."

Despite the growing worries, Wendy says the residents have given up asking the council because they're told it isn't the council's responsibility.

**I WAS delighted to read an article titled "Salute the Tree Saved From the Axe Because People Showed They Loved it. That's the Fighting Spirit we Need" by Alys Fowler, gardener and Guardian columnist. It has given me hope for the future.**

There is a bent Scots pine on my cycle route into town that makes me smile every time I pass it. It is bent in an improbable manner, like it didn't get the memo that street trees are mostly straight and restrained in their demeanour. It leans over the cycle path with one of its huge limbs stretching out horizontally before righting itself, like a seat for a giant.

On a very ordinary stretch of road, it is an unexpected character. Surrounded by boring box units and universal architecture, where every city feels more or less similar, it is urban trees like this that bring identity to our world through colour, sound and seasonal change.

This year, they are finally being celebrated as the Woodland Trust prepares to name its tree of the year. In the running, a series of city dwellers: a black poplar on a housing estate in Manchester that has thrived as industrial manufacturing polluted the soil and air, a holm oak in Exeter that survived the blitz, a walnut in Perth that, with its eye-catching boughs, is doing an excellent job of concealing a shopping centre, to name just a few.

The role of trees like these in concrete environments is often overlooked. A city without trees is a city without birds, without autumn leaves to crunch, without new green to welcome spring, without somewhere to climb, to hide, to lean, to kiss, to cry, to sleep, to make memories. There's a growing body of evidence to show how time spent with trees improves our wellbeing, to say little of what services they provide for us, too.

A mature urban tree with a big canopy provides immediate shade on a hot day, and shelter from the rain and the wind. Well-planted trees also greatly reduce the risks of flooding. Trees and hedges capture and temporarily hold pollutants, both physical particles and gaseous ones, too.

Leaf size, texture and arrangement matter, and not all species are created equal. Rough, hairy and needle-like leaves, like those found on a pine, capture more pollutants and a wider range of particles than simpler, smoother leaves. Scale matters, too: a large belt of trees can significantly reduce pollution.

In urban areas, sweeping rows of trees are hard to come by, but exciting new planting methods show that urban forests still have a vital role to play. The Miyawaki method mimics the dense natural regeneration of a forest, with trees planted extremely closely together to

encourage much faster growth. If you're near the Horniman Museum in south-east London, then you can see head gardener Errol Fernandes' version: a 300m<sup>2</sup> microforest acting as a greenscreen to block out the view of the busy south circular road.

The right plant in the right place is important. Trees need to thrive, not just survive, and urban trees have to withstand a lot: poor soil, higher urban temperatures, being knocked and tugged at, being used as a bike stand, or a noticeboard, among many other things, but if you can get the right tree into the environment it will benefit wildlife, even if it just makes a perch for a passing bird.

The older a tree gets, the more it has to offer, with more nooks and crannies to become places to sleep, rest or nest – not just for birds, but also for moths, spiders, beetles and all manner of other insects, and fungi and lichen, too. A mature tree can be a whole ecosystem in itself, especially important in the depleted natural environment of our cities.

More than 80% of the UK population lives in a city or town, and some of these places have an impressive number of trees, but sadly all too often these trees are undervalued. They are seen as taking up too much space, blocking progress in building roads, housing or infrastructure. Another of the contenders for tree of the year is an elm in Sheffield that was destined to be felled by the local council in 2017, but was saved when a rare white-letter hairstreak butterfly was found laying its eggs on it. It is one of 1,000 remaining mature elm that have survived Dutch Elm disease, which has killed 60 million others across Britain.

We need to continue to protect these champions, the venerable and handsome elders, but also those wily, scrappy, less-than-perfect ones, too, who are working just as hard for us. Together, they make the forest we need to thrive in our cities. One of the best ways to do this is to notice them, to get to know them, to introduce other people to your favourites. The white hairstreak might have protected that elm, but it was saved because people loved it. It is a reminder of all the other creatures – the more-than-human, with whom we share our environment – who consider these urban giants part of their home, too.

**BARRIE WHITE, Chief Reporter for the Border Counties Advertiser, reported that tree hunter Rob McBride from Ellesmere says he has been left upset by the cutting down of a 250-year-old oak tree close to Newnes Brook, near Beech Drive, by landowners Grocott Development.**

Rob has been in touch with the company who, he says, insisted to him there were no plans for development on the land but it was not covered by a TPO. He admitted he was left saddened by the felling of the tree.

Rob said "Ironically it was on the same day as Tree of the Year and I was being asked to do some media for it. "I was alerted to it by Facebook posts saying how sad it was to see it felled, with one lady saying it had been her view for 30 years.

"I went to see for myself that it was down and people were chopping it up. For me it's very personal as it was a big part of my childhood. We used to play in the brook and then run around the tree so it's pretty personal for me.

"I spoke to a boss at Grocott Developments and they told me that they had no development plans for that site, but lots of people were there taking soil samples and they had put a lot of markers down, so something must be happening. We had a 10-minute chat and they

were keen to tell me they understood their corporate responsibility. Although it wasn't covered by a TPO, it was 250 years old

Rob says he has reported the felling and called for better protection laws for ancient and veteran trees. He added: "I've reported it to the Forestry Commission so it's with them now.

"Anyone saying it was rotting should note that older, veteran trees hollow out in order to survive but this tree was not rotting. It was doing its best to survive and would have been there for another 100 years, in my opinion.

"Planners are now starting to take these trees into their developments as it gives houses a higher value but we need way better protection laws for our ancient and veteran trees."

Grocott declined to comment.

**CHRISTINE SEXTON, Harrison Moore and Ellis Whitehouse reported on Essex Live News that 62 trees are set to be destroyed to make way for 70 new homes in Shoeburyness, Essex, despite them being subject to Tree Protection Orders.**

Taylor Wimpey Homes says they will replace the trees with new ones but campaigners claim the mature cedars, maples, oaks and sycamores are home to many birds and insects.

Campaign leader Tim Fransen said: "In July 2023, Southend Council approved Taylor Wimpey, a profit-driven developer, to proceed with a plan involving destroying 44 mature trees protected by a TPO. In addition, 19 other healthy, mature trees are also slated for destruction.

"This scheme further includes destroying an embankment and vital wildlife habitat to make way for an apartment block. Three viable alternative locations for the apartment block on the site proposed by residents have been dismissed without proper consideration or due diligence. All three of these locations could preserve the existing trees, embankment, and wildlife habitat."

Tim's nephew Ricky, even penned a letter to King Charles III, asking "Can you please help save the trees, insects and birds? I learnt at school they are really important to me and the planet. Trees give us oxygen and help keep the air clean. Insects and birds pollinate plants. We need them to be happy and healthy."

King Charles's head of royal correspondence said while the King couldn't become involved personally, he thanked Ricky for his "thoughtful letter" but added "His Majesty is deeply committed to the natural world."

Tim added: "While it's unfortunate that the King cannot personally intervene in Taylor Wimpey's current destructive scheme in Shoebury, one can't help but imagine the possibility of such a fairytale coming true."

Following a protest in July, Taylor Wimpey moved the metal fencing from the site. A Taylor Wimpey spokesperson said: "Our proposals have been carefully considered following close consultation with Southend City Council and the local community.

"Preserving and enhancing biodiversity is a key consideration when we plan and build new developments and we have sought to protect and retain the highest quality trees on-site.

"Following an assessment by an independent arboriculturist, our proposals include the planting of 112 new trees and 540 hedges to replace the 62 low quality or dying trees that will be removed in line with our planning permission. All but one of the mature trees, which is suffering from Ash Dieback, within the development boundary will be retained."

**MIRIAM BURRELL REPORTED FOR THE Evening Standard that a Beckenham landowner who was arrested after felling 131 protected trees, in what was described as a "tree massacre", has been ordered to replant them all by Bromley Council.**

The trees, predominantly self-seeded oaks, were chopped down on 10 June on a privately-owned site adjoining Cator Park, despite the trees being covered by a TPO from 7 June, according to The Countryside Charity (CPRE).

Many of the trees felled were about 20 to 25 years old, well-established and "playing an important role in carbon capture and supporting the area's biodiversity", the charity said.

On 25 August, Bromley Council said an investigation into the felling is ongoing, but the owner of the land is being notified that they must plant 131 oak trees on the site to replace the felled ones.

The council said in a statement: "The owner of the privately owned land is being contacted to make them aware that Section 206 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 places a duty on the owner of the land to plant the same number of new trees in such places as may be designated by the council as the local planning authority."

Councillor Angela Page said: "Local residents are still quite rightly shocked and saddened at what took place on that fateful weekend when the protected trees were felled.

"We are considering all the legal measures we have at our disposal and the requirement for the landowner to replant oak trees on this much loved and precious site is part of that. We previously successfully sought an injunction which gives additional protections and our investigation into the felling of the trees is very much continuing."

An injunction that was granted earlier provides further legal protection for the privately owned land adjacent to Cator Park in Kings Hall Road, where the protected trees were growing before they were felled.

Anyone found guilty of felling trees that were identified by a TPO could face fines of up to £20,000 at a Magistrates Court or an unlimited fine at Crown Court, being the sentences, the council said.

Metropolitan Police arrested a man in his 30s on 10 June on suspicion of criminal damage and later released him on bail.

The landowner told ITV News London he had been granted a lease to "create sports facilities for children of all ages as well as BAME groups and other disadvantaged groups" in Cator Park in Bromley.

Tree-cutting equipment, including chainsaws, was seized during the arrest Scotland Yard said.

The man told the broadcaster: "I'm a law-abiding citizen and had I known anything about the tree preservation order then I would not have cut down the trees."

Cator Park has been regularly used by the public for at least 20 years, CPRE said, and is a haven for wildlife including bats, woodpeckers and owls.

**TWO ARTICLES this month highlight the continued destruction of trees and woodland being carried out in the name of HS2.**

The first, by Matthew Norman, Community Reporter for the Oxford Mail, reported that a farming family near Bicester who planted woodlands on their grounds 25 years ago are devastated that the national infrastructure project is cutting it down.

The wooded area in question, part of Elm tree Farm in Steeple Claydon, near Bicester, is where the HS2 project is building its infrastructure maintenance depot, which will bring 180 jobs.

It will house the people and equipment for the first phase of the project.

Ingrid Hodges, the owner of Elm tree Farm in Steeple Claydon, near Bicester, said: "The project has already taken two woodlands from our farm in the last five years, and destroyed hundreds of really old oak trees.

"My three children love to play in the woodland which is now being cut down by HS2, and I feel as if the project is taking nature away from my kids and handing it to the workers.

"This latest woodland is under 'temporary land take', which we believe means it is supposed to be given back in the way it was found, but now, HS2 workers have told me there are plans to make permanent ponds in the woodland.

"They've already cut down a number of trees, reducing the size of the woodland by a few acres, and perhaps most concerning is that my kids have three of their horses buried there. We go to the woodland every day so we buried them there to allow the kids to pay a visit, but now I'm worried HS2 will dig them up."

In response, a HS2 spokeswoman said: "The specific area is outside the boundary of the main depot where we'll build landscaped noise barriers and drainage ponds. This will help protect the nearby village from noise and light from the depot. To do that, we will need to remove the trees that are currently there, and will engage with the family about the horses buried there.

"In terms of ownership, the land is in temporary possession because the design hasn't been finalised, but we do retain the power to take full possession of it in the future.

"We recognise that our neighbours did not choose to live beside a railway and compensation is available as well as funding for community and environmental projects. We are in regular contact with Elm Tree Farm as our plans for the infrastructure maintenance depot develop.

"The area in question was always required for construction and will be used to create new landscaped noise barriers to protect the nearby village from noise and disturbance."

**THE second article, by Oliver Slow for BBC News, revealed that an official watchdog has given the HS2 rail line an "unachievable" rating.**

It has been granted a "red" warning for its first two phases - from London to Birmingham then onto Crewe - by the Infrastructure and

Projects Authority. Issues were raised related to budget, schedule and project definition.

The multi-billion pound project aims to connect London with central and northern England but has faced major delays and criticism.

The red rating, in the IPA's annual report on major projects, states: "Successful delivery of the project appears to be unachievable."

It adds there are "major issues with project definition, schedule, budget, quality and/or benefits delivery, which at this stage do not appear to be manageable or resolvable. The project may need re-scoping and/or its overall viability reassessed."

The phase of the project running from Crewe to Manchester was given an "amber" grading, meaning successful delivery "appears feasible" but that "significant issues already exist".

The London to Birmingham leg of HS2 was due to open in 2026, but is now expected between 2029 and 2033. The second phase was due to open in 2032-33, but has been pushed back to 2035-2040.

An eastern leg of the line running to Leeds has been scrapped, and instead a shorter high-speed line will link Birmingham and East Midlands Parkway.

Management issues and unrealistic land valuations have also caused costs to spiral.

A budget of £55.7bn for the whole project was set in 2015, but the target cost excluding the eastern leg of Phase 2b from the West Midlands to the East Midlands has soared to between £53bn and £61bn at 2019 prices.

Last month, HS2 Ltd's chief executive Mark Thurston announced his resignation. He will leave his role in September after six and a half years. His resignation came as phase one of the project between London and Birmingham is under construction, with major work taking place at more than 350 sites.

In March, transport secretary Mark Harper announced work at London Euston would be paused for two years after costs increased from £2.6bn to £4.8bn.

A spokesperson for the Department of Transport said the government remains committed to delivering HS2.

"HS2 will bring transformational benefits for generations to come, improving connections and helping grow the economy," they said.

The IPA is the government's centre of expertise for infrastructure and major projects.

**Editor's comment.**

**With the country's economy in such a perilous state, is it not time to ditch this monstrous HS2 project? It's impact on our environment has never been properly calculated.**

**Regrettably, we cannot repair the damage done to date. but we can prevent any more destruction.**

**One has to ask, what is the point of constructing a new railway when railway employees are so dissatisfied with their terms and conditions of employment?**

**Perhaps the money could be better spent on repairing the damage to our precious National Health Service.**

**I urge the government to please ditch this monstrous beast and avoid any further destruction. Then, set aside a sum of money for Tree Wardens to carry out compensatory tree and hedge planting.**



# Tree Preservation Orders and Conservation Area News

## Broadland Tree Preservation Orders Served, Confirmed and Revoked

TPO No	Address	Served	Trees Protected	Status
2022 No 13	Land rear 9 St Paul's Close, <b>Hellesdon</b>	16/12/2022	<b>T1 magnolia</b>	Provisional
2023 No BD0596	Verge east of School Road, <b>Drayton</b>	30/03/2023	<b>A1 mixed area.</b>	Provisional
2023 No BD0601	5 Church Lane, <b>Sprowston</b>	28/04/2023	<b>T1 oak</b> in rear garden.	Provisional
2023 No BD0604	Land east of Manor Road, <b>Newton St Faith</b>	15/05/2023	<b>T1, T5, T6, T7, T8, T9, T11, T12, T13, T16, T17, T18, T19, T20, T21 &amp; T22 oak, T2, T14 &amp; T15 ash, T3 apple, T4 sycamore and T10 holly</b>	Provisional
2023 No BD0605	Front garden of Beechbank, Buckenham Road, <b>Lingwood</b>	17/05/2023	<b>T1 copper beech</b>	Provisional
2023 No BD0606	42 Park Road, <b>Spixworth</b>	25/05/2023	<b>T1 oak</b>	Confirmed
2023 No BD0608	Front garden of The Rectory, Norwich Road, <b>Acle</b>	19/06/2023	<b>T1 stone pine</b>	Provisional
2023 No BD0609	Land adj cycle path south of Broadland Northway, from track leading from Reepham Road, <b>Taverham</b>	22/06/2023	<b>A1 mixed area.</b>	Provisional
2023 No BD0611	Land east of Fred Tuddenham Drive, <b>Cawston</b>	29/06/2023	<b>G1 oak x8. W1 mixed woodland</b>	Provisional
2023 No BD0612	Tree(s) at 76, 82, 86 & 96 Charles Avenue, <b>Thorpe St Andrew</b>	14/07/2023	<b>T1 oak</b> at number 76, <b>T2 oak</b> at number 82, <b>T3 oak</b> at number 86 and <b>T4 oak</b> at number 96.	Confirmed
2023 No BD0613	Fourwinds, 37 Waterloo Road, <b>Hainford</b>	02/08/2023	<b>G1 mixed group of 4</b> in rear garden	Provisional
2023 No BD0616	3 Barrack Yard Cottages, Church Road, Wickhampton, <b>Freethorpe</b>	26/07/2023	<b>T1 ash</b> in front garden.	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
2023/1490	109 Godfrey Road, <b>Spixworth</b>	TPO	<b>T1 oak</b> - canopy approx from 20m by 2-3m.	21/07/2023
2023/1630	Courtney House, 90 Post Office Road, <b>Lingwood</b>	TPO	<b>T1 copper beech</b> - Reduce western canopy by approx 2-3m and western crown spread from 9 to 6m approx	Approved
2023/1725	15 & 16 Barberry Close, <b>Taverham</b>	TPO	<b>T1, T2 &amp; T3 oak</b> - height 12-14m. Reduce crowns by 2-3m and thin by 12-15%.	Approved
2023/1747	125-129 Woodside Road, <b>Thorpe St Andrew</b>	TPO	<b>G1 3 x oak</b> - deadwood. Thin by 10%, Raise crowns over highway and car park by 5m. Reduce limbs to balance crown by 2m max.	Approved
2023/1785	59 Henby Way, <b>Thorpe St Andrew</b>	TPO	<b>T1, T2 &amp; T3 Corsican pine</b> - undertake root pruning.	Approved
2023/1834	9 Charles Close, <b>Wroxham</b>	211	<b>T1 cedar</b> - fell.	No objection
2023/1863	62 Ollands Road, <b>Reepham</b>	TPO	<b>2 x silver birch</b> in front garden - remove.	Approved
2023/1880	1 Marland Road, <b>Taverham</b>	TPO	<b>AQFT007 pedunculate oak</b> - cavities in trunk, large cavity 1m wide, 1.5m up and in depth decay present. Fell.	Refused
2023/1881	The Bungalow, 17A The Street, <b>Burgh</b>	211	<b>T1 Sorbus</b> - fell.	No objection
2023/1895	22 Charles Close, <b>Wroxham</b>	211	<b>T1 pine</b> - fell.	Withdrawn
2023/1907	8 Leonard Medler Way, <b>Hevingham</b>	TPO	<b>T1 oak</b> - reduce height from 18m to 13m and width to approx 2.5m.	Approved
2023/1914	Koru House, 16B Harvey Lane, <b>Thorpe St Andrew</b>	TPO	<b>T1 &amp; T2 non-native sycamore</b> - fell.	Approved
2023/1917	1 Marland Road, <b>Taverham</b>	TPO	<b>T007 oak</b> - fell. <b>T006 beech</b> - crown lift approx 2.4m.	Split decision
2023/1939	9 Beverley Road, <b>Brundall</b>	TPO	<b>T1 ash</b> - reduce broken branch from 4m to 2m to suitable secondary growth point and reduce elongated extremities from 8m to 5m both on south side of crown.	Approved

2023/1962	Longacre, Howletts Loke, <b>Salhouse</b>	TPO	<b>T1 pedunculate oak</b> - height: 23m, N: 9m, E: 5m, S: 11m, W: 9m. Reduce over-extended laterals by 2.5m N, 2.5m S, 2m E and 2m W to suitable growth points to reduce weight loading.	Approved
2023/1967	17 Bulwer Road, <b>Buxton</b>	TPO	<b>T1 oak</b> - works to crown and spread.	Approved
2023/1979	Breck Farm, Breck Farm Lane, <b>Taverham</b>	TPO	Remove trees and vegetation area shown in red on the supplied plan	Approved
2023/1986	The White House, 33 Wroxham Road, <b>Coltishall</b>	211	<b>T1 cherry</b> - height 8m - width 5m - remove broken branches, raise crown to approx 2.5m and reduce remaining crown by up to 2.5m. <b>T2 beech</b> - raise low branches by 3m over access gate opposite Kings Head public house.	No objection
2023/2001	Sawley Villa, 40 Blofield Corner Road, <b>Blofield</b>	TPO	<b>T1 oak</b> - 16m height, 10m spread. 2 <sup>nd</sup> branch north crown 10cm dia raise to 3m reducing back to suitable pruning point by 2.5 - 3m. Lower north-west branch reduce by 3.5 - 4m. 2 <sup>nd</sup> north-west branch reduce by 3 - 4m. First north-east branch 25cm dia remove small secondaries growing toward dwelling. Reduce by 3 - 3.5m. Tip back crown branches by up to 3 - 4m	02/08/2023
2023/2027	4 Manor Close, <b>Buxton</b>	TPO	<b>T1 silver birch</b> - reduce height from 20m to 15m and spread from 13m to 8m.	Split decision
2023/2033	Springdale Crescent, <b>Brundall</b>	TPO	<b>APDT034 Norway maple</b> - epicormic removal and remove one stem <b>APDT035 Norway maple</b> - crown lift 3m over car park and sever Ivy	Approved
2023/2049	Fire Station, Park Road, <b>Wroxham</b>	211	<b>T1 5 x Douglas fir, T2 sycamore &amp; T3 beech</b> - remove deadwood. <b>T4 yew</b> - fell, leaving 2m high stump.	No objection
2023/2068	105A Fakenham Road, <b>Taverham</b>	TPO	<b>T1 oak</b> - height 10m, stem dia 0.9m, canopy width 7m. Reduce lateral branches of south canopy away from property by 1.5m. <b>T2 Macrocampa</b> - fell.	Split decision
2023/2076	The Old Granaries, 7 White Lion Road, <b>Coltishall</b>	211	<b>T1 cherry</b> - crown reduction of 2.5m from 7m to 4.5m. <b>T2 cherry</b> - fell	No objection
2023/2077	2 Swansgate, <b>Old Catton</b>	TPO	<b>Norway maple x 2</b> - remove.	Refused
2023/2083	35 Saint Michaels Avenue, <b>Aylsham</b>	TPO	<b>T1 oak</b> - fell.	Approved
2023/2086	18 Kevill Davis Drive, <b>Little Plumstead</b>	TPO	<b>T1 Acacia</b> - crown lift 3 lowest branches.	Approved
2023/2090	Swallow Barn, The Street, <b>Halvergate</b>	211	<b>T1</b> - reduce height and width from approx 15m to 10m.	27/07/2023
2023/2103	Woodfold, 24 Woodland Drive, <b>Thorpe End</b>	211	<b>T1 Robinia pseudoacacia</b> - fell.	No objection
2023/2107	The Granary, Back Street, <b>Reepham</b>	211	<b>T1 cherry</b> - dia 0.6m, height 3m, canopy spread 2m. Reduce canopy by 0.5m back to original pollard points. <b>T2 Liquidambar</b> - dia 0.6m, height 3m, canopy spread 1.5m. Reduce canopy by 0.5m back to original pollard points. <b>T3 Indian bean tree</b> - dia 0.8m, height 4m, canopy spread 2.5m. Reduce canopy by 2m back to original pollard points due to location.	No objection
2023/2114	Newlands, 9 School Lane, <b>Thorpe St Andrew</b>	211	<b>T1 &amp; T2 unknown species</b> . Reduce height from approx 14m to 10m and spread from approx 14m to 10m.	No objection
2023/2116	Caenyard House, 26 Church Lane, <b>Wroxham</b>	211	<b>T1 conifer and T5 Liquidambar</b> - remove. <b>T2 maple</b> - height 7.8m, width 4.2m, Crown reduce by 2.05m in height and sides by 1.5m. <b>T3 birch</b> - height 8.5m, width 4.2m, Crown reduce by 2.5m. <b>T4 willow</b> - height 9.5. Raise crown to 3m over meadow. <b>G6 maples</b> - height 8.5m. Raise crown to 3m over meadow and 3.5m over garden. <b>T7 Acacia</b> - height 8.3m. Raise crown to 3m over meadow and 3.5m over garden. Deadwood (exempt).	No objection
2023/2122	Hill Farm, Mill Hill, <b>Salhouse</b>	211	<b>T1 Eucalyptus</b> - fell.	No objection
2023/2127	19 Robert Norgate Close, <b>Horstead with Stanninghall</b>	TPO	<b>Beech</b> - multi-stemmed. Reduce crown by 2.5m from 24 to 21.5m. Reduce extended limb over number 21 by 2.5m to 8.5m.	Approved
2023/2150	Ringwood, Beech Road, <b>Wroxham</b>	211	<b>T1 sweet chestnut</b> - height 13m. Prune back epicormic growth over garden to a height of 4m. <b>T2 oak</b> - height 16m. Deadwood and shorten limb growing toward holm oak by 2m. Reduce and re-shape crown by 2m. <b>T3 cherry</b> - height 8m. Reduce crown by 2m. <b>T4 holm oak</b> - height 11m. Re-pollard.	No objection
2023/2151	Oakapples, Lower Street, <b>Sahouse</b>	211	<b>T1 plum</b> - height 10.5m. Remove limb. <b>T2 Portugal laurel</b> - remove. <b>G3 yews</b> - height 4.7m. Reduce by 1.5 to 2.0m from 12 and 10 Lower Street, levelling off tops to re-form lapsed hedge. <b>T4 oak</b> - owned by 12 Lower Street. Remove.	No objection

2023/2152	1 St John's Close, <b>Coltishall</b>	TPO	<b>T1 sycamore</b> - reduce by 2m leaving 12m height and 6m width. Deadwood (exempt).	Approved
2023/2153	Beeches, 54 Holman Road, <b>Aylsham</b>	TPO	<b>T1 beech</b> - Reduce by 2m from 16m and crown lift by 4m.	Approved
2023/2155	42 Beechwood Drive, <b>Thorpe St Andrew</b>	TPO	<b>T1 beech</b> - approx 30m tall. Crown lift to approx 9m and thin out by approx 20% all round	03/08/2023
2023/2158	The Croft, Beech Road, Wroxham	TPO	<b>T1 beech</b> - height 16.5m. Reduce upper crown by 4m whilst re-shaping extended limbs to form appealing crown.	Approved
2023/2165	1A Rimington Road, <b>Sprowston</b>	TPO	<b>T1 oak</b> - approx 10m tall and 6m wide. Reduce overhang by 2m.	03/08/2023
2023/2169	15 Drabblegate, <b>Aylsham</b>	211	<b>T1 crack willow</b> - pollard.	No objection
2023/2183	Land north of Mill Reach, <b>Buxton</b>	TPO	<b>Lombardy poplars</b> - reduce height by 8 - 9m to previous pollarding level authorised in 2012. <b>Willow</b> - reduce crown by approx 3-4m.	24/07/2023
2023/2184	4 Old Hall Terrace, <b>Halvergate</b>	211	<b>G1 mixed broadleaved trees on boundary of property</b> - reduce back to boundary removing up to 3m back to growth points. <b>G2 conifers</b> - reduce back to boundary of the property by up to 3m.	No objection
2023/2001	Sunnyside, 34 Blofield Corner Road, <b>Blofield</b>	TPO	<b>T1 oak</b> - 16m height, 10m spread. 2nd branch north crown 10cm dia raise to 3m reducing back to suitable pruning point reduce by 2.5-3m. Lower north west branch reduce by 3.5- 4m. 2nd north-west branch east fork reduce by 3-4m. 2nd north-west branch west fork reduce by 3-4m. First north-east branch 25cm diameter remove small secondaries growing toward dwelling. Reduce by 3- 3.5m. Tip back higher crown branches. Reduce by up to 3- 4m	02/08/2023
2023/2208	Church Farm, 6 Booton Road, <b>Cawston</b>	211	<b>T1 Robinia</b> - height 20m. Reduce crown by approx 2.5m to suitable growth points.	No objection
2023/2211	35 Evans Way, <b>Old Catton</b>	TPO	Reduce group of small mixed trees and shrubs at rear to form a hedge at 2m (located between 2 mature oaks).	Withdrawn
2023/2212	Heron Lodge, 163 Norwich Road, <b>Wroxham</b>	211	<b>T1 yew</b> - height 7m, <b>T2 Acacia</b> - height 9m and <b>T3 sycamore</b> - height 9m. Reduce from building to create 2m clearance. <b>T4 yew</b> - height 6m. Crown raise over bin store to 4-5m for clearance and reduce extended limbs by 1.5 - 2m to re-form shape. <b>T5 sycamore</b> - height 9m. Crown raise to 4-5m and reduce limbs back from phone line by 1.5-2m. <b>T6 hornbeam</b> - height 9m. Crown raise to clear sign and reduce the remaining crown by 1.5m to re-shape as tree is currently one sided and mis-shaped <b>T7 conifer</b> - height 6m. Fell.	No objection
2022/2216	St Margarets House, 1 Staithe Way Road <b>Wroxham</b>	211	<b>T1 fir</b> - reduce selected branches to balance crown. Reduce spread from 15m to 13m. No height reduction planned. Crown clean, thin live branches by 5%. <b>T2 beech</b> - pollard at 2.5m to mitigate risk of failure. Tree leans heavily, is suppressed by larger trees to south. And overhangs well-used pool area.	No objection
2023/2222	22 Spinney Road, <b>Thorpe St Andrew</b>	TPO	<b>T1 beech</b> - dismantle.	Approved
2023/2223	Two Acres Care Home, 212-216 Fakenham Road, <b>Taverham</b>	TPO	<b>T1 oak</b> - crown clean. Raise house side branches to 6m. Thin crown by 15%.	Approved
2023/2225	Aylsham High School, Sir Williams Lane, <b>Aylsham</b>	211	<b>Beech</b> - dead. Fell (Under an exception of Conservation Area restrictions for dead trees).	Exempt dead tree
2023/2241	9 Saint Edmunds Road, <b>Taverham</b>	TPO	<b>T1 silver birch</b> – dead. fell. (Under an exception of the TPO restrictions for dead trees)	Exempt dead tree
2023/2256	4 Berryfields, <b>Brundall</b>	TPO	<b>T1 lime</b> - current height 21m, radial spread 7- 8m in all directions. Crown lift to around 5m and reduce by around 1.5m Crown clean.	29/07/2023
2023/2258	The Hills, 96 Taverham Road, <b>Taverham</b>	TPO	<b>T10 beech</b> - whole crown to be reduced to 10 above ground level. <b>T11 goat willow</b> was removed in 2009 - please remove notation. <b>T3 and T4 chestnut</b> - remove and replace with rooted saplings. <b>T5, T12, T13 and T14</b> - remove and replace with healthier trees.	29/07/2023
2023/2262	16A Harvey Lane, <b>Thorpe St Andrew</b>	211	<b>T1, T2, T3 &amp; T4 sycamore</b> - fell. (Under an exception of Conservation Area restrictions for dead trees)	Exempt dead trees
2023/2267	St John of the Cross Catholic Church, White Hart Street, <b>Aylsham</b>	211	<b>T1 lime</b> - fell.	No objection
2023/2273	18 Millgate, <b>Aylsham</b>	211	<b>T1 oak</b> - height 8m, stem dia 0.6m, canopy width 6m. Reduce lateral limbs by 1m. <b>T2 oak</b> - height 11m, stem dia 1m, canopy width 8m. Reduce lower lateral limbs located on west side of the canopy by 2.5m. additionally reducing the western upper canopy by 1m. <b>T3 beech</b> - height 11m, stem dia 0.8m, canopy width 8m. Reduce lateral branches coming off dominant limb to west by 2.5m.	No objection

2023/2283	Sunnymead, 41 Woodland Drive, <b>Thorpe End</b>	211	<b>T1 willow</b> - fell (Under an exception of Conservation Area restrictions for dead trees).	Exempt dead tree
2023/2292	14 Birchwood, <b>Thorpe St Andrew</b>	TPO	<b>T1 beech</b> - current height 22m and radial spread = n9 e9 w10 s9. Reduce extremities of tree by 2m max. Crown clean. Crown lift to 6m in order to provide clearance over garden.	Approved
2023/2293	Hillcrest, 25A South Avenue, <b>Thorpe St Andrew</b>	211	<b>T1 <i>Macrocarpa</i></b> - fell. <b>T2 Douglas fir</b> - Reduce height from 23m to 20m and crown clean.	02/08/2023
2023/2308	2 Park Close, <b>Old Catton.</b>	211	<b>T1 &amp; T2 maple</b> - reduce height from approx 10.9m to 8.5m and reduce width from approx 10.9m to 8.5m	No objection
2023/2309	Longmeadow Lodge, 15A Longmeadow, <b>Brundall</b>	TPO	<b>T1 silver birch</b> - fell.	Approved
2023/2315	Redgates, 30 Plumstead Road, <b>Thorpe End</b>	211	<b>T1 oak</b> - fell (Under an exception of Conservation Area restrictions for dead trees)	Exempt dead tree
2023/2316	68 Furze Road, <b>Thorpe St Andrew</b>	TPO	<b>T1 oak, T2 sycamore &amp; T3 horse chestnut</b> - remove 7.5m from width, 5.5m from depth and 3.5m from height.	01/08/2023
2023/2322	19 Church Close, <b>South Walsham</b>	TPO	<b>T1 walnut</b> - fell.	Approved
2023/2334	St Michaels Church, Market Place, <b>Aylsham</b>	211	<b>T1 cherry &amp; T11 apple</b> - fell. <b>T2 cherry</b> - reduce crown approx. 2.5m to suitable pruning points, retaining crown shape. <b>T4 cherry</b> - re-prune to suitable point. <b>T5A oak</b> - remove deadwood over church yard. Crown lift if required to 2.5m to suitable pruning points. <b>T6 yew</b> - cut ivy at base. <b>T7 yew</b> - crown lift if required 2m to suitable pruning points. <b>AA laurel</b> - reduce approx 2.5m to suitable pruning points <b>T8 sycamore</b> - cut ivy at base, remove main branch fork, crown raise over gate 2.5m to suitable pruning points. <b>T9 sycamore</b> - removal and stabilise deadwood. <b>AB lime shrubs</b> - reduce / crown lift over path with 2.4m clearance. <b>T9 sycamore</b> - reduce approx 1.5-2m to suitable growth points and remove deadwood. <b>T10 holly</b> - crown lift over path 2.4m.	No objection
2023/2336	The Croft, 92 Taverham Road, <b>Taverham</b>	TPO	<b>T1 sycamore</b> - fell.	04/08/2023
2023/2337	Land adj to 190 Drayton High Road, <b>Drayton</b>	TPO	<b>T5 sycamore</b> - reduce dead upper crown back to growth points and side laterals to north-east over highway by 35% to growth points. <b>T6 ash</b> - raise lower canopy over highway to 5.5m. <b>T9 sycamore</b> - fell. <b>T10 sycamore</b> - trim back lower growth to clear footpath.	Approved
2023/2349	Koru House, 16B Harvey Lane, <b>Thorpe St Andrew</b>	211	<b>T1 &amp; T2 sycamore</b> – fell.	06/08/2023
2023/2365	Redcliffe House, 10 Lake View Drive, <b>Brundall</b>	TPO	<b>T1 oak &amp; T3 monkey puzzle</b> - fell. <b>T2 sweet chestnut</b> - crown lift to 4m. <b>T4 beech</b> - crown lift to 8m. Reduce eastern canopy to 5.5m and north-western canopy to 6m. <b>T5 beech</b> - crown lift to 8m. Reduce south-eastern canopy to 7m.	07/08/2023
2023/2366	12 Lake View Drive, <b>Brundall</b>	TPO	<b>T1 oak</b> - fell.	07/08/2023
2023/2375	1 Spinney Close, <b>Thorpe St Andrew</b>	TPO	<b>T1 beech</b> - fell. <b>T2 sweet chestnut</b> - crown raise north side over driveway to 6m to appropriate growth points to give clearance from house and vehicles.	09/08/2023
2023/2388	The Ferns, Beech Road, <b>Wroxham</b>	211	<b>T1 conifer</b> - height 6m. Reduce limbs growing into garden by 1.5m to suitable growth points to leave approx 1.0-1.5m. <b>T2 sycamore</b> - height 13m. Remove epicormic growth at 6m. <b>T3 holly</b> - height 5m. Re-shape by reducing by approx 1.5m to leave approx 1.0-1.5m. <b>T4 laurel &amp; conifer</b> - height 4.5m. Reduce overhanging branches back by 1.5m to leave approx 1.0-1.5m.	16/08/2023
2023/2397	Blickling Hall, Blickling Road, <b>Blickling</b>	211	<b>T1, T2, T5 &amp; T7 oak, T3 Scots pine, T4 sweet chestnut and T6 hemlock</b> - fell.	09/08/2023
2023/2419	Land adj Racecourse Inn, Salhouse Road, Sprowston	TPO	<b>T2 beech, T19a elder, T28, T75, T77 &amp; T109 Scots pine, T36 - Western red cedar, T56 sycamore, Scots pine, T105a goat willow, T125a &amp; T125b larch &amp; T196a ash</b> - remove. <b>T20 English oak</b> - crown lift to provide 5m in clearance over gardens and remove deadwood (exempt). <b>T24 beech</b> - crown lift to 5m and remove small saplings from around base. Remove deadwood (exempt). <b>T27 beech</b> - crown lift to 5m over emergency access.	11/08/2023

... Continued on page 30 ...

2023/2419	Land adj Racecourse Inn, Salhouse Road, <b>Sprowston</b>	TPO	... Continued from page 29 ... <b>G1 sycamores</b> - remove two infected stems. <b>T38 ash</b> - prune back south westerly stem by circa 4m. <b>G2 mixed broadleaf group</b> - remove dead stems. <b>G3 sycamore and ash &amp; G4 sycamore</b> - remove dead stems. <b>G5 sycamore</b> - remove two dead stems. <b>G6 ash, pine and sycamore</b> - remove ash. Crown lift sycamore to 5m. Remove dead pine stems. <b>G83 sycamore</b> - remove 7 stems. <b>T100 &amp; T101 Scots pine</b> - reduce to retain lower stem at 7m height. <b>G106 Scots pine and sycamore</b> - remove dead stems. <b>T196b mixed group</b> - reduce the 2 larger birch to circa 5m in height.	11/08/2023
2023/2420	2A Drayton Grove, <b>Drayton</b>	TPO	<b>T1 beech</b> - crown raise to approx 1.8m removing large lateral branch onto hedge and other small branches to form a balanced lower canopy and crown thin by approx 20%. <b>T2 oak</b> - crown thin by approx 20%. <b>T3 beech</b> - reduce length of branches extending past natural canopy and crown raise southern side to approx 3m	28/08/2023
2023/2421	80 Shakespeare Way, <b>Taverham</b>	TPO	<b>T1 oak</b> – crown thin by approx 20% and removed deadwood.	22/08/2023
2023/2430	Fern House, Dereham Road, <b>Reepham</b>	211	<b>Leyland cypress</b> – dead. Fell. (Under an exception of Conservation Area restrictions for dead trees)	Exempt dead tree
2023/2432	Rickaree, 10 Lawn Crescent, <b>Thorpe End</b>	211	<b>T1 red maple</b> - reduce height by approx 1.5m from 7.5 to 6m and generally re-shape.	21/08/2023
2023/2433	Barneswood House, Hall Drive, <b>Salhouse</b>	211	<b>T1 oak</b> - (Under an exception of Conservation Area restrictions for dead trees).	Exempt dead tree
2023/2439	Land adj 63 Saint Laurence Avenue, <b>Brundall</b>	TPO	<b>T1 Norway maple</b> – height 10m. 300mm dbh. Dead. Copious stem exudation. – fell.	14/08/2023
2023/2440	Riverview Cottage, 47 High Street, <b>Coltishall</b>	211	<b>T1 white willow <i>Salix alba</i></b> - fell.	14/08/2023
2023/2465	Oakhill Wood, Oakhill, <b>Brundall</b>	TPO	<b>T1 sycamore</b> – fungal decay. Fell.	15/08/2023
2023/2512	Norwich Road Allotments, Norwich Road, <b>Reepham</b>	211	<b>T1 cherry</b> - height 8m, stem diameter 0.5m, canopy width 5m. Raise crown to 5m over allotment side only.	21/08/2023
2023/2513	43 Bure Way, <b>Aylsham</b>	211	<b>T1 cherry</b> - height 2m, stem diameter 0.3m, canopy width 2m. Fell.	21/08/2023
2023/2516	6 Saint Michaels Close, <b>Aylsham</b>	211	<b>T1 oak</b> - height 11m, diameter 1.0m, width 10m. Reduce crown width by 1.5m and crown height by 1.5m.	21/08/2023
2023/2517	The White House, 66 Spixworth Road, <b>Old Catton</b>	211	<b>T1 beech</b> - reduce northern canopy from 10m to 6m, eastern canopy from 10 m to 5 m, southern canopy from 8m to 6.5m, western canopy from 9m to 4.5m and height from 15m to 10m.	21/08/2023
2023/2528	13 Charles Close, <b>Wroxham</b>	211	<b>T1 cherry &amp; T2 cherry plum</b> - remove.	18/08/2023
2023/2539	Goosepie Farm Cottage, 5 Booton Road <b>Cawston</b>	211	<b>T1 willow &amp; T2 sycamore</b> – fell. <b>T3 silver birch</b> - remove dead stem.	18/08/2023
2023/2544	2 Church Close, <b>Coltishall</b>	211	<b>T1 conifer</b> – remove. <b>T2 holly</b> - branches growing at acute angle. Remove. <b>T3 &amp; T4 sycamore &amp; T5 oak</b> – prune low hanging canopy back to neighbours' boundary and house roof.	304/08/2023
2023/2588	5 Edwards Close, <b>Halvergate</b>	211	<b>T1 cherry</b> - fell.	29/08/2023
2023/2589	Torcello, Chapel Lane, <b>Thorpe St Andrew</b>	211	<b>T1 plum</b> - reduce from 3.5m to 2.5m in line with neighbours'. <b>T2 laurel</b> – re-pollard from 5m to 3m. <b>T3 plum</b> - reduce east branch from 3.5m to 1.5m in line with canopy. <b>T4 plum</b> – remove. <b>T5, T6 &amp; T7 plum</b> - reduce east branches from 3.7m to 2.5m to balance tree.	29/08/2023

#### 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. That 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 actual decision or the date on which the application was validated by Broadland District Council.
- 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 South Norfolk and Broadland District Council Planning website at <https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/planning-applications/find-planning-application> to view the application or read the Council's decision.