

Broadsheet

The Magazine for Broadland Tree Wardens

Issue 233 – October 2023



RIP Environment

Broadsheet

The Monthly Magazine for
Broadland Tree Wardens



Issue 233 - October 2023

Inside this issue

RIP Environment - Editorial	1
Norfolk County Council and Trees	4
Clumber Park and Sherwood's Tall Tree Trail – Places You Must Visit	5
Jon Stokes on a Magical Time of Year	7
Dalkeith Heritage Hotspot	8
Climate Change	9
One in Six Species at Risk of Extinction in Great Britain	12
Exotic Animals on Private Properties	13
Leonardo da Vinci Wrong – Trees	14
Amazon Rainforest Set to be Saved?	14
Britons Love Tree More Than Neighbours	15
Sheltering Under Ancient Yews	16
Tree Warden Co-ordinators' Forum	16
Coe's Lost Valley Damaged	17
Westonbirt Arboretum Starts Planting	17
East Winch Common	18
Most English Woodland Out of Bounds	19
Changing Approach to Public Spaces	20
Saving Our Trees and Woodland	21
Stop Press – Sycamore Gap Tree	24
Current Works to Trees Subject to a Tree Preservation Order and Section 211 Notifications for Works to Trees Within Conservation Areas	25

This Month's Cover Picture

Does it really need a description? Nature in action!

Broadsheet is written and published by
John Fleetwood,
Broadland Tree Warden Network Co-ordinator
4 Oakhill, Brundall, Norwich NR13 5AQ.
Home: 01603 716 297 Mobile: 07555 535 741
E-mail john.fleetwood@hotmail.com

It is circulated free of charge to Broadland Tree Wardens parish and town councils, parish meetings and other interested parties.

Any views expressed are not necessarily those of the Broadland Tree Warden Network.

All copyrights are acknowledged.

RIP Environment

I WAS dismayed, though not really surprised, to learn that the prime minister has announced exemptions, cancellations and delays to several key green policies that are not just important to the UK but will have an effect on the planet as a whole.

Justin Rowlett & Mark Poynting, the BBC Climate & Science Team, reported that the prime minister has said he wants to be honest about the "costs and trade-offs" of tackling climate change.

In a statement on 19 September, Rishi Sunak said he was proud that "Britain is leading the world on climate change", and will stick by the agreements the UK has made internationally, but he then overhauled measures designed to meet these targets.

So, is the UK really a world leader on emissions cuts and how will the changes the PM announced affect its efforts?

Mr Sunak said the government was still "completely committed" to the 2050 net zero target which his predecessor, Theresa May, made law back in 2019. Net zero means a country does not add any additional greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide to the atmosphere.

"This country is proud to be a world leader in reaching net zero by 2050. But we simply won't achieve it unless we change. We'll now have a more pragmatic, proportionate, and realistic approach that eases the burdens on families," he said.

It is true the UK has been successful in cutting emissions compared to other countries. Since 1990, emissions within the UK have fallen by 48.7% up to the end of 2022, excluding international aviation and shipping, according to government data.

These cuts are greater than other countries in the G7 (Group of Seven), an organisation of the world's seven largest so-called "advanced" economies, although Germany has reduced its emissions at a faster rate compared with the UK since 2015.

However, the cuts the UK has made so far are, arguably, the easiest ones.

One of the main ways they have been achieved is by switching away from fossil fuels - coal, oil and gas - to generate electricity.

Emissions from electricity generation have fallen by around three-quarters since 1990, while the proportion of electricity generated by renewables, like wind and solar, has soared. The government has bold plans to continue this "decarbonisation" process.

However, achieving net zero means cutting emissions across all sectors of the economy. That is why there are targets for phasing out petrol and diesel vehicles and switching from gas boilers to heat pumps or other low-carbon alternatives to heat our homes.

Furthermore, despite the UK's achievements on climate so far, there have been a number of warnings that progress is beginning to falter. These came even before the 19 September announcement.

Earlier this year, the Climate Change Committee (CCC), the government's independent advisers on cutting carbon emissions, warned that the UK's efforts to meet its net zero commitments were already "worryingly slow".

It also said it was "markedly less confident" than a year earlier that it would meet its 2030 and 2035 emissions reduction targets.

Similar warnings on electricity have come from the National Audit Office and a cross-party group of MPs, but contrary to these findings, Mr Sunak claimed in his announcement that the UK was "on track" to meet its commitments.

He also announced a substantial increase in the subsidies available to people who want to install heat pumps to heat their home, with the grant increased by 50% to £7,500.

So how would these changes affect net zero? Well, the CCC says it was not consulted ahead of the announcement, and needed to do the full calculations before determining the carbon cost.

However, the changes certainly seem to make the current targets much harder to achieve - as any extra carbon costs would have to be balanced by extra savings in other areas. Furthermore, how much carbon the UK can use in coming years has already been set down in carbon budgets.

"Today's announcement is likely to take the UK further away from being able to meet its legal commitments," said Piers Forster, the CCC's chair.

"This, coupled with the recent unsuccessful offshore wind auction, gives us concern," and "more action is needed," he added.

Prof Miles Allen of the University of Oxford told the BBC "What's depressing about all the changes [the PM] has told us about is they all go in the same direction. If we do everything slower, we're just going to make it more difficult to reach that target".

One of the most eye-catching changes is delaying the 2030 ban on sales of new, fully petrol and diesel cars, announced by Mr Sunak's predecessor Boris Johnson.

Despite what's often assumed, electric car sales are actually surging, as illustrated in the graph overleaf. In 2022, nearly 17% of new car sales were battery electric - ahead of the CCC's schedule and up from less than 2% in 2019.

Some in the car industry have warned that delaying the ban on new petrol and diesel cars could hit investment and therefore electric vehicle sales.

Achieving the 2030 phase-out of new fully petrol and diesel car and van sales is "vital to meeting the UK's decarbonisation pathway", the CCC warned in June.

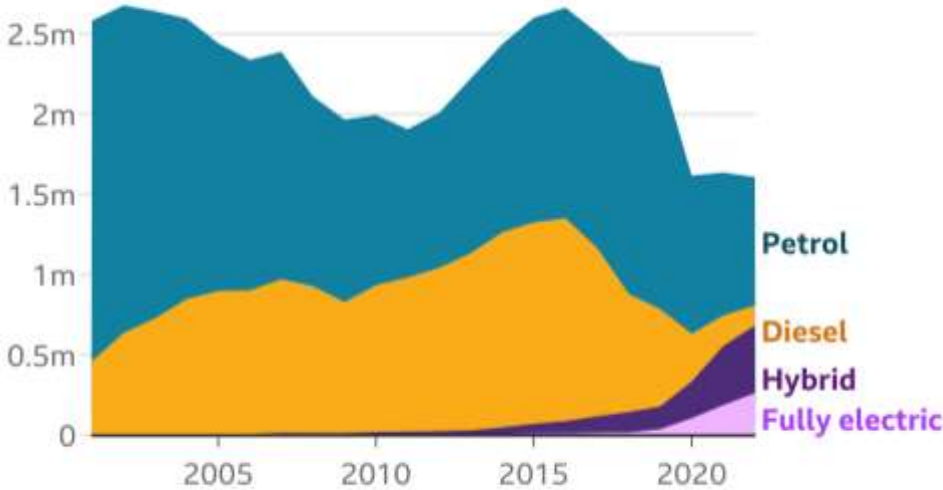
However, Mr Sunak says it should be the consumer who decides whether or not to buy an electric car and not "government forcing you to do it". He also says the new plan is in line with countries including Germany, France, Spain and Canada.

Mr Sunak says his review of the government's green pledges is all about putting the "long-term interests of our country before the short-term political needs of the moment. Some of the things that were being proposed would have cost typical families upwards of five, ten, fifteen thousand pounds".

However, the independent climate change

Number of electric cars is small, but growing

Cars registered for the first time in Great Britain, by fuel type



Source: Department for Transport

BBC

think tank, Energy and Climate Intelligence Unit (ECIU), points out that nobody is being forced to take up these measures right now.

For example, the planned ban on the sale of new gas boilers was due to start in 2035 for all households. It is only relevant when your boiler breaks or you choose to switch.

It is a similar story with cars. Four out of five of us buy second-hand cars, for which there is no phase-out date, and older cars can continue to be driven after 2030.

The 20% of people who can afford to buy a new car already had six years until they would have had to choose between fully electric vehicles and hybrids - which can be filled up with petrol. Now they have 11 years.

The changes to net zero policy "will add to the cost of living for those struggling, not make things easier", argues Peter Chalkley, a director of the ECIU.

Furthermore, an analysis by the ECIU suggests the PM's announcements could cost British households almost £8bn in higher bills over the next decade, and more if gas prices spike again, due to cancelling new energy efficiency regulations for the private rental sector.

So, what about the overall investment costs? The CCC has estimated that meeting the legally binding 2050 goal will require an extra £50bn of investment every year by 2030.

It said that once the savings from reduced use of fossil fuels are factored in, the overall resource cost of the transition to net zero is less than 1% of GDP over the next 30 years. By 2044 it should become cost-saving, the CCC said, as newer cleaner technologies are more efficient than those they are replacing.

Many scientists have pointed out to the BBC that delaying investment simply increases the ultimate cost and, of course, the global costs of climate inaction would be much higher, as the world would be hit by increasingly damaging climate impacts.

LAST month's edition of *Broadsheet* carried a report of Prime Minister Rishi Sunak using a helicopter to travel to Norwich from London on 29 August to announce that the government would weaken environmental rules to increase housing developments.

The event had occurred too late in the month for considered commentary, but much

has been written since. Indeed, Mr Sunak's government suffered a crushing defeat in the House of Lords on 13 September when proposals to relax water pollution requirements placed on house-builders were blocked after a rebellion in the House of Lords.

Writing on www.edie.net, Sarah George reported that several members of the House had been planning to oppose the Government's plan to scrap a 'nutrient neutrality' requirement placed on developers since it was first announced last month. These members received an uplift of support at the vote on the amendment after the Labour Party urged its members to block the changes.

In total, 192 members voted that they were 'not content' with the proposals, while 162 voted 'content'. Every single Labour, Green and Lib Dem member of the house opposed the plans.

Deputy Labour Party leader Angela Rayner called the plans "a flawed attempt to score cheap political points" and said policymakers should be able to balance the need to build new homes with the need to protect the environment.

The Conservative Government had sought to axe the 'nutrient neutrality' requirement as part of its drive to phase out EU-laws post-Brexit. It would have done so via an amendment to the Levelling-Up and Regeneration Bill.

The nutrient neutrality requirement was first introduced by the EU in 2017 compelling housing developers to prove that their work will not cause polluting nitrates and phosphates to enter nearby waters. They must assess the impact of construction and also building operations.

If pollution is likely to result from their developments, these businesses will need to invest to intervene. Options include wetland creation or buffer zone development. Since 2022, developers have also been able to buy "credits" from the Government to offset their impact elsewhere within the same catchment.

Housebuilders have argued that the enforcement of nutrient neutrality rules has been too strict and this has undermined the delivery of the Government's target to create 300,000 homes each year from the mid-2020s.

The National Federation of Builders and House Builders Association has claimed that at least 100,000 homes have been put on hold in the past five years.

Others including Labour's Baroness Jones have stated that this is an inflated figure. Jones

also noted that, while developers are right in pointing out that the agriculture and water industries contribute to water pollution in the UK to a greater degree, rolling back any pollution laws would "set a dangerous precedent".

Some Conservatives also joined Labour Lords in revelling. Conservative Lord Deben said the plan to axe nutrient neutrality was "one of the worst pieces of legislation [he has] ever seen and [he has] been around a long time."

An MP between 1970 and 2010, Deben served Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Minister for almost four years under Margaret Thatcher. He was then Environment Secretary under John Major for four years. Until earlier this year, he had chaired the Government's independent climate advisory body, the Climate Change Committee.

A DAY later, Claire Marshall and Malcolm Prior of the BBC News Rural Affairs team reported that a new House of Lords report warned that a new government must "get a grip" on its "haphazard" implementation of environmental rules on housebuilding.

The Built Environment Committee says there is a "real risk" the government will fail to deliver both its housing targets and environmental ambitions.

The criticism comes a day after Rishi Sunak announced a major shift in key green policies.

The government said it would consider the committee's findings, but environmental groups said that housebuilding should never come at the expense of the natural environment.

An inquiry by the cross-party Lords committee heard that 45,000 new homes a year might not be delivered as a result of current "nutrient neutrality" pollution rules.

It was in the Lords the previous week that a government attempt to amend the Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill was voted down. That would have scrapped those nutrient neutrality rules, which require housebuilders to ensure new developments do not add to the overall amount of river pollution.

The 21 September committee report said the government is failing to provide sufficient support to smaller developers dealing with those rules, which now risk putting them out of business.

Lord Moylan, chairman of the Built Environment Committee, said the government's current approach to managing any conflict between housebuilding and environmental needs "is failing to deliver for either side".

"Our inquiry found that the achievement of the government's housing policies has been hampered and sometimes completely blocked by lack of co-ordination in policy-making and haphazard and unbalanced implementation," he said.

"A government that sorted this out with proper leadership and got things lined up could, over time, give us the sort of environmental improvements we'd like to see, and the sort of housing numbers they have been promising, but that isn't happening."

The committee also criticised "poor agricultural and sewage management" over the decades for leading to water pollution that must now be mitigated through housebuilding practices and it warned that developers were being "disproportionately burdened" by the new requirement to deliver Biodiversity Net Gain, an incoming planning rule that means housebuilders will need to improve nature and wildlife habitats.

The Lords committee says that housebuilding targets should be given statutory

weight, giving them an equal status with environmental goals.

New housing supply is currently lower than the government's ambition of 300,000 new homes in England per year. In 2021/22, about 233,000 were built, according to government figures.

Steve Turner, executive director of the Home Builders Federation, welcomed the Lords report, saying that "political failure" was "exacerbating our already critical housing crisis".

"With proper leadership it is eminently possible to deliver the homes the country needs and enhance our natural environment, and after four long years of failure we urgently need politicians to implement a solution," he said.

Dr Richard Benwell, chief executive of Wildlife and Countryside Link, said the Lords committee was right that no one sector "should bear the weight of environmental action alone".

However, he added that "the conclusion should be stronger regulation and more investment for environmental improvement across the economy, not weakening the rules that protect nature. We cannot have healthy homes without a healthy environment".

Meanwhile, the government is currently failing to meet most of its environmental targets, according to a report by the independent watchdog the Office for Environmental Protection (OEP).

Earlier in September, the OEP also warned the government's attempt to amend the Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill would have reduced the level of environmental protection provided for in law.

Elliot Chapman-Jones, head of public affairs at The Wildlife Trusts, said the public "outrage" caused by recent government proposals, "shows how people across society will not stand for the further degradation of our natural environment".

A government spokesperson said it was committed to its ambition of delivering 300,000 homes a year and had invested £10bn to increase housing supply since the start of the current Parliament.

"We know we must work together to build the homes this country needs - tackling pollution at source while protecting and improving the environment," the spokesperson added.

AT the end of September, the BBC News Rural Affairs team of Claire Marshall and Malcolm Prior reported that the government is delaying putting into effect new environmental laws forcing developers to improve countryside and wildlife habitats.

Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) was meant to become a mandatory part of the planning system in England in November, but government sources told the BBC it will now not be introduced this year.

Environmentalists have lamented the delay. The government said it was still committed to the policy and would soon announce a new implementation date. The Wildlife Trusts called the delay "another hammer blow for nature".

BNG policy was approved as part of the 2021 Environment Act. The rules are designed to ensure developers leave the natural environment in a measurably better state than it was beforehand.

The delay comes after weeks of political uncertainty on environmental policy, with the government looking to throw out "nutrient neutrality" pollution rules and to water down policy on achieving net zero.

The UK Green Building Council (UKGBC),

an industry body that promotes sustainable development, said any delayed implementation of BNG would "hurt green businesses and development".

Richard Benwell, CEO of environmental coalition group Wildlife & Countryside Link, said net gain had "already been pared back to the bare minimum to offset the habitat harm caused by new development".

He added that a delay "could strike at the foundations" of the scheme.

The Home Builders Federation said developers "have embraced the principle of biodiversity net gain" but that there were "significant gaps" in government guidance.

Neil Jefferson, the federation's managing director, said that would "not only prohibit local authorities' abilities to effectively manage this new requirement but inevitably lead to further delays in the planning process".

"We need government to deliver on its requirements so that industry can provide these huge environmental benefits alongside desperately needed new homes," he said.

Philip Box, UKGBC's public affairs and policy advisor, added: "Businesses from across the industry and our membership have raised concerns regarding any potential delay. This would be exceptionally damaging for them in terms of projected work pipelines, investment, supply chains, and related job roles."

As part of planning permission, under the new rules developers will have to agree to delivering a biodiversity gain, on or off site, set at a minimum of 10%.

Habitats and wildlife impacted by development would be given a biodiversity value using a government-developed metric 'calculator': from native hedgerows and hay meadows, which support dozens of species and merit a high unit value, down to less habitat-rich cropland, and derelict land, which would be awarded a low value.

Sue Young, head of land use planning for The Wildlife Trusts, said they had wanted any gain to be set at 20% and said any delay now would "cause uncertainty for developers and could affect the quality of schemes".

"Attempts to delay or weaken rules for biodiversity net gain would deliver yet another hammer blow for nature from the current UK government," she added.

Georgia Stokes, CEO at Somerset Wildlife Trust, added: "It feels unnecessary for there to be a delay and we're quite shocked that that's where we've ended up. We need the government to take action."

Meanwhile, the Local Government Association (LGA) has called on government to confirm what funding council planners will be given when BNG finally becomes law.

A survey earlier last month by the Royal Town Planning Institute found more than 60% of public sector planning departments were unable to confirm they would have the necessary resources and expertise in place to deliver the scheme.

Darren Rodwell, environment spokesperson for the LGA said: "Councils are concerned about the impact of further delays on their ability to effectively implement BNG."

"Councils urgently need confirmation of go-live dates, essential guidance and definitions and a clear timetable of funding in order to employ additional staff and invest in the expertise and capacity."

A spokesman for the government said it had already committed more than £15m to help local councils prepare and recruit new specialists to deliver the scheme.

He added: "We are fully committed to

biodiversity net gain which will have benefits for people and nature. We will set out more details on implementation timings shortly."

LAST MONTH'S editorial attracted an e-mail accusing me why I "diverted off your job onto a political outrage. Your views were not appreciated."

I pointed out to the complainant that writing Broadsheet is not my "job" and people don't have to read it if they don't agree with me wishing to protect our environment.

Obviously, the complainant will find it difficult listening to the news and reading news reports as it appears that a majority of people are critical of Mr Sunak and his government and agree that we need profits for shareholders in preference to protection for our fragile environment.

I do not apologise for expressing a view that the complainant objects to, but whilst the government may well be determined to wreck our environment, it won't stop freedom of speech.

BBC Political Correspondent Lone Wells reported that a taskforce to speed up home insulation and boiler upgrades has been disbanded.

The group, which included the chair of the National Infrastructure Commission Sir John Armitt and other leading experts, was only launched in March, but it appears to be a casualty of Rishi Sunak's decision to scrap energy efficiency regulations for landlords in an overhaul of green policies.

Members were informed in a letter, seen by the BBC, that it was being wound up.

Energy efficiency minister Lord Callanan told the group its work would be "streamlined" into ongoing government activity.

A spokesperson for the Energy Security and Net Zero department said: "We would like to thank the Energy Efficiency Taskforce for its work in supporting our ambition to reduce total UK energy demand by 15% from 2021 levels by 2030."

"We have invested £6.6bn in energy efficiency upgrades this Parliament and will continue to support families in making their homes more efficient, helping them to cut bills while also achieving net zero in a pragmatic, proportionate and realistic way."

However, former Conservative MP Laura Sandys, who sat on the taskforce, said she was "disappointed" by the decision to disband it and "confuse".

FINALLY this month, I want to let you know that our Network's Annual General Meeting for 2023 will be held on Tuesday 7 November 2023 at Great Plumstead Village Hall starting at 19:30.

As usual, we hope that as many of our Tree Wardens as possible will attend, together with representatives from town and parish councils, parish meetings and Broadland District Council.

I shall be issuing an agenda and further details in the coming weeks, but for now please mark the date in your diaries.

MY APOLOGIES for another editorial that is just gloom and doom on our government's approach to our precious environment, but let's hope things are better next month.

Enjoy Broadsheet

All the best

John Fleetwood

Norfolk County Council and Trees

Recent worrying reports in the Eastern Daily Press

DAN GRIMMER, Specialist Reporter (public affairs) for the EDP revealed that at least 7,500 trees and shrubs planted along the Norwich Northern Distributor Road to replace ones chopped down have died, sparking accusations council leaders are not doing enough to ensure they thrive.

When the £205m road was built, 6,000 trees were chopped down, but Norfolk County Council pledged to plant five for each which was removed - 30,000.

However, the council has admitted 25% of the trees and shrubs it planted have died as documents reveal the authority has been repeatedly told of "unacceptable losses" and urged to do more to protect the newly planted trees.

While the council would not provide exact figures for the number of trees which had died, site inspection reports carried out by consultants Mott Macdonald since 2018 detail how, on many of the plots along the road, between 80% and 100% of trees planted perished.

Given at least 30,000 were meant to be planted, under the terms of the consent the government gave for the road, a 25% failure rate would mean 7,500 trees and shrubs have perished and yet, inspectors, on numerous occasions, said more weeding needed to be done, to stop other plants crowding out young trees.

Inspections found trees had not been staked correctly, with some facing the wrong way, while mulching was recommended but not carried out.

An inspection in June this year revealed weeds such as thistle and nettle, were "becoming prevalent" despite previous recommendations to clear them. It also said planting near the bat gantries was "largely dead or dying" and needed weekly watering.

Furthermore, inspectors said the council needed to get its contractors Norse to remove the plastic shelters, stakes and ties from established plants and those which had died. The report said: "This should have been completed by December 2022 and there are still a significant number of shelters scheme-wide."

Green county councillor Jamie Osborn, who obtained the Mott Macdonald reports using a Freedom Of Information Act request, said: "Questions need to be asked about the county council's competence and whether they can be trusted with Norfolk's environment.

"These documents seem to show that their claims to care about the environment have been at best misguided, or worse, disingenuous. Having torn out thousands of trees that have been vital to Norfolk's landscape for hundreds of years, the council seemingly could not even be bothered to care for the spindly saplings that were planted as replacements.

"The utter failure of the Conservatives to stick to environmental commitments does not bode well for the Norwich Western Link, which promises yet more destruction of precious habitats."

Graham Plant, Norfolk County Council's cabinet member for highways, infrastructure and transport, said: "The number of trees that have required replanting sits at around 25%, in



line with the Forestry Commission's guidance on tree planting of this kind. Regularly watering such a vast number of plants so close to a high speed dual carriageway was not considered practical, safe or efficient.

"The plants that have been lost have either already been replaced, or will be replaced in the next planting season.

"The overall project has seen significant investment in natural habitats with 78% of the project's land used for either planting area, grassland or lagoons. The wildflower seeding has been very successful and some of the lagoons are developing into excellent wildlife areas."

He said stakes and plastic protectors were being "periodically removed". He said about 75% had already been taken away and the rest will be removed over the next year

He said more than 1,000 extra trees had been planted near the bat gantries.

The death of the NDR trees comes amid Norfolk County Council's 1 Million Trees for Norfolk scheme which opposition councillors said remains "way behind schedule".

Council officers were forced to defend controversial plans to spend millions of pounds of taxpayers' money buying up rural land to help meet the authority's tree-planting target.

The project, which would see the council purchase around 800 acres of property to create a country park, came in for criticism.

IN ANOTHER article, Dan grimmer reported that council leaders have admitted they are in danger of missing their goal to get a million new trees planted in Norfolk by 2025 and could have to extend the target by five years.

Norfolk County Council's 1 Million Trees for Norfolk scheme, was launched in 2019, but, with just two years to go only about 270,000 trees and shrubs have been planted. Furthermore, the Conservative-controlled council has confirmed it could look to extend the deadline to hit the one million target to 2030.

The issue was raised by Liberal Democrat group leader Brian Watkins at a meeting of the council's infrastructure and development committee on 13 September, who had noticed that a council document stated a possible extension to the target.

Eric Vardy, the council's cabinet member for environment and waste, said: "There is, I can assure you, a great political will for this to be carried out. We are working very intensely to try to do it. It was an ambitious target in the first place, but why wouldn't we have an ambitious target?"

"Yes, we might look at timescales and various other things. There have been some difficulties, there's no doubt about it, but we need to reach this target if we possibly can."

Mr Vardy said an extension had not been formally agreed and the ambition to hit the target was important to him personally.

Labour county councillor Chrissie Rumsby asked if a controversial plan for the council to buy about 800 acres of land in Norfolk to create a country park, where 500,000 trees could be planted, was still being considered.

Mr Vardy said "Of course, we've got to manage our budgets as well. It's still on our agenda, but we are working our way through it to see if there's an affordable option for that."

The council announced on 13 September that it was making 40,000 trees available at a reduced price to people and organisations to help hit the one million target.

Further details and the application process is at www.norfolk.gov.uk/subsidisedtreepacks

Clumber Park and Sherwood's Tall Tree Trail – Places You Must Visit

LESLEY and I recently decided to take a short break where we could enjoy some of this country's spectacular natural environment without having to travel too far. Some years ago we came across Clumber Park but didn't have time to spend very long there and similarly we visited Sherwood Forest without seeing the Major Oak or walking the Giant Trail. Oh what we had been missing!

Clumber Park is a country park in The Dukeries near Worksop in Nottinghamshire. The estate, which was the seat of the Pelham-Clintons, Dukes of Newcastle, was purchased by the National Trust in 1946. It is listed Grade I on the Register of Historic Parks and Gardens.

The main house was demolished in 1938 after damage by several fires. The nearby Grade I listed chapel in Gothic Revival style and a four-acre walled kitchen garden still survive.

However, it is the gardens and estate, managed by the National Trust and open to the public all year round. That really interested us. In 2020/21 over 350,000 people visited Clumber Park, making it one of the National Trust's top ten most visited properties.

We entered the estate from a different direction than our previous, brief visit and WOW! Straight away the sight was breathtaking ... and I mean breathtaking.

The Lime Tree Avenue, two miles long, with 1,296 common lime, the longest of its kind in Europe, was planted in 1840. As you can see from the picture it's not just an avenue. It's a *double* avenue because there are two lines of limes on each side of the driveway.

Clumber, mentioned in the Domesday Book in 1086, was a monastic property in the Middle Ages but later came into the hands of the Holles family. In 1707 permission was granted to John Holles, 1st Duke of Newcastle to enclose 3,000 acres (1,200 ha) of Sherwood Forest, and re-purpose it as a deer park.

In March 1879 a serious fire destroyed much of Clumber House. At the time of the fire the house contained around 500 pictures and around a fifth were destroyed in the fire. Fortunately twenty-four of the best of the collection were on loan to Nottingham Corporation, including *The Beggar Boys* by Thomas Gainsborough. Serious losses included a portrait of William Herbert, 3rd Earl of Pembroke by Anthony van Dyck, portraits of an old man and old woman by Rembrandt, portrait of a lady by Titian and Virgin and Child by Albrecht Dürer.

Henry Pelham-Clinton, 7th Duke of Newcastle was a minor at the time of the fire and the trustees approved the new plans by Charles Barry in 1880. Work was still going on in 1884 when it was reported that a temporary front had been built pending the erection of two large wings and an entrance hall. The other sides of the houses were completed, including the addition of a billiard room.

By 1886 the building was mostly restored although it was reported that part of the west front was yet to be added. One significant improvement was a scheme whereby the



sewage which used to go into the lake was diverted to Hardwick Meadows, over a mile away from the house.

Another fire, in 1912, caused less damage, but the effects of the First World War and the Great Depression forced the abandonment of the mansion, which, like many other houses during this period, was demolished in 1938 to avoid a tax bill. Prior to demolition, the 9th Duke sold the contents of the house to repay debts.

In 1938 Charles Boot of Henry Boot Construction, was contracted to demolish the house and he removed a vast array of statues, facades and fountains to his Derbyshire home, Thornbridge Hall, although most were purchased by private buyers at auction. The Duke's study, designed by Barry, is all that survives of the main house and is presently home to the Clumber Café. It is Grade II on the National Heritage List for England.

Most of the ducal properties and land assets were sold to the London and Fort George Land Company (LFG) in 1927 by the Duke of Newcastle to pay off debts and acquired by the National Trust in 1946.

Clumber Park is over 3,800 acres (1,500 ha; 5.9 sq mi) in extent, including woods, open heath and rolling farmland. It contains the longest double avenue of lime trees in Europe. The avenue was created by the 5th Duke of Newcastle in the 19th century and extends for more than 2 mi (3.2 km). Clumber Lake is a serpentine lake covering 87 acres (35 ha; 0.136 sq mi) south of the site of Clumber House and extending 1.2 mi (2 km) to the east. The lake was partially rebuilt in the 1980s and again in 2004 after suffering from subsidence from coal mining. Hardwick Village lies within the park,

near the eastern end of the lake.

The Church of St Mary the Virgin, a Grade I listed Gothic Revival chapel, was built by the 7th Duke of Newcastle.

The 4 acres (1.6 ha) walled kitchen garden east of the cricket pitch has a glasshouse 450 ft (140 m) long and containing Pelargoniums, grapevines and a *Butia capitata* palm. It was once heated by an underfloor system, fired by local coal, allowing exotic plants to be grown all year round. The pipework is in place beneath the ornate metal floor grates. The garden is divided by pathways and contains vegetables, herbs, fruit, flowers and an ornate rose garden.

The garden grows locally derived varieties such as the 'Clayworth Prize Pink' celery and more than 101 varieties of apple from the Nottinghamshire and East Midlands region including the 'Sisson's Worksop Newton' apple. The garden has large collection of rhubarb, numbering over 135 edible varieties. The lower end of the garden is reached by an iron gate to Cedar Avenue allowing colder air and moisture to move out of the garden avoiding the creation of frost pockets which could damage tender plants or reduce the growing season.

All that aside, it was that incredible 2 mile long Lime Tree Avenue and the wonderful walks through the estate that really got us excited.

AS if that wasn't enough excitement, we followed Clumber Park with a visit to Sherwood Forest, although Lesley wouldn't allow me to take my bow and arrow!!!!

After having eventually mastered the technology necessary to pay the car parking fee (not easy, believe me!!) we passed through the new visitor centre to start the Giants Trail. No maps available. You take a picture of the map and download it to your 'phone. Goodness knows how Robin Hood ever found his way around!!!

Anyway, the 0.75 mile long trail is supposed to take approximately 30 minutes, but believe me, you will stop and gaze in awe at the number of "giants" with their bee nests, wasp nest and hornet nests. Not to mention their intriguing cracks, holes, nooks and crannies concealing all kinds of things

Sherwood Forest is home to one of Europe's largest collections of ancient oak trees, and you can walk amongst the giants of this forest on a trail that visits a number of them. They are not all as big or as famous as the Major Oak, but each is fantastically unique and offers a special home for hundreds of birds and insects.

They are truly stunning to look at and so important to the life of the forest throughout their long lives, providing special habitats for many species, more than any other native tree in the UK.

As well as the magical atmosphere of sharing some space with these trees, we appreciated their importance as we wind our way through the wonderful landscape, and considered the changes those whispering giants have witnessed.

Indeed, we both admitted to feeling quite emotional at being so privileged to share the time and space of such awe-inspiring giants.

That walk led us on to the essential Sherwood Forest experience, taking us to the iconic Major Oak, before winding back through the magical forest to the visitor centre.

Now I had always been somewhat cynical about the Major Oak. An old oak tree being supported by an arboricultural life support system. Let it die gracefully I always pleaded. Well, meeting that wonder of the natural world changed that opinion.

From its huge girth, with a trunk measuring around 10m to the 28m canopy of leaves, this giant produces up to 150,000 acorns on a good year.

Whilst no one knows an exact age, we do know it's been standing for anywhere between 800 and 1100 years. If we go by the earliest estimate, it has stood through the Vikings, the Battle of Hastings, Agincourt, Waterloo, the births and deaths of Shakespeare, Henry VII, Dickens, Darwin, Newton, Chaucer, Cromwell, the two world wars, over 50 monarchs... it's seen a lot!

During that time, it's survived fire, raging winds, heavy snowstorms and hundreds of years of deforestation. It has watched as millions of people from all over the world have gathered around it to stare up at its branches.

Work in the forest will continue to protect the Major Oak and its fellow giants for the years to come, as well as helping raise the next generation of ancient oak trees for the future of Sherwood Forest!

The Major Oak is arguably the best known and certainly one of the biggest oak trees in Britain, with a canopy spread of 28 metres, a trunk circumference of 11 metres and an



estimated weight of 23 tonnes.

It's not clear whether the Major Oak is one tree or multiple saplings that have fused together.

The soil below is also relatively poor and acidic, meaning the oak has had to take things steady, slowly growing over a long time to reach this size. It seems to have grown up in a clearing for most of its life, being able to grow outwards without having to compete against other trees. This is what allowed the Major Oak to spread its great boughs and fill as much space as possible.

Although it's undeniably big, it's not called

the Major Oak because of its size. In 1790, soldier and antiquarian Major Hayman Rooke (1723-1806) wrote a book detailing the oak trees of the area and people began to refer to it as the Major Oak in his honour.

In years gone by, it was possible to walk right up to Major Oak, and even climb inside it. Unfortunately, the tree's popularity meant its roots began to suffer from compaction, caused by the footsteps of thousands of people coming to see it each year. It's been fenced off since the 1970s, allowing our visitors to appreciate its magnificence whilst also giving it a little room to breathe and stay healthy!

The chains attached to the Major Oak's crown were fitted in 1908, whilst the first supports holding up the impressive boughs were installed during the 1970s before being updated with metal structures in the 2000s. With the help of these supports, there's no reason to think the Major Oak won't keep going for a while yet!

The area around the Major Oak is purposely being left to grow naturally to benefit its health. Allowing the natural growth cycle to follow its course will help to retain vital nutrients in the ground and eventually reduce soil compaction. This will allow those essential nutrients and rainwater to reach the tree's vast but vulnerable root system, and allow movement through the soils of micro-organisms and mini-beasts.

Whilst on the topic of the Major Oak and history, there's one character we can't ignore – Robin Hood.

Legend has it that when the forest was home to this famous outlaw, Robin and his Merry Men used the Major Oak for shelter; camping beneath its branches and hiding inside its massive trunk.

Nowadays, the Major Oak provides a home and shelter to hundreds of living things; beetles, bats, fungi, squirrels and spiders amongst much more!



Seed Gathering Season: Jon Stokes on a Magical Time of Year

An article from The Tree Council's Tree Talk

A LEGEND of the sector, Jon Stokes is The Tree Council's Director Trees, Science & Research and co-author of books including *The Good Seed Guide* and *The Heritage Trees of Britain and Northern Ireland*, among others. *Tree Talk* spoke to Jon about his enduring passion for Seed Gathering Season, which began with the Autumn Equinox, on 23 September.

More than 20 years ago, growing trees from seed was seen as the realm of really, really clever scientists. There was only very heavy technical guidance on how to produce trees from seed. This seemed a bit odd as we'd spent most of our history in these islands growing trees from seeds, but over the last 200 years we'd lost some of that experience.

It had become highly technical, highly forest species orientated, information. One day, a colleague and I were trying to think of a way to make seed gathering more accessible to the public, more understandable. We were sat in a pub in Hampshire and bizarrely a group of bishops came into the pub to have lunch. We were trying to think of a way of engaging people with trees at different points in the year, and we could overhear the bishops talking about harvest festival coming up. We started to think, how could we harvest some seeds? How could we make it something interesting?

The first attempt was Seed Gathering Sunday, which was the second Sunday in October, to try and give people a focal point to go out and collect seed. We quickly realised one day was too limited as trees have a variety of seeding times, so we stretched it into Seed Gathering Season – taking it from the Autumn equinox, for a month. The whole purpose was to try and make people think about seed in a different way.

In combination with that, we talked to all the seed experts at Forestry Commission, and using the true expertise of Forest Research, came up with a new methodology for processing seeds, and called it *The Good Seed Guide*.

The idea was to make it accessible, easy and relatively people-friendly to get trees grown from seed. We've been on that journey for 20 years trying to encourage people and explain to people that it's really easy, that our ancestors pretty much always planted trees from seed, and that we shouldn't be scared of it.

In an acorn lies a giant oak tree, if you just look after it correctly, get it started and growing. So, getting people to see that, literally, life starts with the seed – if you get them right and put them in the right places, you can get free trees anywhere. That's the joy of it.

It requires a bit of skill, a bit of luck, and a bit

of knowledge, but it means you can celebrate the good in your local treescape. You can collect the seed from the trees that look nice, the ones that are best adapted, the ones that are locally suited to growing in your part of the country.

If there is a particularly fine Rowan tree then it is worth trying to plant its seed as there is a chance the seed might resemble the parent. It's that whole journey of finding what's locally adapted, celebrating it and planting it. Anybody can do it, one tree at a time – collect an acorn, grow it in a pot – you can do it.

In a rational sense, one should always think about what you are going to do with them before you collect the seed. You don't want to go and gather 500 conkers and then realise you have nowhere to plant a conker tree.

There is that element of everybody goes for the easy ones, the big ones, the obvious ones, but they may not be the ones you want to plant in your community, so you should really start from the other end of the journey: what space do I have?

Then work out that, what I need to put in that spot is a hawthorn, so then you go and collect some hawthorn seed. You should always really put your effort into collecting seeds you know you will have a home for.

you've still got to have the place to put them. You've always got to temper what's out there with what you can use.

Find the healthy looking trees first. Find the ones that look well grown and well adapted to your circumstances.

You also physically have to be able to collect the seed, you don't want to do damage to the tree in collecting it so there is also an element of, can I get to it? Can I reach it? Ideally, you don't climb the trees, you want to be able to pick from the ground. Sometimes you might have the most perfect tree but you can't physically get the seed without causing damage.

With all of this, you are trying to give a few seeds an extra head start, so even a few help. You don't have to do hundreds and thousands – just a few.

2023 is looking like a good year across many species. Oak had a good year last year but in various – not all – parts of the country it seems to be having a good year this year as well, which is a bit surprising.

There is no system for recording this, there is no collective data, it's all anecdotal. So, there is definitely that element of, know your own local community and know what's going on in your patch. Certainly down here (in Hampshire), it's a good year.

Don't take seed you're never going to do anything with because it becomes mentally distressing if you've grown 500 conker trees and nobody wants one. Only grow trees that you know somebody wants, or you have thought about what you are going to do with it.

How magical does growing from seed remain for me? It's great because it's that joyous thing of starting with something as tiny as a seed, and suddenly you've got a tree growing and you never know what it's going to do.

The one that always gets me, the most magical of all, is apple pips. Every single apple pip is unique and every single apple tree you grow might be the next best apple tree in the whole history of the world. You have no idea whether you've just grown a stinker, or the next Bramley apple.

That's the joy of an apple seed – it's unique, it's distinct, it's yours it's personal – and you will never know until you've grown it and found out.

Jon Stokes is The Tree Council's Director of Trees, Science & Research. Find out more about Seed Gathering Season by visiting www.treecouncil.org.uk/seasonal-campaigns/seed-gathering-season/



It's perfectly acceptable to keep it in a pot for its entire lifetime as a bonsai. I have trees in my garden that I've grown as bonsai, from seed, because that was always my intention – I wanted them as a bonsai, I wasn't ever planning to plant them out.

It's looked particularly good this year for the rosaceous species, by which I mean things like, sorbus and hawthorn. That's because last summer was really warm and hot so they laid down lots of flower bud, which has led to lots of fruit. There are surprising quantities of a variety of species and collecting their seed is great – but

Dalkeith Named Heritage Tree Hotspot as Experts Record 500 “Living Legends”

By Midlothian View Reporter, Luke Jackson

DALKEITH Country Park in Midlothian has been revealed as a heritage tree hotspot after experts recorded 500 ancient, veteran and notable oaks over the last year. Many of the trees may be descended from a single giant called “The Michael” and are thought to have been planted to funnel deer towards aristocratic hunters. Details of the trees are to be included on the Woodland Trust’s Ancient Tree Inventory which maps the oldest and most important trees in the UK.

Ten Woodland Trust Scotland volunteers completed the marathon mission to measure, photograph and log exact GPS locations over the course of 14 recording days, with oversight from Scotland’s lead ancient tree verifiers Keith Knight and Clair McFarlan.

Just over 500 trees were recorded, nearly all of them stunning and characterful pedunculate oaks. 100 were deemed ancient, 300 veteran and 100 notable.

It is unusual in Scotland to have so many remarkable oaks in one place. It is more usual to find a single spectacular tree on its own in the landscape. The Dalkeith group is one of three hotspots hosting heritage oaks by the hundred – the others being the Cadzow oaks in South Lanarkshire and the Lochwood oaks at Annandale in Dumfries and Galloway.

Keith Knight said: “It is likely the trees were planted hundreds of years ago as a way of managing deer for hunting. The Lords and Ladies would all come out from Holyrood. Deer would be driven into the strip of land where the North and South Esk rivers converge. Trees planted along the edge would block their escape.”

The oldest and biggest oak on the site is known as “The Michael” which is probably a corruption of the Scots word “meikle” meaning big, although some also link the oak to the 16th Century sailing ship The Michael which was the largest vessel afloat at the time. The Michael oak would have already been an imposing tree at the time The Michael ship put to sea from Newhaven in the 1500s.

The Michael oak has multiple stems and may be the result of more than one sapling being planted together. It has a remarkable girth of 10.3m at 0.8m up the trunk and could be up to 1000 years old. It is thought a lot of the other oaks on the site are its offspring or descendants.

The Dalkeith oaks were once difficult for casual visitors to find, but since 2016 there has been a 2.4km waymarked trail taking in many of the trees. According to Park Manager Ross Mason the Old Wood purple trail is amongst the most popular walks with visitors.

“I have to give credit to all the Woodland Trust Volunteers who kept coming back to help tackle the mammoth task of documenting all these trees over the months,” he said. “On the plus side it is always nice to spend the day in the woods with people who all have a genuine passion for these trees and nature in general.”

George Anderson of Woodland Trust Scotland said: “Old oaks are terrific for



supporting lots of other wildlife. Many birds and mammals will make use of the nooks and crannies in a craggy old tree, and deadwood is essential to the life cycle of many insects and fungi.

“These Dalkeith ancients are well cared for thanks to Ross and his colleagues but sadly not all venerable old trees are in such safe hands.

“Ancient trees are as much a part of our heritage as stately homes, cathedrals and works of art, but they don’t get the same protection. Our campaign to Protect our Living Legends has already collected over 50,000 signatures petitioning all UK Governments to do better.”

An ancient tree is in the third and final stage

of its life. How old an ancient tree is depends on the species. Some species can live longer than others with yews, oaks and sweet chestnuts topping the age charts at over 1000 years. Other species, including birch and willow, live shorter lives.

A veteran tree is usually in the second or mature stage of life. It will have some of the features found on an ancient tree but won’t have the great age. Although they are not as old as ancient trees, they’re still incredibly important.

Notable trees are usually mature trees which may stand out in the local environment because they are large in comparison with other trees around them.

Climate Change

MATT McGRATH, BBC Environment Correspondent, reported that the UN has called for radical changes to stem warming. Tackling climate change needs a rapid transformation of the way our world works, travels, eats and uses energy, according to an important UN review. This is the first "global stocktake" to examine the efforts of countries to reduce planet-warming emissions since the Paris agreement was signed in 2015. While progress has been made, efforts now need to be massively scaled up.

The report calls for "radical decarbonisation" with a fast phase out of fossil fuels without carbon capture.

Burning fossil fuels like oil, gas and coal to generate electricity emits carbon dioxide, which is the main driver of climate change. Carbon capture in industrial processes and power stations stops most of the CO₂ produced from being released, and either reuses it or stores it underground.

Renewable energy also needs significant expansion while deforestation needs to be halted and reversed by 2030.

The stocktake report will be considered by political leaders and will be central to global climate talks in Dubai later this year.

Over the course of the past two years, the UN has set out to review the promises made by countries who signed the Paris agreement in 2015. At the meeting eight years ago, countries agreed to keep the amount of warming since the industrial revolution well below 2°C and make efforts to keep it under 1.5°C.

The report examines their efforts to cut carbon, to adapt to climate change and how they have mobilised finance and technology to help poorer nations deal with the problem. No country is named and shamed in this report, which considers the collective approach to tackling the problem.

Much progress has been made, the document acknowledges, but the global rise in temperatures predicted for this century is still well above what was promised in Paris. Keeping to those goals will now require a significant uptick in ambition according to the stocktake, which calls for widespread "system transformation" meaning that every aspect of societies needs to change to rein in rising temperatures.

This includes the way we make energy, the way we travel, work and produce food. Experts say this type of change needs governments to take the initiative and make sure that their climate actions aren't immediately nullified by other policies and investments.

"One could also see the call for system transformations as a recognition that, while we still can, we should take our destiny in our own hands," said Dr Richard Klein from the Stockholm Environment Institute, who was involved in the initial stages of the stocktake.

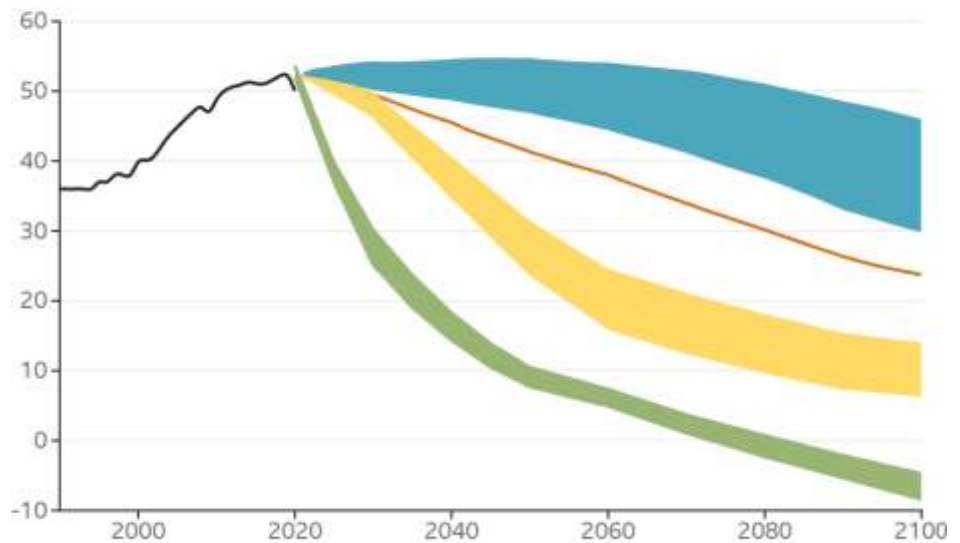
"Either we transform society in a way that avoids the worst of climate change, or climate change will transform society for us, in ways that are difficult to foresee but likely not to be very pleasant."

The report makes a clear call for the rapid scaling up of renewable energy sources including wind and solar but also says that fossil fuels that don't capture the carbon they produce have no future. The stocktake says that these are "indispensable elements" of a just transition to net zero by the middle of this century.

Electric vehicles "offer the greatest

Projected emissions trends: How close is the world to its 1.5C target? < ▶ ▶

Global greenhouse gas emissions in gigatons of CO₂ equivalent. Historical emissions shown in black



Source: Climate Action Tracker, November 2022

BBC

mitigation potential" in the transport sector, according to the report which also underlines the fact that shifting to climate friendly, healthy diets, reducing food waste and fostering sustainable agriculture can make a significant difference to limiting emissions.

The stocktake also examines efforts on climate adaptation and finance, something that has been a constant source of anger for developing countries. It calls for a rapid scaling up of finance from an expanded range of sources.

The idea of a stocktake is to ensure that the next set of plans to cut carbon that governments register with the UN in 2025 will be more ambitious than the current ones.

However the report will also form the basis of discussions at the COP28 global climate talks to be held in Dubai later this year.

Efforts at COP27 to agree a phase out of all unabated fossil fuels failed due to resistance from several major oil producing nations.

UN officials believe the stocktake report will increase the pressure for a major statement at COP28.

"I urge governments to carefully study the findings of the report and ultimately understand what it means for them and the ambitious action they must take next," said Simon Stiell, executive secretary of UN Climate Change.

Observers agree that the document is a wake-up call.

"We already know the world is failing to meet its climate goals, but leaders now have a concrete blueprint underpinned by a mountain

of evidence for how to get the job done," said Ani Dasgupta from the World Resources Institute.

GEORGINA RANNARD, Becky Dale and Erwan Rivault, BBC News Climate & Science and Data Journalism Team, reported that satellite data shows sea-ice surrounding Antarctica is well below any previous recorded winter level, a worrying new benchmark for a region that once seemed resistant to global warming.

"It's so far outside anything we've seen, it's almost mind-blowing," says Walter Meier, who monitors sea-ice with the National Snow and Ice Data Center.

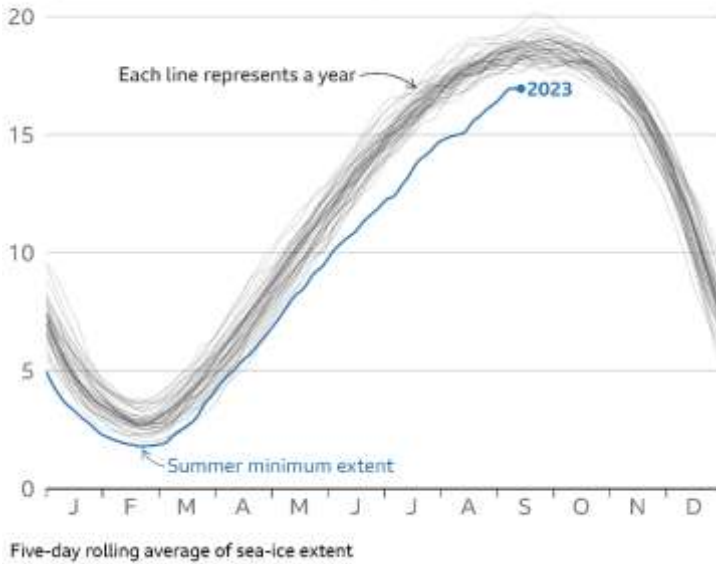
An unstable Antarctica could have far-reaching consequences, polar experts warn.

Antarctica's huge ice expanse regulates the planet's temperature, as the white surface reflects the Sun's energy back into the atmosphere and also cools the water beneath and near it. Without its ice cooling the planet, Antarctica could transform from Earth's refrigerator to a radiator, experts say.

The ice that floats on the Antarctic Ocean's surface now measures less than 17 million km² which is 1.5 million km² of sea-ice less than the September average, and well below previous winter record lows. That's an area of missing ice about five times the size of the British Isles.

Antarctica sea-ice far lower than usual

Daily sea-ice extent in million sq km, 1979-2023



Dr Meier is not optimistic that the sea-ice will recover to a significant degree.

Scientists are still trying to identify all the factors that led to this year's low sea-ice but studying trends in Antarctica has historically been challenging. In a year when several global heat and ocean temperature records have broken, some scientists insist the low sea-ice is the measure to pay attention to.

"We can see how much more vulnerable it is," says Dr Robbie Mallet, of the University of Manitoba, who is based on the Antarctic peninsula.

Already braving isolation, extreme cold and powerful winds, this year's thin sea-ice has made his team's work even more difficult. "There is a risk that it breaks off and drifts out to sea with us on it," Dr Mallet says.

Sea-ice forms in the continent's winter (March to October) before largely melting in summer, and is part of an interconnected system that also consists of icebergs, land ice and huge ice shelves, floating extensions of land ice jutting out from the coast.

Sea-ice acts as a protective sleeve for the ice covering the land and prevents the ocean from heating up.

Dr Caroline Holmes at the British Antarctic Survey explains that the impacts of shrinking sea-ice may become evident as the season transitions to summer, when there's potential for an unstoppable feedback loop of ice melting.

As more sea-ice disappears, it exposes dark areas of ocean, which absorb sunlight instead of reflecting it, meaning that the heat energy is added into the water, which in turn melts more ice. Scientists call this the ice-albedo effect.

That could add a lot more heat to the planet, disrupting Antarctica's usual role as a regulator of global temperatures.

"Are we awakening this giant of Antarctica?" asks Prof Martin Siegert, a glaciologist at the University of Exeter. It would be "an absolute disaster for the world," he says.

There are signs that what is already happening to Antarctica's ice sheets is in the worst-case scenario range of what was predicted, says Prof Anna Hogg, an Earth scientist at the University of Leeds.

Since the 1990s, the loss of land ice from Antarctica has contributed 7.2mm to sea-level rise.

Even modest in-creses in sea levels can

result in dangerously high storm surges that could wipe out coastal communities. If significant amounts of land ice were to start melting, the impacts would be catastrophic for millions of people around the world.

As a self-contained continent surrounded by water, Antarctica has its own weather and climate system. Until 2016 Antarctica's winter sea-ice had actually been growing in size, but in March 2022 an extreme heatwave hit East Antarctica, pushing temperatures to -10°C when they should have been closer to -50°C .

"When I started studying the Antarctic 30 years ago, we never thought extreme weather events could happen there," says Prof Siegert.

Sea-ice has broken record minimums in summer for three of the past seven years, including February 2023. Some scientists even believe these low ice records may indicate a fundamental change is happening to the continent - a shift in the conditions which have kept the region insulated.

Antarctica's remoteness and shortage of historical information means a lot is still unknown. The region is still the "Wild West" in scientific terms, according to Dr Robbie Mallet.

Scientists know how far sea-ice spreads, but not, for instance, how thick it is. Unlocking that puzzle could radically change climate models for the region.

At the scientific base Rothera, Dr Mallet is using radar instruments to study sea-ice thickness for an international research project called Defiant. He and other scientists are still trying to disentangle the causes of the vanishing winter ice.

"There is a chance that it's a really freak expression of natural variability," he says, meaning that lots of natural factors could have built up and are affecting the region simultaneously.

This year's record-warm oceans are likely a contributing factor, scientists suggest - warm water will not freeze and there may have also been changes in ocean currents and the winds that drive temperatures in the Antarctic.

The El Niño weather phenomenon, currently developing in the Pacific, could also be subtly contributing to shrinking sea-ice, although it is still weak.

Winter sea-ice is missing in some areas

Sea-ice concentration, 14 September 2023



Source: National Snow and Ice Data Center (NSIDC), Polar Bremen

Dr Mallet says there are "very, very good reasons to be worried. It's potentially a really alarming sign of Antarctic climate change that hasn't been there for the last 40 years and it's only just emerging now."

GEORGINA RANNARD & Esme Stallard, BBC Climate & Science, reported that much of the northern hemisphere has been battered by extreme weather this summer.

Heat, wildfires torrential rain, typhoons and hurricanes. Not all these events can be immediately linked to climate change. It can take a while for scientists to untangle what exactly is going on, plus the planet's natural weather and climate systems are powerful and also affect the weather.

However, this summer significant meteorological records have been broken in quick succession, to the concern of climate change experts. As the summer draws to a close, let's look back at what on earth happened and how it is connected to climate change.

In the UK, the balmy days of early summer may feel like a distant memory after weeks of unsettled weather, but this year saw the UK's hottest June on record.

74% of areas in the UK broke heat records. The average mean temperature, counting both days and cooler nights, was 15.8°C . That eclipsed the previous record by 0.9°C and was a significant jump in climate terms. Record temperatures were reached in 72 of 97 areas of the UK where temperature data is collected.

Scientists at the Met Office said climate change made the chance of surpassing the previous record at least twice as likely.

In the first week of July, the planet saw its hottest day ever recorded when the average mean global temperature hit 17.23°C . This broke the previous 2016 record of 16.92°C .

In the Mediterranean, millions of people saw up close what extreme heat looks like. Two long

and blistering heatwaves, named Cerberus and Caronte after ominous figures from ancient Greek mythology, struck countries across the region. 1 megatonne of CO₂e (a calculation for carbon emissions which includes green-house gases like methane) emitted from Greek wildfires.

In Italy, all cities were placed under red alert and in Rome, tourists collapsed in temperatures above 40°C. In Athens, the Acropolis, Greece's most popular tourist attraction, was forced to close to protect visitors from potentially fatal heat and in Algeria and Tunisia, temperatures climbed to 48°C.

Professor Petteri Taalas of the World Meteorological Organization said "The extreme weather which has affected many millions of people in July is unfortunately the harsh reality of climate change and a foretaste of the future."

The heat created the tinder-dry conditions for wildfires that swept across the Mediterranean. Between 1 and 25 July, the huge fires in Greece emitted one million tonnes of carbon dioxide. That's the most for any July wildfire in the country on record, and as much as London, one of the world's most populous cities, emits in almost two weeks, according to 2019 figures."

By the end of the month, scientists with the World Weather Attribution group, which looks at the role of climate change in specific extreme weather events, had analysed the data and concluded that the heatwaves would have been "virtually impossible" without human-induced climate change. Warming the atmosphere by burning fossil fuels has made the heatwave in southern Europe 2.5°C hotter, they said.

El Niño, which began in June, could contribute to make 2023 the hottest year ever, scientists believe. The powerful natural phenomenon is linked to higher temperatures, and occurs every two to seven years when warm water rises to the surface in the Pacific off the coast of South America.

With millions desperate for relief from the heat, on 26 July record-breaking torrential rain and ferocious winds struck China and the Philippines. Typhoon Doksuri pounded cities and coastlines in East Asia for a week.

Economic losses from Typhoon Doksuri amount to \$15bn (£11.6bn). More than one million people were evacuated as winds reached 240km/h (149m/h).

In the Chinese capital Beijing, the amount of rain that fell broke a 140-year-old record. The floods damaged roads and bridges, submerged cars and destroyed construction sites. In the Philippines, at least 26 ferry passengers died near Manila when they rushed to one side of a boat as it tilted in winds, causing it to capsize.

Warmer temperatures provide more favourable conditions for these types of storms. In the months leading up to the typhoon, China, South Korea and other parts of East Asia had experienced record heat. Scientists with the World Weather Attribution group said that climate change made the July heatwave in China 50 times more likely.

On 8 August, the island of Maui in Hawaii faced a fire that became a deadly and terrifying ordeal. On the waterfront town of Lahaina, people claimed that warning sirens failed to sound. Some fled into the ocean to try to save



themselves from the rapidly moving flames. 388 people are dead or missing.

Much of the island was in drought and the dry vegetation provided ideal fuel for the flames to spread, fanned by raging winds from a passing hurricane.

The complex mixture of human systems and land management in Hawaii means that while climate change may have contributed to the fire, it is unclear how central its role was, say climate scientists and fire experts.

Days later, on 19 August, a fire season that had started unusually early in eastern Canada raged in the country's western province of British Columbia. Fifteen thousand households were ordered to evacuate, while hundreds of miles north, a huge fire threatened the city of Yellowknife in Northwest Territories.

So far 15.6 million hectares (37.8 million acres) of land has burned across Canada, an area larger than New York state or England. At least 1,000 fires are still burning as Canada lives through its worst wildfire season on record.

The way that humans manage forests are major contributors to fires, but climate change also fuels the conditions for flames to take hold by drying out vegetation, causing earlier snow melt and warming ground that was previously too cold for fires.

Scientists expect that as global warming intensifies, wildfires will become more powerful. A study by the World Weather Attribution group found that climate change made the hot, dry and windy conditions that drove wildfires in Quebec, Canada in June at least twice as likely and 20-50% more intense.

On 21 August, California, a US state that is usually braced for wildfires, instead saw its first tropical storm in 84 years. Storm Hilary, downgraded from a hurricane, made landfall in northern Mexico, killing at least one person when a family of five was swept into the sea, before moving up to California.

The storm put 26 million people in the state at risk of flooding, and 25,000 households across Los Angeles lost power as the storm moved through the city and caused flash floods.

Palm Springs saw the heaviest hour of rain ever recorded in the city, according to California's governor. In Death Valley, floodwaters filled the famously dry landscape, turning its valleys into rapid rivers.

It is too early to say if climate change made this storm more likely, but scientists say that higher temperatures will cause stronger hurricanes in future as more heat in the oceans creates more energy for storms.

The planet's waters were hotter than ever this summer - a powerful marine heatwave

broke the record for average global temperature. The heat that built up at the oceans' surface could have helped to power strong hurricanes in the Atlantic in late August.

Storm Hilary is a reminder that the year is not yet over - the Atlantic hurricane season has only just started and is projected to be stronger than usual.

Professor Lizzie Kendon from the UK Met Office said "It's no longer something in the future; we are really seeing it now."

The impact of extreme weather in different countries is a reminder that how humans respond is vital. This summer the UN and leading climate scientists again urged

governments to keep to their promises to urgently tackle climate change.

Scientists say this summer is a sign of things to come as climate change worsens.

AN article by Associated Press published on The Guardian website reported that hundreds of communities around the US will share more than \$1bn in federal money to help them plant and maintain trees under a federal program that is intended to reduce extreme heat, benefit health and improve access to nature.

The US agriculture secretary, Tom Vilsack, announced the \$1.13bn in funding for 385 projects at an event in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

The tree planting efforts will be focused on marginalized areas in all 50 states as well as Washington DC, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and some tribal nations.

"We believe we can create more resilient communities in terms of the impacts of climate," Vilsack told reporters in previewing his announcement. "We think we can mitigate extreme heat incidents and events in many of the cities."

In announcing the grants in Cedar Rapids, Vilsack will spotlight the eastern Iowa city of 135,000 people that lost thousands of trees during an extreme windstorm during the summer of 2020. Cedar Rapids has made the restoration of its tree canopy a priority since that storm, called a derecho, and will receive \$6m in funding through the new grants.

Other grant recipients include some of the nation's largest cities, such as New York, Houston and Los Angeles, and much smaller communities, such as Tarpon Springs, Florida, and Hutchinson, Kansas.

Brenda Mallory, chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality, planned to join Vilsack at the Iowa event. She told reporters earlier that many communities have lacked access to nature and that all the tree grants would benefit marginalized and under-represented communities.

"Everyone should have access to nature," Mallory said. "Urban forests can really play a key role in ensuring both that access but also increasing the climate resilience of communities, helping reduce extreme heat and making communities more liveable."

The federal money comes from the Inflation Reduction Act.

One in Six Species at Risk of Extinction in Great Britain

By Victoria Gill and Kate Stephens, BBC News Science Team

NUMBERS of the UK's most precious animals and plants are still falling, as a countrywide nature-loss crisis continues. Loss of nature is outpacing investment and effort to tackle it, conservation organisations say. Their State of the Nature report found 16% of 10,000 mammals, plants, insects, birds and amphibians assessed were threatened. They include UK wildlife icons such as the turtle dove and hazel dormouse (both pictured on this page).

The government has said it is committed to "increasing the amount of habitat for nature to thrive", but conservation organisations say more investment and a shift to much more wildlife-friendly farming and fishing are urgently needed.

The 203-page document was produced by more than 60 organisations, including wildlife conservation groups, government agencies and academics. Its analysis of decades of research paints a grim picture - natural spaces and the wildlife that depends on them are in decline.

Nida al-Fulaij, from the People's Trust for Endangered Species, told BBC News: "The main takeaways from this report are alarming" and she explained how thousands of studies used in the report examined the abundance or distribution of UK wildlife.

Ms Fulaij said "Where we can, we count species year after year. Another way to measure how a plant or animal is faring is to repeatedly examine a site and ask, 'Is the species here or not?'"

Plants and animals monitored since the 1970s have declined in abundance by an average 19% and this trend suggests a bleak outlook for much of the country's native wildlife, conservation scientists say.

This should make everyone "sit up and listen", Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) chief executive Beccy Speight said.

Restoring nature would also help to tackle the climate crisis.

Ms Speight said "We need to move far faster as a society towards nature-friendly land and sea use. Otherwise, the UK's nature and wider environment will continue to decline and degrade, with huge implications for our own way of life."

Responding to these calls for action, the government said it was investing in its "30-by-30" pledge, to protect 30% of land for nature by 2030.

"At the start of this year, I published our comprehensive Environmental Improvement Plan," Environment Secretary Therese Coffey said, "setting out how we will create and restore at least 500,000 hectares [2,000 sq miles] of new wildlife habitats."

The government also highlighted investments including a £40m Species Survival Fund and £750m for woodland and peatland restoration, but RSPB conservation-science head Prof Richard Gregory told BBC News: "We'd need more to achieve the goal of 30 by 30."



"The task ahead of us to recover nature in the UK is large and complex - we are really talking of billions of pounds and not millions to change systems and tackle the drives of decline."

"That investment would return a huge amount for society in time and save huge future costs if we allow the environment to continue to decline and degrade."

Since 1970, the report says, of the 2,890 species in Britain's "priority group" 58% fell in number and 19% increased.

In addition:

- Almost 1,500 UK native species of plants and animals are now threatened with extinction
- Most of the important habitats for UK nature, including woodland, wetlands and wildflower meadows, are in poor condition
- Only about 11% of UK land is within protected areas and not all are well managed for nature and wildlife
- None of the sea floor around the UK is in "good condition", because of damage from fishing gear

In the North Pennines, Nic and Paul Renison have transformed the way they farm, to create more space for nature, dividing their 400 acres (160 hectares) into small pastures and moving their cows into a new field each day.

"The idea is that it's like the buffalo on the plains. They move every day, then the pasture gets 60 days to recover," Nic said.

With the help of the Woodland Trust, they have also planted wildlife-friendly hedgerows to create wildlife "corridors" throughout their farm.

"The more you do, the more nature you attract. It gets addictive," Paul said.

All five of the UK's resident owl species can

now be found on the Renisons' farm and 50 different bird species are breeding there, a recent survey revealed.

In England, an estimated 70% of land is farmed and studies suggest nature-friendly farming can boost production.

In one large-scale study in central England, turning over land from crops to wildlife habitat increased yields, probably by boosting the abundance of insects that pollinate those crops.

However, the Nature Friendly Farming Network said more investment would be needed "to support all farmers in restoring nature and acting on climate change", but the report also found "targeted conservation", concerted efforts to restore habitats and protect species, had worked well:

- The number of species in a marine protected area (MPA) in Lyme Bay, Devon, had significantly increased since trawling was banned, in 2008
- 600 sq km (150,000 acres) of the Cairngorms, in the Highlands, had been restored for woodland-dependent wildlife
- The RSPB's Hope Farm, in Cambridgeshire, had provided a research and demonstration site, showing how crop yields could be increased along with bird numbers

Report author and University of Sussex environmental-biology professor Fiona Matthews said: "We need a lot more investment [in nature]. There is a belief in government that things can just magically happen for free."

However, while she acknowledged the great work from thousands of volunteers, funded work was needed too.

"I often see a press release for £1m for this or that - but it is a drop in the ocean for what is actually required to tackle this issue," Prof Matthews said.



Exotic Animals Being Kept on Private Properties in Norfolk

By George Thompson on NorfolkLive

A FREEDOM of Information request has uncovered the fact that clouded leopards, black buck antelope and ruffed lemurs are among the dangerous and exotic animals being kept on private properties in Norfolk. While most people are happy with a cat or dog as a pet, others seek out more unfamiliar animal companions.

Now, a Freedom of Information request has revealed the exotic beasts living in households across the region, including an ostrich and numerous wild cats. Local authorities require owners of certain animals to apply for licences to keep them, which are renewed on a yearly basis under the Dangerous Wild Animals Act.

Generally, these animals will be wild cats, primates, wild dogs, certain pigs and marsupials, but dozens of other animals are included within the act. Separate licenses are issued for zoos.

The following Dangerous Animal Licence (DAL) have been issued in Norfolk:

- One in Breckland, covering two clouded leopards and one litter, as well as a male black and white ruffed lemur;
- One in the Buxton area of Broadland, covering a wild boar and an ostrich;
- One in North Norfolk for two camels and three tapirs;
- One in West Norfolk for 25 black buck antelope, issued for the ward of Wissey, which includes areas around the villages of Barton Bendish, Boughton and Stoke Ferry;
- Two in south Norfolk, one covering a savannah cat and serval cat in New Costessey and the other covering a serval cat in Cringleford.

No licences are currently issued within Great Yarmouth Borough Council and Norwich City Council areas. The number of exotic pets being held across the county seems to have fallen dramatically in recent years.

However, no Norfolk council has been forced to revoke a licence over concerns about premises between 2020 and 2023. In 2020, West Norfolk had one licence for more than 100 animals, including 50 black buck antelope, 20 sitatunga antelope, 20 lechwe antelope, six bongo antelope, four tapirs, 10 oryx, 10 blesbock antelope, 10 waterbuck, 10 eland, 10 wildebeest and 10 zebra.

Editor's comment. The mind boggles! Who knows what escaped animals you may come across in Broadland's wild woodland.

Leonardo da Vinci Was Wrong – Scientists Disprove “Rule of Trees”

An article by Bangor University published on www.scitechdaily.com

L EONARDO DA VINCI'S 'Rule of Trees' for illustrating trees has been largely adopted by science when modelling trees and how they function. Now, researchers from Bangor University in the UK and the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) have found that this rule contradicts those that regulate the internal structures of trees.

Da Vinci's interest in drawing led him to look at the size ratios of different objects, including trees, so that he could create more accurate representations of them.

To correctly represent trees, he perceived a so-called 'Rule of trees' which states that "all the branches of a tree at every stage of its height are equal in thickness to the trunk when put together."

It had been thought that Leonardo's 'Rule of Trees' could also be applied to the vascular channels that transport water through a tree, with the individual channel sizes decreasing at the same ratio, as branches become narrower, while still adding up to the trunk's volume. This 'rule' had been accepted as part of metabolic scaling theory.

However, scientists from Bangor University and SLU publishing in the prestigious peer-

reviewed journal PNAS, have shown that this model isn't exactly correct when applied to the internal vascular structures of trees.

For water and nutrients to move efficiently through the tree, from root to leaf tip, the vascular system has to maintain 'hydraulic resistance'.

Ruben Valbuena and Stuart Sopp of Bangor University and SLU have calculated that for hydraulic resistance to work, there comes a point where the 'Rule of Trees' can no longer hold true.

In order to efficiently transport liquids from roots to leaf tips, a tree's vascular channels need to maintain a certain dimension to maintain hydraulic resistance. Therefore, the plant has to reduce its volume as it reaches its extremities, causing a higher ratio of the capillary to the surrounding plant mass.

As Dr Ruben Valbuena (Honorary Professor at Bangor University and now Professor at SLU)

explains, "While a great 'tip' for artists, which is what Da Vinci intended, Leonardo's Rule of trees does not hold up at the micro level. We believe our calculations further refine metabolic scaling theory and improve our understanding of the plant system as a whole. Our re-calculations may also explain why large trees are more susceptible to drought, and may also be at a greater vulnerability to climate change."

Co-author Stuart Sopp, currently studying for his PhD in Environmental Science at Bangor University said: "One of our aims was to produce a ratio which could be used to estimate tree biomass and carbon in forests. This new ratio will assist in calculating global carbon capture by trees."

Reference: "Vascular optimality dictates plant morphology away from Leonardo's rule" by S. B. D. Sopp and R. Valbuena, 18 September 2023, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. [DOI: 10.1073/pnas.2215047120](https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2215047120)

Is the Amazon Rainforest Set to be Saved by a Cocaine Warlord?

By Fiona Connor, Senior Reporter for MailOnline

A COCAINE warlord is helping save the Amazon rainforest in Colombia after his threats to farmers saw deforestation rates fall by 76% in a year. Ivan Mordisco, the leader of Estado Mayor Central (EMC), has implemented strict sanctions to stop land-grabbing farmers to slashing trees.

As the country's third-largest illegal armed group, the EMC is known for drug trafficking, illegal gold mining and extortion. The sanction occupies the country's most environmentally-sensitive territory with significant military power.

With a support network of more than 3,000, including 2,200 armed fighters said to strong-arm anyone who should attempt to evade the rules of the armed factions, Mordisco's tactics have seen deforestation rates fall.

In May 2022, the EMC introduced sanctions of 1 million Colombian pesos (£190) for each hectare of forestry slashed without permission.

Now, it's believed to be even higher, with one local leader in Calamar, a region of Guaviare province, claiming fines can go as high as 10 million to 20 million pesos (£1,900 – 2,700) per hectare, Bloomberg reports.

In regions where the EMC holds the power, such as the Caqueta, Meta and Guaviare provinces, illegal logging has declined the most substantially at rates of 50%, 34% and 37% respectively, but the scale of Mordisco's control is causing concern long-term.

There are fears that should the leftist government refuse Mordisco's demands, he'll act on threats already issued to start up the chainsaws once again.

Environmental crime researcher Bram Ebus says the initiative is a power-move.

Ebus, who works for the non-profit International Crisis Group, says while the tactic clearly is helping the area, Mordisco could be interested holding the upper-hand during peace talks negotiation tables with left-wing President Gustavo Petro who is looking to meet with illegal groups, including the EMC.

Ebus told Al Jazeera "We saw that they started using deforestation restrictions as a political tool prior to the 'paz total' negotiations. They can even threaten the government [with] large-scale Amazon destruction if the government doesn't give them what they're hoping for."

His motivation could be also be linked to an interest in maintaining a thick jungle canopy for his troops to freely move about.

Jose Tomas Ojeda Soleimani, an EMC spokesperson, said the consideration for the Amazon is born out of both environmental and security concerns, acknowledging in some part the protection their army gains from being undetectable.

Ojeda said "We have banned deforestation in the Amazon because we are a profoundly environmental guerrilla. The trees protect us and we need water for our military operations."

An environmentalist who works in the region



for an NGO, the Foundation for Conservation and Development, says long-term, the method doesn't work.

"This isn't sustainable, because it depends on the whims of an armed actor, not of the people, not of the government, not of anyone using any mechanisms other than force," Angelica Rojas told Bloomberg.

It's estimated Mordisco's Estado Mayor Central (EMC) boasts an army of about 2,200 fighters and a network of supporters of 1,400, according to army intelligence. Only the National Liberation Army, a guerrilla force, and cocaine cartel, the Gulf Clan, are made up of more numbers.

Colombia's part of the Amazon only accounts for 10% of the forest and in Brazil deforestation numbers were recorded at an all-time high last year.

The Amazon spans 2.1 million square miles across eight countries – Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Venezuela, Guyana and Suriname – but the majority, around 60%, is within Brazil's borders.

A 2022 report warned the jungle is 'alarmingly close' to dying by 2030 due to climate change and forest loss. The world's largest rainforest is close to a 'tipping point' that could mean it changes forever, no longer benefiting humanity by soaking up greenhouse gases, the WWF report said.

Lead author Professor Mary Gagen said: "We could lose the Amazon to a state of permanent, irreversible degradation that would impact the entire planet... the evidence gives a stark warning."

Between 13 and 17% of the Amazon rainforest area has already been lost in the past 50 years, according to the organisation.

An area of the Amazon one quarter of the size of Europe - 1.4 million sq miles - has experienced a lack of rain, a prolonged dry season and deforestation which could lead it to become permanently degraded, turning to scrubland.

While scientists frequently warn about deforestation in the Amazon rainforest, a lesser-known process called 'degradation', where trees have been affected by logging, mining, fires, expansion of roads or other human activity, is just as harmful.

According to a study published earlier this year, 38% of what's left of the Amazon has been degraded in some way by humans. More than previously realised. Although the two are sometimes confused, degradation is different from deforestation, where the forest is removed altogether and a new land use, such as agriculture, is established in its place.

"The disturbance of the remaining forest causes a long term loss of their capacity to store carbon," study author Jos Barlow, a professor of conservation science at Lancaster University, told MailOnline.

"For example, when fire escapes into a rainforest, it kills around 40% of the trees. The dead trees then decompose, or are burned by a subsequent fire, releasing carbon into the atmosphere. Furthermore, these emissions are not offset by the growth of new trees, which store very little carbon compared to the large trees that have been lost."

Britons Love Their Trees More Than Their Neighbours, Study Finds

By Victoria Allen, Science Editor for The Daily Mail

MORE people have a close relationship with trees than feel close to their human neighbours, researchers have found. A survey designed to judge the importance of trees for British people's daily lives and wellbeing asked volunteers how close they felt to trees in general. Some 16% felt very close to trees, while only 7% said they felt very close to a neighbour.

The survey of more than 1,800 adults, commissioned by the University of Derby, found half of people could name a favourite tree.

Perhaps people just have more trees to choose from, as previous surveys suggest we only know four neighbours on average by name.

Meanwhile the UK has about three billion trees, or an average of 45 trees per person, calculated by analysing aerial photos and estimating tree numbers as was done under the UN's Plant for the Planet project.

Commenting on the survey findings, Miles Richardson, Professor of Human Factors and Nature Connectedness at the University of Derby, said: "Although asking about people's relationship with trees might seem unusual, we found that it is those who feel a close relationship with the natural world who take positive action towards it.

"Having a close emotional bond and feeling closely connected to trees and the wider natural world enhances our desire to protect and restore natural environments."

Lovers of woodland and trees are known as 'nemophilists' and many more people fell into this category during the pandemic, as they became more aware of the natural world around where they lived. In recent years, British people have also embraced 'forest-bathing', the ancient Japanese practice of relaxation involving being quiet and calm amongst trees to reduce stress.

The new survey, involving residents of the National and Mersey Forests and Brecon Beacons National Park, found 81% of those asked said they noticed trees wherever they went. Meanwhile 86% of people said trees were important for supporting health, by reducing air pollution and creating places for relaxation and peace.

Asked about the biggest threats to trees, almost three-quarters named urban development, while almost two-thirds answered with climate change, 63% said storms, and 55% were worried about new and exotic diseases or pests.

The survey, conducted by YouGov in October last year, follows a recent report by Friends of the Earth stating that 43% of neighbourhoods in England have less than 10% tree canopy cover, while 84% of neighbourhoods have less than 20% of coverage.

Almost all of those surveyed they felt a relationship with nature was significant and that it helped their mental health and wellbeing.

People were asked to choose from a set of diagrams showing overlapping circles to indicate how interconnected they felt with trees. Those who chose the circles which overlapped the most were judged to have a close relationship with trees, and the same method was used to judge closeness to neighbours.

More people have a close relationship with trees than feel close to their human neighbours, researchers have found.

A survey designed to judge the importance of trees for British people's daily lives and wellbeing asked volunteers how close they felt to trees in general. Some 16% felt very close to trees, while only seven per cent said they felt very close to a neighbour.

The survey of more than 1,800 adults, commissioned by the University of Derby, found half of people could name a favourite tree.

Perhaps people just have more trees to choose from, as previous surveys suggest we only know four neighbours on average by name.

this category during the pandemic, as they became more aware of the natural world around where they lived.

In recent years, British people have also embraced 'forest-bathing', the ancient Japanese practice of relaxation involving being quiet and calm amongst trees to reduce stress.

The new survey, involving residents of the National and Mersey Forests and Brecon Beacons National Park, found 81% of those asked said they noticed trees wherever they went.

Meanwhile 86% of people said trees were important for supporting health, by reducing air pollution and creating places for relaxation and peace.

Asked about the biggest threats to trees, almost three-quarters named urban development, while almost two-thirds answered with climate change, 63% said storms, and 55% were worried about new and exotic diseases or pests.

The survey, conducted by YouGov in October last year, follows a recent report by Friends of the Earth stating that 43% of neighbourhoods in England have less than 10% tree canopy cover, while 84% of neighbourhoods have less than 20% of coverage.

Almost all of those surveyed they felt a relationship with nature was significant and that it helped their mental health and wellbeing.

People were asked to choose from a set of diagrams showing overlapping circles to indicate how interconnected they felt with trees. Those who chose the circles which overlapped the most were judged to have a close relationship with trees, and the same method was used to

judge closeness to neighbours.

However, the proportion of people close to trees was almost double the proportion close to their neighbours.

The survey found 94% of people agreed that trees improve air quality, 95% said trees sustained wildlife, and 86% said they prevented flooding and erosion.

Professor David Sheffield, who was also involved in the study from the University of Derby, said: 'Biodiversity has declined at an alarming rate around the planet since 1970.

"Although many cherish what seems to be a 'green and pleasant land', there is a need for a wider understanding that things are not well. Nature needs to be central to our everyday lives and trees are a great starting point. They contribute to our mental wellbeing and physical survival as individuals and as a species."



Meanwhile the UK has about three billion trees, or an average of 45 trees per person, calculated by analysing aerial photos and estimating tree numbers as was done under the UN's Plant for the Planet project.

Commenting on the survey findings, Miles Richardson, Professor of Human Factors and Nature Connectedness at the University of Derby, said: "Although asking about people's relationship with trees might seem unusual, we found that it is those who feel a close relationship with the natural world who take positive action towards it.

"Having a close emotional bond and feeling closely connected to trees and the wider natural world enhances our desire to protect and restore natural environments."

Lovers of woodland and trees are known as 'nemophilists' and many more people fell into

Sheltering Under Ancient Yews, Surrounded by Past and Present

An article by Paul Evans published in The Guardian

PENNANT MELANGELL is a thin place: a place where the veil between heaven and earth, reality and dream, fact and fiction is so thin that it becomes a semi-permeable membrane. Remembering osmosis, stuff travels through the membrane from a strong solution to a weak one. Today in the valley of Cwm Pennant, Melangell's side of the divide is stronger than the drizzle-diluted world outside the circle of ancient yew trees. The place is thinnest under these trees and, sheltering from the rain under one that's more than 2,000 years old, I listen to what leaks through the membrane.

Of course, I am thick with thought and listening with badly tuned ears. The story of Melangell, the seventh-century saint of hares, was carved into the oak rood screen in the church before it was written in Latin, existing as images before words.

In that wooden form, her myth – of the hare-woman-nature-spirit who defied patriarchy – links more directly to the trees surrounding her shrine than to the literate culture that still appropriates her.

The four older yew trees here grew out of the iron age on a bronze age site, where there may have been other time-travelling trees. What do those human tool ages mean to ancient yews in the Marches that are as old, or much older, than these?

Yew trees can achieve immortality through their pact with fungi; it allows the tree to feed on the rot of itself, to grow in a green orbit around hollow trunk portals of dark matter, to split into separate trees and move about, to change sex.

Under the canopy, I listen to sparrows in the belfry, house martins in the eaves, buzzards and red kites overhead, geese, cockerels and sheep in the field. What's the frequency of



clouds above the Berwyn crags? What's the urgency of the stream roiling down Cwm Pennant from the waterfall to Afon Tanat?

In all these things, is the past really so far away? Imagine the yew trees on the cloudy mountains of Gondwana, 50m years ago – did they grow differently then? Did the rain in those

forests feel more or less like our rain? Do Pennant Melangell's yews have more past than future?

On Thursday 7 September Paul Evans presented an episode of Open Country from Pennant Melangell on BBC Radio 4.

Tree Warden Co-ordinators' Forum

I SHALL be attending this year's National Tree Warden Co-ordinators' Forum on Thursday 12 October at Beaumanor Hall, Beaumanor Drive, Woodhouse, Loughborough, Leicestershire. It will be the first time that the Forum has been held "in person" since 2019, the last three having been held on-line due to the pandemic.

Co-ordinators' Forums are only open to Network Co-ordinators and are I can honestly say these events are a wonderful opportunity to meet with other Co-ordinators, do some valuable networking, share knowledge, problems and ideas, and meet with Team Tree Council.

It is a long way to go but it is usually worth

the journey and it is essential that Broadland has a voice, especially since the Tree Council disbanded its Tree Warden Advisory Group.

Each Network has its own ideas and thinks it knows best but that is only to be expected. In my experience, no two Networks are the same but it is common that, after a while, a Network gets fed-up with its Co-ordinator and a mini-revolution leads to a new person at the helm and a new direction. Not always for the better!

I have to say though that having now been

a Tree Warden for 32 years and this Network's Co-ordinator for 5 years, there's not much that I haven't seen before. We experienced a bit of a revolution ourselves but come through it ... and we are better for it.

Anyway, I will give a full report on what was said and decided in the November edition of Broadsheet.

Hopefully, I will have recovered from the drive by then!!

Glen Coe's Lost Valley Damaged by Campfires

Published on the BBC News website

NATIONAL TRUST for Scotland (NTS) says campfires have damaged Glen Coe's famous Coire Gabhail. Better known as the Lost or Hidden Valley, the glen was once used by members of Clan MacDonald to hide stolen cattle. Today it is part of a site of special scientific interest, partly because of its rich and internationally-important plant life.

NTS said people were harming the protected habitat by cutting off tree branches that were covered in mosses and lichens to build fires. Fragile peatland has also been damaged by the fires.

The trust said the problems had come while Glencoe National Nature Reserve was having one of its busiest ever years for visitors. Visits to its visitor centre have gone up by 35% compared to last year, and there have been 18% more tents and 10% more campervans and motorhomes on the reserve.

While the majority of visitors acted responsibly, NTS said the latest tourist season had been marred by fires and litter. The trust said it removed 200 bin bags-worth of rubbish.

Senior ranger Scott McCombie said: "Campfires have a negative impact on both the glens' peat-rich low-level soils and thinner, fragile upland soils. We ask that campers bring only camp stoves, or at least portable metal fire bowls or stands to keep fires off the bare earth, and do not light naked flames during dry spells."

Mr McCombie added: "In the famous



Hidden Valley, the trust has been saddened to see woodland renowned internationally for its rich mosses and lichens damaged by campers who have cut branches off trees in an attempt to

fuel their campfires. This is not only bad for these precious habitats but it's also pointless as live greenwood will not burn."

Westonbirt Arboretum to Start Tree Replanting Plans After Grant

An article published on the BBC News website

WESTONBIRT ARBORETUM can start planning the replanting of trees affected by Chalara ash dieback, after receiving £249,359 from the National Lottery for the project and £100,860 from other charities. The target is £750,000, but now the Silk Wood Community Planting Project at Westonbirt Arboretum, near Tetbury in Gloucestershire, will see 9,000 trees planted.

In 2021, 5,000 trees on the site were felled due to ash dieback. Westonbirt project manager Oscar Adams said he was "thrilled" by the support the project had received so far.

He said: "We can now recruit project staff and plan our start on the restoration of Silk Wood.

"We are so excited to be making this a community project and are looking forward to

working with volunteers, local community groups and schools to design, plant and restore this beautiful woodland for future generations."

Forestry England, which manages the arboretum, says the project will work with the local community, rather than contractors, on replanting over the next three years.

It will also ask young people, people from disadvantaged backgrounds, those with neurodiverse conditions, and people of different ethnicities to help with design, selection of trees, ground clearing and preparation, tree planting

and future care.



Delights of Norfolk Wildlife Trust East Winch Common

An article by Robert Morgan published on the EDP website

ONE of the pleasures of being a naturalist in Norfolk is finding a wild gem amongst the vast landscape of arable fields. Be it a relic of our once widespread patchwork of heaths, wetlands and woods, or a weird, unusual animal unexpectedly stumbled upon. One such 'wild gem' is Norfolk Wildlife Trust's East Winch Common nature reserve in the north-west of the county. Very close to the hustle and bustle of King's Lynn, the reserve (despite sitting next to the A47) is a hidden beauty of purple heather, tangled gorse and scattered ponds.

It is bordered by a wildlife rich woodland that is a mixture of trees in both age and species. The site has been in NWT's care since 1973, having been gifted to the Trust by the famous cartoonist Osbert Lancaster.

Four Dartmoor ponies are free to roam the site, their grazing helping to keep the features of this tiny fragment of ancient wet heathland intact. This once extensive habitat, now reduced to a few protected sites, is rich in wildflowers and invertebrates, with many being nationally scarce and endangered.

As a youngster I was given good advice concerning wildlife watching, and that was to "enter upon the day with high hopes, but low expectations." I kept that in mind as I travelled to East Winch Common on a day of hurried grey clouds and light drizzle. Although, as luck would have it, upon arrival the weather cleared and waves of sunshine began to traverse the heath.

Meadow brown and gatekeeper butterflies skipped between each clump of heather, and small copper and comma lay open-winged on the sandy paths, warming in the strengthening sun.

An area of the reserve undergoing habitat management work, to strip-back purple moor grass, (a species that's beginning to dominate the floral structure of the site due to it benefiting from milder winters and human-induced atmospheric nitrates) has exposed a long-hidden 'seed-bank'. The removal of the top layer of soil has allowed plants that are heathland specialities to return.

Petty Whin, a small spindly type of gorse, had previously been recorded only twice on the reserve, and not since the mid-1980s. Its return is now marked by at least two dozen sticks, indicating the spots where the young tender shoots of this long-lost plant are emerging, the germinating seeds having laid dormant for possibly a hundred years or more.

My attention was drawn to the middle of the heath where several wire hurdles were formed into squares. These I discovered were to protect the marsh gentian, a flower that is in serious decline.

Apart from its stronghold in the New Forest, it has a restricted and fragmented distribution in the UK. This is a great shame as its long stem holds aloft a beautiful blue, trumpet-shaped flower which is delicately striped with green.

The cages erected around some of these plants are to evaluate the possible impact of livestock grazing. Near the road is a rather 'odd



patch' rich in wildflowers, its level appearance and oval shape being the only evidence that it was once, astonishingly, a cricket pitch!

It now plays host, from the former crease out to the boundary, to the delicate eyebright, a semi-parasitic plant that feeds on the nutrients of nearby grass roots. This suppresses the grass and allows space for other flowers to grow in profusion. I can only imagine what the long departed club groundsman would think.

Heathland sites, like East Winch Common, are great habitats for reptiles, as was proved on this particular visit. Despite the trepidation of the sun to fully commit itself, I found a grass snake, and two adders basking beneath gorse bushes.

The ground around the edges of gorse are good places to look for snakes, as the prickly scrub gives them top-cover from watchful buzzards; but coiled in the right place the sun can squeeze in to warm their cold blood.

I strolled along the paths, following the lines of hoof prints embedded in the baked dry crust of the wet sand, rather like cracked caramel on a crême brulee. Every so often a common lizard would dash from the path and fling itself into the matted cover of heather.

One creature that I hoped to see was a slow worm, a reptile that I often caught as a boy. Although I must add that all UK reptiles are now protected and to handle them requires a licence, of course, I wouldn't recommend picking up an adder, unless you know what you are doing, licence or not.

Living and working in the Norfolk Broads means slow worm are a species I rarely see, as they tend towards heathlands rather than

wetlands.

Hope turned to expectation when I came across a piece of rusty corrugated tin and under it, my prize, a large adult slow worm warming itself under the sun-heated sheeting. What a marvellous animal, coppery-brown, almost shimmering bronze.

Red ants, suddenly exposed, ran frantically around desperately attempting to rescue their precious eggs. The slow worm slipped through them, down a small hole, and it was gone.

If it wasn't for the fact that we know slow worms can be found under discarded objects lying on the ground, we probably wouldn't spot them. We know little of their habits in the wild, as they live mostly underground, feeding on worms and soil slugs.

Certainly, it's our strangest reptile, but blind-snake, or deaf-adder, and especially slowworm, are all ridiculous names for this animal. It is actually a legless lizard! It possesses eyelids which snakes do not, and its tongue is without a forked end.

It will discard its tail, as lizards do when caught, and its face and head structure is more lizard than snake. Their skeleton is the biggest give away, as they still retain leg bones hidden deep beneath their flesh. But, despite being a biological oddity, what a gem!

So hopes were met, and expectations exceeded. One of many jewels that NWT's East Winch Common, and other Norfolk nature reserves, have to offer.

For details of Norfolk Wildlife Trust reserves, events and visitor centres, visit our website at www.norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk.

Most Woodland in England Out of Bounds to Public, Figures Show

An article published on the ITV News website

TO MANY, England is synonymous with rolling hills, thickets and pastures, but new data reveals more than 70% of woodland in England is out of bounds to the public. The figures, given exclusively to ITV News, show on average 71% of woodland in England has neither a footpath nor right of way, meaning they are inaccessible to the public.

Across the country, it is a mixed picture. In leafy home county Buckinghamshire, 51% is inaccessible to the public, meaning visitors are free to enjoy nearly half of the county's woodland.

However, in Norfolk the vast majority, 87%, of woods are out bounds to everyone except the landowner. Currently in England the public are only able to explore areas like footpaths, mountains and heaths without a landowner's permission.

Biologist and campaigner Dr Amy-Jane Beer is a regular wild swimmer in the Yorkshire Derwent river near her home. Her favourite place for a dip is a popular swim spot near Kirkham Abbey, which members of the public have to venture off a public footpath and trespass on private land to access - an infraction the landowner currently tolerates.

She told ITV News "Permissive access or tolerated access as we have here is fragile and is dependent on the whim of an individual. A landowner who could get up one morning and change their mind."

Campaigners like Dr Beer want to see England's countryside access laws to be amended to reflect those in Scotland - where the public are legally free to roam across most land and inland water, as long as they leave no trace.

However, not everyone agrees. The

Country Land and Business Association (CLA), which represents farmers and landowners, is among those opposed to the calls. The organisation argues the public is already able to explore miles of public footpaths, and is concerned greater public access could negatively affect delicate habitats and crops.

Jonathan Roberts of the CLA says: "We see wildfires, we see dogs attacking sheep for example. That will happen much more. We see the impact that access can have on flora and fauna. It's a nice idea that people leave no trace, we encourage people to leave no trace, but actually the more people who use certain hotspots, the more damage is done."

However, campaign groups like Right to Roam argue time in nature is essential to a person's mental and physical health and should be equally available to all.

"Who gets to decide how much nature people in one area of the country is allowed compared to others. It's a postcode lottery," says Nick Hayes, Right to Roam co-founder.

He also believes greater public interaction with the environment is key to tackling the climate crisis.

"We are in a scenario now of biodiversity decline, habitat loss. People don't know what they've got because they're not able to connect with it. We think the more people connect with nature the more they will be able to stand up and say 'look we actually need to protect it.'"

While the debate over the public's right to

England's countryside is an ancient one, there is renewed interest in it. Last month, the court of appeal overturned a ruling which had banned the public from wild camping on Dartmoor after a local landowner had argued wild campers had to seek permission to be on their land.

A bill spearheaded by Green MP Caroline Lucas is currently being debated by MPs, which, if successful, would extend the right of public access in England and Wales to the countryside, including to woodlands.

Seemingly rowing back on shadow environment minister Alex Sobel's assertion earlier this year that a Labour Government would extend the public's 'right to roam' if they won the next election, Labour has said it is committed to 'responsible access' to the countryside.

While the Government points to the 'fantastic network' of public rights of way which exist already in England, says it is working to complete the King Charles III coastal path, a 2,700 mile trail running along the coast of England.

A DEFRA spokesperson said: "To restore nature, and to protect the livelihoods of people who live and work in the countryside, we need to enjoy its beauty responsibly. We must not replace our rights of way with a right to trample."

What is clear is that neither side of this debate see eye-to-eye. However, at the centre of this argument is a desire to appreciate our surroundings, and an ambition to protect it for future generations.



Changing Approaches to Public Spaces

By Grant Leggett, Executive Director, published on www.propertyreporter.co.uk

OVER a hundred years before the climate emergency became a global concern, it was recognised that 'He who plants a tree, plants a hope'. Today that mantra carries particular resonance. In light of rising temperatures, increased toxic emissions and decreasing biodiversity, it is scientifically proven that trees are fundamental to our survival, and their potential extends into all areas of life: the practical, social and environmental.

Today England's woodlands cover just 10% of the country – a poor comparison to the EU average of 38%. This figure is set to increase to 12% by 2050 under current regenerative plans but this is not enough according to Rewilding Britain, which is pushing for a doubling of the country's woodland cover over the next decade to help absorb 10 per cent of current UK greenhouse emissions annually and protect declining wildlife.

Today England's woodlands cover just 10% of the country. A poor comparison to the EU average of 38%. This figure is set to increase to 12% by 2050 under current regenerative plans but this is not enough according to Rewilding Britain, which is pushing for a doubling of the country's woodland cover over the next decade to help absorb 10% of current UK greenhouse emissions annually and protect declining wildlife.

Facing up to the fact that the built environment has had a role to play in the reduction of woodlands, the development industry is doing its bit. My own organisation, Leaders Romans Group, has literally planted a tree for every house that it sells and will be launching a raft of new environmental initiatives imminently. Others in the property industry are implementing similar projects.

Local authorities, too, are prioritising woodlands as the 'green' component in new developments, moving away from well-manicured 'hard' landscaping and towards more natural landscapes. This is partly influenced by the Environment Act's requirement for a minimum 10% biodiversity net gain which becomes a legal requirement from November this year. It also stems (no pun intended) from the desire for more 'usable' public open spaces that came into existence during the pandemic.

Consequently, developers throughout the country, including London where I am based, are replacing architecturally designed or ornamental high-maintenance lawns and topiaries with more useable spaces, or even with woods and wildflower meadows.

Local authorities are also allowing several of their green spaces to be left to re-wild, although the cynic in me suggests that may be more to do with maintenance budgets than a planned biodiversity effort.

Initial fears that untended spaces would impact property values have been proven ill-founded. Last summer LRG carried out some research on the impact on property values across all local authority areas in England and Wales.

It concluded that homeowners are prepared to pay a premium for a home close to woodlands



and that this figure has increased in the last two years: homes located within 50 metres of woodland attract a 6% price premium, a rise of 2.4% since the start of the pandemic.

This is unsurprising taking into account a considerable increase of appreciation for woodlands post Covid: woodland visits rose from 170m in 2016-17 to 296m in 2020-21, and the annual number of visits to the forests managed by Forestry England rose by 74% between 2016 and 2021.

Understanding the importance that homeowners attach to woodland is vital in the planning of new communities. This has been demonstrated in the recent increase in counter-urbanisation and an above-average rise in rural house prices. Whereas in 2019 the square footage of a home was deemed the single most important factor in buying a property, post-Covid, in 2022 this was replaced by access to outdoor spaces.

Informal public open spaces vary considerably and yet woodlands remain the most popular. Perhaps this is the versatility of woodlands, offering opportunities for natural play, quiet walks and in London in particular, the opportunity to retreat from the sight of buildings and infrastructure and to remove oneself from the hustle and bustle of city life.

Of course, the potential for London developers to provide large expanses of woodland within a scheme, the viability of which depends on a certain density, is limited. Accordingly, many developers in London are both delivering access to woodlands and practical assistance for the management of nearby woodlands.

In Buckinghamshire, for example, developments within proximity to woodland are required to pay a maintenance cost and in some cases may be a physical contribution. In some cases, this is provided through a SANG (Suitable Alternative Natural Green Space).

Boyer is currently advising on a residential

development in Maidstone in which the developer will fund work at a local nature reserve and get involved in hands-on work too.

Policies which formalise developers' contributions to woodlands include the London Plan's Urban Greening Factor (UGF). This guidance requires every local authority to create its own greening strategy and all major developments to include urban greening as a fundamental element of site and building design. It introduces the UGF calculator a means of evaluating the quantity and quality of urban greening in a development proposal.

Like so many policies, it is a very good idea in principle. In practice that is a blunt instrument that needs to be applied effectively. Some sites can never achieve the levels required and become unviable as a result.

Just as with the Environment Act's requirement for a minimum 10% biodiversity net gain (BNG), it is important the policies, which acknowledge that greening is important, enable developers to implement measures without compromising the scheme itself. That's not to say the principles of UGF nor BNG are wrong, but they are both new policies that need refinement over time lest they be the culprit in irrationally preventing the development of otherwise suitable sites.

For example, where a brownfield site has become overgrown, even when littered with trash or abandoned structures, or is contaminated, it can be extremely difficult to achieve 10% BNG while also delivering development of the appropriate density.

Trees matter ... a lot ... but they are not the only means of increasing biodiversity, enjoyment of a scheme, or its aesthetics. While metrics and calculators have a role to play in the implementation of worthwhile policies, it is important to view each scheme in its own context and not to overlook the benefits that a wide range of natural elements can bring.

Saving Our Trees and Woodland

JOANNA TAYLOR, Local Democracy Reporter for the Peterborough Telegraph, reported that an application by the Diocese of Ely to chop down eight protected sycamores around Chatteris Vicarage on Church Lane in Chatteris has been rejected by Fenland District Council (FDC).

The council said in its refusal notice that the trees “continue to warrant protection” and that the “justification given for the works is not considered sufficient to outweigh its protected status”.

The diocese gave various reasons for wanting to fell each of the eight trees, such as their damaging a wall separating the vicarage from the road and their hanging into a public car park. Some of the trees are themselves damaged, the application adds.

However, FDC’s tree officer said they were not prepared to approve the loss of trees that “make a significant contribution to the character of the area”.

They added that they would have no objection to the other works proposed by the diocese, which includes cutting back four more sycamores as well as an ash and an elm.

As well as the objection from the tree officer, the application was also met with objections from members of the public. Lawrence Weetman wrote that “removing trees covered by a TPO should always be a last resort”.

“It is not clear what the justification for doing so is here,” he continued. “In this case, the trees are within a conservation area and within the grounds of Chatteris’ only Grade I listed building (the parish church). These significant churchyard trees offer significant amenity value, and the loss of eight mature trees will have a significant negative impact upon the setting of the parish church as a designated heritage asset.”

The Diocese of Ely says that some of the trees have poor form and poor unions, where the branches meet the trunk, and that they are too close to the vicarage building and boundary wall.

While it has submitted some photos of the trees and a short tree report, FDC says that if it wishes to make the application again it must provide “a detailed report on the damage to walls and building and alternative methods to mitigate any inherent weaknesses in the trees to justify the loss of such a landscape feature”.

It also has the right to appeal to the Secretary of State.

SURREY HEATH BOROUGH COUNCIL has successfully prosecuted two companies for the unauthorised felling of five protected trees in Bagshot, leading to a total of over £20,000 of fines and costs for both firms.

Pennyhill Park Limited and their contractor, Clear Cut Gardens Tree Care Limited, both pleaded guilty to the charges and together they were required by the court to pay a total of £20,621.

Surrey Heath Portfolio Holder for Net Zero, Wellbeing & Environment Cllr Morgan Rise said: “Surrey Heath Borough Council is committed to protecting our natural environment, including our important trees.

“Trees are essential to our environment by creating oxygen and cleaning air through photosynthesis, which removes climate-

warming carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, mitigating the effects of climate change. In one year, a mature tree can absorb a half a metric ton of carbon dioxide.

“Trees also provide natural shade and habitat for wildlife encouraging stronger biodiversity. As a council we will continue to take action against anyone that damages or fells protected trees. I would urge anyone who is planning to carry out work or cut down trees on their land to please check first if they are the subject of a Tree Preservation Order (TPO).”

Danny Pecorelli, Managing Director at Pennyhill Park said: “We are devastated that after an impeccable environmental record for over 40 years we have inadvertently breached the TPO rules. We planted over 1,500 trees across our different sites last year and plan to plant over 500 more just at Pennyhill this year in partnership with one of our charity partners Protect Earth, and fully appreciate the importance of being good custodians of the land we own.

“This has been a hugely distressing learning curve for us and reinforces the importance of checking thoroughly which trees are the subject of a TPO before undertaking any works.”

The Council is proud of Surrey Heath’s position as the most wooded borough in the country, with an estimated tree cover of 36.1%, and has more than 660 TPOs in place, legally protecting thousands of trees.

The Council carries out an extensive planting, care and maintenance programme on its trees throughout the year. In 2022-23 more than 5,000 trees were planted by its Greenspace team and volunteers, while the Tree Officer provides expert advice and guidance.

BROMLEY COUNCIL has ordered a landowner to replant felled oak trees on a “much loved, mini woodland site”, reported Sadiya Chowdhury, News Correspondent for Sky News

Conservationists claim 131 trees were illegally felled in the woodland adjacent to Cator Park in Bromley. The leaseholder, Prince Choudary, told Sky News that fewer than 40 trees were cut down before the council served him with tree preservation orders (TPOs).

“The land has been in the family for 15 years,” he said. “It has sports ground permission so I want to do sports activities there for the local community.”

Mr Choudary, a football coach, said children need outdoor spaces to practice and play football and his indoor academy in Camberwell has run out of space.

“We get a lot of players from the Bromley area and Orpington so it’s difficult for them to go to Camberwell,” he said.

“All these trees that have been cut down were going to be replanted on the side to make it more beautiful. We wanted a nice sports pitch in the middle and two small pitches on the side.”

The company which owns the land, Hopeson Group Limited, said the lease was “granted with a view to create sports facilities for participants of all ages”.

Mr Choudary has accused local residents of trying to drive him away so they can use the space to walk their dogs. He agreed to meet Sky News at the site only if security was provided, saying the dispute has become so toxic that locals set their dogs on him.

Security guard in tow, he showed us the site’s entrance.

“This is where they broke the lock,” he said, pointing to a latch on the gate that has been cut off. As Mr Choudary pointed to the broken lock, a dog walker opened the gate and entered the land, before closing it behind her and walking off.

Ricardo Gama, senior associate at Leigh Day solicitors, has warned that such conflicts could become widespread.

“It’s becoming more common for these sorts of issues to arise,” he said. “As people start to realise the value of trees and communities wake up to the value of trees, they’re taking steps to protect trees, to process, to campaign and to look into legal issues.”

Mr Gama said councils often issue TPOs before a landowner is made aware of the order.

He said “The TPO takes effect as soon as the order is made and before the council has informed the landowner. Once the council has made this, they must notify the landowner and the landowner has certain limited rights.”

Disputes over TPOs are not uncommon. In June, Sheffield city council issued an open apology following a bitter dispute over the felling of thousands of street trees.

Earlier this year, Plymouth city council leader Richard Bingley announced his resignation after ordering the felling of more than 100 trees to make way for a £12m regeneration scheme in the city centre.

In Bromley, local resident Anita Hocking told Sky News she’s been using Prince Choudary’s leasehold land to walk her dogs for 18 years.

“Personally I don’t feel (Prince Choudary) is responsible enough to (operate) the land as it is,” she said. “We have to respect that he (is the leaseholder), and if he locked the gate, I would not break in because I’m not the owner of it.”

Another woman allowed her daughter to pick berries. “We’re going to make blackberry jam - thought we’d start early on our Christmas presents,” she said.

Local residents are supporting conservationists in calls to retain the woodland for dog-walking and wildlife.

Anne Taylor, director of the conservation group CPRE, told Sky News: “I hope the (leaseholder) will realise what has happened here means he can never develop it or use it for any income-generating purpose and hopefully (release) this land - hopefully to someone like a philanthropist or an environmental body.

“We’re really keen that this should be now restored (and) preserved as a community woodland.”

Bromley Council told Sky News it is investigating the felling of protected trees.

“As part of our robust and methodological response to this desperately sad incident, we have now also notified the landowner of a legal requirement to replant oak trees on this much

loved, mini woodland site," it said in a statement.

Hopeson Group Limited said it was "happy to work with the council to resolve any concerns which they may have".

WRITING on the Local Government Lawyer website, Lottie Winson reported that Plymouth City Council has lost its latest bid to set aside legal proceedings brought by campaign group 'Save the Trees of Armada Way'.

The council's request for a re-hearing on its application to set aside the proceedings was refused at the High Court on 14 September, meaning it will now face a judicial review.

The dispute centres around a regeneration plan by the Conservative-led council that involved felling trees on the city's Armada Way.

A late-night operation saw the council cut down more than a hundred trees on 14 March, but works were stopped short by a last-minute injunction secured by local campaign group Save the Trees of Armada Way (STRAW).

The group launched a legal challenge against the decision by Plymouth's former Mayor Richard Bingley to chop down most of the trees, and permission was granted for a substantive hearing of the claim.

In June, the council asked the High Court to dismiss the case without a hearing, arguing that the claim was now academic.

Mrs Justice Lang dismissed the application as "misconceived" and ordered the council to pay the claimant's costs of the application regardless of the outcome of the litigation.

Following the refusal of its request for a rehearing, a spokesperson for Plymouth City Council said: "We are disappointed that the judge has refused our request for a re-hearing on our application to set aside the legal proceedings.

"We firmly believe that as the judicial review is based on a decision that has been overturned, the decision is therefore academic. Following a consultation on a new design, a new decision will be made.

"To move forward with a lengthy JR process will cost the council thousands of pounds of taxpayer's money; money that could be spent on other services. As a result of the judge's decision today, we now will move to the full JR."

The council revealed that the legal process "will not deter [it]" from moving forward with its plans to clean up Armada Way.

Plymouth said it would commence the "initial preparations" for the removal of the felled tree trunks and start clearing vegetation that is not covered by the legal injunction.

Alice Goodenough of Harrison Grant Ring Solicitors, representing Ms White, founder of STRAW and the Claimant in the judicial review proceedings said: "We welcome the ruling of Mrs Justice Thornton yesterday and agree with the court that this has been a waste of the court's time and resources as well as those of our client and the taxpayers of Plymouth.

"The first judge to look at the council's application considered it "misconceived" and awarded costs in any event. Despite that, the council renewed their application requiring two further judges to reach the same conclusion. It is therefore not surprising that the Court ordered our client the costs of responding to the council's applications in any event and liberty to apply to obtain these outside of the Aarhus costs cap."

MILLIE EMMETT reported on www.gazette-news.co.uk that at the latest Tiptree Parish Council full council meeting, councillors discussed public fears regarding the Birch Wood site.

There has been some controversy regarding the site after it was sold by auction in October last year. The future of the private site has not been confirmed and residents are unhappy after now being unable to use the site.

The Facebook group, Save Birch Woods, was set up by Tiptree residents and now has more than 550 members.

Barbed wire has been put up around the site, now blocking the public entry to the land. The council confirmed the concern regarding the new fencing has been reported to Essex Highways.

Kelvedon District Angling Association lost their access to the reservoir on the site when it was purchased at auction by the new owner.

The society had held the water since 1970, but due to the owner "having other plans for it" the group were told they can no longer use the site. A planning application for a change of use at the site, however, has not yet been received by the council and the future of the site has not been confirmed.

In the meeting report, a spokesman for Tiptree Parish Council said: "There was an item on the agenda regarding Birch Wood, where a resident had asked for Parish Assistance to establish Public Rights of Way across the Woods.

"The Chairman was aware that all public attendee's today were here because of the rumours of development at Birch Wood. The Parish Council must act within their legal parameters. There is no planning application in place at this time.

"There is a Temporary Tree Preservation Order in Place. The landowner has fenced his property, as is his right to do so. Where there is concern about the fencing encroaching outside of the land of the wood, this has been reported to ECC Highways.

ALEX SPENCER, writing on the Cambridge Independent, reported that a Bramley apple tree, pictured below, in an orchard threatened with destruction to make way for a busway is the second largest of its species ever recorded in Britain and Ireland.

The Tree Register of the British Isles sent tree registrar David Alderman to visit Coton Orchard to measure the trunks of 12 of its oldest Bramley trees, who discovered one specimen had a 2.44m circumference.

He told the orchard's owners: "This makes it not only the biggest Bramley tree in the county but also the second largest Bramley apple tree that we've ever recorded in the whole of Britain and Ireland."

Furthermore, he added: "It could be the

largest once we've checked our records."

These large examples are called "champion trees" by the Trees register. Champion Trees are individual trees which are exceptional examples of their species because of their enormous size, great age, rarity or historical significance, David explained.

During the inspection, David also noticed the sizable grey alders *Alnus incana* in the hedgerows. This may be another Champion tree as the largest grey alder in Cambridgeshire, was at the Botanic Garden but it died in 2004, according to David.

The Cambourne to Cambridge busway plan would see a dedicated off-road route cut through Coton Orchard and green belt land to provide a new transport link to the city.

The Greater Cambridge Partnership plans include a dedicated busway serving Cambourne and the proposed Bourn Airfield development, as well as Hardwick, Coton and the West Cambridge campus.

Running alongside the busway is proposed to be an 'active travel path' to be used by pedestrians, cyclists, and equestrians. A new Park & Ride site is also proposed under the plans, which have taken eight years to develop.

Tree registrar David Alderman told the orchard's owners: "The Tree Register works in partnership with the Woodland Trust and the Ancient Tree Inventory so for some time we have been aware that Coton Orchard is home to many veteran and notable trees with potential "Champion Trees" which we are specifically interested in recording.

"Although Woodland Trust have conducted their own site survey in relation to the busway route, none of Coton Orchard's trees have been officially measured or recorded for the Tree Register, which maintains a database of over 200,000 of the UK's most special trees."

WRITING on KentOnLine, Alan Smith reported that dormice could get in the way of plans to build 15 homes on a village site.

An ecological survey of the plot to the west side of Maidstone Road in Matfield has revealed eight nests of the creatures which are a protected species in danger of extinction.

The study was carried out by an ecologist acting for the developer, Clarendon Homes, between July and September of last year, but the results have only just been published.

It is illegal to intentionally kill, injure or capture dormice; to deliberately disturb dormice, or to destroy dormouse breeding sites or resting places.

It is possible for developers to obtain a special licence from Natural England permitting



them to disturb dormice, but there are three tests that must be met: that the activity to be licensed must be for imperative reasons of overriding public interest or for public health and safety; there must be no satisfactory alternative; and a favourable conservation status for the species must be maintained.

In this case, the planned development, while leaving some woodland on the site, would destroy about half the woodland occupied by the dormice. The developer suggests it could compensate for that by planting one hectare of new woodland on a meadow site at Orchard House in Crittenden Road, Matfield. That site is 2km away. It is not clear how the dormice would know where to go.

However, before even applying for a licence, Clarendon Homes needs first to win planning permission for its proposal.

The application was submitted way back in March 2022, but has only just been validated by Tunbridge Wells council, because essential details were missing. Some residents have already responded to the application some months ago, but they are advised to check the council's website again as new details have been submitted.

The scheme would provide nine market homes; two with two bedrooms, three with three bedrooms and four with four bedrooms. There would also be six affordable housing units, whose size has not been specified, but all would be two-storey properties. All would be supplied with EV charging points

The site wraps around Matfield Village Hall, and actually includes some land owned by the parish council, and some by the hall trustees.

The developer is offering to provide a play area behind the village hall that would cater for both the residents of the new homes and the wider village, and also to provide an extension to the hall's car park with an additional 12 spaces.

As there are covenants on parts of the land, the new homes would be confined to the south-west corner, with a woodland buffer left around the village hall.

Brenchley and Matfield Parsh Council last responded to the application in December of last year, when it raised issues over a number of details of the plan as it was then proposed, without objecting overall. The hall trustees, responding in April of last year, did object.

There may additionally be other problems with the development, which would not necessarily be insurmountable.

Southern Water said it believed there may be a public sewer running across the land, while Ian McEwan, a neighbour at Court Farmhouse, said his electricity supply ran in an underground cable across the site and he was worried about his power being cut off

The land is within the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and is adjacent to the Matfield Conservation Area. There is also a small population of slowworms on the land.

Should permission be granted, KCC is seeking a contribution from the developers of £68,000 towards the provision of extra secondary school education at Mascalls Academy, plus £6,500 towards library provision and £2,755 towards waste services.

A small number of residents' objections have been received, including some who questioned whether there was any need for the play area or car park extension.

Residents living near the towering 15m (50ft) copper beech in St Margaret's Street, Rochester, feel it is part of the landscape and it should stay, but the Church Commissioners for England want to get rid of it to create better access to Bishopscourt, the residence of the Bishop, the Rt Rev Jonathan Gibbs. They also believe it needs to go on health and safety grounds.

A tree surgeon, who has carried out a 13-page survey, found there were some signs of decay and there was a slight lean towards the public highway.

The expert Greg Sweeney said: "The tree is a visible feature on the local street scene. Consideration has been given to remedial work interventions such as branch shortening and crown reduction. However, given the tree's form and species, it is thought there would be little scope or success with regard to pruning."

Further remedial work would be a short-term solution only," the report adds.

Mr Sweeney concluded the tree should be replaced with a suitable species and size.

Lloyd Morgans and his partner Adam Green, who live virtually opposite, have collected more than 140 signatures in just days in their campaign to save the beech. They are calling for a second independent report into its condition.

Lloyd, 57, a counsellor, said: "If you inspected every tree of this age you would find faults but that doesn't mean they all have to come down. You wouldn't expect human beings of that age to be in tip-top condition, so why trees? As residents for many years, I or other residents on this street and around Rochester have never seen issues with falling branches or any other issue with this tree.

"Having spoken to friends who are involved in the preservation of woodland they share my concerns, stating that the majority of trees of this age would show the same or similar signs of fungal infection and rot but would not be expected to fall or lose branches for many years to come."

He cited the restoration of the rare catalpa tree near the cathedral as an example of how it should be saved. Tree surgeons cut back branches to ensure its safety from thousands of passing visitors and it is now thriving behind protective fencing.

In a letter to the council, Lloyd said: "There are several effective methods to support the stability of trees, which would negate the need to fell. At worst, surely some very sympathetic tree surgery would be the more appropriate solution? Especially in the current climate crisis and high level of public interest and concern over the felling of trees in the name of 'progress'."

Church Commissioners for England has applied to Medway Council for permission for an access ramp to the main building, a Grade II listed house probably built around 1500.

The matter will go before the council's planning committee for a decision.

THE West Somerset Free Press reported that Somerset Council are looking to plant 240 hectares (593 acres) of new woodland across the county. It comes after a finding showing just 8% of Somerset enjoys tree cover, compared to the 13% average across the UK.

The scheme is part of 'Somerset's Tree Strategy' which launched in September. It sets out to enhance and protect the county's trees.

Scheme strategist James Chapman said: "Many communities have already been involved in schemes to protect our landscape, but this is

an exciting time when plans can go forward with the support of the council.

"Although lots of residents don't have space in their gardens to grow trees, communities can still plant local seeds and nurture seedlings that can be grown in more suitable places, which can be achieved by creating community tree seed nurseries across the county."

Community Empowerment Officer Craig Daters added: "The initial focus for my current role is to get building blocks in place to enable communities and landowners in Somerset to become more self-sufficient. This means developing opportunities for more home-grown trees and supporting communities to plant trees whilst advising landowners on woodland creation."

Councillor Dixie Darch, Lead Member for Environment and Climate Change, said: "The new Tree Strategy has been launched in recognition of how important trees are to the landscape, the environment and how that impacts on the lives of our residents.

"We are delighted to welcome Craig and James who will help implement a diverse range of management practices that improve our woodland quality and help protect the range of species being planted in rural and urban areas. This is Somerset's strategy to help trees be a thriving part of our landscape, our ecology, and our society. It belongs to us all."

DEREK NIEMANN, wrote on "Country Diary" in The Guardian, that tree by tree, ash dieback is taking Sheerhatch Wood in Willington, Bedfordshire.

For those who obeyed the rule to stay local through the pandemic, the rebound to places beyond walking distance can be a long time coming. "Three and a half years!" I exclaim as we emerge from the hedge-lined stretch of Wood Lane on to the stubble fields.

A great sweep up the slope takes our eyes to the living monument on top, a woodland that goes back to Domesday, capping the brow of the hill. My memory had been of a continuous dark green strip, the crowns of hundreds of trees giving it a cumulus-effect bobbly roof.

Though I had heard about the change, it is still a wrench to see the breaks. The intact wood has become like a gappy hedge. When ash dieback began to strike the wood before the pandemic, the estate did everything by the book. It worked with authorities and informed the council that it would be realising the commercial value of timber before disease rendered the trunks unsaleable.

We should all weep for the ash and the loss of its light-giving generosity. Its leaves are last to open and first to drop. Even when it is in full leaf, sunlight slips through its fingers and dapples the floor. Of all the trees in the wood, this is the one that should not have fallen. But fallen it has, and when we rise on the farm track to the short end of a long oblong, I am full of foreboding. An ash-oak woodland? Not anymore.

Two or three years after the churn and gouges left by felling, here are settling woodland glades. Straggly, tall oaks, freed from crowding neighbours, might yet take on middle-age spread, or in their exposed position be toppled by gales from the north or west. Coppiced hazel bushes, no longer overshadowed, boss it over the herbage. And all through the clearings are plastic tubes, leaves half-curved inside, infant trees ready to fill the vacated airspace over decades to come.

I am too young to remember the great elms. What will the ash mean to children born today?

WRITING for KentOnLine, Nicola Jordan reported that an unholy row has broken out over plans to fell an ancient tree in a bishop's front garden

Stop Press

Boy, 16, Arrested After Felling of Famous Sycamore Gap Tree at Hadrian's Wall

JUST as I had finished this edition of Broadsheet, news came through of the illegal felling of the famous 300-year-old Sycamore Gap tree in the north of England and I just could not hold that over until next month. The loss of such an iconic tree is too important to ignore. So I have added this article in the hope that it doesn't make this edition too long for you.

Robyn Vinter and Josh Halliday reported for The Guardian that a 16-year-old boy has been arrested on suspicion of causing criminal damage in connection with the felling of the tree.

Officers arrested the teenager amid an outpouring of sadness over the destruction of the landmark, which has been a feature of the site at Hadrian's Wall in Northumberland for hundreds of years. The boy is in custody and assisting officers with their inquiries, Northumbria police said on Thursday.

Locals and national park authorities said they were "struggling to see the logic" in the destruction of a sycamore which had long become "part of this area's DNA" and had gone through thousands of changes of seasons.

The tree, believed to have been about 300 years old, was made famous when it appeared in the 1991 film *Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves*, starring Kevin Costner.

Police said they believed the felling had been a deliberate act of vandalism.

Supt Kevin Waring of Northumbria police said on the day the vandalism was discovered: "This is a world-renowned landmark and the events of today have caused significant shock, sadness and anger throughout the local community and beyond. An investigation was immediately launched following this vandalism and this afternoon we have arrested one suspect in connection with our inquiries.

"Given our investigation remains at a very early stage, we are keeping an open mind. I am appealing to the public for information to assist us. If you have seen or heard anything suspicious that may be of interest to us, please let us know."

Police officers and park rangers at the

scene said they believed the tree had been sliced skilfully with a sharp chainsaw by someone who knew what they were doing.

Locals said they heard nothing during the night due to high winds from Storm Agnes and woke to find the tree split from its stump.

Andrew Poad, general manager at the National Trust, said he was at a loss about who would have reason to chop the tree down.

He said: "We have ups and downs [with members of the public] but not to a degree anyone would do something like this. It's a reason better known to themselves. It's part of this area's DNA, that's what I'm struggling with. I can't see the logic in what's happened."

Tony Gates, the chief executive of the Northumberland national park authority, said staff at the visitor centre had been in tears after arriving in the morning and finding the famous tree felled.

He said: "Everyone's just in shock. It's one of the most iconic landscapes in the country. When we feel that sense of loss, how do we perpetuate the legacy and create a real sense of meaningfulness?"

"There have been lots of really good ideas from the community already and so we need to be open and hear those. Whatever happens next needs to be with the consent and ownership of everyone."

Kimberly McGuinness, the police and crime commissioner for Northumberland, was also at the scene. Like many people in the area, she also had a personal connection to the tree as her wedding invitations had featured an image of it.

"I can't understand why anyone would do this. It's like stealing joy," she said.

She was not the only one for whom it was considered more than just a tree. Many people paying a visit said they had a deep personal

connection to it.

Leanne Scudamore got engaged at the tree in 2016, the same year it was voted tree of the year in a Woodland Trust competition. She said: "It's a huge thing for us. I had loads of missed calls and messages this morning, everyone is just so angry. It's really, really sad. They literally murdered one of Northumberland's landmarks, I'm absolutely furious.

"There are a lot of people in my situation with an emotional connection to it. It has a special place in our hearts. Apart from the emotional side, it's devastating for businesses, too, who rely on the tourism."

The Twice Brewed Inn, a stone's throw from the site, has offered a £1,500 bar tab to anyone with information that leads to the arrest and conviction of the person who carried out the offence. The pub's logo is an illustration of the tree and it had been just about possible to see the landmark from its windows.

Michael West, a retired teacher who lives in one of the houses closest to where the tree had stood, said he wished something positive could come of it. "There are lots of highly skilled people in the area and artists and the like. In Japan, when a tree falls down, they stick it in the ground. Maybe they could do that."

The National Trust said it would be collecting seeds and taking cuttings from the tree. Poad said: "It's a sycamore so the stump could try to regrow but of course it won't be the same."

Editor's comment. This news came on the same day as reports that 15-year-old Elianne Andam was fatally stabbed by a 17-year-old boy on her way to her south London school. What is this world coming to?



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, Hellesdon	16/12/2022	T1 magnolia	Provisional
2023 No BD0596	Verge east of School Road, Drayton	30/03/2023	AMENDED – T1, T2, T3, T4, T5, T6, T7, T8, T9, T10, T11, T12, T13, T14, T15, T16, T17, T18, T19, T20, T21, T23, T25, T29, T31, T33, T35 & T36 oak, T22 & T24, pine, T26, T28 & T30 birch, T27, T32 & T34 walnut.	Confirmed 28/09/2023
2023 No BD0601	5 Church Lane, Sprowston	28/04/2023	T1 oak in rear garden.	Provisional
2023 No BD0604	Land east of Manor Road, Newton St Faith	15/05/2023	T1, T5, T6, T7, T8, T9, T11, T12, T13, T16, T17, T18, T19, T20, T21 & T22 oak, T2, T14 & T15 ash, T3 apple, T4 sycamore and T10 holly	Provisional
2023 No BD0605	Front garden of Beechbank, Buckenham Road, Lingwood	17/05/2023	T1 copper beech	Provisional
2023 No BD0608	Front garden of The Rectory, Norwich Road, Acle	19/06/2023	T1 stone pine	Provisional
2023 No BD0609	Land adj cycle path south of Broadland Northway, from track leading from Reepham Road, Taverham	22/06/2023	A1 mixed area.	Provisional
2023 No BD0611	Land east of Fred Tuddenham Drive, Cawston	29/06/2023	G1 oak x8. W1 mixed woodland	Provisional
2023 No BD0613	Fourwinds, 37 Waterloo Road, Hainford	02/08/2023	G1 mixed group of 4 in rear garden	Provisional
2023 No BD0616	3 Barrack Yard Cottages, Church Road, Wickhampton, Freethorpe	26/07/2023	T1 ash in front garden.	Provisional
2023 No BD0622	Highway verge south of White Woman Lane, Sprowston	13/09/2023	T1, T2 & T3 hornbeam	Provisional
2023 No BD0625	Land north of 17 Marsh Road, Upton	22/09/2023	T1 & T5 oak, T1 & T4 field maple and T3 oak	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
2023/1455	107 Saint Marys Grove, Sprowston	TPO	T1 beech - crown reduction of 6m and spread of 4m to leave height of 6m and spread of 6m.	18/09/2023
2023/1490	109 Godfrey Road, Spixworth	TPO	T1 oak - canopy approx from 20m by 2-3m.	Approved
2023/2001	Sawley Villa, 40 Blofield Corner Road, Blofield	TPO	T1 oak - 16m height, 10m spread. 2 nd 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 nd 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
2023/2090	Swallow Barn, The Street, Halvergate	211	T1 - reduce height and width from approx 15m to 10m.	No objection
2023/2117	119 Wilks Farm Drive, Sprowston	TPO	T1 pear - crown reduction from 8.5m to 4m height and 6.4m to 3m spread. T2 cherry - crown reduction from 11m to height from and 9m to 4.5m spread.	04/09/2023
2023/2155	42 Beechwood Drive, Thorpe St Andrew	TPO	T1 beech - approx 30m tall. Crown lift to approx 9m and thin out by approx 20% all round	Approved
2023/2165	1A Rimington Road, Sprowston	TPO	T1 oak - approx 10m tall and 6m wide. Reduce overhang by 2m.	Approved
2023/2183	Land north of Mill Reach, Buxton	TPO	Lombardy poplars - reduce height by 8 - 9m to previous pollarding level authorised in 2012. Willow - reduce crown by approx 3-4m.	Split decision
2023/2256	4 Berryfields, Brundall	TPO	T1 lime - 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, Taverham	TPO	T10 beech - whole crown to be reduced to 10 above ground level. T11 goat willow was removed in 2009 - please remove notation. T3 and T4 chestnut - remove and replace with rooted saplings. T5, T12, T13 and T14 - remove and replace with healthier trees.	Split decision
2023/2293	Hillcrest, 25A South Avenue, Thorpe St Andrew	211	T1 <i>Macrocampa</i> - fell. T2 Douglas fir - Reduce height from 23m to 20m and crown clean.	No objection
2023/2316	68 Furze Road, Thorpe St Andrew	TPO	AMENDED T1 chestnut - reduce lower limb growing over shed to suitable growth points back to boundary of garden. T2 -sycamore - tip reduce overhang above garden of 38 Broom Ave by no more than 2m.	Approved
2023/2336	The Croft, 92 Taverham Road, Taverham	TPO	T1 sycamore - fell.	Approved
2023/2349	Koru House, 16B Harvey Lane, Thorpe St Andrew	211	T1 & T2 sycamore – fell.	06/08/2023
2023/2365	Redcliffe House, 10 Lake View Drive, Brundall	TPO	T1 oak & T3 monkey puzzle - fell. T2 sweet chestnut - crown lift to 4m. T4 beech - crown lift to 8m. Reduce canopy to 5.5m E and 6m NW, T5 beech - crown lift to 8m. Reduce south-eastern canopy to 7m.	Approved
2023/2366	12 Lake View Drive, Brundall	TPO	T1 oak - fell.	Approved
2023/2375	1 Spinney Close, Thorpe St Andrew	TPO	T1 beech - fell. T2 sweet chestnut - crown raise north side over driveway to 6m to appropriate growth points to give clearance from house and vehicles.	Approved
2023/2388	The Ferns, Beech Road, Wroxham	211	T1 conifer - height 6m. Reduce limbs growing into garden by 1.5m to suitable growth points to leave approx 1.0-1.5m. T2 sycamore - height 13m. Remove epicormic growth at 6m. T3 holly - height 5m. Re-shape by reducing by approx 1.5m to leave approx 1.0 -1.5m. T4 laurel & conifer - height 4.5m. Reduce overhanging branches back by 1.5m to leave approx 1.0 - 1.5m.	No objection
2023/2397	Blickling Hall, Blickling Road, Blickling	211	T1, T2, T5 & T7 oak, T3 Scots pine, T4 sweet chestnut and T6 hemlock - fell.	No objection
2023/2419	Land adj Racecourse Inn, Salhouse Road, Sprowston	TPO	T2 beech, T19a elder, T28, T75, T77& T109 Scots pine, T36 - Western red cedar, T56 sycamore, Scots pine, T105a goat willow, T125a & T125b larch & T196a ash - remove. T20 English oak - crown lift to provide 5m clearance over gardens and remove deadwood (exempt). T24 beech - crown lift to 5m and remove small saplings from around base. Remove deadwood (exempt). T27 beech - crown lift to 5m over emergency access. G1 sycamores - remove two infected stems. T38 ash - prune back south westerly stem by circa 4m. G2 mixed broadleaf group - remove dead stems. G3 sycamore and ash & G4 sycamore - remove dead stems. G5 sycamore - remove two dead stems. G6 ash, pine and sycamore - remove ash. Crown lift sycamore to 5m. Remove dead pine stems. G83 sycamore - remove 7 stems. T100 & T101 Scots pine - reduce to retain lower stem at 7m height. G106 Scots pine and sycamore - remove dead stems. T196b mixed group - reduce 2 larger birch to circa 5m height.	Approved
2023/2420	2A Drayton Grove, Drayton	TPO	T1 beech - 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%. T2 oak - crown thin by approx 20%. T3 beech - reduce length of branches extending past natural canopy and crown raise southern side to approx 3m	Approved
2023/2421	80 Shakespeare Way, Taverham	TPO	T1 oak – crown thin by approx 20% and remove deadwood.	Approved
2023/2427	First Taverham Scout Head Quarters, Sandy Lane, Taverham	TPO	(T1) oak - remove large section of deadwood above play equipment (exempt works). T2 oak, T3 ash and T5 & T6 cherry – remove. T4 oak - reduce crown height from 15.4m by 3.5m and the lateral branches by up to 4m.	15/09/2023
2023/2432	Rickaree, 10 Lawn Crescent, Thorpe End	211	T1 red maple - reduce height by approx 1.5m from 7.5 to 6m and generally re-shape.	No objection
2023/2439	Land adj 63 Saint Laurence Avenue, Brundall	TPO	T1 Norway maple – height 10m. 300mm dbh. Dead. Copious stem exudation. – fell.	Approved
2023/2440	Riverview Cottage, 47 High Street, Coltishall	211	T1 white willow <i>Salix alba</i> - fell.	No objection
2023/2465	Oakhill Wood, Oakhill, Brundall	TPO	T1 sycamore - fungal decay. Fell.	Approved

2023/2466	Drayton Old Lodge, 146 Drayton High Road, Drayton	TPO	T1 oak - reduce by 3m to leave 3m branches. T2 beech - Triple-stemmed. Reduce all three stems for safety of tree. Height of tree 22m, finishing height of all three stems 10m. T3 beech - heavy leaning over main road. Current height 16m, route ball currently heaving (risk of falling). Finished height 3m monolith. T4 sycamore & T5 beech - fell and replace.	12/09/2023
2023/2485	Skeps Cottage, 24 High Street, Foulsham	211	T1 apricot - stem dia 0.4m, height 3m, canopy width 3m. Reduce main leading stem to west by 1m to leave 1m. T2 cherry - tree, stem diameter 0.6m, height 5m, canopy width 4.5m. Reduce canopy width by 0.5m and canopy height by 0.5m.	No objection
2023/2497	10 Juniper Way, Taverham	TPO	T1 oak – remove.	Refused
2023/2507	Shrubberies, 91 Plumstead Road, Thorpe End	211	T1 beech - reduce height from 15m to 13.5m and canopy width from 9m to 5m. Remove large limb overhanging neighbouring garden back to main stem. T2 beech – reduce height from 15m to 13.5m and canopy from 9m to 7.5m.	No objection
2023/2509	Beech House, 94 Taverham Road, Taverham	TPO	T1 sycamore - crown raise by three branches.	Approved
2023/2512	Norwich Road Allotments, Norwich Road, Reepham	211	T1 cherry - height 8m, stem diameter 0.5m, canopy width 5m. Raise crown to 5m over allotment side only.	No objection
2023/2513	43 Bure Way, Aylsham	211	T1 cherry - height 2m, stem diameter 0.3m, canopy width 2m. Fell.	No objection
2023/2516	6 Saint Michaels Close, Aylsham	211	T1 oak - height 11m, diameter 1.0m, width 10m. Reduce crown width by 1.5m and crown height by 1.5m.	No objection
2023/2517	The White House, 66 Spixworth Road, Old Catton	211	T1 beech - 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.	No objection
2023/2525	90 Taverham Road, Taverham	TPO	T1 oak, T2 Cupressus and T3 elm - fell. T4 sycamore – reduce from approx 21m to 18m. G5 sycamore – saplings. Remove under 50mm in diameter towards back of woodland area and small 're-shoots' of holly bush. G6 group of laurel on eastern boundary of woodland - reduce to 1.5m-2m from 3-4m and reshape hedgerow/understory.	06/09/2023
2023/2527	178 Plumstead Road East, Thorpe St Andrew	TPO	T1 sweet chestnut - height approx 14m. Northern and southern aspect 5m crown spread. Eastern and western aspect 7m crown spread. Remove all epicormic from stem. Deadwood crown. Reduce southern aspect by 1m. Reduce north-west aspect lower crown by 2m and south-eastern aspect by 2m. T2 sweet chestnut - height approx 14m. Raise crown area to 4m.	Approved
2023/2528	13 Charles Close, Wroxham	211	T1 cherry & T2 cherry plum - remove.	No objection
2023/2532	School View, Sir Williams Lane, Aylsham	TPO	T1 oak - remedial works to crown to include crown lift over roadside and drive by 5.4m and crown reduction by reducing height from 22m to 20m and width 20m to 18m over powerlines and house.	17/08/2023
2023/2536	37 Saint Michaels Avenue, Aylsham	TPO	T1 oak - crown lift to approx 5-6m over field side.	17/08/2023
2023/2539	Goosepie Farm Cottage, 5 Booton Road Cawston	211	T1 willow & T2 sycamore – fell. T3 silver birch - remove dead stem.	No objection
2023/2544	2 Church Close, Coltishall	211	T1 conifer – remove. T2 holly - branches growing at acute angle. Remove. T3 & T4 sycamore & T5 oak – prune low hanging canopy back to neighbours' boundary and house roof.	No objection
2023/2588	5 Edwards Close, Halvergate	211	T1 cherry - fell.	No objection
2023/2589	Torcello, Chapel Lane, Thorpe St Andrew	211	T1 plum - reduce from 3.5m to 2.5m in line with neighbours'. T2 laurel – re-pollard from 5m to 3m. T3 plum - reduce east branch from 3.5m to 1.5m in line with canopy. T4 plum - remove. T5, T6 & T7 plum - reduce east branches from 3.7m to 2.5m to balance tree.	No objection
2023/2604	Church Hall, 110 Norwich Road, Wroxham	211	T1 cherry - ht 4.4m. Fell to low stump. T2 cherry - ht 4.4m width 3.1m. Cut back overhang to boundary hedge approx 2m. T3 elm - ht 3m. Cut back to 1.5m.	No objection
2023/2614	45 Cavell Road, Acle	TPO	T1 oak - approx 15.2m tall. Cut back crown and overhanging branches by approx 1.5m.	12/09/2023

2023/2621	1 Walnut Close, Taverham	TPO	T1 oak - crown thin by approx 20% and reduce any branches that extend beyond the natural canopy of the tree by approx 1.5m-2.0m to appropriate growing points to retain a natural canopy. T2 oak - crown thin by approx 15% and reduce any branches that extend beyond the natural canopy of the tree by approx 1.5m-2.0m to appropriate growing points to retain a natural canopy.	31/08/2023
2023/2627	10 Bure Way, Aylsham	211	T1 & T3 Acer - trim from 9m to leave to 7m. T2 Portuguese laurel - trim from 7m to leave 5m.	31/08/2023
2023/2631	38 Charles Close, Wroxham	211	T1 ash – fell.	30/08/2023
2023/2645	Oak House, 17 High Street, Cawston	211	T1 American red oak – fell.	No objection
2023/2651	Tolls Hill, Wroxham Road, Sprowston	TPO	Various tree works to be confirmed following a site visit.	04/09/2023
2023/2654	86 Annex, 1 Lower Ground Floor, Oak Lane, Old Catton	TPO	T1 oak - height approx 19m and width approx 17m. Crown reduction of approx 1.5 to 2.0m depending on suitable growth points mainly to stop encroachment of building. There is a lateral split in a limb in the upper reaches of the crown which might require additional pruning. Raise crown to a height of approx 6m to clear the boundary hedge.	04/09/2023
2023/2655	24 Colkett Drive, Old Catton	TPO	T1 oak - height approx 19m and width approx 11m. Reduce crown all over by 1.0 - 1.5m depending on suitable growth points. Raise crown to approx. 4.5 to 5.0m to avoid interference with hedge at side while also allowing more light for yew hedge at front.	04/09/2023
2023/2666	Woodfold, 24 Woodland Drive, Thorpe End	211	T1 cherry plum – fell. T3 mountain ash - reduce height from 9m to 3m and reduce sides from 4m to 1m to clear buildings and BT cables/	05/09/2023
2023/2673	Garden Cottage, 29 The Avenue, Wroxham	211	T1 conifer - 5m. Remove. T2 pines x 2 - 11m. Remove major deadwood (exempt)	05/09/2023
2023/2686	Holly Cottage, 22 Church Lane, Wroxham	211	T1 alder - ht 8m. Twin stemmed. Remove next to dock. T26 x limes - ht 9-13m. Re-pollard back to previous growth points at approx 4-6m.	06/09/2023
2023/2688	Land at Waterloo Road, Hainford	TPO	T1 & T5 beech, T2 English oak, T3 sweet chestnut, T4 silver birch - fell (Under exception of the TPO restrictions for dead trees).	Exempt tree works
2023/2692	Saxon Haus, 16A Harvey Lane, Thorpe St Andrew	211	T1 sycamore - fell (under and exception of Conservation Area restrictions for dead trees).	Exempt tree works
2023/2694	The Beeches, 68 Cawston Road, Aylsham	TPO	T1 Quercus ilex - reduce by 1.0-1.5m to previous pruning point and shape.	06/09/2023
2023/2699	Nest Cottage, Whitwell Common, Whitwell	211	T1 & T2 poplar – fell.	07/09/2023
2023/2700	Serendipity, 10 South Avenue, Thorpe St Andrew	211	T1 holly - reduce from approx 8m to 4m. T2 holly - reduce from approx 6.5m to 4m. T3 holly - reduce from approx 5.5m to 4m. T4 and T5 holly - reduce from approx 9m to 5m.	25/09/2023
2023/2709	Homelea, Back Lane, Cawston	211	T1 oak - height 20m. Reduce crown from building to east by 1.5m approx to suitable pruning points. Rebalance to blend into previous tree works to west. Crown clean and 15% crown thin. T2 silver birch - height 16m. Reduce southern side lower crown to blend into main crown shape. Crown thin by 20%.	No objection
2023/2721	The Dell, 42 Wood Lane, Burgh	211	T1 silver birch - reduce height by approx 2m from approx 8m. T2 & T3 silver birch - reduce height by approx 6 to 8m in from 16m, T4 & T5 sycamore - fell. T6 holly - reduce height by approx 3m from approx 5-6m and reduce spread by approx 3m to leave approx 4-5m spread.	21/09/2023
2023/2725	The Chestnuts, Low Road, Wickhampton, Freethorpe	TPO	G1 holly - shelterbelt. Reduce height from 6m to 2.5m and trim back by 0.3m to 0.5m each side.	08/09/2023
2023/2727	Beeches, 60 Ollands Road, Reepham	tpo	T1 copper beech - reduce whole crown by approx 3m in height and spread from 13.9m spread and 17m height to leave spread approx 10.9m and height approx 14m.	09/09/2023
2023/2728	Tc Fines, Norwich Road, Horstead With Stanninghall	211	T1 poplar - current height 20m. Pollard at approx 9m just above main bifurcation, smaller secondary stems left as 2-3m stubs and branches reduced to pollard points.	09/09/2023
2023/2731	Church Hall, 110 Norwich Road, Wroxham	211	T1, T2, T3, T4, T5, T6, T7, T8 & T9 elm - dead. 10m height. Fell. T10 ash - prune lower limbs to provide improved clearance.	11/09/2023

2023/2736	36 Garrick Green, Old Catton	TPO	T1 sweet chestnut - clean out crown of deadwood, crossing and suppressed branches. Raise lower crown tips to north to allow ground clearance of 3.5m over public footpath and 5m over the public access road. T2 sweet chestnut - clean out crown of deadwood, crossing and suppressed branches. Raise the lower branch tips to the north and south-east to allow 1m ground clearance of garage roof. Raise lower branch tips to north-east to allow a 0.5m clearance over shed roof and garden boundary wall.	11/09/2023
2023/2740	Roundway Down, Thorpe St Andrew	TPO	T295 oak - shorten decayed scaffold limb to NW by 2m to 3m. T296 oak - canopy reduction of 2m all round to lessen overall wind-loading. T310 oak – fell.	11/09/2023
2023/2747	Saxon Haus, 16A Harvey Lane, Thorpe St Andrew	211	T1 & T2 sycamore – fell.	12/09/2023
2023/2751	15 Stanmore Road, Thorpe St Andrew	TPO	T1 cedar – crown raise to 4m and reduce width from approx 10m to 7 to 8m.	19/09/2023
2023/2753	Saxon Haus, 16A Harvey Lane, Thorpe St Andrew	211	T1, T2 & T3 sycamore - fell.	11/09/2023
2023/2759	Siennabelles, Scotch Hill Road, Taverham	TPO	T1 Quercus robur - reduce tree by 25% on northern side, reduce individual branches over-extended over general crown by no more than 3 m, remove low lateral branch overhanging garden back to its first union. T2 Quercus robur - remove low branches hanging over shed to give clearance of at least 2.5m.	12/09/2023
2023/2760	The Thatched House, 24 Station Road, Salhouse	TPO	T1 & T2 European lime - pollard to approx height of 7.6m.	12/09/2023
2023/2765	Caledonian House, 2 Pheasant Walk, South Walsham	TPO	T1 Norway maple - reduce snapped out stem to below the wound. T2 Scots pine - reduce lowest lateral branches by 2-3m on north side of the crown. N - 6m to 4m. T3 oak - raise crown to 5.2m. T4 ash - coppice due to dieback and a prominent co-dominant stem.	12/09/2023
2023/2769	8 Bulwer Road, Buxton	TPO	T1 ash - crown thin by 10%.	13/09/2023
2023/2770	The Manor, 28 The Street, Burgh	211	T1, T2 & T3 Leylandii, T4 ash and T5 sycamore - fell and cut back roadside small bushes and trees next to wall.	13/09/2023
2023/2773	Riverview House, 8 Station Road, Brundall	TPO	T1 purple plum – fell. T2 Prunus - pollard to 2m from ground level. T3 Scots pine - remove hung up bough approx 3m above ground. T4 elm - reduce height from approx 7m to no more than 2.5m and spread of 3m E, 1m N, 1m W and 2m S and reduce canopy by pollarding to 2.5m with retained canopy spread of no more than 1m N, 1m S, 1m E and 1m W. T5 sycamore – reduce canopy on easy overhanging roadway by approx 2.5m from canopy spread 5m E, 2m N, 1m W, 2m S. Reduce by 2.5m on east to retain canopy spread of no more than 2.5m east. Prune to remove secondary boughs back to branch unions. T6 stump – remove. T7 and T8 laurel - reduce by approx. 2m on east overhanging roadway and reduce height by 2m from 5m and current canopy spread east is 3m to leave canopy of no more than 3m high with 1m spread to east. T9 false Acacia - reduce lower eastern limb (approx 7m long) overhanging roadway by approx 4m to a growth point/upright minor bough. Reduce upper eastern canopy by 30% by removal of secondary boughs back to branch unions to re-shape and re-balance from canopy spread of 8m E, 2m W, 4m N and 4m S to 2m W, 4m N, 3m S and 5- 6m E.	21/09/2023
2023/2776	Church House, Norwich Road, Long Stratton	211	T1 elder – fell.	No objection
2023/2777	81 Bishops Close, Thorpe St Andrew	211	T1 oak - current crown radial spread approx 8m. Reduce by 3m to leave a radial spread of around 5m.	21/09/2023
2023/2789	5 Kinsale Avenue, Hellesdon	TPO	T1 silver birch - remove 5m of overhanging branch (over public alleyway linking Kinsale Avenue to Links Avenue), leaving 11m to base of tree and remove approx 1-2m from height leaving 13m.	19/09/2023
2023/2793	1 Stuart Road, Aylsham	211	T1 purple leaved plum – fell.	15/09/2023
2023/2795	Hillside Farm House, 96 Lower Street, Salhouse	211	G1 ash – fell.	15/09/2023

2023/2798	The Croft, Beech Road, Wroxham	211	T1 beech - (height 15m, width 10.5m) - Crown raise to approx 3.5m-4m. Remove smallest stem over Hartwell Road. Crown reduce remaining crown by approx 4m and 6m for some extended limbs.	15/29/2023
2023/2800	Hill House, Heydon Road, Aylsham	211	T1 sycamore - reduce spread by 1m from 12m spread. No height reduction. T2 sycamore - reduce branches overhanging west side by up to 3m from approx 19m wide and 25m height. T3 ash - reduce branches overhanging west side by up to 3m from approx 20m wide and 26m height. T4 sycamore - reduce branches overhanging west side by up to 3m from approx 15m wide and 22m height. T5 field maple - reduce branches overhanging west side by up to 3m from approx 14m wide and 22m height.	25/09/2023
2023/2812	Garth En Wold, 36 Woodland Drive, Thorpe End	211	T1 Atlas cedar - fell.	18/09/2023
2023/2813	2 The Street, Brundall	TPO	G1 European limes - re-pollard back to previous growth points at approx 2.5/3m in height.	18/09/2023
2023/2825	3 Littlewood, Drayton	TPO	T1 holm oak - high pollard, current height 7m and width 5m to proposed height 4.5m and width 2.5m. T2 cedar - raise crown by removing lowest 3 climbs. T3 pine - remove to ground level.	19/09/2023
2023/2862	Acorns, 6 Charles Close, Wroxham	211	T1 oak – remove major deadwood and small crossing branches amounting to no more than 10% of crown cover. Reduction of crown aspect by 1.5m from 12m N, 11m E and W in order to negate loss of southern aspect branches.	21/09/2023
2023/2886	46 Garrick Green, Old Catton	TPO	T1 cedar – crown lift to 3m over driveway and crown thin by 15%.	22/09/2023
2023/2869	Field House, Heydon Road, Aylsham	211	T1 white oak – fell.	21/09/2023
2023/2892	3 Low Farm Barns, Postwick Lane. Brundall	TPO	T1 oak - reduce southern, eastern, and westerly aspects from 8m to 6.5m and northerly from 7m to 6m. Remove epicormic growth to a height of 6m. Remove major deadwood back to live points.	25/09/2023
2023/2896	Bure House, 56 Millgate, Aylsham	211	T1 Roble beech - reduce canopy width by 2m from 8m to 6m, height by 3m from 15m to 12m and raise lower canopy to 4m. T2 beech - reduce canopy width by 2m from 7m to 5m, height by 2m from 9m to 7m and raise lower canopy to 4m. G1 beech - reduce back from Mill Row due to over-extended limbs nearly touching adjacent buildings. T3 & T4 lime - reduce canopy width by 3m from 10m to 7m, height by 4m from 15m to 11m and raise lower canopy to 4m. T5 & T6 sycamore - reduce canopy width by 2m from 6m to 4m, height by 2m from 10m to 8m and raise canopy height by 2m.	25/09/2023
2023/2901	8A South Avenue, Thorpe St Andrew	211	T1 variegated box elder - reduce height from 6.5m to 5m and remove reverted growth. T2 mulberry - reduce height from 6m to 4.5m. T3 oak - reduce lower northern spread from 5m to 3m.	25/09/2023
2023/2911	3 Mill Lane, Aylsham	211	T1 poplar spp, T2 & T3 Prunus spp, T4 English oak and T5 whitebeam - crown lift and reduce back to appropriate points for 3m clearance above ground and 1m clearance back from buildings.	25/09/2023
2023/2915	1 Bulwer Close, Buxton	TPO	T1 apple – fell.	25/09/2023

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.

In the 20 years I have been producing Broadsheet I have never known a month with so many applications for tree works. I do hope that we are not entering a new attitude to our trees from our residents.