

Sheffield Trees and Woodlands Strategy 2018-2033

A vision for Sheffield's Urban and Rural Forest



Sheffield City Council
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Foreword

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Cabinet Member Culture, Parks and Leisure

Sheffield is one of the greenest and most wooded cities in Europe and also the greenest city in Britain. The city is proud of its rich variety of urban parks, woodland, countryside and other green spaces; they are extremely popular destinations, attracting over 25 million visits each year.

At a time when most local authorities are going through a period of great austerity, we cannot ignore our responsibilities for our trees and woodlands. We are custodians of this great resource which once fuelled the industrial revolution and built the city's reputation for iron and steel production. We will continue to manage our tree and woodland estate sustainably for future generations to enjoy.

Our 2.7 million trees represent over half of all the tree cover in Sheffield's Urban and Rural Forest most of which are to be found in our wonderful ancient woodlands or upland forests on the edge of the city. We have been working hard to improve our knowledge of our tree and woodland resource to help us plan better for the future.

This strategy complements our Outdoor City Economic Strategy showing Sheffield as a great Outdoor City with our trees and woodlands providing wonderful opportunities for health and relaxation. However there is still a lot to be done to address health inequalities in the city and we will look at ways to encourage more use of our woodlands in targeted areas to address this. We will aim to plant more trees where existing tree cover is lower than the city average.

The large number of city trees in woodlands, parks, streets, housing estates and cemeteries all combine to keep the city's air clean and provide the back drop for investment in Sheffield. By working together we can maintain and protect Sheffield's valuable resource, ensuring the realisation of the wide range of benefits that trees and woodlands can offer, not just for today's citizens but also for generations to come. As such we will continue to replace every tree removed in the cities greenspaces on a two for one basis.

It gives me great pleasure to support this Trees and Woodlands Strategy as Cabinet member for Culture, Parks and Leisure.

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Executive Summary

The trees and woodlands of Sheffield are collectively, one of the city's greatest natural assets, providing a range of benefits for the public and making urban areas more attractive and healthier places within which to live, work and play. The following strategy sets out the Council's vision, themes, aims and a series of actions.

The Council's vision is:

Working in partnership to provide outstanding resilient and sustainably managed trees and woodlands which are rich, diverse, healthy, attractive, and of maximum benefit to the public and wildlife.

There are 9 aims identified under 4 themes which complement the headings in the City Council's Green and Open Spaces Strategy (GOSS)

PEOPLE – “For all current and future generations to use and enjoy”

- **Aim 1: Enjoying and Raising Awareness of the Resource**
- **Aim 2: Community Involvement and Consultation**

PLACES – “Every area of the city”

- **Aim 3: Knowing the Tree and Woodlands Resource**
- **Aim 4: Risk Management and Public Safety**

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY – “The greenest city in Britain”

- **Aim 5: Sustainable Management**
- **Aim 6: Climate Change Mitigation**
- **Aim 7: Bio-diverse and Resilient Trees and Woodlands**

QUALITY STANDARDS AND RESOURCES – “Green spaces of extraordinary quality”

- **Aim 8: Standards**
- **Aim 9: Working in Partnership**

Under the 9 aims there are a total of 53 actions which will help to deliver the strategy over the next 15 years.

This Strategy covers all trees and woodlands across Sheffield except the Council's 36,000 highway trees. Its main focus is on the 2.7 million trees managed by the Council's Parks and Countryside Service. Highway trees will be further developed in a supplementary street tree strategy in 2019 with partners in the city which will be a 'sub strategy' of the Trees and Woodlands Strategy.

Some of the headline actions from the strategy are as follows:

We will protect, enhance and promote Sheffield's trees and maximise their benefits in all parts of the city.

The council's commitment is to continue to develop a greater understanding of the value of the city's woodlands and associated ecosystems by building on the information provided by the recently completed i-Tree Eco survey. The strategy promises to protect, improve and promote this major natural asset for the city.

Sheffield trees and woodlands provide many benefits, including:

- Alleviating around 520,000m³ of storm water, reducing stress on storm water drains and mitigating flood risk.
- Our trees remove approximately 374 tonnes per year of key pollutants including Ozone, Carbon monoxide, Nitrogen dioxide, Sulphur dioxide and particulates
- A positive health impact on mental health symptoms of stress and depression.
- All of our publicly owned woodland is open to the community

The strategy commits to improving the quality of the city's woodlands so Sheffield residents can continue to realise the benefits that good quality tree coverage provide.

The council will protect and enhance its woodlands to increase these benefits, especially in parts of the city where these benefits are currently realised to a lesser degree. We will also capitalise on our woodlands as a key asset in promoting the city's unrivalled credentials as a 'green city', alongside our Outdoor City Economic strategy.

We will increase visitor numbers and volunteering in woodlands that serve areas of Sheffield that have the lowest visitor numbers and the greatest health inequalities.

Woodlands and green spaces provide places for people to socialise, exercise, relax, connect with nature and to learn and explore. These benefits should be available to everyone in the city, but some areas have less access to woodlands or access to poorer quality woodland and so participation and visit levels vary across the city.

To address low participation, visits and volunteering in some of our woodlands, the council will introduce a number of measures including;

- Commit to greater consultation, discussion and volunteering work, in those areas where visitor numbers are currently low and health inequalities are high. This will be delivered via a combination of new tree planting, investment in quality, better promotion and new volunteering initiatives.
- Seeking and targeting additional resources – whereby the council will seek new external funding specifically to support initiatives where woodland is of poor quality and where participation by the public is low. This will bring significant health and environmental benefits, but also high quality woodland will make areas more attractive to live, work and invest.

- Directing the council's existing Parks & Countryside Public Health money to improve access and participation in woodlands serving our areas of greatest health inequality. This will start with the potential investment of £100,000 in the Shirebrook Valley, a local nature reserve serving the areas of Woodhouse and Hackenthorpe and the wider South East of the city. It is a site which offers great opportunity for people to get outdoors and to exercise through walking and cycling. However the site has a small, outdated visitor centre which is in a poor state of repair and there are no other facilities at the site. Subject to final business planning, these improvements will enable the site to welcome new volunteers and school visits and become accessible to not only the local community, but to people from across Sheffield, as a place to meet and experience the health and wellbeing benefits of the natural habitat.
- Refocusing the council's Ranger team to develop dedicated programmes in our areas of highest health inequalities. The Rangers will work with volunteers, partners and friends groups and increase community involvement in local woodlands, thus helping to improve mental and physical wellbeing with the people of Sheffield who need it the most. This dedicated role will give greater focus, consistency and continuity to the council's existing work in these areas and will allow much stronger personal links to be established with local people and with agencies who can offer financial and non-financial support.
- Make woodlands safer by reducing antisocial behaviour. The council will reinforce its work with South Yorkshire Police on joint initiatives to reduce illegal motorcycling and off road activity and invest in new technology to combat and catch those who are fly tipping in our green spaces. We know that a perceived lack of safety in some of our woodlands is the first and major stumbling block to participation. We will do everything possible to eliminate the anti-social behaviour of a few which currently prohibits the participation of many.

We will plant at least 100,000 additional trees and replace trees on a 2 for 1 basis in our greenspaces and woodlands over the next 10 years.

We know that good quality tree coverage provides many benefits and so the council will plant more trees in our greenspace, at least 100,000 more in the next 10 years, which is the biggest commitment the council has ever given to tree planting in our greenspaces. They will be planted across the whole city, but largely in the areas where tree coverage is lowest and the health benefits will be greatest.

As well as planting the trees, the strategy renews the council's existing commitment to managing them sustainably, meaning the right species will be planted in the right places, in line with the principles of good forestry and arboriculture practice. To help achieve this, the council will create new and strengthen existing partnerships to help deliver the new

commitment to 100,000 extra trees. What's more, the choice of tree species will be designed to increase the resilience of the tree stock to disease outbreak and climate change.

Sometimes trees have to be removed because they are diseased or dying, or pose a health and safety risk to the public. In addition to planting 100,000 new trees, the council promises to plant two trees for every one that has to be replaced in the city's green space or woodland. The new trees might not always be in the same place, but they will be in the right place that will make sure they can thrive and provide valuable habitats for numerous animals and plants and increase the biodiversity of the area.

We will aim to achieve at least one new Green Flag (national quality standard) woodland in the first 5 years of the strategy and bring all the council's woodlands up to the Sheffield Quality Standard within 10 years.

Thirteen of the council's parks and woodlands have been awarded the prestigious Green Flag quality mark for parks and green spaces. This is the highest number of flags of any authority in the region.

This national award offers assurance to the public that the space is accessible, boasts the highest possible environmental standards, is beautifully maintained and has excellent visitor facilities. Each site is assessed against eight strict criteria, including, cleanliness, health and safety, sustainability, heritage and community involvement.

Of the thirteen sites, ten are parks or gardens and only two are woodland areas: Ecclesall Woods and Wheata Woods . Despite the budget pressures faced by the council there is still a commitment to investment in our outdoor city to increase the number of woodlands that can achieve these high standards.

The strategy outlines the council's commitment to gain at least one more Green Flag award in an area in the east or north east of the city that will realise major environmental health benefits to the local community. This could be Wincobank Woods or Shirebrook Valley.

We aim to achieve another Green Flag for a site in the East or North East of the city and the work of the ranger service will be key to this through targeted engagement with local groups.

The strategy also outlines the council's commitment to improve the quality of all woodlands by bringing them all up to the Sheffield Quality Standard within no more than 10 years. This is a local initiative which sets out the minimum quality standard based on key aspects of the Green Flag assessment and will ensure that all the spaces will be clean, safe and well signposted. We know that safety and cleanliness are the core expectations of visitors and so our commitment to the Sheffield Standard in our woodlands will play a major part in driving up participation, with the greatest gains to come in areas where current participation is low.

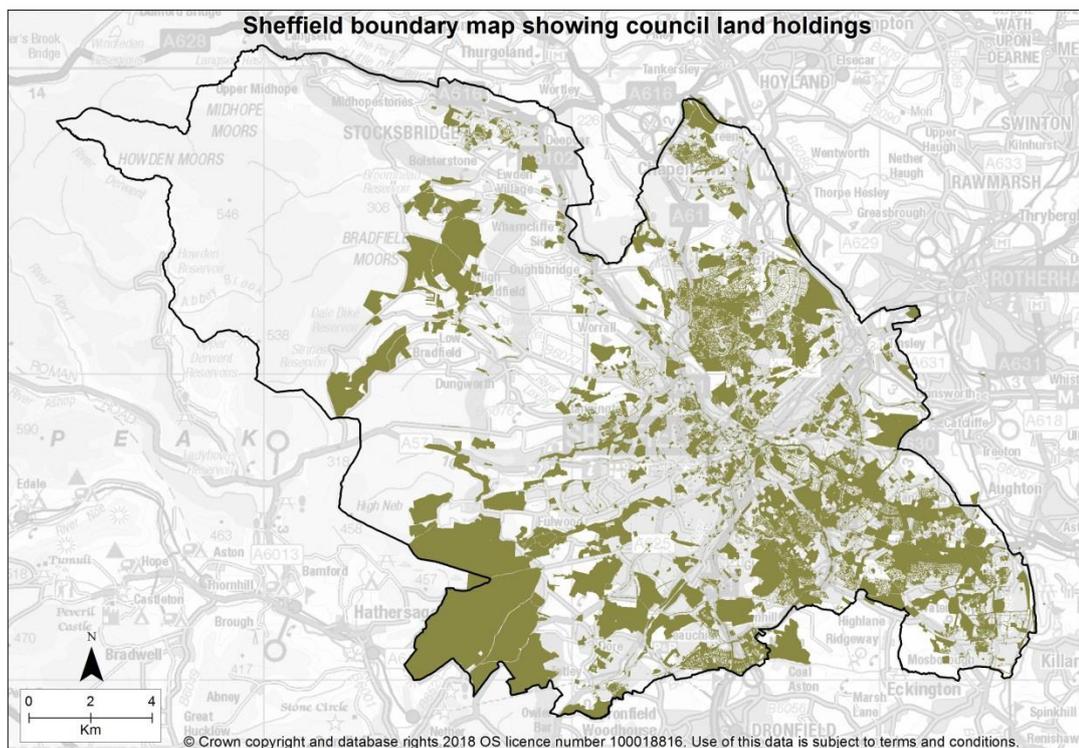
1. Context

1.1 Background

There are an estimated 4.5 million trees growing across Sheffield, making them a dominant feature of the landscape and collectively one of the city's finest natural resources. Trees and woodlands provide a wide range of important benefits for people; making the city a healthier, more attractive place to live, work and play. Environments that are rich in trees attract inward investment, support local jobs and contribute to social, economic and environmental regeneration. Woodlands (particularly ancient woodlands) provide some of the most valuable wildlife habitats in the city and receive hundreds of thousands of visits each year. Trees also provide a renewable source of timber and other wood products. The woodland areas offer a unique natural environment and locally accessible recreation and education resource. Our tree and woodland estate contributes greatly to keeping the city's air clean and helps alleviate flooding by slowing surface water runoff.

1.2 The Strategy

The Sheffield Trees and Woodland Strategy 2018 – 2033, covers the entire city, from the inner city to the parts of the Peak District National Park that falls within the Sheffield boundary. The actions that are outlined in the Strategy focus on local authority maintained trees and woodlands (excluding Highway trees) . However, it is hoped that by providing relevant context, advice and encouragement individuals and groups will be more informed and be able to take an active interest in privately owned trees and woodlands.



The Strategy has a **Vision**, followed by four main themes as defined in The Sheffield Green & Open Spaces Strategy¹ (**People, Places, Environment and Sustainability, Quality Standards and Resources**). Within each theme there are a number of aims each with a number of **actions**. Finally, the **vision, themes, aims and actions** are linked in a **5 year action plan** (see Appendix 5).

1.3 Legislation, Policy and Strategy Links

The Sheffield Trees and Woodland Strategy has been written in conjunction with the Sheffield City Council Corporate Plan 2015 – 2018², SCC Corporate Tree Risk Management Strategy³, and The Sheffield Green & Open Space Strategy (GOSS) 2010 – 2030⁴. The Outdoor City Economic Strategy⁴ has been approved and provides the framework to build the city’s reputation as the Outdoor City. A summary of relevant legislation, policies and strategies can be found in Appendix 1 and 2.

The tree facts and figures within this strategy come from data gathered during the i-Tree project (see section 2.0 for more detail). This significant project was carried out during 2017 to provide detailed information of existing tree cover including numbers, species, condition, longevity as well as a number of environmental benefits (ecosystem services) they provide.

1.4 Our Vision and Aims

Sheffield City Council’s 15 year vision for its tree and woodland resource is:

Working in partnership to provide outstanding resilient and sustainably managed trees and woodlands which are rich, diverse, healthy, attractive, and of maximum benefit to the public and wildlife.

Our Aims

PEOPLE – “For all current and future generations to use and enjoy”

- **Aim 1: Enjoying and Raising Awareness of the Resource**
We will provide opportunities for people to safely access and enjoy our trees and woodlands and raise awareness of their benefits to the city.
- **Aim 2: Community Involvement and Consultation**
We will provide the public with information and opportunities to get involved with tree and woodland management projects and proposals through consultation, discussion and volunteering.

PLACES – “Every area of the city”

- **Aim 3: Knowing the Tree and Woodland Resource**

¹ <https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/home/parks-sport-recreation/open-space-strategy.html>

² <https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/corporateplan>

³ <https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/home/parks-sport-recreation/trees-woodlands-strategies.html>

We will continue to develop a greater understanding of the extent and value of the tree and woodland resource and associated ecosystem services by building on the information provided by the recently completed i-Tree project.

- **Aim 4: Risk Management and Public Safety**

We will manage the risks posed by trees to people and property based on industry best practice and with consideration for the law, available resources and the economic, environmental and community value of trees.

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY – “The greenest city in Britain”

- **Aim 5: Sustainable Management**

We will provide a tree and woodland resource across the whole city which is valued, enhanced and managed sustainably in accordance with the principles of good forestry and arboricultural practice.

- **Aim 6: Climate Change Mitigation**

We will mitigate the impact of global warming and climate change on our trees and woodlands and implement measures like natural flood management and flood alleviation schemes where necessary and appropriate.

- **Aim 7: Bio-diverse and Resilient Trees and Woodlands**

We will maximise the benefits of our trees and woodlands for wildlife and identify and appropriately manage any threats to our tree stock from pests and diseases.

QUALITY STANDARDS AND RESOURCES – “Green spaces of extraordinary quality”

- **Aim 8: Standards**

We will manage our trees and woodlands in line with all the appropriate national and local industry standards.

- **Aim 9: Working in Partnership**

We will create and strengthen existing local and national partnerships to enable effective future development and management of trees and woodlands and successful delivery of the actions in this Strategy.

1.5 5 Year Action Plan

An additional document that complements the Trees and Woodland Strategy is the 5 Year Action Plan which identifies the who, what and when in terms of the actions identified in the strategy. (See Appendix 5).

1.6 Strategy Monitoring and Review

The Strategy and Action Plan will be reviewed on an annual basis and updated following any significant change in legislation, policy or best practice.

2 Our Tree and Woodland Resource



Tree and woodland surveys have been carried out in Sheffield over many years to provide information about all tree and woodland cover but also specifically about trees and woodlands managed by the Council. These surveys have included levels of tree cover, range of species present and age profiles. In order to plan for and manage our trees and woodlands it is important that we continue to keep this information up-to-date and comprehensive.

The i-Tree Eco digital survey system was developed by the US Forestry Service and brought to the UK by Treeconomics and Forest Research. It is an internationally recognised citywide tree survey approach and is currently being undertaken in a number of cities across the UK and in over 100 countries worldwide. A city-wide i-Tree survey was carried out in Sheffield in 2017. The survey system collects and uses tree measurement data from plots located across a city along with local pollution and weather data to provide a broad picture of tree cover across the entire city. This makes it possible to:

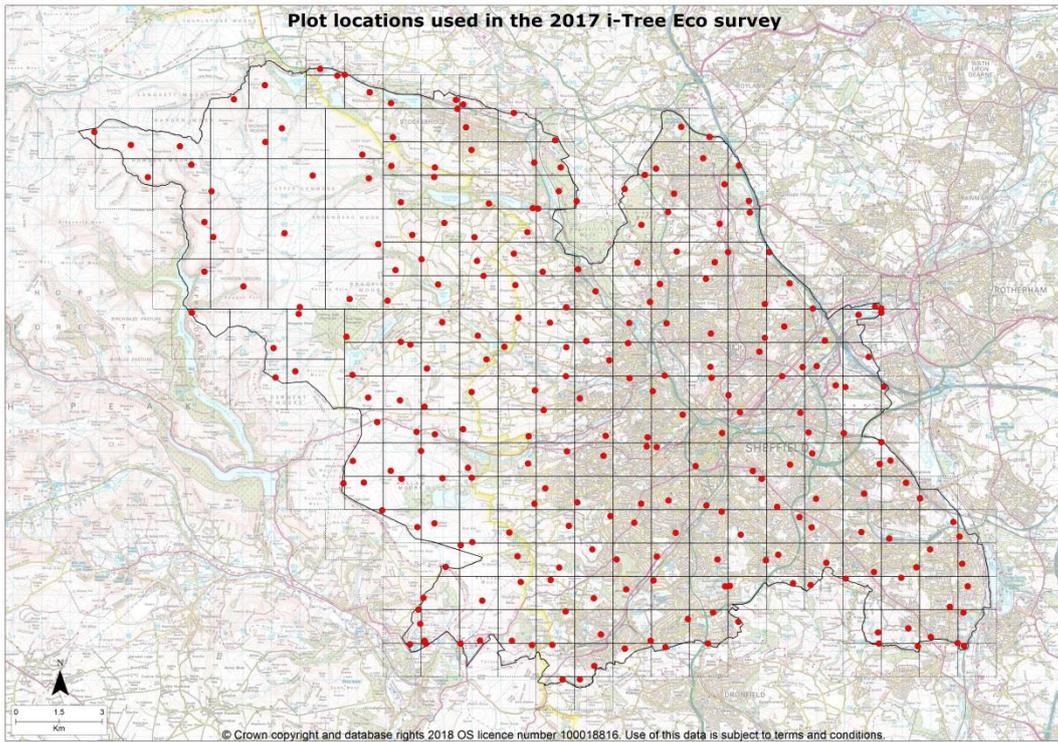
- Characterise the structure of the tree population; numbers, species, age and condition.
- Quantify tree benefits such as air quality improvement, CO₂ uptake and storm water control.
- Assess the value of the annual benefits derived from these functions.

The Council carried out a survey using the i-Tree Eco system in the summer and autumn of 2017. This included detailed inspection of all trees and shrubs in over 250

plots across Sheffield alongside recording of groundcover and land use information. Some of the headline results from this survey are as follows:

- There are approximately 3.8 million trees in the local authority area (with a trunk diameter over 7cm).
- We have estimated that there are at least a further 650,000 trees with a smaller trunk diameter (0-7cm) which would give us an estimated total of 4.5 million trees⁵.
- 60% of these trees (2.7 million trees) are growing on public land with the remaining 40% (1.8 million trees) are growing on private land.
- The total tree cover of Sheffield is 18.4% and 21.6% in the urban area of the city.
- The most common species are Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*), Sessile Oak (*Quercus petraea*) and Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*). 9 out of 10 of the most common species are native (see 2.1 below).
- Pollution removal: Our trees remove approximately 374 tonnes per year of key pollutants including Ozone, Carbon monoxide, Nitrogen dioxide, Sulphur dioxide and particulates.
- Carbon storage and sequestration: Our trees currently store 545,000 tonnes of carbon and sequester a further 21,800 tonnes of carbon annually.
- Alleviating around 520,000m³ of storm water, reducing stress on storm water drains and mitigating flood risk.
- Avoided rainwater run-off: Our trees capture approximately 1.2 million cubic metres of rainwater per year, the equivalent of almost 500 Olympic swimming pools worth, significantly helping to alleviate the risk of flooding .

⁵ The estimated number of additional trees is based on average figures for small trees (0-7cm dbh) in other i-Tree surveys in the US and UK.



2.1 Species mix

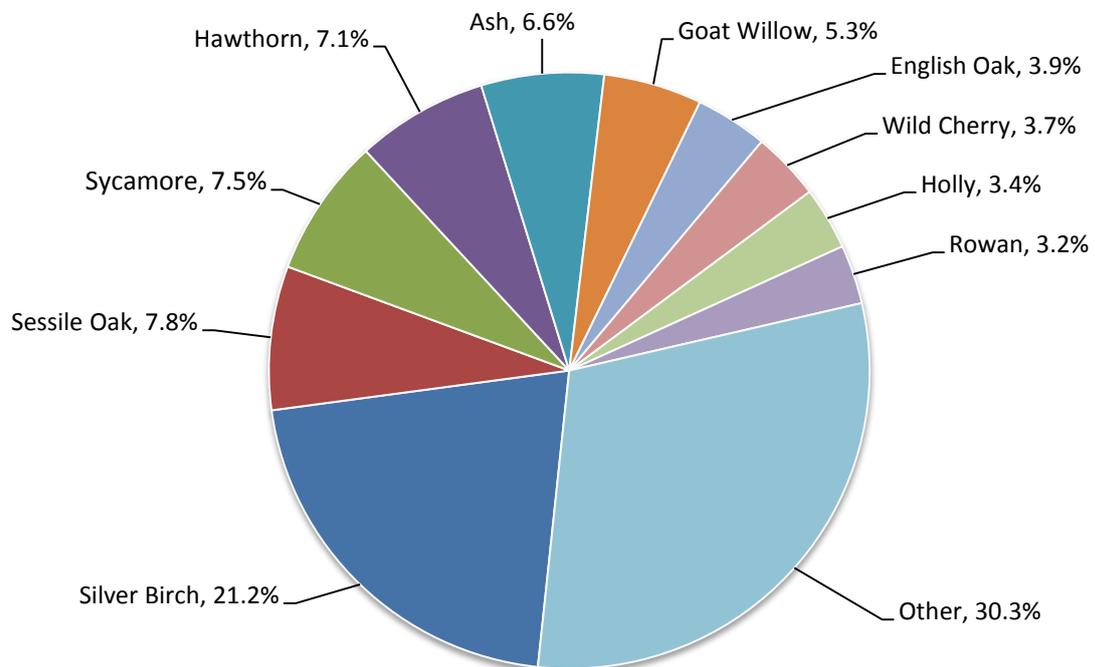


Fig 1: most common tree species found in Sheffield

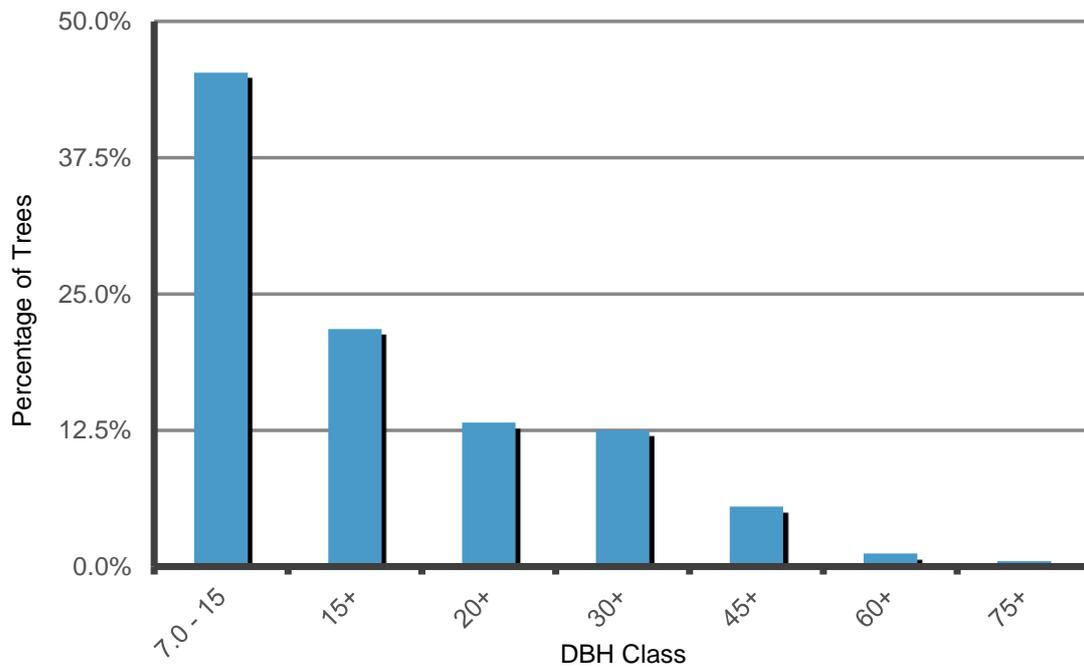


Fig 2: Showing tree cover by trunk diameter

Around 70% of trees in Sheffield are made up of 10 species. The three most common species are Silver Birch (21.2%), Sessile Oak (7.8%) and Sycamore (7.5%).

2.2 Tree structure and condition

Trunk size

The i-Tree project only measured individual trees with a trunk diameter greater than 7cm. Figure 3 shows the proportion of trees within each size class by trunk diameter⁶. The omission of small diameter trees is standard practice for tree surveys and is due to reasons of cost versus impact. Evidence from other i-Tree surveys both in the UK and abroad indicate that on average a further 15-20% of trees make up the 0-7cm diameter at breast height (dbh) category (therefore an additional estimated 676,000 trees could be added to the i-Tree figure). However given the fact that there are approximately 1.6 million trees in the next size category (7 – 15cm), it is likely that there are potentially significantly more in the 0-7cm category. Further investigation is planned in 2018 to clarify this figure.

⁶ Trunk diameter was measured as the standard DBH (diameter at breast height), measurement, 1.3m from the ground.

Tree Condition

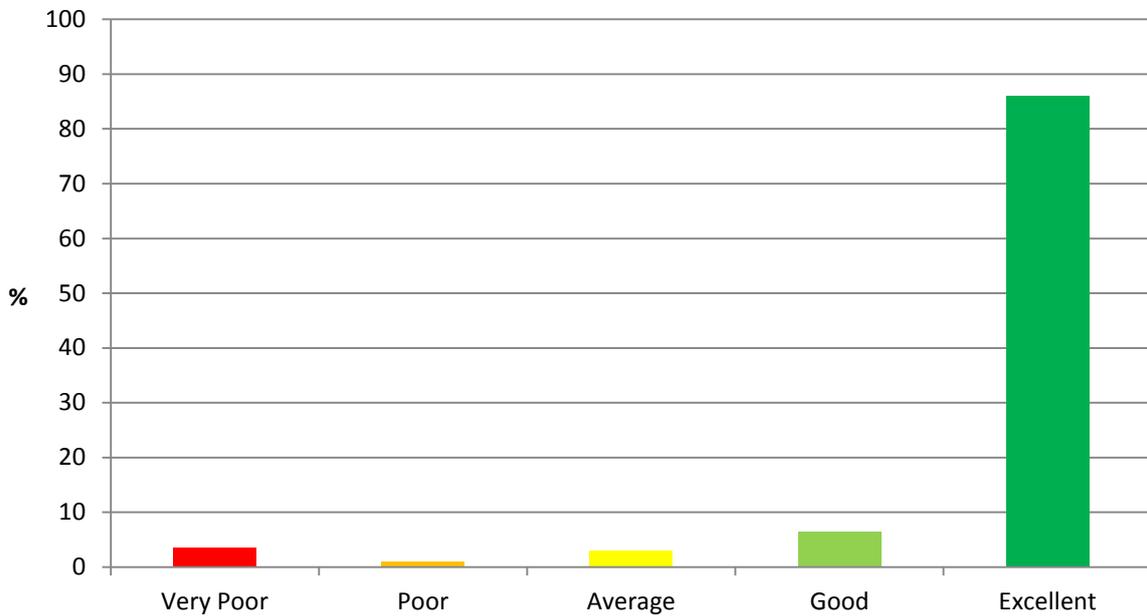


Fig 3: Showing 'condition' class of those trees surveyed

Life expectancy

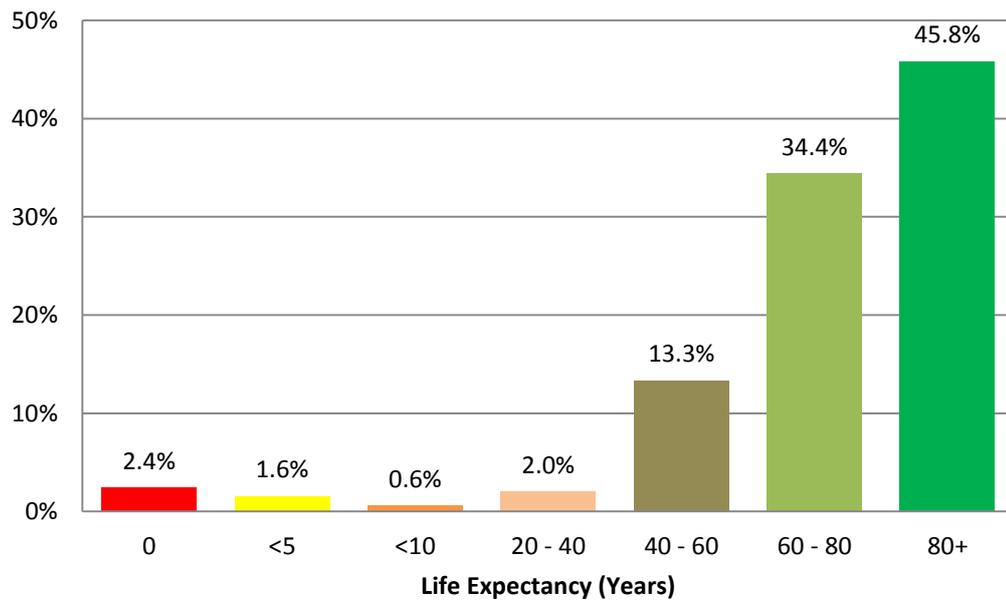


Fig 4: Safe Useful Life Expectancy (SULE) of trees in Sheffield

The estimated life expectancy of trees in Sheffield (Fig 5), shows that around 80% of trees have a life expectancy of at least 60 years whilst only just over 2% were found to be dead.

2.3 Ownership

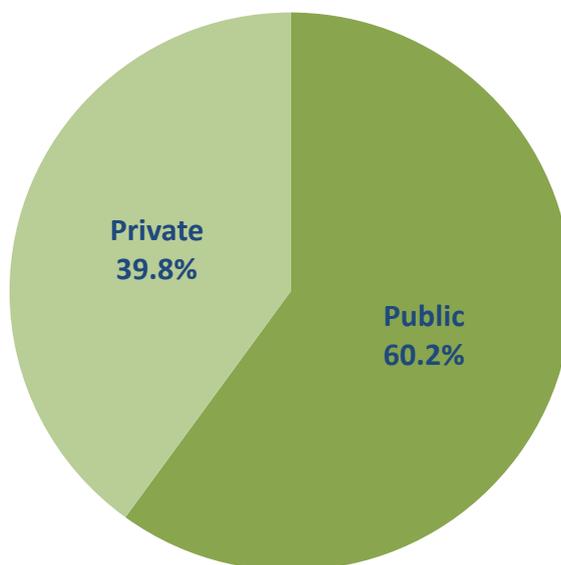


Fig 5: Tree ownership – public/private

The survey indicated that the majority of trees within Sheffield (60%) are in public ownership. The vast majority of these are found in our extensive woodland cover.

2.4 Carbon Sequestration and Storage

Climate change is a major issue globally. A key contributor to climate change is the amount of carbon dioxide emitted from fossil fuel based power sources, e.g. cars and heavy industry. Trees help mitigate climate change by sequestering (storing carbon in their biomass – trunks, branches, leaves), carbon from the atmosphere through photosynthesis. The amount of carbon sequestered is increased with the size and health of the trees. The amount of carbon stored differs between species. The total sequestration rate of Sheffield's trees is 21,800 tonnes per year.

As a tree dies and decays, it releases much of its stored carbon back into the atmosphere. Planting long lived trees and ensuring they remain in good health will help extend the length of time the carbon remains in storage. The trees in Sheffield are estimated to store a total of 545,000 tonnes of carbon. Of the existing species, the Sessile Oak population stores the most carbon (approximately 18% of the total) whilst Silver Birch sequesters the most (approximately 20% of the total).

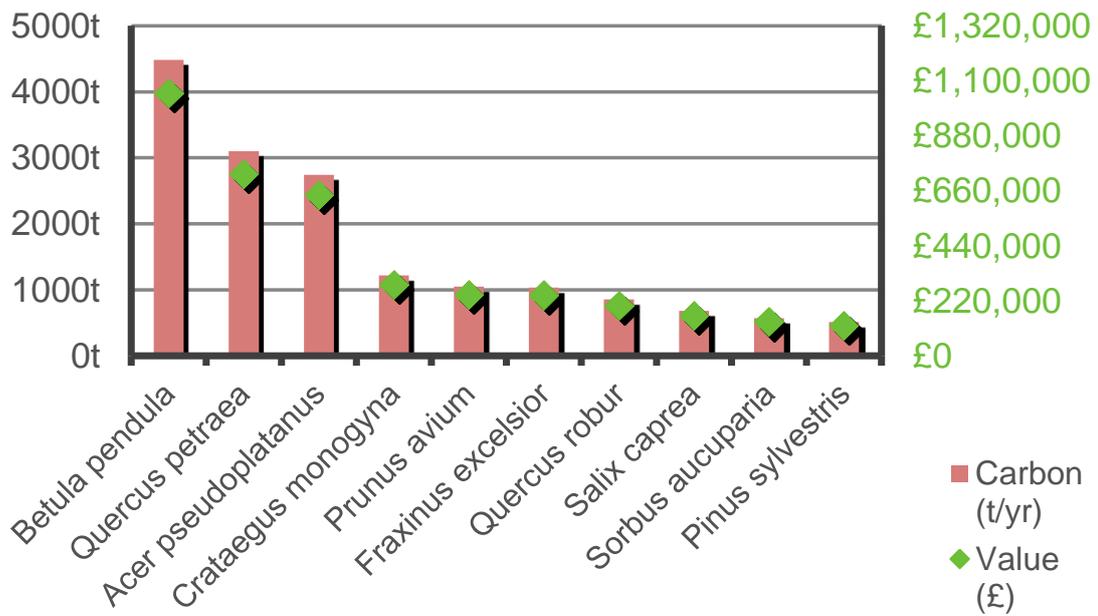


Fig 6: Amount of carbon absorbed (sequestered) each year by those species with the greatest sequestration

2.5 Pollution Removal

Air pollution is a common problem in many large cities. It can have a direct impact on human health as well as damaging the environment. Trees can help improve air quality by removing particles of pollutant from the air. Pollution removal by trees in Sheffield was estimated using data from the i-Tree survey along with available pollution and weather data. It is estimated that our trees remove over 374 tonnes of air pollution annually, comprised of ozone (O₃), carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), particulate matter less than 2.5 microns (PM2.5) and sulphur dioxide (SO₂).

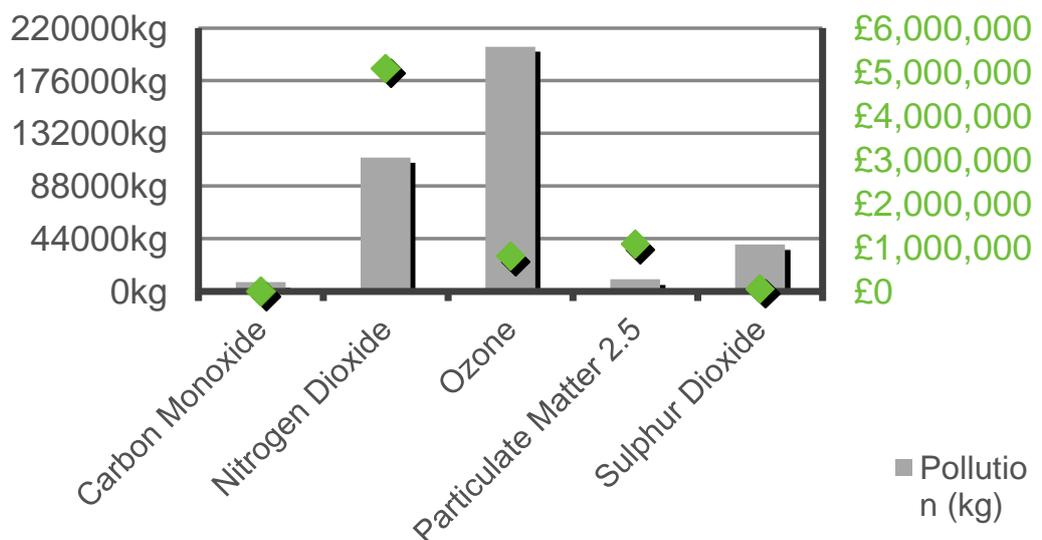


Fig 7: Amount and value of various types of airborne pollutants removed by our trees. The table shows amounts (kg) in grey and value (£) in green

2.6 Replacement Costs and Functional Values

Trees and woodlands have a value in terms of the cost of replacement as well as a functional value based on the functions the trees perform. The cost of replacement increases with the number and size of healthy trees. Values and benefits can also decrease as the amount of healthy tree cover declines.

The trees and woodlands in Sheffield have the following values⁷.

- Cost of replacement: £1.43 billion
- Value of total carbon storage: £34.8 million
- Annual carbon sequestration: £1.39 million
- Annual avoided rainwater run-off: £1.81 million
- Annual pollution removal: £2.3 million

2.7 Comparison with other UK cities

City	Total tree numbers (7cm trunk diameter and above)	Trees per person (7cm dbh and above)	Average Trees per hectare	Tree cover (In the urban area)
Sheffield	3,864,000	7	105	21.6%
Greater London	8,421,000	1	53	14%
Edinburgh	638,000	1	56	17%
Glasgow	2,000,000	3	113	15%
Swansea	530,000	2	76	16%
Oldham	466,800	5	33	11.8%
Wrexham	364,000	6	95	17%
Bridgend	439,000	3	99	12%
Torbay	818,000	6	128	11.8%

To date a number of UK cities have undertaken i-Tree surveys of their tree population. The table above shows some of the results for numbers of trees within the survey area. All figures are for the number of trees measured with a trunk diameter of 7cm or greater measured at breast height (the minimum size for individual tree measurements within the i-Tree project).

⁷ replacement costs are calculated using the CTLA method with values derived from The Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors and Barchams and Hilliers tree nurseries

3. Strategic Theme: People

“For all current and future generations to use and enjoy”

Aim 1: Enjoying and Raising Awareness of the Resource

We will provide opportunities for people to safely access and enjoy our trees and woodlands and raise awareness of their benefits to the city.



3.1 Benefits and Context

There are clear and tangible benefits of trees and woodlands. The Natural Environment White Paper⁸ recognised the value and potential for green spaces to support and contribute to everyone’s health and wellbeing. This is also reflected in the Public Health Outcomes Framework⁹, which underpins the public health duty of local authorities. We will make the most of the environmental, health, educational and economic benefits of our trees and woodlands on offer to the people of Sheffield. We aim to ensure that Sheffield’s woodland estate continues to offer a significant increase in the quality of life for those who visit, work and play in them.

⁸ <http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/environment-food-and-rural-affairs-committee/inquiries/parliament-2010/the-natural-environment-white-paper/>

⁹ <http://www.phoutcomes.info/>

There is strong evidence of the value and benefits to people of trees within streets, parks, open spaces and woodland and of the importance of a healthy and sustainable tree population, these include:

Environmental Benefits

- Improvements to air quality by filtering pollutants such as particulate matter, CO₂, NO_x and creating barriers to ultraviolet radiation. Sheffield's trees remove 374 tonnes of air pollution including ozone (O₃), carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), particulate matter less than 2.5 microns (PM2.5), and sulphur dioxide (SO₂) per year (data from i-Tree 2017).
- Regulating and reducing high temperatures resulting from urban heat island effects.
- Absorbing CO₂ emitted from transport, domestic and industrial processes and acting as carbon stores. Sheffield's trees sequester 21,800 tonnes of carbon each year and store a total of 545,000 tonnes (i-Tree 2017).
- Taking up approximately 1,193,373 cubic metres of water helping to offset the likelihood of flooding.

Health Benefits

- Providing a natural environment which can reduce stress, improve wellbeing and enhance recreation experiences.
- Improving physical, mental and spiritual wellbeing.

Community and Educational Benefits

- Providing an accessible education resource allowing learning through play, adventure and exploration, and engaging children and young people.
- An opportunity for everyone to learn about the environment and to participate in tree planting projects to encourage wildlife and to green their local area.

Economic Benefits

- People prefer to live, work and play in a green, leafy environment. Studies have shown that average house prices are up to 18% higher where the property is associated with mature trees – conversely there is a strong correlation between poor quality environments and deprived neighbourhoods.

Headline Action 1

We will protect, enhance and promote Sheffield's trees and maximise their benefits in all parts of the city.

3.2 Successful Working

A number of projects and approaches have been completed in recent years that support the key aims of this strategy and serve as examples of best practice:

The Woodland Discovery Centre at Ecclesall Woods

The award winning Woodland Discovery Centre at Ecclesall Woods funded through the JE Graves Trust and operated in partnership with the Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust continues to provide the focal point for our education offer for the

city. Six businesses operate from the centre and woodland ceremonies and parties are now carried out in several venues. A growing programme of woodland based crafts and courses are also available. A Masterplan is being developed to improve the site over the next ten years.

Making Tracks

This programme has seen the development of several exciting mountain bike tracks around the city alongside user engagement and involvement. The momentum for this work has led to new partnerships and projects which have been crowdfunded and supported by companies including Go Outdoors and Vulcan Engineering in particular in Parkwood Springs, Lady Canning's Plantation with plans to extend to other areas of the city, e.g. Redmires.

Roots of Iron

In partnership with the Friends of Wincobank Hill we delivered a joint project aiming to involve young people and to celebrate the unique ancient history of the site. The project aimed to re-connect young people with the woodland site and to celebrate its unique heritage as a former iron-age hillfort. The project's 'Light Up the Hill' event is still well attended.

3.3. Using and Enjoying the Tree and Woodland Resource



Many people find a green environment relaxing. Research has been carried out in this field for many years with clear clinical evidence that such surroundings reduce stress and negative emotions, such as anger. In Sheffield, trees enhance the recreational experience available on people's doorsteps, in streets, parks, woodlands and open spaces. Research has identified the wellbeing benefits gained by different communities from engaging with and accessing woodlands and forests in Britain¹⁰. A range of projects, interventions and design principles have been determined that are particularly effective at realising improvements in health and wellbeing of people.

In their final report the Independent Panel on Forestry who advised government on the future direction of forestry and woodland policy stated:

We want as many people as possible to be able to access green space including woodlands, for exercise, leisure and recreational purposes and in particular, we are keen to see greater multi-use access to woodland in and around our towns and cities. We will work with others to explore opportunities for increasing access. We believe that this is best done at the local level, for example through the further development of Rights of Way Improvement Plans.

Independent Panel on Forestry 2012¹¹

Woodlands and Forestry are at the core of Government's commitment to improve the environment and they feature prominently in the October 2017 Clean Growth Strategy and the January 2018 25 Year Environment Plan.

Based on research obtained from the development of the Outdoor City Economic Strategy the majority of people using our green spaces in Sheffield enjoy walking and dog walking, horse riding, cycling and running.

Action 2

As the Local Highway Authority we will appoint and work with the Local Access Forum (which helps to inform the Rights of Way Improvement Plan) to co-ordinate improvements to public access to our woodlands.

¹⁰ O'Brien, L. & Morris, J. (2014) Well-being for all? The social distribution of benefits gained from woodlands and forests in Britain, *Local Environment* 19 pp 356-383.

¹¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/independent-panel-on-forestry>



Sheffield Outdoor City Economic Strategy

Sheffield's reputation as the 'Outdoor City' builds upon important events hosted by the city celebrating climbing and adventure sports. To acknowledge this and develop it further the Council has produced an Outdoor City Economic Strategy. This recognises Sheffield as one of England's greenest cities and the only major city in the UK to have a National Park within its boundary. The strategy identifies that the city is nationally renowned for mountain biking, and home to the country's only city centre mountain biking facility at Parkwood Springs. The city hosts 'Cliffhanger', the largest inner-city festival dedicated to celebrating the outdoors in the UK. The city was voted the 'best city to live in for countryside lovers' by BBC Countryfile in 2014. Examples of our current notable projects that complement the Outdoor City Economic Strategy include:

Run Routes

A programme supported by Sport England has seen the development of over 30 signed and mapped run routes across fifteen locations in parks and woodlands across the city.

Self-Guided and Easy Going Trails

A range of self-guided leaflets for many of our sites have been developed and we are developing new online and mobile technologies to enhance people's understanding of our sites including audio trails and use of smartphone Apps and QR codes.

Action 3

We will continue to develop recreational opportunities in our woodlands and facilities to encourage participation and better health for the people of Sheffield.

3.3.1. Future Challenges

We face a number of challenges to ensure people are able to use and enjoy our trees and woodlands in the future. They include, car parking, dog exercising and fouling, fly tipping and the illegal use of sites by 4x4s, quads and off-road motorbikes.

Car Parking Provision

New opportunities for funding improvements to car parks will be investigated. Where feasible, opportunities for pay and display car parking will be explored. This will start with the Woodland Discovery Centre at Ecclesall Woods and we will investigate other sites as and when funding allows.

Dog Exercising and Dog Fouling

The majority of dog walkers using our sites are responsible people who clean up after their pets. Unfortunately a growing number allow their dogs to defecate on paths, jump up at people or let them wander off with the risk that ground nesting birds are disturbed. This is compounded by the increased number of people employed as professional dog walkers who sometimes can have up to 6 or 7 dogs in their care which can be intimidating and in some cases lead to a significant increase in dog faeces adjacent to public paths.

Fly Tipping

The cost of dealing with fly tipping on green spaces in 2017 was in excess of £60,000 including the need for a dedicated litter team. We need to reduce this cost by trying to identify those responsible and taking the necessary legal action. We have invested in dedicated CCTV equipment and will carry out overt monitoring and targeting where the problem persists.

4x4 and off-road motorcycles

Illegal motorcycling and off-road activity has increased in a number of our woodland sites in particular Westwood Country Park, Wincobank Hill, Gleadless Valley and Shirebrook Valley. Appropriate barriers will be maintained at all key access points e.g. K barriers. Where boundary fencing has been removed to gain illegal entry it will be replaced where possible. We will continue to monitor this problem and work with South Yorkshire Police on joint initiatives to tackle the issue at key locations.

Action 4

We will explore measures for preventing the abuse of our woodland sites from illegal activities and to tackle antisocial behaviour.

3.3.2. Signage and Interpretation

The 'Sheffield Standard' which is used as a minimum quality standard for our sites (see Appendix 4), requires them to be safe, clean and adequately signed. We are constantly reviewing our on-site signage and interpretation and looking at funding opportunities to improve how we communicate our vision and information about sites and features. Previous successful funding sources have included: Heritage Lottery Funding for Ecclesall Woods and Wincobank Hill and Planning Gain from Section 106 funding¹².

Action 5

We will maintain adequate site signage and where funding can be identified, provide additional on-site interpretation where it is required making best use of new technologies.

3.3.3. Public Art in Woodlands

The Trees and Woodlands Team has had a long tradition of supporting and commissioning art installations in our woodlands. Jason Thompson, Lorraine Botterill and Henk Littlewood are some of the local artists who have contributed to this. We aim to provoke a response through art and inspire people to use our woodlands. We also aim to ignite children's imagination. The 'portals project' combines Health and Safety work to tree roots under vulnerable trees with an opportunity to install doorways, sometimes referred to as fairie doors. Two have now been installed in the Porter Valley at Forge Dam and Endcliffe Park and have proved very popular with children. The aim will be to install eight more doors across the city which will eventually be brought together into an illustrated book with the aim of encouraging children to get out into the countryside and inspiring them to read.

Action 6

We will support the installation of appropriate art initiatives in our sites to help inspire people and ignite their imaginations

¹² S106 overview <https://www.local.gov.uk/pas/pas-topics/infrastructure/s106-obligations-overview>



Aim 2: Community Involvement and Consultation

We will provide the public with information and opportunities to get involved with tree and woodland management projects and proposals through consultation, discussion and volunteering.

3.4. Community Involvement

A true and sustainable woodland culture needs to be built from the ground up and must be based on the needs, interests and enthusiasm of local people.

Independent Panel on Forestry Final Report 2012

We have a long tradition of community involvement harnessing additional experience, knowledge and skills. The service currently involves the community in a range of ways, e.g. Sheffield Green Spaces Forum, Friends Groups, individual and corporate volunteers and the Sheffield Woodland Environmental Enhancement Project (SWEEP). Community involvement and participation will be based on the type of project and the resources available.

Headline Action 7

We will increase visitor numbers and volunteering in woodlands that serve areas of Sheffield that have the lowest visitor numbers and the greatest health inequalities.

3.4.1. Community Tree Planting (Community Forestry)

Community forestry has been a real success for Sheffield with the good practice recognised nationally in the Trees in Towns II survey published by DCLG in 2008¹³. Approximately 100,000 new trees have been planted in our open spaces over the past five years, over 90,000 of these were planted by our community forestry team and a significant proportion have been undertaken with close community involvement. Community forestry programmes have a vital role to play in maintaining sustainable, safer, healthier green spaces that are welcoming to residents and that encourage a sense of ownership.

Community tree planting is an inclusive activity involving local people, schools and community groups at each stage from planning and decision making, through to implementation, planting and tending the trees. A key factor in the success of planting schemes is the early involvement and engagement of the local community. Schemes that have been co-designed with local residents are likely to be looked after, 'policed' and valued by a community who feel a sense of ownership for the scheme.

Community forestry projects in Sheffield have included tree planting to improve local parks and green spaces, school grounds, transport corridors, pocket woodlands and commercial centres and the successful delivery of youth programmes and school holiday activities. The cost of a tree is a fraction of its potential value when you consider the beneficial impact it can have on the environment for hundreds of years.

Action 8

We will involve and engage the local community in community based tree planting projects and work in partnership with other organisations to continue the good work we have started.

3.4.2. Education and Outdoor Learning

Trees and woodlands are an educational resource where children can learn through play, adventure and exploration. The benefits of outdoor play and learning are well documented and supported by national organisations such as the Scouts, Guides and the National Trust. Forest School initiatives offering outdoor activities are very popular in the city. Children can also learn about the value of the environment through participating in tree planting projects to encourage wildlife, and to green their local area. Woodlands provide a valuable resource for local interest groups of adults who cherish the woodland environment for its natural, historic, archaeological and artistic merits.

The Woodland Discovery Centre at Ecclesall Woods continues to be at the heart of our education programme providing pre-planned and bespoke opportunities including craft courses, wild play and theatre workshops. We have developed this

¹³ https://committeeadmin.lancaster.gov.uk/documents/s21579/Appx2_TreesInTowns.pdf

offer by working in partnership with other organisation in particular the Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust. We have brought together people with valuable skills and experience which they can share and pass on to others.

The Trees and Woodland Team has a strong reputation for supporting children's activities delivered mainly at the Woodland Discovery Centre at Ecclesall Woods. Some of the initiatives are highlighted below:

Woodland Toddlers

We have a growing interest in providing good quality children's facilities and the toddler group operating at the Woodland Discovery Centre at Ecclesall Woods reflects this.

Grow Theatre

We support a creative group of young people based at the Woodland Discovery Centre at Ecclesall Woods. They have produced an imaginative audio trail around the woods which can be heard via a set of headphones available for hire at the centre.

Craft Courses

To complement our offer to people at the centre we have developed an exciting range of craft courses that allow people to re-connect with traditional woodland crafts including hurdle making and green woodworking on a pole lathe¹⁴.

Events

We run a small number of events from the Woodland Discovery Centre at Ecclesall Woods including Feast in the Forest, Spring into the Woods and our Christmas event and we will continue to do so where resources exist.

Schools and Forest Schools

The Forest Schools Association states that 'Forest School is an inspirational process that offers all learners regular opportunities to achieve and develop confidence and self-esteem through hands-on learning experiences in a woodland or natural environment with trees. Forest School is a specialised learning approach that sits within and compliments the wider context of outdoor and woodland education'.

Sheffield has the reputation as the home of Forest Schools and over the years many forest school activities have developed throughout the city. We will continue to

¹⁴ www.ecclesallwoodscraftcourses.co.uk

support Forest Schools activity and requests from people to use our woodlands through appropriate licences whilst ensuring that quality standards are being met.

The Ranger Service can offer support to schools in particular where grants support school visits, for example the Higher Level Stewardship Scheme. Where capacity allows bespoke opportunities can be arranged for an appropriate fee. A range of environmental education opportunities are being provided by our partner the Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust and can be booked via their website¹⁵.

Action 9

We will look at how we can sustain and develop our education offer.

3.4.3. Volunteers and Groups

A significant number of people in Sheffield volunteer their time (in excess of 5,000 hours per year), and are part of organised groups which contribute to, manage and have an interest in trees, woodlands and green spaces within the city. Involvement includes practical conservation management and maintenance of green spaces, publicising activities and events, fundraising, promoting and protecting these natural assets for all to enjoy.

Volunteers

These are the stewards of the natural environment and ambassadors for the outdoors. Becoming a volunteer brings opportunities, skills, knowledge and confidence to those involved. Younger people particularly benefit from the experience and volunteering opportunities within the outdoors. With a high proportion of work in this sector being seasonal, volunteering offers many young people their first taste of life in a workplace environment. We have a strong reputation for working with volunteers and we will maintain this commitment. The Sheffield Woodland Environmental Enhancement Project (SWEEP) which operates from the Woodland Discovery Centre at Ecclesall Woods is one example.

Action 10

We will continue to offer opportunities for engaging with the community and volunteering. Opportunities exist with the Ranger Service through individual and corporate volunteering or placements.

Local Groups

There are over 70 Friends of groups and a citywide Sheffield Green Spaces Forum, all of which contribute to help maintain, publicise, promote and protect Sheffield's valuable green spaces. The Ranger Service works with many of the active groups in the city which include:

Friends of Ecclesall Woods

¹⁵ <https://www.wildsheffield.com/discover/outdoor-learning/book-with-us/>

Friends of Wincobank Hill
Rivelin Valley Conservation Volunteers
Sheffield Conservation Volunteers
Friends of Porter Valley
Friends of Gillifield Wood
Beauchief Environment Group
Grenoside Conservation Group
Gleadless Valley Wildlife Group

and many more...

3.4.4. Ranger Service

Sheffield currently has a team of Rangers whose primary role is to engage and support Friends groups in practical conservation work and volunteering opportunities. In addition the Rangers have a land management role supporting the Woodland and Ecology Teams with practical land management works and woodland risk assessments. They also carry out 'Sheffield Standard' assessments for our greenspaces. The 'Sheffield Standard' is a minimum quality standard that we aspire to for our sites around cleanliness, safety and adequate signage (see Appendix 4). Education work continues to be delivered from the Woodland Discovery Centre at Ecclesall Woods and through the Higher Level Stewardship Scheme for example.

We will refocus the council's Ranger team to develop dedicated programmes in our areas of highest health inequalities. The Rangers will work with volunteers, partners and friends groups and increase community involvement in local woodlands, thus helping to improve mental and physical wellbeing with the people of Sheffield who need it the most. This dedicated role will give greater focus, consistency and continuity to the council's existing work in these areas and will allow much stronger personal links to be established with local people and with agencies who can offer financial and non-financial support.

Action 11

The Ranger Service will continue to provide support for volunteers, community groups and Friends groups working on our sites.

We will continually review and refocus the work of the Rangers to meet our community involvement commitments in deprived areas of the city.

4. Strategic Theme: Places

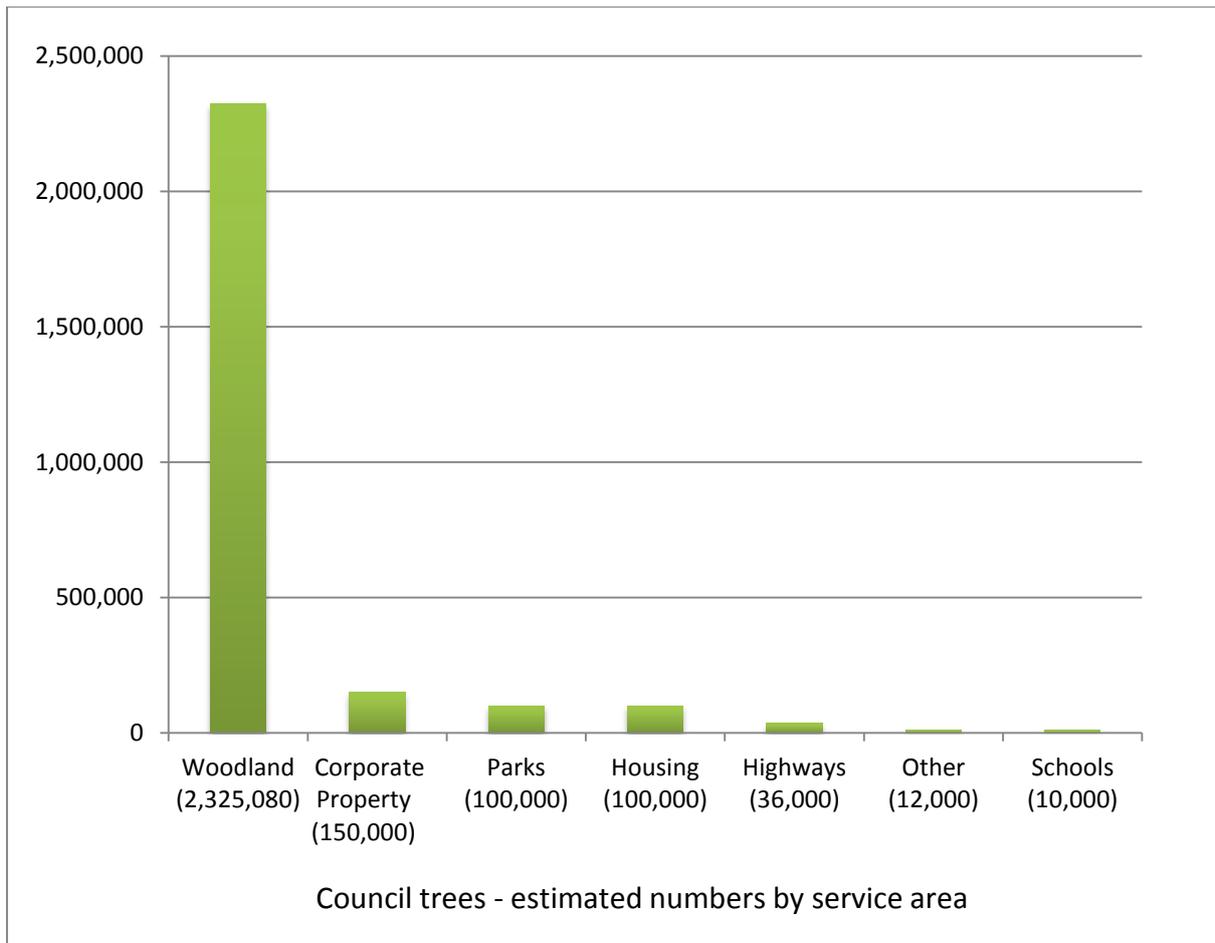
“Every area of the city”

Aim 3: Knowing the Tree and Woodland Resource

We will continue to develop a greater understanding of the extent and value of the tree and woodland resource and associated ecosystem services by building on the information provided by the recently completed i-Tree project



Often described as one of the greenest cities in Europe, Sheffield is estimated to have around 4.5 million trees, with approximately 2.7 million of these trees managed by the Council. These large areas of woodland, parks and open spaces trees are a natural resource which provides a strong sense of place not often found in densely populated areas. In addition to a fantastic setting our woodlands provide sustainable home-grown timber and other products such as charcoal, biofuel, paper and food. The chart overleaf illustrates where the Council managed trees are found within Sheffield by service area.



4.1 Knowledge of the Urban and Rural Forest

In order to gain a clearer picture of the existing tree cover of the Sheffield area, the Council undertook a comprehensive tree survey during 2017 using the i-Tree survey system. i-Tree is recognised within the arboricultural industry as one of the leading systems for measuring and assessing tree cover and providing details of the ecosystem services provided by trees. Results of this survey can be found in Section 2 of this strategy.

The Council is committed to continually updating the knowledge we hold on our trees and woodlands. Following on from i-Tree, the Council is now working in partnership with researchers at the University of Sheffield to study in more detail the potential effects of climate change and the threats posed by pests and diseases to trees and woodlands over the next 50 years.

Action 12

We will continue to look for ways to update our existing knowledge of our trees and woodlands. This includes the current partnership work with the University of Sheffield and the joint project to model the effects of climate change and the threats from tree related pests and diseases.

4.2 Successful Working

A number of projects and approaches have been undertaken in recent years that link with the key aims of this Strategy and serve as examples of best practice:

Tree Planting

Over the last five years approximately 100,000 trees have been planted on land owned and managed by the Council across a number of Directorates including: parks, housing, schools and development sites. Tree planting has also been undertaken on land owned by a range of partner organisations including: Parish Councils, housing associations, sheltered housing and the Peak District National Park Authority. Historically sites have included reclaimed land and industrial corridors such as the Lower Don. One focus of this tree planting programme has been to bring greater environmental equity to neighbourhoods across the city providing more people with local trees and woodlands and their many associated benefits. Many of these trees have been planted through our nationally recognised Community Forestry programme with direct involvement from the local community (see section 3.4.1 for further details on Community Tree Planting).

Urban Nature Programme

The Urban Nature Programme (UNP) was a capital funded project aimed at changing the way our green spaces are managed. By reducing management activities such as grass cutting on sites and increasing woodland planting the programme aimed to increase ecological value and biodiversity.

Tree Risk Management Strategy

In 2010 the Council adopted the Corporate Tree Risk Management Strategy. Based on industry guidance and best practice, the strategy aims to assess and measure risk in the tree population for which the Council has responsibility and to ensure work is only carried out on trees posing an unacceptable risk. The policy covers all council trees except those on highways which are managed through the separate *Streets Ahead Five Year Tree Management Strategy*.

4.3 Tree Management in the Urban and Rural Forest

The trees and woodland of Sheffield are, collectively, one of the city's greatest natural assets often referred to as the 'urban forest' whilst recognising that our trees are spread across urban and rural areas. They provide a range of benefits for the public; making urban areas more enjoyable places within which to live, work and play. However by growing trees in an urban environment we also increase the potential for conflict between trees, people and property. Poorly sited trees close to living areas can cause nuisance issues such as shading and leaf drop. Large fast growing species growing on shrinkable clay soils can cause subsidence related damage to buildings, leading to costly repairs and the need for tree removal. Trees with structural weaknesses and decay are liable to failure causing injury, death and

property damage. These issues can be reduced and avoided by a planned strategic approach to tree management.

4.4 All Trees and Woodlands on Council Land (excluding Highways)

Aim 4: Risk Management and Public Safety

We will manage the risks posed by trees to people and property based on industry best practice and with consideration for the law, available resources and the economic, environmental and community value of trees.



4.4.1 Tree Surveys

All Council sites containing trees are subject to periodic inspections carried out by appropriately qualified staff. In most instances the inspection process is based on risk assessment procedures with inspections occurring every 1-5 years depending on site priority. Priority is based on the surrounding site usage, i.e. non-highway trees near busy roads are inspected more regularly than those beside woodland footpaths. We also carry out Tree Condition Surveys based on British Standard 5837:2012 *Trees in relation to Design, Demolition and Construction* where development is being considered on Council land.

Carrying out surveys of our tree stock is important for gaining an overview of tree condition across a site and to ensure public safety through the appropriate management of risk. Surveys allow us to monitor the health and overall condition of the stock enabling us to identify decline in individuals or groups of trees as well as locating or monitoring outbreaks of pests and diseases. In particular, it enables us to identify trees that pose a risk to people or property.

4.4.2. Tree Works, Removals and Standards

Enquiries

The Council receives a significant number of enquiries about trees on its land as well as those on private land, with the Parks & Countryside Service receiving around 1500 enquiries each year in relation to the Council's trees in open spaces and woodlands. We aim to respond to all enquiries within appropriate designated timescales and in a clear and concise manner.

Tree Risk Management

The Council has a 'Duty of Care' to protect people and property from harm caused by trees owned or managed by the local authority. A breach of this duty may give rise to a claim of negligence from the injured party. In the case of trees, negligence may arise by the omission of the owner to take sufficient care of a tree and to deal reasonably with foreseeable hazards.

Since 2010 the Council has operated the Corporate Tree Risk Management Strategy for all trees on Council land (except highway trees whose risk management falls within the Streets Ahead Five Year Tree Management Strategy). The Corporate Tree Risk Management Strategy incorporates a clear process of inspection, remedial work and record keeping that is in line with current industry best practice. This work is essential to meet the Council's duty of care. Once trees have been assessed as posing an unacceptable risk to people or property then remedial work is undertaken to minimise that risk to an acceptable level.

Action 13

We will continue to carry out the systematic survey of trees on Council land along with any necessary remedial work within agreed timescales as detailed within the Corporate Tree Risk Management Strategy.

Requests for Work

In most cases the Council will only carry out work to trees within our parks, woodlands and open spaces where:

- an assessment has identified a potential hazard such as significant decay, structural weakness or any evidence of likely imminent failure in line with our Tree Risk Management Strategy
- there is proven tree root subsidence damage to property
- branches are touching buildings
- vehicular or pedestrian safety is compromised or sightlines are required to be maintained, e.g. road signs, street lights etc.

Tree Removal

There are a number of reasons why a tree may need to be removed. These reasons may include:

- The tree is in a hazardous condition (and meets the criteria within the Corporate Tree Risk Management Strategy).
- The tree has been found to be causing (or is a contributory factor in) subsidence related damage or direct damage to property, and removal is considered to be the most appropriate course of action
- To make way for approved development or engineering works
- As part of an agreed landscape enhancement or restoration plan
- As part of a thinning operation to select trees that are considered to be more desirable for retention
- The tree is self-set, in an inappropriate location and is likely to cause problems in the near future
- To abate a nuisance that could be subject to legal proceedings
- The work is part of an agreed commercial forestry operation

Where tree removal is necessary and site management aims allow, we will consider retaining standing stems and/or leaving felled timber on site to allow natural decay processes to take place and create valuable wildlife habitat.

Nuisance Issues

Nuisance issues are those that occur through the natural and sometimes seasonal growth of trees. Issues such as shade can occur gradually over a long period of time, whereas leaf drop is usually confined to a short period in autumn. In most cases the issues present an inconvenience rather than causing a risk of injury or damage to property. People's perception of whether a particular tree is causing a nuisance also differs widely. Under normal circumstances the Council will not undertake pruning or removal work in direct response to natural or seasonal growth including:

- Trees blocking light and causing shading, including tall trees and those with overhanging branches (except those touching houses)
- Branches obstructing telephone wires
- Blocking or obstruction of views
- Trees interfering with TV or satellite reception
- Falling leaves, flowers, fruit or honeydew drip
- Blocked gutters
- Bird droppings
- Seeds from trees that have germinated in gardens
- Moss caused by shade

Action 14

All enquiries or requests for nuisance related tree work will be dealt with on a case by case basis and the person making the enquiry will be informed of the Council's decision within the appropriate timescale.

Common Law

Under Common Law the owner of a property may in specific circumstances prune back any overhanging branches to their boundary line. However before doing so the owner of the property should seek their own legal advice on the matter and in all cases should contact the local planning authority to check whether the tree is protected by a Tree Preservation Order or is within a Conservation Area (See section 4.16.1 - Legislation). Before carrying out any pruning the owner of the property should also consider whether the work may lead to the tree becoming unsafe. For this reason it is always advisable to inform the Council of the intended works before undertaking them.

Right to Light

In law there is no general right to light. Any right to light would need to be established via a specific grant (rare) or by prescription, which can only occur where the right has been enjoyed uninterruptedly for a minimum of 20 years (Prescription Act 1832). Following this, a legal right to light can only be enjoyed in relation to a specific opening (such as a window) in a building; there is no right to light in connection with open land, such as a garden. If natural light is being blocked by the growth of a hedge then in specific circumstances action may be taken to reduce the problem under the High Hedges Act, Part 8 of the Anti-social Behaviour Act, 2003 (see also section 4.18 – High Hedges).

Vandalism and Illegal Felling

The Council does sometimes experience issues with vandalism or illegal felling of trees in our parks, woodlands and open spaces. In each case we will investigate and deal with it appropriately. In the case of vandalism to newly planted trees, where appropriate we may consider planting larger trees as a way to reduce further vandalism alongside involving the local community to encourage a greater sense of ownership and posting site notices to discourage further acts of vandalism.

Action 15

We will investigate cases of vandalism and illegal tree felling and take action where appropriate.

Tree Work Standards

All tree work undertaken on Council managed trees will be carried out in accordance with British Standard 3998:2010 *Tree Work – Recommendations* (and any future amendments). In certain circumstances work may be carried out in accordance with other accepted arboricultural guidelines such as those for veteran trees or for wildlife habitat considerations.

4.4.3. Veteran Trees

Veteran and ancient trees are distinct from large mature trees because of the wealth of wildlife habitats that form through the ageing process. These rot-holes, dead wood, decay fungi, and other features provide food and shelter for a large range of flora and fauna, including some protected species. Of course, the decay and other physical defects associated with these trees can affect their safety and they must therefore be managed carefully to preserve these rich and rare habitats whilst minimising risk to the public. The Council also encourages the creation of these habitats to promote the next generation of veteran and ancient trees by following Natural England Veteran Trees Guide to Good Management¹⁶. This can be achieved, for instance, by managing the gradual decline of large mature trees rather than simply felling them, where it is safe to do so, or by leaving standing stems of smaller trees to re-grow safely while developing rot-holes and dead wood.

Action 16

The Council will follow current industry best practice such as Natural England's Veteran Trees: A Guide to Good Management in managing its veteran trees.

Action 17

We will identify veteran trees in the Sheffield Lakeland Landscape Partnership area and carry out necessary works to maintain their integrity and health.

4.5 Tree Planting

The Government's *A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment*¹⁷ makes several references to supporting additional tree planting :

'We will increase tree planting by creating new forests, and incentivising extra planting on private and the least productive agricultural land, where appropriate. This will support our ambition to plant 11m trees'.
Defra 2018

As part of the 25 Year Environment Plan the government are supporting an initiative called the Northern Forest. The project is still developing and may provide opportunities for further woodland creation.

We will explore funding support for woodland creation and capital support to deliver schemes through Countryside Stewardship and the Woodland Carbon Fund in particular where this links to the 'Protecting Sheffield' project centred on flood alleviation.

¹⁶ <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/75035>

¹⁷ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/25-year-environment-plan>

Tree planting is an essential part of sustainable tree management. A key risk to the sustainability of any tree population is an uneven distribution of tree ages. Tree populations that contain a high percentage of old trees are at risk as large sections of the population could decline and die over a short period of time and there would be few younger trees to replace them. Ideally any tree population should contain a balance of young, medium aged and older trees to ensure there is a natural process of succession.

A tree population with little diversity of species is at risk from new pests and diseases that in many cases target individual species. In a worst case scenario the pest or disease may spread rapidly through a single species causing widespread loss. The Council is committed to sustainable tree cover across the city and will develop an appropriate tree planting strategy based on the following key elements:

Site Availability and Existing Tree Cover

We will review the Council land holdings along with data from the i-Tree Eco survey to identify sites where new tree planting may be appropriate. We will prioritise sites considering criteria such as existing levels of tree cover, maximising environmental benefits (improving air quality, flood prevention, enhancing wildlife habitat), as well as increasing the visual amenity value of sites. Consideration for the existing landscape character will help inform decisions on species, number of tree planted and location of new planting.

Species Selection

Consideration will be given to current industry guidance such as the 'Right Place – Right Tree' guidelines (Appendix 3) and British Standard BS8545:2014 to maximise environmental and amenity benefits whilst minimising future nuisance issues and unnecessary maintenance costs. Where we intend to interplant, create or restore semi-natural habitats we will aim to use locally native species.

Site Selection

Choosing a site where new trees are likely to thrive is important. Consideration will be given to soil type and volume, environmental conditions such as drainage and exposure to strong winds, as well as levels of light/shade. Different sizes of trees are appropriate to different locations. In prominent locations especially where a well-known tree has been removed, replacements should be of a suitable size, e.g. extra heavy standard, in order to make an immediate impact. In other well used park locations where individual trees are to be planted, heavy standard specimens should be used. In locations with greater potential pressures from antisocial behaviour a larger tree may also be planted. Larger stock is less prone to vandalism and also has a greater chance of successful establishment.

Quality of Tree Stock

By choosing good quality tree stock from reputable suppliers we will help to ensure good future form and structure and increase the chances that the new trees will thrive.

Standards and Best Practice

Research into urban trees shows that as many as 25% of all newly planted urban trees fail¹⁵. In order to minimise failure rates all tree planting and aftercare will be guided by current best practice.

Community Forestry

Community forestry aims to work with the community to promote trees, the value of new tree planting and creating a sense of ownership. See section 3.4.1 for further information on Community Forestry (Community Tree Planting).

Partnership Working & Funding Opportunities

We will seek out and work closely with existing and new partners and funders to maximise the potential for new planting schemes.

Tree Planting Numbers

As a minimum we aim to plant two trees for every one removed using a mixture of tree species and sizes as appropriate to the site and conditions. This aim covers all trees on Council greenspaces. It does not cover trees removed in naturalistic areas such as woodlands where felled trees are likely to be replaced through natural regeneration nor where removals are part of a commercial forestry operation. It also doesn't include young self-sets that have grown up in inappropriate locations where their long term retention is not considered appropriate. An aspirational target is to plant 100,000 trees which represents 10,000 per year over the next ten years, made up of a mixture of sizes including heavy standard, standard, feathered trees and whips. Replacement trees will not always be planted in the same location or near to where the original tree stood. We will however, maintain a record of trees removed through the year along with the new trees planted to ensure we meet the aims of the strategy.

Action 18

We will aim to maintain diverse and sustainable tree cover through the planting of new trees in appropriate locations.

Action 19

We will develop an appropriate strategy for future tree planting across the city. This will be informed by the findings of the i-Tree survey.

Action 20

We will follow the 'Right Place - Right Tree' guidelines when considering new tree planting.

Headline Action 21

We will plant at least 100,000 additional trees and replace trees on a 2 for 1 basis in our greenspaces and woodlands over the next 10 years.

4.5.1. Commemorative Tree Scheme

The Council offers the opportunity for organisations and members of the public to plant a tree within our open spaces to celebrate a special occasion; a birth, marriage, or to mark the end of someone's life. We will help to choose an appropriate location and species of tree. The event can also be marked by signing the Commemorative Tree Register. Enquiries are taken all year round with the aim of planting trees between the start of November and the end of March. The size of tree that we usually plant under this scheme is 'heavy standard' which are typically around 3 metres high and around 10 years old.

Action 22

We will continue to offer a Commemorative Tree Scheme to members of the public.

4.6 Tree Management in Housing Areas

It is estimated that there are around 100,000 trees on land managed by Sheffield City Council Housing Services including trees in tenants' gardens, communal gardens and open spaces. These trees are subject to the same survey, inspection and management processes as trees on other Council managed land via a Service Level Agreement (SLA) between Housing Services and the Parks & Countryside Service. This agreement also includes a programme of tree planting based on the Council's Community Forestry model.

Under the Council's existing tenancy agreement, tenants are expected to keep gardens tidy and to not allow them to become overgrown including the trimming of hedges, bushes and shrubbery. However, tenants are not allowed to plant or cut down any tree without the Council's permission. As part of the existing SLA, trees in tenants' gardens are subject to routine inspection in order to detect and reduce risks to health and safety or potential damage to property. The Council will maintain trees in the boundary of a tenancy where they are causing a danger or damage. Tenants are able to make requests for pruning works to the relevant area housing office. Each request will be investigated in conjunction with the Tree Officer and any decision to carry out work will be based on individual circumstances.

Action 23

Trees on land managed by Housing Services, including those in tenant's gardens will be managed in line with the standard Council approach to tree management.

4.7 Trees in School Grounds

Trees are an important part of the school environment. They provide shade, create a varied setting, an environment for creative play and are a valuable resource for children's education and enjoyment. This natural resource provides children with the opportunity to understand the value of the natural world and the importance of looking after our environment.

A tree management and advice service has been offered to schools (via paid subscription) in Sheffield since April 2006. The service has been designed to assist schools in meeting their legal responsibilities around tree risk management but also includes the provision of advice and assistance in promoting sustainable tree cover and the integration of trees and their benefits into the day to day activities of the school.

Action 24

The Council will continue to offer a service to schools to promote the sustainable management of their tree stock and encourage the integration of trees into school activities and children's education.

4.8 Insurance Claims Involving Council Trees

From time to time the Council may receive claims of damage where Council trees have been implicated. Claims may be for either direct & indirect damage. Direct damage may typically involve damage caused by falling trees or branches, whereas indirect damage may involve tree root growth and function that may be causing damage to boundary walls, driveways and to buildings due to subsidence.

Where Council managed trees are implicated in building damage as a result of subsidence, the onus will be upon the claimant to provide technical evidence to support such a claim. Evidence that may be requested may include the following:

- Engineers report on assessment of damage to building
- An arboricultural report detailing trees and vegetation in relation to the area of building damage
- Results from trial pit excavations showing the soil profile beneath the foundations
- Root identification from beneath the foundations
- Soil analysis
- Level/crack monitoring

Where claims are made against the Council for damages to drainage systems, light structures such as garden boundary walls, prefabricated garages etc. the onus will be upon the claimant to provide technical evidence to support such a claim.

In all instances claims should be sent to the Council's Insurance & Risk Team.

Action 25

When dealing with insurance claims, technical information may be requested to enable the Insurance and Risk Team to make an informed decision on liability and any appropriate course of action.

4.9 Development on Council Land

From time to time proposals for the potential development of Council land will arise. In such cases it is important to follow existing industry guidance on managing trees that exist both within the site and those close to its boundary. The current British Standard BS5837: *Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – recommendations* provides clear guidance on the appropriate process for managing existing trees through the various stages of development. An appropriately qualified arboriculturist should be involved throughout the process.

Action 26

Where development is being considered on Council land, the guidance given in BS5837 will be followed and an appropriately qualified arboriculturist will be involved in the design and development process.

4.10 Sale/disposal of Council Land

Where Council land is being considered for sale/disposal, the change of ownership from Council to private owners may result in an increased risk of existing trees being removed. In order to retain valuable trees it is important that existing trees are inspected and any protection placed on them prior to the land being sold.

Action 27

As part of an assessment of Council land being considered for sale we will check for existing trees. Where trees exist, an arboricultural assessment will be undertaken to assess their condition and value.

Action 28

Before any of the Council's rural land holdings are disposed of we will try and secure additional tree planting and access improvements to complement our objectives around recreation and climate change mitigation.

4.11 Management of Highway Trees



Street trees form an important and much loved part of the city's tree stock and whilst they represent a small proportion of the city's 4.5m trees, they bring a number of environmental, health, and quality of life benefits to local people and communities. The city's highways improvement programme, Streets Ahead, includes work on the city's street tree stock to improve, maintain and sustain it for future generations, as well as providing a series of significant wider benefits, including transformation of the condition of the city's roads and pavements, enhanced community safety through better street lighting, and by making it easier for all road users, including older people and disabled people, to get around the city.

The Streets Ahead programme has included the removal and replacement of some of the city's 36,000 street trees. In recent years this element of the contract has been the subject of controversy with some residents in the city. Therefore, following discussions with street trees campaigners, the Council has agreed that the city should develop a new street trees strategy that will complement the Trees and Woodlands strategy and which explores a number of issues such as the long term number of street trees, species selection, management and maintenance and community involvement.

The development of the street trees strategy will be independently chaired and will include a range of stakeholders including the wider public. Its work will start in the early part of 2019 and aim to be concluded within six months. If the process is successful, then the finished document will form a sub-strategy to the Trees and

Woodland strategy, and will influence the delivery of the remaining period of the Streets Ahead programme.

Action 29

We will seek to develop a street trees strategy with partners which will be a 'sub strategy' of the Trees and Woodlands Strategy

4.12 Trees and Woodlands on Private Land

It is estimated from the 2017 i-Tree survey that approximately 40% of tree cover in Sheffield is located on private land. This includes trees in residential gardens, those on commercial property as well as those in private woodland estates. In order to promote appropriate management of trees on private land the Council will engage with landowners to offer advice and promote best practice by:

- providing advice on best practice via the Council's website and social media.
- Supporting events in public spaces to promote good tree and woodland management.
- Promoting the value of planting trees and providing information on available resources/grants that may assist this aim.

Action 30

The Council will develop processes to engage with private woodland and tree owners to encourage good arboricultural management of trees on their land.

4.13 Trees and Planning

The presence of mature trees can add significant value to new developments and their retention and protection throughout the development process is considered to be highly desirable, providing a sense of establishment as well as retaining an existing landscape.

The Council receives approximately 4,000 applications every year for new development across Sheffield. Applications can range from minor extensions on residential houses to large scale commercial developments. Existing trees within the site and those on adjacent sites can be irreparably damaged by construction work through direct damage (root severance, vehicle damage to trunk or branches) or indirect damage (soil compaction). The Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (section 197) imposes a specific duty on the local planning authorities with a specific duty 'to ensure, whenever it is appropriate that, in granting planning permission for any development, adequate provision is made by the imposition of conditions for the preservation or planting of trees'.

4.14 Planning Policy

The Council adopted the Unitary Development Plan (UDP) as the statutory development plan for Sheffield in March 1998. It consists of a policy document and a proposals map. The proposals map and many of the policies ('saved policies')

continue to form part of the development plan alongside the more recent Core Strategy. The Core Strategy was adopted in March 2009¹⁸. It sets out the overall vision, objectives and spatial strategy and policies for Sheffield over the period to 2026. A new 'Sheffield Plan' is currently in development which will guide the future of the city and where development will take place up to 2034¹⁹.

4.15 Planning Applications

Planning applications are assessed by a Planning Officer. Members of the public are entitled to make representations about a planning application and officers will take into account all material planning considerations raised. Some matters are not material planning considerations, for example loss of a view, reduction in property value or a boundary dispute between neighbours.

The impact on existing trees and opportunities to plant new trees are considered as part of the application process when necessary. Where appropriate, input from a Council arboriculturist will be requested. Where development proposals are likely to affect trees either within the site or those adjacent to the boundaries, a tree survey (based on British Standard 5837 2012: *Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction*) may be required to inform the decision. The level of detail required within the survey varies in each case. Table B1 in Annex B of the British Standard provides advice on what information is appropriate.

If officers consider amendments to the development proposal are required they can be discussed with the applicant. Once an application has been assessed against the local development plan and national planning policy and other material considerations have been taken into account, a recommendation is then made to grant or refuse planning permission. Planning permission may be granted subject to conditions. For example in some circumstances it may be necessary to impose a condition requiring tree protection zones to be installed prior to the commencement of construction works. Applicants can appeal to the Planning Inspectorate against a refusal of planning permission or against any conditions imposed on a grant of planning permission.

It is worth recognising the Forestry Commission's role as a statutory consultee for large scale planning applications and as a non-statutory consultee on development affecting or within 500m of an ancient woodland.

Protection of Ancient Woodlands

In the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan, the significant heritage value and irreplaceable character of ancient woodland and veteran trees is recognised. We are committed to ensuring stronger protection of our ancient woodlands, making sure

¹⁸ <https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/content/sheffield/home/planning-development/sheffield-plan.html>

¹⁹ <https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/content/sheffield/home/planning-development/emerging-sheffield-plan-draft.html>

they are sustainably managed to provide a wide range of social, environmental, societal and economic benefits.

National Planning Policy Framework (2018) states when determining planning applications, local planning authorities should apply the following principles:

“To protect and enhance biodiversity development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats (such as ancient woodland and ancient or veteran trees) should be refused, unless there are wholly exceptional reasons and a suitable compensation strategy exists”

Action 31

We will work with Natural England to verify the status and extent of ancient woodland in Sheffield.

Action 32

A tree survey (as detailed within BS5837:2012) will normally be necessary in order to consider development proposals that affect trees.

Action 33

Development will not normally be supported where we consider it makes inadequate provision for the retention of trees and other natural features, particularly wildlife habitats such as woodlands.

Action 34

We will seek to retain appropriate existing trees on development sites and may do this through the use of Tree Preservation Orders or planning conditions. In all cases we will consider guidance detailed in BS5837 including appropriate tree protection measures.

Action 35

We will encourage appropriate tree planting within new developments to create wildlife corridors and where possible create larger areas of continuous tree cover to contribute to improved local biodiversity. Where appropriate, we will encourage the planting of large, long lived tree species within new development sites.

4.16.1 Legislation

Tree Preservation Orders

Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) are made by the Council as Local Planning Authority to protect specific trees, groups of trees or woodlands where it is considered expedient in the interests of amenity. Trees are usually protected by an Order when their removal would have a significant negative impact on the local environment and its enjoyment by the public.

An Order prohibits the cutting down, topping, lopping, uprooting, wilful damage and destruction of trees without the Local Planning Authority's written consent. If consent is given, it can be subject to conditions which have to be followed.

Conservation Areas

Sheffield has 38 conservation areas. These are '*areas of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance*'. All trees over a certain size, growing within these areas are subject to conservation area planning restrictions. Before undertaking work to a tree in a conservation area, a six week notice period of the intended works must be given to the Local Planning Authority. During this period the Local Planning Authority may choose to make a TPO to prevent works to the tree or decide not to make a TPO and inform the applicant the work can proceed.

Hedgerow Regulations

The Hedgerow Regulations 1997 are designed to give protection to important hedgerows. Anyone proposing to remove a hedgerow, or part of a hedgerow, which is covered by the regulations, must first notify the Council as Local Planning Authority by submitting a Hedgerow Removal Notice. The Regulations apply to any hedgerow which grows in, or adjacent to any common land, Local Nature Reserve, Site of Special Scientific Interest, or land used for agriculture, forestry or the breeding or keeping of horses, ponies or donkeys if – it has a continuous length of at least 20 metres, or it has a continuous length less than 20 metres and at each end meets another hedgerow.

Action 36

There will be a presumption against the cutting down or inappropriate pruning of any tree protected by a Tree Preservation Order. Where consent is granted for removal the Council may impose a condition requiring replacement planting of the tree.

4.16.2 Planning Enforcement

The Council will investigate alleged unauthorised work to trees and hedgerows and will pursue enforcement action as and when appropriate.

Action 37

Any alleged unauthorised works to protected trees will be investigated and enforcement action taken where appropriate.

4.17 Unsafe Trees on Private Land

The management of trees on private land is the responsibility of the owner of the land. Any disputes between neighbours in regard to trees on their land should be resolved between the parties. The Council has powers under the Local Government

(Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 to require the tree owner to make safe a tree that is deemed to pose an imminent threat to persons or property but these powers should only be used once reasonable discussion between the parties has taken place and the issue cannot be resolved. Where trees on private land are considered a threat to users of the highway or public footpaths then the Council has powers under the Highways Act to require that the owner makes the trees safe.

4.18 High Hedges

The Council has powers under Part 8 of the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 to intervene if a neighbour dispute concerning an evergreen hedge over 2 metres in height cannot be resolved between the parties and a complaint is made. Further information is contained in the government's 'Over the Garden Hedge' leaflet and on the Council's website.

<http://www.sheffield.gov.uk/content/sheffield/home/pollution-nuisance/high-hedges.html>

5 Strategic Theme: Environment and Sustainability

“The greenest city in Britain”

Aim 5: Sustainable Management

We will provide a tree and woodland resource across the whole city which is valued, enhanced and managed sustainably in accordance with the principles of good forestry and arboricultural practice.

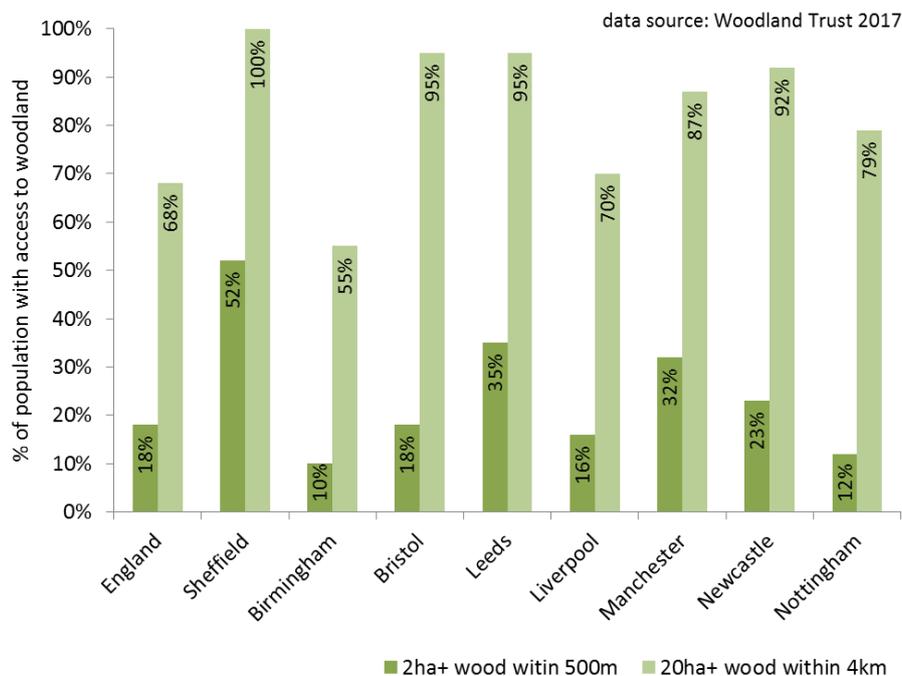
There is strong evidence that trees and woodlands provide a large range of positive environmental benefits. The presence of trees on open ground can help reduce the risk of flooding by retaining water, regulating flow and buffering against run-off. Groups of trees form wildlife corridors and links between the city centre and countryside providing important wildlife habitats for shelter, breeding and foraging, helping to maintain biodiversity in the city. Trees provide us with other useful products such as charcoal, biofuel, paper and food for ourselves and for wildlife.

5.1 Woodland Management

Sheffield’s woodlands are an integral part of the landscape and green heritage of the city. A number of the woodlands date back to before the 16th century and have been managed for hundreds of years as an important source of raw material. The early steel industry was fuelled by charcoal produced in the city’s woodlands until this was replaced by coal, coke and electricity. Since the 1900’s the woodlands of Sheffield have been an escape from the bustle of city life and as important places for recreation, wildlife and heritage. The Council now has Forest Stewardship Certification (FSC) for all its woodlands and forests. This is under-pinned by the United Kingdom Woodland Assurance Scheme (UKWAS) and allows the Council to increase its income from the sale of timber and to manage sites sustainably.

- The Parks & Countryside Service manages just over 1500 Ha of woodland and forest managed in line with our two Forestry Commission approved woodland design plans.
- 31% of Council woodlands are coniferous forest (approximately 400 Ha) and 67% are traditional broadleaf woodland (1100 Ha).
- The Council manages 180 designated woodland sites of which 70 (650 Ha) are ancient woodlands which means they have existed from at least 1600 AD.
- On average the Council plants 20,000 trees and harvests 4,000-5,000 tonnes of timber annually predominantly from our conifer plantations if a forest compartment is clear felled.
- All woodlands have free public access unless activities are being used for commercial gain.
- All Sheffield City Council woodlands are FSC certified, which means that they meet an international standard of sustainable woodland management underpinned by the Forestry Standard UKWAS.

- Two sites; Ecclesall Woods and Wheata Woods have reached Green Flag standard, a nationally acknowledged standard for greenspaces.
- The Woodland Trust publication Space for People²⁰ identified levels of access to woodland. Sheffield has significantly higher levels of access to both small and large woodland compared to other cities in England.



Several projects have provided a major boost to improving the management of the Council's woodland resource, they include:

Fuelling the Revolution – The Woods that Founded the Steel Country

A Heritage Lottery funded project which secured investment to improve the infrastructure in 35 of the ancient woodlands within the city and within the South Yorkshire Forest area, e.g. Roe Woods, Bowden Housteads Wood and Wheata Woods. Key improvements included:

- Enhancing the landscape heritage importance, protecting the historical value and improving nature conservation quality of the sites.
- Allowing sites to be managed in a sustainable way through thinning work.
- Interpretation of sites through improved signage interpretive boards and leaflets.

FSC Accreditation

²⁰ <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/publications/2017/06/space-for-people-2017/>

Having secured Forest Stewardship Certification (FSC) Sheffield Council's woodlands now meet this internationally recognised standard and can command a better price for timber from these sites.

England Woodland Grant Scheme (Forestry Commission)

Although the grant is soon coming to an end, the England Woodland Grant Scheme has allowed us to manage our estate with improved access and thinning work encouraging specific species of birds via the Woodland Improvement Grant for Birds. The scheme has been replaced by Countryside Stewardship grant.

Sheffield Lakeland Landscape Partnership

Sheffield Lakeland Landscape Partnership (SLLP) is a partnership with Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust, Yorkshire Water, Bradfield Parish Council, Steel Valley Project and other voluntary sector groups. The SLLP is an ambitious project which has been submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund to help restore the landscape in the project area dominated by the Bradfield Parish Boundary and includes parts of Stocksbridge. If successful the grant will provide the funding to make improvements to our Woodlands, Forests, Walls and Hedges for example.

5.1.1 Broadleaf Woodlands

The majority of Sheffield's broadleaf woodlands are managed under a 'Continuous Cover' policy which is focused on health and safety work supported by minimal intervention and selective felling/ thinning where access and grants are available. It promotes the natural regeneration of the woodland using seed stock from the woodland itself.

The topography of the city means that many of our broadleaf woodlands exist on steep valley sides and support a sensitive and distinctive habitat typical of ancient woodlands. This makes more intensive management uneconomic and potentially damaging. Where good quality timber can be cost effectively extracted to the roadside with minimum disturbance to ground flora we will carry out felling and thinning work.

Action 38

The Council will continue to operate a Continuous Cover management approach to its broadleaf woodlands prioritising health and safety works. Any additional thinning works will be achieved where it is cost effective and viable.

5.1.2 Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS)

Sheffield has 126 Ha of Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS). PAWS are generally ancient woodland sites which have been planted up with non- native trees like American Red Oak, Larch, Scots Pine and Sweet Chestnut. Additional funding through the Countryside Stewardship Scheme and the Forestry Commission could

enable the restoration of PAWS sites back to traditional broadleaved woodland. Several sites exist at:

Gillifield Wood
Upper Porter Clough
Rough Standhills
Bowden Housteads
Tinsley Park
Oaking Clough
Windy Bank

Action 39

We will aim to return Plantations on Ancient Woodlands Sites (PAWS) to their original composition where this is cost effective.

5.1.3 The Woodland and Forest Estate

The Government, in their document *A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment*, re-asserted the desire to support and increase the contribution of locally grown timber to the British economy stating:

...while 58% of woodland in England is already in active management, the UK imports around 80% of the wood it consumes, so there is a clear opportunity for UK wood - particularly extracting hardwoods from our broad leafed woodlands.

To shape our woodland and forest management the woodland and forest estate is split into two parts each having a Forest Design Plan. The Peak Design Plan covers the western half of the city including the area within the Peak District National Park and is dominated by commercial forestry plantations. The Urban Design Plan covers the east of the city and contains the majority of our broadleaved woodlands many of which are classed as ancient woodlands. The plans inform when and where to carry out thinning and extraction work and have associated felling licences issued by the Forestry Commission. This allows us to extract timber at a sustainable level to maintain the health of the woodland stock and to generate income. The plans are agreed and part funded by the Forestry Commission and are a requirement to access their new Countryside Stewardship fund.

Action 40

The Council will continue to manage its woodlands and forests in a sustainable manner to the UKWAS standard and will extract timber in line with recommendations from the two Design Plan and the approved felling licence. This will be achieved through selective thinning until a final clear fell of the compartments is required.

Action 41

When a compartment of conifer plantation is clear felled we will replant with appropriate resilient species determined by the long term vision outlined in the Peak Design Plan approved by the Forestry Commission. Where landscape and biodiversity considerations have a greater priority than timber production we will replant with broadleaved trees and also encourage natural regeneration.

Action 42

The Council will keep its two Forest Design Plans reviewed, to take advantage of new funding opportunities. These will inform our long term future management decisions.

5.1.4 Silviculture and Thinning Programmes

Around 400 Ha of the woodland estate is conifer plantation, planted in the 1950s and 60s around Redmires , Bradfield and the Ewden Valley area mainly to landscape the reservoirs constructed by the Sheffield Water Works to supply water to Sheffield and the growing steel industries. Significant investment in site infrastructure has been completed over the last 20 years to enable the plantations to be managed.

Informed by the Peak Design Plan 2011-2021 a programme of thinning and clear fell has been developed for the next few years. In 2016/17 Wragg House Plantation and Lady Canning's Plantation were thinned. In 2017/18 compartments at Wigtwizzle, Yew Tree Lane and Broomhead Park were clear felled.

Income generated from this thinning work cross subsidises the work in our urban estate. In an average year we extract 6-8,000 tonnes of timber from our conifer plantations. Where sites have been identified for thinning or clear felling an assessment of the timber tonnage is carried out to guide their future managements. The timber is sold as a standing crop and tenders are sought to obtain the best price for our timber. This will be subject to all of the Council's current procurement guidelines, setting out the contractual requirements of the process, required level of insurance cover and method statements for extraction etc. These will have to comply with FSC and UKWAS standards.

5.1.5 Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and United Kingdom Woodland Assurance Scheme (UKWAS)

All of Sheffield's woodlands are accredited to FSC and UKWAS standards. The FSC promotes best practice internationally in sustainable forest management and enables their well-known branding to be used by those who comply with the standards. It also allows the Council to command a quality premium for the timber it sells. FSC accreditation is underpinned by UKWAS. Each year the Council is audited against eight areas to ensure it complies with the UKWAS standard:

- Compliance with the law and conformity with the requirements of the certification standard
- Management planning
- Woodland design, creation, felling and replanting
- Operations

- Protection and maintenance
- Conservation and enhancement of biodiversity
- The community
- Forestry workforce

Action 43

The Council will maintain Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) accreditation for its woodland and forest estate on an annual basis and will comply with the UK Forestry Standard and the UK Woodland Assurance Scheme (UKWAS) standards.

Heritage and Archaeology

Sheffield has a unique legacy of industrial heritage and archaeology which has helped to shape its woodland estate. Bronze Age cup and ring art has been found on stones in Ecclesall Woods for example. References to Saxon and Viking place names can be found across the city, e.g. Norton Lees, Totley and High Storrs and place names incorporating Lees and Ley, meaning wood clearing, suggests places where people lived and cleared woodlands for agriculture. The history of Ecclesall Woods can be traced back to 1066 and the area has a history of white coal extraction for lead smelting, leading to a coppice with standards regime of woodland management. From the 1650's John Bright and his family owned the woodland for over 200 years and the coppice wood was leased to a lead merchant for lead smelting at local leadmills. The network of woodlands also provided fuel for the region's early iron industry and helped to form the area's rich cultural and historical heritage. At this time wood colliers would be making charcoal in the wood which was used in the early iron and steel industry on which Sheffield's reputation as a steel producer was built on. The complex of woods in Sheffield and the wider South Yorkshire area are a significant heritage asset. Acknowledgement should be made to the work of Professor Mel Jones whose book Sheffield's Woodland Heritage has helped to greatly inform us about past management of our ancient woodlands.

Action 44

We will ensure that archaeology and local heritage features are surveyed and if necessary protected before we carry out any work on our woodland estate. Where resources allow we will provide appropriate interpretation to raise awareness of these features.

5.1.6 Site Management Plans

It may be necessary to develop detailed site management plans for specific areas of woodland or open space. In 1992 the Council, in partnership with the South Yorkshire Forest was successful in securing Heritage Lottery Funding for the management of 20 ancient woodlands. As part of this initiative specific management plans were produced for these sites.

In addition specific site management plans exist at Ecclesall Woods and Wheata Woods which have Green Flag status.

Action 45

On woodland sites where resources and funding are secured, the Council will continue to produce site specific management plans to inform future management options.

General Nuisance and Abuse of Woodlands

Misuse of our woodland estate comes in a myriad of forms from arson to drug dealing and occasionally this leads to a perceived danger of woodlands by certain sections of the community. We will continue to work with South Yorkshire Police if criminal activity is being carried out on our sites.

The Woodland Team receive around 800 enquiries each year regarding a wide range of uses and abuses from our 180 woodland sites. A significant number of enquiries relate to trees overhanging gardens. We will only carry out works to trees where they are touching a property or present a risk of failure and damage to property.

We want to ensure that people continue to report problems so that we can provide a clean and safe environment for people to enjoy.

5.1.7 Biomass and Firewood

Biomass is biological material that can be used as fuel including logs, wood chip and wood pellets. In 2012 the government launched its UK Bioenergy Strategy. In respect to wood and timber products this links to the UK Forest Standard. The UK Forest Standard sets out the Government's approach to sustainable forest management in the UK, regardless of how the wood is ultimately used. The Government's timber procurement policy requires all domestic and imported wood products procured by central Government bodies and agencies to meet legality and sustainability criteria or to be licensed under the Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade Regulations 2012. Local government and the wider public sector are also encouraged to comply with these. In addition, the EU timber regulation is designed to ensure that only legally harvested timber can be placed on the EU market. Enforcement of this new regulatory framework and the Government's procurement policy could help ensure forest based bioenergy supply chains develop sustainably.

There is a growing interest in biomass in the city and several wood-fuel / biomass boilers have been installed to provide heat and power to a number of Council owned buildings however technical issues have limited further installation of boilers to Council buildings. It has always been an aspiration in the city to make a contribution to using biomass to generate energy and to offset the Council's carbon footprint. Whilst efforts have been made in the past to connect our forestry management to this process it has been difficult to establish an economic local market for woodchip and firewood.

A proportion of Sheffield City Council's timber is sold as wood chip and it is likely that some of this will return to the city as a fuel source. Saw logs (large diameter logs) and bars (small diameter logs) are processed into fencing which is supplied to

companies in Sheffield, however this is beyond the control of the Council and relies on market supply and demand.

One of the greatest challenges for our ancient woodlands is to manage them in a more commercial way gaining income for wood products like firewood. Our broadleaved woodlands are managed primarily for nature conservation, wildlife and recreation and not for timber production. Sensitive ecology and steep sided valleys make the extraction of timber for firewood particularly difficult in comparison to the commercial conifer plantations which have received significant amounts of investment in capital infrastructure funds to develop extraction rides and roadside stacking areas. Where standing timber is easily accessible to the road side, extraction becomes more feasible and economically viable however, our conservation and recreation objectives should not be compromised.

Action 46

We will explore with partners the opportunities for generating wood based products as a fuel source and, where markets and site management objectives allow, encourage the retention and use of wood as a fuel source.

5.1.8 Future Income Generating Opportunities from the Woodland/ Forest Estate

In order to help reduce our running costs we are constantly looking at new opportunities to generate income from the woodland/forest estate in ways that compliment our aims. Some of the current initiatives/ideas include;

- Licensing commercial forest school activity
- Licencing alpaca/llama trekking
- Charging for filming
- Additional sites for Woodland/Forest weddings
- Pop up camping sites at Lady Cannings Plantation
- 'Go Ape' type developments
- Additional café/retail opportunities
- Cycle Hire
- Pay and display car parking

5.1.9 Discovery Centre Ecclesall Woods

Working with partners we will develop a new Masterplan for the Discovery Centre at Ecclesall Woods looking at opportunities to generate additional income to support the work being carried out at the centre. Plans include the introduction of pay and display car parking, a new café and revised traffic management arrangements for example.

Action 47

We will develop a Masterplan to shape the future direction of the Woodland Discovery Centre at Ecclesall Woods.

5.2 Ecosystem Services and Climate Change

Aim 6: Climate Change Mitigation

We will mitigate the impact of global warming and climate change on our trees and woodlands and implement measures like natural flood management and flood alleviation schemes where necessary and appropriate.

The natural world, including its biodiversity, provides us with services that are critical to our wellbeing and economic prosperity.

Trees and woodlands provide a wide range of ecosystem services. These include provisioning (fuel and fibre), supporting (soil formation), regulating (climate, flood, noise, and air quality regulation), and cultural (cultural heritage, amenity, health, recreation and tourism) services. Ecosystem service provision is sensitive to land management objectives.

UK National Ecosystem Assessment 2011²¹

Carbon Sequestration and Pollution Removal

It is estimated from the 2017 i-Tree survey that trees in Sheffield sequester 21,800 tonnes of carbon per year. The net figure (taking into account dying trees) is 19,994 tonnes. The trees in Sheffield also remove approximately 374 tonnes per year of key pollutants including Ozone, Carbon monoxide, Nitrogen dioxide, Sulphur dioxide and particulates. Further information can be found in section 2.0.

Flooding

In 2007 Sheffield was hit by serious flooding affecting most of its rivers but in particular the River Don and River Sheaf. Since then work has been carried out to identify opportunities to improve river water quality and river water management. Our trees and woodlands play an important role in absorbing rainfall, helping to mitigate the effects of increased rainfall and extreme rainfall events on upland catchments and subsequent downstream flooding. The i-Tree survey has estimated that our trees capture around 1.2 million cubic metres of rainwater per year, the equivalent of over 450 Olympic swimming pools worth of water. We will explore new opportunities for woodland planting to aid in this type of water management. The Council has embarked on a project to protect Sheffield from further flooding and has secured funding to implement a range of projects to assist with food alleviation. There could be great opportunities to plant additional trees as part of the rural land management proposals in the project.

²¹ Valatin, G. and Starling, J. (2011). [Valuation of ecosystem services provided by UK Woodlands](#), appendix to chapter 22 of UK National Ecosystem Assessment, UNEP-WCMC, Cambridge.

Natural Flood Management

Natural Flood Management involves the use of a variety of measures including tree planting, river bank restoration, building small-scale woody dams, reconnecting rivers with their flood plains and storing water temporarily on open land. The government has announced new measures to support Natural Flood Management with the Protecting Sheffield Project Team identifying areas in the catchment which would be suitable for additional trees. Generous grants are available from the Forestry Commission for the establishment of new woodlands and will be investigated.

Action 48

We will explore any opportunities to incorporate Natural Flood Management into our existing farm and woodland estate and when creating new woodlands.

5.3 Tree and Wildlife Management Policies and Procedures

Aim 7: Biodiverse and Resilient Trees and Woodlands

We will maximise the benefits of our trees and woodlands for wildlife and identify and appropriately manage any threats to our tree stock from pests and diseases.

Our Biodiversity Duty

The Natural Environment and Rural Community Act 2006 (NERC) states:

Every public authority must, in exercising its functions, have regard, in so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity.

As a public authority we can demonstrate having regard to conserving biodiversity by:

- Developing strategies such as the Trees and Woodlands Strategy and putting it into practice.
- Managing our woodlands and trees with consideration for wildlife.

Biodiversity

The Convention on Biological Diversity²² to which the UK Government is a party defines biodiversity as the variability among living organisms including terrestrial, marine and freshwater ecosystems and the ecological complexes which they are part of; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems. Put

²² <https://www.cbd.int/convention/>

simply it is the diversity of life on Earth, encompassing species of flora, fauna and their habitats.

All types of woodland can be valuable for biodiversity from young woodland and plantations through to ancient woodlands. Outside woodlands individual trees such as 'veteran trees' or groups within hedgerows, orchards, parks and areas of scrub can hold significant nature conservation value. Structural aspects of woodland are important for biodiversity including mature trees, closed canopy or shaded woodland, young re-growth of trees and shrubs, coppice, clearfells, young plantations, glades (both temporary and semi-permanent), rides and woodland edges. Features such as availability of deadwood (standing and fallen) and wetlands contribute to the diversity of species found within woodlands. Some 284 insect species²³ are associated with oak (*Quercus robur* and *Q. petraea*) and species such as the Purple Hairstreak butterfly (*Favonius quercus*) are associated with a mature oak canopy. Other tree species may not be associated with a large variety of insect species e.g. sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), but may harbour an abundance of these insects which in turn form an important food source for other animals such as birds.

Most woodland has been altered by human activities over time, effective management is required to maintain the nature conservation value of woodlands. This is recognised in Sheffield Local Biodiversity Action Plan²⁴.

Protected Sites and Species

We will comply with our legal obligations, government and local policies applicable to protected sites and species. Information will be sought from Local Records Centres and other relevant local nature conservation organisations. Analysis and application of the data will be used to inform the requirement for surveys and tree or woodland management.

Designated Sites

Sheffield has a number of designated sites, from Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) Local Nature Reserves and Local Wildlife Sites (formerly known as Areas of Natural History Interest) with tree and woodland features, and sites afforded ancient woodland status. 16 of our woodlands are designated Local Nature Reserves and 5 sites are designated as SSSI. There are 300 Local Wildlife Sites of which just under 30% are woodlands.

²³ Southwood, T. R. E. (1961) The number of insect species associated with various trees. *Journal of Animal Ecology*, Vol 30, No. 1, pp 1-8

²⁴ <https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/home/parks-sport-recreation/biodiversity-conservations.html>

Action 49

All Council woodlands identified as Local Wildlife Sites will continue to be in positive conservation management.

Priority Habitats and Species

UK Biodiversity and Local Biodiversity Action Plans will be used to identify species or habitats that should be given a priority for protection during management operations. For example the Song Thrush, Soprano Pipistrelle Bat and White Clawed Crayfish are all listed as priority species in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan and exist in our woodlands.

Birds in Trees

With approximately 2.7 million trees spread over 2,000 green spaces, the Council cannot avoid carrying out tree work all year round. In particular, dangerous trees can be encountered at any time of the year and require remedial work within specific timeframes. We do however undertake a number of measures to reduce the likelihood of work being carried out in the main bird nesting season (1st March – 31st August). Such measures include:

- Scheduling planned risk assessments of sites where risk of disturbing wildlife is greater, e.g. woodlands so that any resulting work takes place outside the nesting season.
- Avoiding carrying out other non-essential work within the main nesting season.

In all circumstances no removal of hedgerows, trees or shrubs that may be used by breeding birds will take place between 1st March and 31st August inclusive except under the following circumstances:

- A competent person has undertaken a careful, detailed check of vegetation for active birds' nests immediately before the vegetation is cleared.
- and**
- There is written confirmation that no birds will be harmed and/or there are appropriate measures in place to protect nesting bird interest on site.

In all cases the Council and its contractors will follow the guidance given in Arboricultural Association Guidance Note 10: Protected Species and Arboriculture (2010)²⁵.

²⁵ Arboricultural Association (2010) Guidance Note 10: protected Species and Arboriculture.

Management of Specific Species

There are a numerous guides available on woodland management for specific habitats and species. We will have regard to current guidance on management of trees, woodland features, habitats and species. We will promote the preservation, restoration and re-creation of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of protected and priority species populations, linked to national and local targets.

One species of particular note is the Willow Tit a species which has seen a decline of 90% nationally and 50% locally between 1970 and 2008. We have been carrying out specific work to enhance and expand their ideal habitat, installing appropriately designed nest boxes. These measures have already had a positive impact on local populations.

Tree Planting

Where it is intended to interplant, create or restore semi-natural habitats, stock should be of locally native species and where appropriate reflect similar local assemblages or habitats of ecological importance. Natural regeneration should be considered where appropriate. Current guidance on climatic and disease resilience should also be considered.

Current and Future Surveys

Surveys shall be of an appropriate type for the habitats and/or species and survey methods shall follow national good practice guidelines. British Standard BS 42020:2013 Biodiversity – Code of practice for planning development provides good guidance and recommendations on ecological surveys and reporting. We will follow this guidance and recommendations where appropriate. We will also follow specific good practice guidance where available such as BS 8596:2015 Surveying for bats in trees and woodland.

5.4 Biosecurity and Resilience

The Government's 25 year Environment Plan makes specific reference to biosecurity and resilience it indicates that we should:

...enhance biosecurity to protect our wildlife and livestock, and boost the resilience of plants and trees. We will do this by: Managing and reducing the impact of existing plant and animal diseases; lowering the risk of new ones and tackling invasive non-native species. Reaching the detailed goals to be set out in the Tree Health Resilience Strategy of 2018

The threat to our trees from native or imported pests and diseases has never been greater. Amongst the many recent introductions, the UK has witnessed outbreaks of Oak Processionary Moth, Asian Longhorn Beetle and Horse Chestnut Leaf Miner

along with diseases such as Ash Dieback, Horse Chestnut Bleeding Canker and Ramorum / Larch tree disease. Many of these have been identified in or near Sheffield and could pose a significant threat to a wide range of tree species across the city. If such pests and diseases became established they would have a detrimental effect on the overall landscape, bring an associated loss of amenity, wildlife habitat and ecosystem services. If current predictions are correct then Ash dieback which has already been identified in Sheffield, could result in the loss of around 200,000 trees in Sheffield. Asian Longhorn Beetle is an insect that bores into and kills a wide range of hardwood species. This pest poses a threat to 43% of Sheffield's tree population - or nearly 2 million trees.

Where trees are being replanted/replaced we will ensure that more resilient species will be sourced. Our greatest current concern relates to Ash, Sweet Chestnut and Larch which are at most risk from diseases like Charala (ash dieback) and Phytophthora.

These specific risks impact on the woodland and forest environment and need careful management due to risks associated with the safe management of the trees. New pests and diseases can enter the country through a number of channels including imported trees which are already affected, through eggs and larvae attached to packing cases and timber products, through insect flight and as airborne spores. The predicted effects of climate change could result in an environment suitable for the establishment of a wider range of pests and disease. In order to minimise the risk of new arrivals as well as identifying and dealing with outbreaks, it is important that the Council has appropriate procedures in place.

Sourcing New Trees

When considering any tree planting on Council land, we will aim to source all our trees from nurseries within the UK who have an appropriate biosecurity management process. If this is not possible and there is no other suitable alternative to importing trees then we will insist that imported trees are placed in quarantine at a suitable nursery that employs appropriate biosecurity management procedures for a minimum of 1 year prior to planting.

Managing Existing Trees to Minimise Risk of Infection

There are a number of actions that we can take to reduce the risk of attack from pests and disease. Trees that are in good condition are less likely to succumb to pests and diseases than those that are under stress. We will aim to maintain a healthy tree stock through appropriate management along with providing the right conditions in which they can thrive. We will also continue to develop and maintain a diverse range of species of all ages to make our tree stock more resilient to mass infection as most pests or diseases target individual species or trees within a certain age range.

Detection and Management of Outbreaks

Through ongoing education and training we will maintain up-to-date knowledge of current risks so officers are able to identify new pests or diseases and have information on how best to deal with outbreaks when they arise.

Minimising the Spread of Pests and Diseases

Where there is a reasonably foreseeable risk of either introducing or spreading unwanted pests and diseases within our sites, we will carry out appropriate risk assessment procedures to minimise that risk. Control measures may include disinfection of clothing or tools as well as the method of movement and disposal of cut material (timber, branches, twigs and leaves).

Action 50

Our tree and woodland management practices will be carried out in such a way to minimise potential biosecurity threats.

6 Strategic Theme: Quality Standards and Resources

“Green spaces of extraordinary quality”

Aim 8: Standards

We will manage our trees and woodlands in line with all the appropriate national and local industry standards.

In order to assist with monitoring and evaluating our performance as a Council and a Parks and Countryside Service a number of quality standards exist which have been adopted and which are described below. The current level of resources which are available to us allow us to comply with these standards. Any reduction in resources, e.g. revenue budgets, could impact on our ability to deliver these standards. This will be monitored each year at the annual review of the Strategy.

6.1 Standards for Tree and Woodland Management

The Council is committed to managing its tree and woodland resource using guidance from a wide range of appropriate published standards and industry best practice. These include but are not limited to the following:

- British Standard 3998:2010 Tree work - recommendations
- British Standard 5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction - recommendations
- British Standard 8545:2014 Trees: from nursery to independence in the landscape - recommendations
- FSC: Forestry Stewardship Council
- UK Forestry Standard

- UKWAS: UK Woodland Assurance Scheme
- Green Flag
- Sheffield Standard
- National Joint Utilities Group (NJUG) Volume 4 – Guidelines for the Planning, Installation and Maintenance of Utility Apparatus in proximity to Trees
- Trees & Design Action Group (TDAG) - Various publications
- National Tree Safety Group – Common Sense Risk Management of Trees

Green Flag

The Green Flag Award® scheme recognises and rewards well managed parks and green spaces, setting the benchmark standard for the management of recreational outdoor spaces across the United Kingdom and around the world.

Purpose & aims

- To ensure that everybody has access to quality green and other open spaces, irrespective of where they live.
- To ensure that these spaces are appropriately managed and meet the needs of the communities that they serve.
- To establish standards of good management.
- To promote and share good practice amongst the green space sector.
- To recognise and reward the hard work of managers, staff and volunteers.

We currently have two woodlands which have reached the Green Flag standard, Ecclesall Woods and Wheata Woods . We will be looking to achieve an additional Green Flag for an area in the east or north east of the city that will realise major environmental health benefits to the local community. This could be Wincobank Woods or Shirebrook Valley.

Headline Action 51

We will aim to achieve at least one new Green Flag (national quality standard) woodland in the first 5 years of the strategy and bring all the council's woodlands up to the Sheffield Quality Standard within 10 years.



6.2 Contractors

All contractors working on Council managed trees or woodlands will adhere to current industry best practice such as BS3998. Currently all contractors engaged in tree work contracts will have been through a series of initial checks before being added to the approved Council suppliers list and will be subject to ongoing spot checks and assessment. Our aim is to move to a position where we only use Arboricultural Association approved contractors for all tree surgery work contracts.

Action 52

We will move to a position of only awarding arboricultural contracts to Arboricultural Association approved contractors.

6.3 Funding, Budgets and Grants

Reductions in local authority funding have necessitated the need for generating income through grants and other funding sources. Accessing these sources of funding has been achieved by working in partnership with others. The main sources of funding and grants come from a variety of sources some of which are listed below:

- Timber Income
- External Fees and Charges
- Heritage Lottery Fund
- Forestry Commission
- Natural England
- Sport England
- Fundraising via Friends Groups
- Crowd Funding
- Legacies
- Donations
- Community Infrastructure Levy
- Philanthropic Trusts (J G Greaves Trust)
- Academic Research
- Consultancy

6.4 Staff, Skills and Leadership

One of the Council's Corporate Plan priorities is to value our employees who are vital to delivering high quality services for Sheffield. The Council recognises that a skilled and well trained workforce supported by good leadership is essential in delivering a quality service. Staff have regular 1-1's, supervision and appraisals offering appropriate training opportunities.

6.5 Partnership Working

Aim 9: Working in Partnership

We will create and strengthen existing local and national partnerships to enable effective future development and management of trees and woodlands and successful delivery of the actions in this Strategy.

In Sheffield there are many national and local organisations and groups involved in tree and woodland management and related activities. National organisations have a crucial role providing advice, funding and statutory functions. Local organisations have more varied roles in terms of site management or community engagement; the Council, private tree and woodland owners (both commercial and members of the public), specialist interest groups and other organisations, including those from the voluntary sector all play their part.

Forestry Commission- The Forestry Commission is a non-ministerial government department responsible for forestry in England and Scotland. It was set up in 1919 to expand Britain's forests and woodland after depletion during the First World War. The Commission have given the Council grant aid through the English Woodland Grant Scheme , supported the creation of our Forest Design plans and issued us with felling licences.

Peak District National Park Authority - The Peak District National Park became the first national park in the United Kingdom in 1951. With its proximity to the cities of Manchester, Stoke-on-Trent, Derby and Sheffield, and access by road and rail, it attracts millions of visitors every year. As the planning authority they regulate planning and mineral extraction and have given the Council approval for Forestry related infrastructure in the past.

Sport England- Sport England is a non-departmental public body under the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, it has funded bike trails and run routes over the last few years.

National Trust - an organisation dedicated to preserving the cultural heritage of a particular geographic region. Although the focus of the National Trust may vary by region, the principal role is to ensure the preservation of historically significant items, and to conserve natural areas. The Council is working in partnership with the Trust as part of the Sheffield Moors Partnership.

Natural England- Is a non-departmental public body in the United Kingdom sponsored by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and is the government's adviser for the natural environment in England, helping to protect England's nature and landscapes for people to enjoy and for the services they provide. Natural England has supported the Council as part of the Nature Improvement Area which helped to restore the Burbage Valley plantation and the Higher Level Stewardship scheme which provides grant aid for a number of sites in the City.

Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust - working in partnership with the Council to manage a number of sites in the city including Blacka Moor, Wyming Brook, Crabtree Pond and Blackburn Meadows. Delivering the education offer from the Woodland Discovery Centre at Ecclesall Woods and leading on the proposed Sheffield Lakeland Landscape Partnership.

Sheffield Hallam University- working with the Council to improve Forest School training and as part of the Local Nature Partnership.

Sheffield University- Following on from i-Tree, the Council is now working in partnership with researchers at the University of Sheffield to study in more detail the potential effects of climate change and the threats posed by pests and diseases to trees and woodlands over the next 50 years.

Woodland Trust- Are the country's largest woodland conservation charity with over 500,000 members and supporters and more than 1,000 sites, covering over 26,000 hectares, all over the UK.

They stand up for woods and trees ,protect and campaign, plant trees, and restore ancient woodland for the benefit of wildlife and people.

Voluntary Sector Groups and Organisations – these are mainly community based groups participating in various aspects of the planting, management, maintenance and use of the urban forest. They include all our Friends Groups.

Specialist Interest Groups – e.g. Sorby Natural History Society, act in an advisory capacity, or are involved in conservation projects, record-keeping or lobbying.

Some of the notable successful partnerships are:

Sheffield Lakeland Landscape Partnership – This partnership has been formed to submit a Heritage Lottery Fund to help restore the landscape around the Yorkshire Water reservoirs within the Peak District National Park.

Eastern Moors and Sheffield Moors Partnerships- These partnerships meeting several times per year and are led by the National Trust and the RSPB to discuss issues of common interest like land management , recreation, heritage and events.

Sheffield Biodiversity Partnership (SBP) - The SBP meets bi-annually to share information and review the designations of Local Wildlife Sites of which 30% are woodland sites.

Action 53

Building on our existing arrangements we will continue to develop strong partnerships with national, regional and local environmental organisations in the city which are beneficial to our trees and woodland objectives.

Appendix 1

Relevant Trees and Woodlands Legislation

National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949

This Act includes provisions for nature reserves and managing land for conservation purposes, as well as for enabling access to the countryside.

Forestry Act 1967

This Act is primarily aimed at commercial forestry and woodlands, controlling the felling and subsequent replanting of trees; however the felling of trees outside of woodlands is also controlled by the Act.

Countryside Act 1968

This Act imposes a duty on public bodies, including local authorities, to have regard to the desirability of conserving the natural beauty and amenity of the countryside in the exercise of their functions relating to management of land under any enactment.

Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981

This Act prohibits the intentional or reckless destruction of certain plants and animals including all wild birds, their nests, or eggs. For example, it is an offence to disturb bird-nesting sites and bat roosts. Offences committed under the Act are investigated and enforced by the Police. It also makes further provision for nature conservation, including Sites of Special Scientific Interest, and about countryside management and public rights of way.

Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000

This Act makes provision for public rights of access to certain land including open country land for the purposes of open-air recreation.

Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act 2006

This Act places a duty on public authorities, including local authorities and local planning authorities, to have regard to the purpose of conserving biodiversity in the exercise of their functions, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions.

Conservation (Natural Habitats & c) Regulations 1994

This Regulation puts into place a European Union Directive that protects European protected species, such as bats and their roosting sites.

Appendix 2

National Policy Framework

National Forestry Policy

The Independent Panel on Forestry report published in July 2012 recommended:

- The need to develop a new woodland culture and a resilient forestry and woodland sector,
- The value of the Public Forest Estate, which will continue to benefit from public ownership, be held in trust for the nation and be managed by a new, operationally-independent body,
- The importance of protecting our woodland assets,
- The need to bring more woodland into active management and increase the extent of woodland cover in England,
- The need to help the sector to find its voice and improve its economic performance,
- The importance of preserving and maximising the social and environmental benefits provided by trees and woodlands, particularly in and around our towns and cities,
- The scope for developing new markets based around a better understanding of the value and potential of our trees, woods and forests,
- The value of retaining a skilled cadre of forestry experts within the public sector.

The Panel's report underpins a refreshed Government forestry policy. This policy is based around a clear hierarchy of priorities: protecting, improving and expanding our public and private woodland assets. It also reflects key Coalition principles, such as economic growth, localism, deregulation, targeted government intervention and value for money.

Natural England

According to Natural England (2013) 42.4 million adults in England visited the natural environment, spending 21 billion pounds /year. Outdoor recreation is recognised as being good for both mind and body. Getting active outdoors is associated with lower levels of stress, tension and depression and increased self-esteem and energy levels. Added enjoyment of being outdoors can encourage us to be more active more regularly.

The outdoors offers communities:

- a valuable social space and can alleviate social isolation,
- helps people be happy and healthy,
- helps children and young people achieve their potential,
- contributes to the national economy,
- demonstrates its economic and social value,
- is accessible to everyone,
- should be protected.

Sport England

Department for Culture, Media and Sport to recommend Sport England continues to take an active role in the outdoor recreation sector, following up on its early insight work - *Getting Active Outdoors* - and ensures that the next round of Sport England funding from 2017 looks at the 'whole active person' and includes outdoor recreation as one of the sport solutions. The Council is working closely with Sport England to secure funding for a range of activities like Run Routes and Making Tracks.

e.g. Forestry Commission, Natural England, Sport England, Public Health

Other relevant strategies

The strategy is guided and informed by various other national and international strategies, policies and directives etc. These include the Kyoto Agreement (1997) which establishes targets for the reduction in greenhouse gases. Other relevant national strategies, plans and standards include the England Forestry Strategy (1999), the UK Forestry Standard (1998) and the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (1995) all of which relate to conservation and sustainable management. There is also the UK Climate Change Programme, which proposes increasing the use of renewable energy, to help meet agreed targets to reduce emissions into the atmosphere which are causing climate change.

Local/Regional Policy

Linking to other local strategies.

Sheffield City Council's Corporate Plan contains three key objectives that our Trees and Woodlands can contribute to delivering:

- Sustain high quality parks and green spaces
- Help thousands of people achieve a greater level of wellbeing
- Attract individuals and businesses to Sheffield as the UK's top Outdoor City

SCC Green and Open Spaces Strategy (GOSS)

The Trees and Woodlands Strategy is a sub-strategy of the GOSS. The structure of the strategy is derived from the GOSS and the overall vision for greenspaces in Sheffield is at the heart of the Trees and Woodlands Strategy which is:-

'Sheffield is the greenest city in Britain, proud of its rich variety of open spaces. Our Strategy will ensure that every area of the city has green and open spaces of exceptional quality for all current and future generations to use and enjoy'.

SCC Corporate Tree Risk Management Strategy

The Sheffield City Council Corporate Tree Risk management Strategy was adopted in 2010 to provide a system of risk assessing trees on Council land where a duty of care exists. The strategy contains details of the process of quantifying risk on Council sites, the inspection process, carrying out remedial work and record keeping. The system is subject to ongoing review to keep it in line with current industry practice.

SCC Streets Ahead 5 year Highway Tree Strategy, etc

Streets Ahead is a 25 year partnership that seeks to upgrade Sheffield's roads, pavements, lighting and other highway assets during the first five years and then maintain the assets thereafter for the remainder of the contract term. This Tree Management Strategy sets out Streets Ahead's approach to delivering the Tree Management Service in regard to highway trees. The Tree Management Strategy is used to undertake the Streets Ahead team's

responsibilities under the Contract and deliver the Tree Management Service on the Project Network. A new Street Tree Strategy is to be developed over the next year.

Outdoor City Economic Strategy

In 2014, Sheffield Hallam University's Sport Industry Research Centre produced a report titled 'Everything grows outside – including jobs and the economy', which looked at the impact of outdoor recreation in Sheffield. The report found that:

- Participation rates in outdoor recreation in Sheffield are higher than the national average across a range of activities, particularly for running, walking and cycling.
- The city is home to a number of global brands and businesses that directly support and promote the outdoor industry such as Go Outdoors and Buffalo Systems.
- Sheffield is the UK's 'climbing capital', with more than an estimated 10,000 Sheffield-based climbers and climbing provision that is more significant than other comparable cities.
- There is a strong heritage and high participation in walking and running, with one of the world's oldest fell races, and a thriving park-run and walking scene.
- Sheffield has a very proud history of leadership in the outdoors, as one of the bases for the Kinder Mass Trespass, which led directly to the national 'Right to Roam'.
- An online survey carried out as part of the research found that the best thing about living in Sheffield is that it is the "best of both worlds" – a combination of urban living and access to the outdoors.

We are actively involved with the development of the Outdoor City agenda which has identified a number of recreation hubs which we are looking to develop including, Parkwood Springs, Ecclesall Woods, Ewden Valley, Wheeta Woods and Redmires.

Appendix 3

Right Place - Right Tree Checklist

Greater London Authority, March 2005²⁶

Appropriate locations

- What is the existing value of the space, and would the impact of trees be positive?
- Existing habitat and landscape value: establish the habitat and landscape type of the site - shade cast by trees, and their demands on soil, water and nutrients, mean that they can kill or damage valuable wildlife habitats such as wetlands, heathlands, flower rich grasslands and brownfields so check for existing value before committing to planting.
- Tree cover history: check historical records to see if the site is in an area where there have been trees in the past, to establish whether the creation of new woodland or tree cover would be appropriate.

Appropriate species and design

- Development design: trees should not be located where they will experience inappropriate growing conditions e.g. in the shadow of tall buildings.
- Local character: check if there is a history in the area for the use of particular species that could be reflected in the planned planting.
- Work with nature: in natural areas, employ stock of locally native origin. Best of all, work with natural colonisation.
- Great trees of the future: where the setting allows, take opportunities to plant large species of trees with a long lifespan.
- Accessibility: new trees and woodlands are most needed where they can provide people with access to nature and natural landscape in areas presently lacking in such access.
- Infrastructure: consider existing and future infrastructure requirements – do not plant too close to over/underground infrastructure. Replace removed trees in the same pit if appropriate.
- Highways: meet the statutory safety requirements to maintain a clear route along roads (consider heights of buses, HGVs, cars, cycles and horses).
- Space: check available space against the final height and spread of the proposed species with a view to minimising frequency and amount of pruning required.
- Soil condition: the soil in hard landscaped areas is often poor. Soil compaction needs to be limited in the tree pit and adequate nutrients supplied. Use species known to be robust to these limitations.

²⁶ [http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/ltwf_full.pdf/\\$FILE/ltwf_full.pdf](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/ltwf_full.pdf/$FILE/ltwf_full.pdf)

Appendix 4

Sheffield Standard

Sheffield's Green Space Quality Assessment Tool

The standard was created in 2010 as part of the development of Sheffield's Green and Open Spaces Strategy (GOSS). The aim of the strategy:

Our strategy will ensure that every area of the City has green and open spaces of exceptional quality for current and future generations to use and enjoy.



The purpose of the Sheffield Standard was to establish a base-line green space quality standard, providing realistic achievement targets and timescales. The standard supports fairness principles, providing a guide for all sites to become Safe, Clean, Welcoming and Accessible by 2030 (GOSS strategy is a 20 year plan).

The Standard is based on the first 3 of the Green Flag assessment criteria, and there is a similar approach to site scoring. The criteria have been modified to include 'Community Involvement' and 'Habitat Management' as these are important aspects to the way urban sites are managed.

A Welcoming Place	1 Welcoming
	2 Good and safe access
	3 Signage
	4 Equal access for all
	5 Community involvement
Healthy, Safe and Secure	6 Safe equipment & facilities
	7 Personal security in park
	8 Dog Fouling
	9 Appropriate provision of facilities
	10 Quality of facilities
Clean and Well Maintained	11 Litter & waste management
	12 Grounds maintenance, horticulture, habitat management
	13 Building, infrastructure &/or equipment maintenance

The Sheffield Standard also aims to drive up the standards of maintenance and management of all publically accessible greenspace. In order to meet the goal of having all of Sheffield's green and open space to meet the Sheffield Standard by 2030, we need to improve the quality of about 30 sites year on year. Therefore as well as scoring a site, the assessment also identifies improvements needed.

When the GOSS was established in 2010, approximately 36% of Sheffield's green and open spaces passed the Sheffield Standard. By the end of March 2018 over 60% of sites had passed the Sheffield Standard.

The Sheffield Standard is used for quality audits of green & open spaces to track changes over time at a neighbourhood & city level, and assessments can be done with local interest groups, including Friends of group.

Appendix 5

Five Year Action Plan

Theme: People				
Aim 1: Enjoying and Raising Awareness of the Resource				
Action	What we will do	When we will do it	Who will do it	How much will it cost
Headline Action 1. We will protect, enhance and promote Sheffield's trees and maximise their benefits in all parts of the city.	We will work with partners to maximise benefits around health and recreation	Each year	Everyone	Existing revenue budgets and grants where available
2. Access and Rights of Way As the Local Highway Authority we will appoint and work with the Local Access Forum (which helps to inform the Rights of Way Improvement Plan) to co-ordinate improvements to public access to our woodlands.	We will ensure that membership of the LAF includes a representative of the Council as landowner and manager of relevant land. Where possible the Ordnance Survey will be encouraged to add more of our sites where public access is available to future revisions of their maps.	3 times per year	Countryside Manager	Existing Officer time
3. Recreational opportunities We will continue to develop recreational opportunities in our woodlands and facilities to encourage participation and better health for the people of Sheffield.	We will develop new access opportunities each year improving at least one cycle path, bridleway and an easy going trail/ footpath each year	Each year	Woodland Officers in liaison with the Public Rights of Way Team	£10,000 per annum from Section 106 and other grant sources like Sheffield Lakeland
4. Abuse and illegal activities We will explore measures for preventing the abuse of our woodland sites from illegal activities and to	We will work with South Yorkshire Police and representatives of other organisations to reduce anti-	April 2019	Woodland Officers	Support from the Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership

<p>tackle anti-social behaviour. In particular</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Off roading 	social behaviour from Off road motorcycling			
<p>Action 4 continued...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fly Tipping 	We will deploy our mobile cctv cameras to sites where we are having particular problems and use evidence to take forward prosecutions where it can be justified	Ongoing	Woodland Officers and Rangers	£5000 officer time and maintenance costs per year
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dog Fouling 	We will work to identify and implement powers to address the problem of dog fouling, working with professional dog walkers.	April 2020	ERS and Woodland Officers and Legal Services	Existing Officer time
<p>5. Site signage and interpretation We will maintain adequate site signage and where funding can be identified, provide additional on-site interpretation where it is required making best use of new technologies.</p>	We will replace at least one interpretive panel per year and deal with site signage on a site by site basis	Every year	Woodland Officers	£5000/year
<p>6. Art We will support the instillation of appropriate art initiatives in our sites to help inspire people and ignite their imaginations</p>	We will commission at least one form of public art per year and develop the portals project as part of the 'off the shelf' project	Every year	Countryside Manager	£2000 /year

Aim 2: Community Involvement and Consultation				
Action	What we will do	When we will do it	Who will do it	How much will it cost
Headline Action 7. Community engagement <i>We will increase visitor numbers and volunteering in woodlands that serve areas of Sheffield that have the lowest visitor numbers and the greatest health inequalities</i>	<p>We will continue to engage the community in our work primarily through the Ranger Service in a variety of ways targeting volunteers friends Groups in the first instance</p> <p>We will respond to requests for illustrated talks to key groups 4 times per year</p>	Ongoing	<p>Rangers</p> <p>Countryside Manager</p>	<p>Existing Officer time</p> <p>Existing Officer time</p>
8. Involving the community in tree planting <i>We will involve and engage the local community in community based tree planting projects and work in partnership with other organisations to continue the good work we have started.</i>	<p>We will ensure that the local community is involved at all stages whenever we plant new trees</p>	Ongoing	Community Forestry Team	£10,000/year from existing revenue budgets and grant aid where available
9. Education offer <i>We will look at how we can sustain and develop our education offer.</i>	<p>We will grant a yearly licence to Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust (SRWT) to provide an education offer to primary school children at the Woodland Discovery Centre</p>	Every year	Woodlands Officer and SRWT	Income of approx. £3300/year

Action	What we will do	When we will do it	Who will do it	How much will it cost
Action 9 continued...	<p>Any other requests for education work will be carried out by the Ranger Service subject to their capacity</p> <p>Across the wider estate, Rangers will deliver all education visits as part of the Higher Level Stewardship Scheme where capacity allows</p>	<p>Dependant on the nature of the request</p> <p>Subject to the requirements of the agreements</p>	<p>Rangers</p> <p>Rangers</p>	<p>Charged at £150/day</p> <p>Income of £5,000/year</p>
<p>10. Volunteering</p> <p><i>We will continue to offer opportunities for engaging with the community and volunteering. Opportunities exist with the Rangers through individual and corporate volunteering or placements.</i></p>	<p>We will support opportunities for volunteering mainly through the SWEEP team based at the Discovery Centre or through the Rangers at the Cruck Barn</p>	Ongoing	Rangers and Countryside Estate Officer	Existing Officer time
<p>11. Support for friends groups</p> <p><i>The Ranger Service will continue to provide support for volunteers, community groups and Friends groups working on our sites.</i></p> <p><i>We will continually review and refocus the work of the Rangers to meet our community involvement commitments in deprived areas of the city</i></p>	<p>We will support existing volunteers, community groups and Friends Groups.</p>	Ongoing	Rangers	Existing Officer time

Theme: Places				
Aim 3: Knowing the Resource				
Action	What we will do	When we will do it	Who will do it	How much will it cost
12. iTree Survey <i>We will continue to look for ways to update our existing knowledge of our trees and woodlands. This includes the current partnership with the University of Sheffield and the joint project to model the effects of climate change and the threats from tree related pests and diseases.</i>	We will continue to work closely with the University of Sheffield supporting this important project as well as looking for further opportunities to increase our knowledge of the resource.	March 2019	Tree Manager	From existing revenue budgets
Aim 4: Risk Management and Public Safety				
Action	What we will do	When we will do it	Who will do it	How much will it cost
13. Tree risk management surveys <i>We will continue to carry out the systematic survey of trees on Council land along with any necessary remedial work within agreed timescales as detailed within the Corporate Tree Risk Management Strategy.</i>	We will continue to implement a robust Tree Risk Management system and carry out tree risk management surveys in line with current industry guidance Where requested we will carry out assessments for other local authorities and public bodies within the region	Ongoing As and when requested	Tree Team Tree Team	From existing revenue budgets Income generation potential

Action	What we will do	When we will do it	Who will do it	How much will it cost
14. Requests for nuisance work <i>All enquiries or requests for nuisance related tree work will be dealt with on a case by case basis and the person making the enquiry will be informed of the Council's decision within the appropriate timescale.</i>	We will publish a leaflet regarding nuisance work to provide guidance to the public when requests are made	Ongoing	Tree Manager	£500 for leaflet in 2019 From revenue budget
15. Vandalism and illegal felling <i>We will investigate cases of vandalism and illegal tree felling and take action where appropriate.</i>	Where appropriate, we will take necessary action which may include prosecution of those responsible and recovery of costs to compensate for loss of trees.	Ongoing	Tree Manager and Legal Services	Legal fees to consider on a case by case basis
16. Veteran Trees <i>The Council will follow current industry best practice such as Natural England's Veteran Trees: A Guide to Good Management in managing its veteran trees.</i>	When veteran trees have been identified, we will manage them in a way that maximises their future health and biodiversity potential	Ongoing	Tree & Woodland Officers	From existing revenue budgets
17. Veteran Trees <i>We will identify veteran trees in the Sheffield Lakeland Landscape Partnership area and carry out necessary works to maintain their integrity and health</i>	Surveys of each woodland compartment will be carried out as part of the project	March 2022	Woodland Officers	£4000 from Heritage Lottery Fund

Action	What we will do	When we will do it	Who will do it	How much will it cost
18. Tree Planting <i>We will aim to maintain diverse and sustainable tree cover through the planting of new trees in appropriate locations.</i>	Wherever we plant new trees we will identify a suitable mixture of species	Ongoing	Community Forestry Manager	£10,000/year from existing revenue budgets and grant aid where available
19. Tree Planting <i>We will develop an appropriate strategy for future tree planting across the city. This will be informed by the findings of the i-Tree survey.</i>	We will map areas and make decisions based on this information in terms of where existing tree cover is low and the availability of land where additional tree planting is appropriate	March 2019	Community Forestry Manager	From existing revenue budgets
20. Tree Planting <i>We will follow the 'Right Place – Right Tree' guidelines when considering new tree planting.</i>	When developing new planting schemes, officers will consider amongst other things, the species, size and location of new tree planting in relation to their surroundings and growing conditions in order to maximise their future potential and benefits	Ongoing	Community Forestry Manager	N/A
Headline Action 21. Tree Planting <i>We will plant at least 100,000 additional trees and replace trees on a 2 for 1 basis in our greenspaces and woodlands over the next 10 years</i>	We will maintain records of numbers of tree removals and plantings to ensure we plant a minimum of two trees for every one we remove from council green spaces.	Ongoing	Community Forestry Manager	£10,000/year from existing revenue budgets and grant aid where available

Action	What we will do	When we will do it	Who will do it	How much will it cost
22. Commemorative Trees <i>We will continue to offer a Commemorative Tree Scheme to members of the public.</i>	Parks and Countryside will continue to offer our Commemorative Tree Scheme to members of the public which will cost £240 per tree	Ongoing	Community Forestry Manager	Income £240/ tree
23. Housing Trees <i>Trees on land managed by Housing Services, including those in tenant's gardens will be managed in line with the standard Council approach to tree management.</i>	There will be an annual Service Level Agreement between Sheffield Housing Service and Parks and Countryside Service.	Updated annually	Tree Manager and Housing Service	Costs are covered from the Housing Revenue Account through the Service Level Agreement
24. Trees in School Grounds <i>The Council will continue to offer a service to schools to promote the sustainable management of their tree stock and encourage the integration of trees into school activities and children's education.</i>	We will continue to work closely with local schools and respond to requests as and when they arise. We will promote good arboricultural practice	As and when we get requests	Tree Manager	Income determined by amount of tree stock needing inspection. Project work will be costed depending on the request
25. Insurance claims <i>When dealing with insurance claims technical information may be requested to enable the Insurance and Risk Team to make an informed decision on liability and any appropriate course of action.</i>	Requested information may include soil type, tree root analysis, location and characteristics of damage, records of ongoing movement etc. Officers will receive training relevant to tree related damage to buildings.	As and when claims are received	Tree Manager/Insurance and Risk Team	This is considered normal practice. Initial cost of providing evidence is paid by claimant

Action	What we will do	When we will do it	Who will do it	How much will it cost
26. Development on Council Land <i>Where development is being considered on Council land, the guidance given in BS5837 will be followed and an appropriately qualified arboriculturist will be involved in the design and development process</i>	The service area overseeing the development will procure the input from an appropriately qualified arboriculturist to provide advice throughout the process	As and when development on council land is considered	Service area leading on proposals	Cost is dependent on number of trees and level of detail. Average costs for provision of technical data ranges from £200 - £500
27. Sale/Disposal of council land <i>As part of an assessment of Council land being considered for sale we will check for existing trees. Where trees exist, an arboricultural assessment will be undertaken to assess their condition and value.</i>	Parks and Countryside will be consulted on proposed disposals of council land containing trees. An assessment of existing tree cover will be carried out by an appropriately qualified arboriculturist in order to determine if any trees are worthy of statutory protection e.g TPO's prior to the land being sold	As and when council land is considered for disposal	Tree Manager/Planning	Depending on number of trees, a survey will generally cost between £200 - £500
28. Disposal of land <i>Before any of the Council's rural land holdings are disposed of we will try and secure additional tree planting and access improvements to complement our objectives around recreation and climate change mitigation</i>	We will try to maximise benefits to the public when considering disposals of land	As and when council land is considered for disposal.	Countryside Manager	No cost

Action	What we will do	When we will do it	Who will do it	How much will it cost
29. Highway Trees <i>We will seek to develop a street trees strategy with partners which will be a 'sub strategy' of the Trees and Woodlands Strategy</i>	We will work with partners to produce a street trees strategy	Over the next 6 months	Streets Ahead Team	Funded from existing revenue budgets
30. Private tree and woodland owners <i>The Council will develop processes to engage with private tree owners to encourage good arboricultural management of trees on their land.</i>	Guidance will be developed and promoted on the councils website, local press and social media	Ongoing	Tree Manager	Funded from existing revenue budgets
31. Ancient woodland protection <i>We will work with Natural England to verify the status and extent of ancient woodland in Sheffield.</i>	Carry out a detailed audit	March 2019	Countryside Manager	Funded from existing revenue budgets
32. Trees and Development <i>A tree survey (as detailed within BS5837:2012) will normally be necessary in order to consider development proposals that affect trees.</i>	Planning officers will request a tree condition survey before determining applications for development that affect existing trees	Ongoing	Planning	None. Cost is borne by applicant
33. Trees and Development <i>Development will not normally be supported where we consider it makes inadequate provision for the retention of trees and other natural features, particularly wildlife habitats such as woodlands</i>	Each planning application will be considered in line with existing local and national guidelines and good practice. Officers will recommend refusal of applications where adequate provision has not been addressed.	Ongoing	Planning	Funded from existing revenue budgets

Action	What we will do	When we will do it	Who will do it	How much will it cost
34. Trees and Development <i>We will seek to retain appropriate existing trees on development sites and may do this through the use of Tree Preservation Orders or planning conditions. In all cases we will consider guidance detailed in BS5837 including appropriate tree protection measures.</i>	Officers will assess the existing trees along with the aims of the development and follow local and national guidance in determining whether retention and/or protection of trees is necessary	Ongoing	Planning	Funded from existing revenue budgets
35. Trees and Development <i>We will encourage appropriate tree planting within new developments to create wildlife corridors and where possible create larger areas of continuous tree cover to contribute to improved local biodiversity. Where appropriate, we will encourage the planting of large, long lived tree species within new development sites.</i>	Officers will consider current national guidance and industry best practice to encourage developers to integrate appropriate tree planting into their plans.	ongoing	Planning/Tree team/Ecology	Funded from existing revenue budgets
36. Tree Preservation Orders <i>There will be a presumption against the cutting down or inappropriate pruning of any tree protected by a Tree Preservation Order. Where consent is granted for removal the Council may impose a condition requiring replacement planting of the tree.</i>	Officers will consider current national guidance and industry best practice when determining applications to fell protected trees.	Ongoing	Planning/Tree team	Funded from existing revenue budgets
37. Tree Preservation Orders <i>Any alleged unauthorised works to protected trees will be investigated and enforcement action taken where appropriate.</i>	All cases of unauthorised works will be investigated and where appropriate, action which may include prosecution will be taken.	Ongoing	Planning/Legal Services	Funded from existing revenue budgets

Aim 5: Sustainable Management				
Action	What we will do	When we will do it	Who will do it	How much will it cost
38. Continuous cover management <i>The Council will adopt a Continuous Cover management approach to its broadleaf woodlands prioritising health and safety works. Any additional thinning works will be achieved where it is cost effective and viable.</i>	We will carry out thinning works in our broadleaved woodlands as opportunities arise.	As and when grant opportunities allow for example the Sheffield Lakeland Landscape Partnership and in our plantations in the South East of the city	Countryside Manager	Subject to cost effectiveness and availability of grants
39. PAWS restoration <i>We will aim to return Plantations on Ancient Woodlands Sites (PAWS) to their original composition where this is cost effective.</i>	We will focus on the restoration of several PAWS sites in the Sheffield Lakeland Landscape Partnership area over the next 3 years	October 2021	Countryside Manager	Subject to Heritage Lottery Funding being secured
40. Timber extraction <i>The Council will continue to manage its woodlands and forests in a sustainable manner to the UKWAS standard and will extract timber in line with recommendations from the two Design Plan and the approved felling licence. This will be achieved through selective thinning until a final clear fell of the compartments is required.</i>	We will sell our timber as a standing crop for the best offer when it is marketed through a thorough procurement strategy	Annually	Countryside Manager	Generates income to manage broadleaf woodland Circa £100,000 per year income

Action	What we will do	When we will do it	Who will do it	How much will it cost
<p>41. Forest restoration</p> <p><i>When a compartment of conifer plantation is clear felled we will replant with appropriate resilient species determined by the long term vision outlined in the Peak Design Plan approved by the Forestry Commission. Where landscape and biodiversity considerations have a greater priority than timber production we will replant with broadleaved trees and also encourage natural regeneration.</i></p>	We will carry out a fencing and planting contract annually	Before bird nesting season October-March	Countryside Manager	Costs can vary but generally £3000 per hectare including windrowing fencing planting etc
<p>42. Forest Design Plans</p> <p><i>The Council will keep its two Forest Design Plans reviewed, to take advantage of new funding opportunities. These will inform our long term future management decisions.</i></p>	As part of the Sheffield Lakeland Landscape Partnership the Peak Design Plan will be refreshed.	March 2019	Countryside Manager	£5000 from grant aid
<p>43. FSC Accreditation</p> <p><i>The Council will maintain Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) accreditation for its woodland and forest estate on an annual basis and will comply with the UK Forestry Standard and the UK Woodland Assurance Scheme (UKWAS) standards.</i></p>	We will audit our systems and documentation in line with FSC guidelines	Annually	Countryside Manager	£2000 from existing revenue budgets

Action	What we will do	When we will do it	Who will do it	How much will it cost
44. Archaeology <i>We will ensure that archaeology and local heritage features are surveyed and if necessary protected before we carry out any work on our woodland estate. Where resources allow we will provide appropriate interpretation to raise awareness of these features.</i>	Check all available records and seek advice from South Yorkshire Archaeological Service	As and when sites are managed	Countryside Manager	Funded from existing revenue budgets
45. Site Management Plans <i>On woodland sites where resources and funding are secured, the Council will continue to produce site specific management plans to inform future management options.</i>	Prioritise where management plans exist and review them annually prioritising Green Flag sites	As and when sites are managed	Countryside Manager	Funded from existing revenue budgets and grants where secured
46. Wood based products and makers <i>We will explore with partners the opportunities for generating wood based products as a fuel source and, where markets and site management objectives allow, encourage the retention and use of wood as a fuel source.</i>	Assess opportunities for generating firewood and woodchip from our woodland estate	As and when sites are managed	Countryside Manager	None but potential income stream to be explored
47 Discovery Centre Ecclesall Woods <i>We will develop a Masterplan to shape the future direction of the Woodland Discovery Centre at Ecclesall Woods.</i>	Masterplan produced and agreed	March 2019	Woodland Officer Countryside Manager	Will require Capital Project approval and Full Business Case (FBC) Possible prudential borrowing

Aim 6 : Climate Change Mitigation				
48. Natural Flood Management <i>We will explore any opportunities to incorporate Natural Flood Management into our existing farm and woodland estate and when creating new woodlands</i>	During and after completion of work to our sites we will consider a range of options and assess which prescription would be appropriate for each site eg planting trees, slowing water down with log jams etc	Ongoing depending on site	Countryside Manager & Protecting Sheffield Group	Within existing revenue budgets or if grant aid is secured Eg Forestry Commission Woodland Creation Grant
Aim 7: Bio-diverse and Resilient Trees and Woodlands				
Action	What we will do	When we will do it	Who will do it	How much will it cost
49. Designations as Local Wildlife sites <i>All Council woodlands designated as Local Wildlife Sites will continue to be in positive conservation management.</i>	We will carry out the necessary works required each year to comply with this status	Ongoing	Ecology Manager and Rangers	From existing revenue budgets and in some cases Higher Level Stewardship scheme
50. Bio-security <i>Our tree and woodland management practices will be carried out in such a way to minimise potential biosecurity threats.</i>	We will adapt the way in which the council brings new trees into the region and how we manage our tree stock with the specific aim of minimising potential threats. In particular, we will only import trees from overseas in exceptional circumstances and only with additional safeguards. We will follow national guidance when dealing with outbreaks of pests and disease in our trees and woodlands.	Ongoing	Tree Manager (all council departments)	From existing revenue budgets

Theme: Quality Standards and Resources				
Aim 8: Standards				
Action	What we will do	When we will do it	Who will do it	How much will it cost
Headline Action 51. Quality Standards <i>We will aim to achieve at least one new Green Flag (national quality standard) woodland in the first 5 years of the strategy and bring all the council's woodlands up to the Sheffield Quality Standard within 10 years.</i>	We will aim to maintain our 2 Green Flag awards aspiring to achieve an additional Green Flag in the east or north east of the city and aspire to get all our sites to the Sheffield Standard by 2028	March each year	Countryside Manager	From existing revenue budgets
52. Arboricultural Association accreditation <i>We will move to a position of only awarding arboricultural contracts to Arboricultural Association approved contractors.</i>	All arboricultural contractors who currently carry out work for the Council will be notified of change in position. Officers will receive training in the new standards to ensure routine monitoring of contractors is in line with the Arboricultural Association standards	April 2019	Tree Manager	From existing revenue budgets

Aim 9: Working in Partnership				
Action	What we will do	When we will do it	Who will do it	How much will it cost
53. Partnerships <i>Building on our existing arrangements we will continue to develop strong partnerships with national, regional and local environmental organisations in the city which are beneficial to our trees and woodland objectives.</i>	We will support the Sheffield Lakeland Landscape Partnership, Sheffield Moors Partnership and the Eastern Moors Partnership Looking at landscape scale land management	Ongoing	Countryside Manager	From existing revenue budgets