Broadsheet

The Magazine for Broadland Tree Wardens

Issue 208 – August 2022

We Warned Them

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This Month's Cover Picture

Nature has far more power than man and the consequences of not heeding the warnings are beyond comprehension.

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

We Warned Them

PLEASE excuse me for saying "I told you so", but the tragic events of last month make it impossible for me not to point out that climate experts, David Attenborough, Greta Thunberg … and Broadsheet … have been warning of the consequences of global warming for some time now. Now the world has suffered an example of what is in store.

Our fragile planet has decided to act like a concerned parent. It has gradually increased the severity of its repeated warnings and has now reached the stage where there is little choice but to give the child an example of what is in store unless it changes its ways … and fast.

I wish I had the literary skills of some of our leading journalists and authors. I wish I could put the case across as well as Attenborough and Thunberg. Regretfully I can't, but I can echo their words in the hope that someone listens.

That is what Broadsheet does. I find articles that echo what I believe should be the aims and values of Tree Wardens and I reproduce them here for you hoping that, maybe, one of you will join the crusade.

In an editorial titled "The Guardian view on public attitudes to the climate crisis: burning for change" the newspaper pointed out that the vast majority know that global heating is dangerous. This summer's crisis should be a tipping point.

Will the heatwave change anything? As predicted, British temperature records were shattered on 19 July with 40.3°C recorded in Coningsby, Lincolnshire. While the following day was cooler, the European crisis continued, with wildfires raging in France, Spain and Portugal.

What immediate impact these extremes have on individuals depends on factors including geography, age, health, sex and socioeconomic status. Wealthier people in the UK, as all over the world, are better protected, while poorer people (who are more likely to be black or minority ethnic) are more exposed both at work and home.

This is far from the first disruption to British weather attributed to global heating. This time last year saw flash floods, but sometimes the "heating" part of the climate emergency has felt as though it belonged elsewhere. Predictions for the UK have included more rain rather than sun. So July's burning heat has shocked scientists as well as the public. Will this alter how we think and behave?

The UK public (like the global public) do not need convincing that the climate is changing. Nor do people need to be persuaded that this is a threat to them and, especially (if they are older), to their children and other young people. Government data shows that three-quarters of UK adults are worried about climate change and two-thirds feel "negative" about the future of the environment. This is not a view confined to the left of politics, with polling by the Conservative Environment Network showing that three-quarters of Tory "red wall" voters are similarly concerned.

Since worried people are three times as likely to try to do something practical about climate change, such as using public transport instead of driving, this is encouraging, but could raise awareness of the risks alter dispositions in more fundamental ways – shifting political values and judgments?

Data shows that around half the public think it is mainly the government's responsibility to act on the dangers. Currently, YouGov's tracker shows the climate behind the economy, health and defence as the fourth most important issue facing the country. The current heat crisis could lead to it climbing further up voters' priorities. While there is no guarantee that this would lead politicians to take the much stronger action that is needed, including confronting fossil fuel interests, there is reason to hope that it might.

Most people in the UK do not yet grasp the net zero concept. Only a small minority claim to have made "a lot" of changes personally. Tellingly, the peak of concern about climate was in March 2019, the month of a 1.4-million-strong international school strike and a few weeks before the first Extinction Rebellion occupations – proof that street protests can be very effective.

Visionary leadership will be required to guide the transformation and, crucially, the green investment that are needed – not just in the UK but internationally. The ideological right, in particular, must give up the fantasy that human civilisation can grow indefinitely without environmental consequences, as the pioneering US economist Herman Daly is the latest to spell out. The energy landscape must be upended, and fossil fuels downgraded.

There is no reason to think that the public in the UK, or anywhere else, are not ready for a greener future. Clearly, the dangerous heat has the potential to nudge us in a safer direction. What we need is for it to become a tipping point.

IN an article titled "Wildfires Blaze in London During Record Heatwave" published on the Live Science website, Ben Turner wrote that record-breaking temperatures are leaving their mark across Europe.

As England bakes under record-breaking heat, a surge in wildfires has led the London Fire Brigade to declare the blazes a "major incident" in the nation's capital, where temperatures recently exceeded 40°C for the very first time.

Burnt ash and smoke-filled London's air as 350 firefighters battled numerous fires across the city; some residents were forced to flee as their homes were consumed by the flames. London Mayor Sadiq Khan warned that the "huge surge" in the number of blazes was putting the fire service under "immense pressure."

During July, hundreds of wildfires were reported across mainland Europe and England, as the continent reeled under a blistering heat wave. Temperatures across the normally temperate UK have risen above those typically recorded in equatorial locations such as

Jamaica, the Maldives and Barbados, according to the UK Meteorological Office. At Heathrow Airport on 19 July at 12:50 local time, the U.K.'s meteorological office recorded a provisional highest temperature of 40.2°C) This temperature, when it is verified, is set to smash a previous high record of 38.7°C set in 2019.

Weather patterns are likely to become even more extreme and unpredictable as Earth warms due to climate change. According to a study published on 28 June in the journal Environmental Science: Climate, heatwaves that would have had a 1 in 10 chance of happening during any given year in the pre-industrial age would now occur nearly three times more often on average, and would be 1.2°C hotter; and heat waves that had a 1 in 50 chance of happening during pre-industrial times are likely to occur five times more often.

"The direction is clear and in the future these kinds of heat waves are going to be normal and we will see even stronger extremes," World Meteorological Organization Secretary-General Petteri Taalas said at a news briefing in Geneva, United Nations News reported.

In April, a landmark United Nations report warned that, if Earth is to stay below the dangerous global threshold of 1.5°C warming, countries will need to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 2025 and halve current emissions by 2030, a strategy that will require "rapid, deep and immediate" cuts to the quantities of greenhouse gases produced around the world.

The report, which assessed multiple mitigation strategies for combating climate change, stated that even if all the carbon-cutting policies that were previously promised by governments had been fully implemented by 2020, the world would still warm by a disastrous 3.2°C), Live Science previously reported.

ENVIRONMENT correspondent, BBC World Service, Navin Singh Khadka, in an article published on the BBC News website, wrote "Heatwave: Are Wildfires Happening More Often?"

Thousands of people have had to flee wildfires in France, Portugal and Spain. Fires are also burning in Alaska, north of the Arctic circle, and across northern Canada, and it's not long since smoke from burning forests in Argentina blotted out the daylight in the capital of Paraguay. Are wildfires becoming more common and are all countries equipped to handle them?

Experts say that "extreme fire weather" - weather that creates tinderbox conditions for wildfires - is getting more frequent and more extreme, in nearly all regions of the world.

Climate change, they say, is making vegetation more inflammable and soil dryer, which makes fires more likely, and often, when they occur, larger and more severe.

However, the effects differ from one region to another and can be influenced by other factors.

The authors of a recent paper in Reviews of Geophysics say some high-latitude forest regions saw an increase of 50% or more in areas that had been already been affected by fire (burned area) in the first two decades of this century.

However, in African savannahs the number of wildfires decreased over the same period, because of land use changes, including the expansion of farming and this, experts say, is bringing down the overall number of wildfires worldwide, and the total burned area.

"Savannahs are becoming patchy and that is why they are seeing less fire," says Dr Niels Andela, senior remote sensing scientist at BeZero Carbon. "And because they make up 70% of the world's wildfires, we are seeing a decline in the global total of wildland fire incidents."

With each extra degree of warming, the wildfire problem is expected to get worse in most other regions. A report by the UN Environment Programme published earlier this year forecast a global increase in "extreme fires" of up to 14% by 2030, and 50% by the end of the century.

The authors pointed out that areas that would rarely have burned in the past, such as permafrost (where the earth is frozen all year round), or rainforest, are now more likely to catch fire.

They also urged governments to prepare better for wildfires - including spending much more on prevention - and added that poorer countries needed help from the international community to cope with the increasing threat.

Dr Joaquin Ramirez, president of the International Association of Wildland Fire, told the BBC there was a stark budgetary gap between more developed and less developed countries. The US's annual budget for firefighting was $10bn (£8.4bn), he said, compared with $50m (£42m) in Mexico.

In many countries villagers are left to tackle fires themselves, and often with little more than their bare hands.

In May a major wildfire engulfed part of the Sherani pine forest in northern Pakistan, on the border of Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces. Its pine nuts are an important source of income, and local people tried to beat out the flames with branches and brooms made of twigs.

"It was only after reaching near the fire they realised how big it was," says a villager, Ghulam Sakhi. "The winds were becoming stronger and were fanning the flames."

Mr Sakhi's cousins, Kalaa Khan, 35, and Mohammad Noor, 30, found themselves blinded by heavy plumes of smoke. Disorientated, they ended up walking towards the flames, and were overwhelmed by them, he says, leaving widows and children who must now try to survive without a breadwinner.

"We have no support, no resources to fight such wildfires," says Mr Sakhi.

Disaster management authorities were unaware of the fire, says climate activist Salmeen Khpalwak, and didn't respond initially to requests for help. Days later a helicopter was sent to pour water on the fire, without results.

It was only after Iran sent a plane capable of dumping thousands of tonnes of water that much of the fire was put out. By this stage around 40% of the 26,000 hectares of forest had been destroyed, local sources told the BBC.

Zaheer Mirza, who works for the Margalla Hills national park near the Pakistani capital, Islamabad, says staff there also lack training and equipment. To put fires out, they mostly rely on home-made fire beaters, he says. To prevent fires spreading they make fire breaks, "but they are proving to be very inadequate and wildfires are becoming increasingly severe".

In the fight against climate change it's often argued that too much of the available funding is spent on mitigation - reducing the amount of carbon and other warming gases released into the atmosphere - and too little on helping countries adapt to cope with the consequences of climate change.

In addition, of the money that is spent on adaptation, very little is spent on help to fight wildfires, says Duncan Macqueen of the International Institute for Environment and Development. While working in Belize a few years ago, Mr Macqueen was aware of just one wildfire training project, supported by the US Forest Service.

"But that was just one place where it happened. No other place in the country had any training or support like that. If that is the case in a country that has graduated from a least-developed country to a developing country, imagine what might be happening in other poorer countries in the region."

REGULAR readers of this monthly piece of literary genius know only too well that I passionately believe that protecting our existing trees is more beneficial for the planet than planting new ones.

Indeed, how many trees must we plant to replace those that we have lost to fire in recent weeks? Of course, that doesn't mean we shouldn't plant trees, just that we should focus first on protecting the ones that already exist.

Now, I have to admit that I am in one of my bad moods as I write this editorial. In fact I am feeling really angry because the very people we look to (depend upon) to protect our trees, forests and woodlands appear to be doing nothing of the sort.

Yes, we are being barraged with ambitious plans by government and local authorities to plant millions more trees but they mean absolutely nothing. This year they tell you how many trees they intend to plant, but next year they won't tell you how far short of that target they fell.

Perhaps they overlooked the fact that Egyptians built the pyramids with slave labour which, at the time, was in abundance and easily replaced when some poor devil dropped down dead.

Today, however, the powers that be either need to pay contactors a vast amount of money to carry out the planting and then, if they remember, even more to ensure that the new planting survives (who said I'm referring to the NDR?) or they can attempt to get modern slave labour such as Tree Wardens and other conservation volunteers.

Newly planted trees can take up to 10 years before they start absorbing more carbon dioxide than they emit. Think of a newly planted tree like a child. It has the potential to help stop climate change once it grows up and matures, but that takes decades and in the meantime there's a lot working against it.

Young trees are small, which means they can't hold much carbon, even combined with thousands of other small trees. It takes newly planted trees at least 10 years to reach their maximum carbon sequestration rate. That is the point at which they can absorb the most tons of carbon from the atmosphere each year.

Young trees are weak, putting them at higher risk of dying from storms, pests, or other stresses (not to mention vandalism). If that happens, its future climate benefits just disappear. In addition, newly planted trees can't support biodiversity, endangered species, or wildlife habitats.

Whereas an existing forest is already full of strong, old trees that can sequester much more carbon, all the care they need is to be protected from being cut down.

New trees require a lot of resources before they begin providing economic and environmental impacts back to the Earth and the communities around them. Since they are new,

they won't have much cultural importance for communities, nor can they provide them with any useful resources. Plus young trees need to be nurtured. You can't just plant them and forget them. How many trees survive is more important than how many trees are planted.

Meanwhile, mature trees (including veteran and ancients) are being lost at an alarming rate. House building appears to be far more important than the trees that are cut down to make way for them. Yes, developers plant trees to compensate but I do wish someone would tell them that there are other species than rowan.

What's more, a person moves into a new property with a nice newly planted rowan in the front garden and there is nothing to stop him or her cutting it down as the removal men move the furniture in.

Surely, the developer must be forced to sell the house with a covenant that prevents the removal of such trees and, if they need to be removed because of disease or other failure then they must be replaced immediately at the property owners' expense.

While I'm about it the planning authority may insist that veteran and/or ancient trees are protected during construction, but what if to prevent Jo Public hacking lumps off them after he's moved in or his kids slowly vandalising them? Nothing at all.

I have a cunning plan though … and it's dead simple!

Let's change the Tree Preservation Law. Let's do away with TPOs. Why not make every tree "preserved"? If you want to do anything to any tree then you have to apply for permission. Yes, Mark Symonds will need a team of assistants but so be it.

That will, of course, also ensure that all those rowans that developers plant will grow to maturity.

John's Law (well it has to have a name, doesn't it?) will also require four trees to be planted for every one that dies or needs to be felled for any reason.

We shall enforce "no right to light" and "when you purchase your property you also purchase your local environment". As for "look I like trees … but that one…" No way Pedro.

Think about it. It's not as daft as you may at first think.

WHEN I agreed with The Tree Council that the Network will head up the Sentinel Treescapes Project, I didn't really know what demands there would be on our Tree Wardens. When I finally realised just how much time and effort we would have to commit I have to admit that I couldn't be sure that we could fulfill our role.

However, I hadn't accounted for the dedication and enthusiasm of two of our ladies. Two ladies who, despite having young families, family COVID infections and a host of other commitments, have led our volunteer team magnificently.

I speak, of course, about Anna Rodriguez (Acle) and Joanne Collins (Thorpe St Andrew).

So, when I saw from the team's WhatsApp page that they were available for two hours to survey the Lingwood trees one morning I didn't hesitate to say that I would join them. It was an excellent opportunity to see how they work so well together.

I had no intention of "interfering" in their method" of surveying, but instead wanted to see for myself just how they organised them-selves

and just how they managed to achieve so much. I simply became the pain in the neck that followed them about, contributed nothing and, no doubt, got in the way!

Luckily, it was a lovely morning. Fresh, sunny and warm, but to the scorching heat we had experienced in previous days. In fact it was just about perfect.

We met at "the egg shop", the poultry farm on South Burlingham Road, where the owner kindly allows project team members to park their cars.

Right from the outset Anna and Joanne knew just what they had to do and how they would tackle it. We started with Anna going to the left to survey a tree adjacent to the railway bridge over South Burlingham Road while Joanne got on with the trees lining the road opposite the farm entrance.

I stayed with Joanne and it wasn't long before Anna re-joined us, covered in seed from the vegetation she had clambered through.

It was then off down the footpath adjacent to the farm where the ladies would carry out observational surveys.

While they worked as a very efficient team, they actually carried out the survey independently of each other. While the rest of us involved in the project tend to work with one carrying out the observations and the other entering the data on the app, Anna and Joanne covered far more ground by doing both operations themselves.

I find that stretch of the footpath, plus the adjoining field boundary the most interesting as there are some magnificent veteran oaks along

there. Regretfully, successive farmers have not exactly treated them with the respect that I believe they warrant, but they have survived nevertheless and hopefully will continue to do so long in the future.

It was along there that Anna had to explain that what I thought was an oak was actually a hawthorn growing in front of the oak. Yes, I am so good at showing what a total dip stick I can be!!

With the footpath trees all surveyed the ladies returned to South Burlingham Road where they turned left down the lane leading from the junction of South Burlingham Road and Church Road, as shown below.

A few Tree Talker batteries needed changing along there and that was done with experienced ease as shown in the picture below with Joanne carrying out the operation.

Meanwhile, Anna carried out an observational survey of the tree adjacent to the field in which the magnificent bull is often to be found.

So, all in all I found it to be a most enjoyable couple of hours and I just hope that I didn't get in the way … too much!

Most important though, I was able to see first-hand why Anna and Joanne manage to carry out so many observational surveys and battery changes.

Well done ladies and thank you so very much indeed. You are representing the Network excellently.

FINALLY for this month I must thank those of you who took the time to e-mail me to let me know how pleased you were to see the return of Broadsheet in July.

I am most grateful for the kind comments I received and very much look forward to producing the slimmed down Broadsheet in future months.

As always, I will be pleased to receive any news, reports and/or comments you would like me to include.

I leave you with this thought. We would all like to think that we will leave this world in a better state than when we entered it. Sadly, I don't believe I will.

All the best

John Fleetwood

A Table for the Nation

FOR some time Lesley had been attempting to persuade me to spend a day visiting Ely. We had visited Ely several time in the past and I am the first to admit that it is a lovely cathedral city, about 14 miles north-north-east of Cambridge, built on a 23-square-mile Kimmeridge Clay island which, at 85 feet, is the highest land in the Fens. However, I'd seen it and could think of other places to go.

Needless to say, most of my choices of places to visit involved tree, woodlands or forests and after 52 years Lesley knows that only too well, although she does share my interest. However, she refers to it as an obsession!

Anyway, I finally gave in (as I always seem to in the end) and so on 27 May we walked down to Brundall Station to catch the train into Norwich before boarding a train direct to Ely.

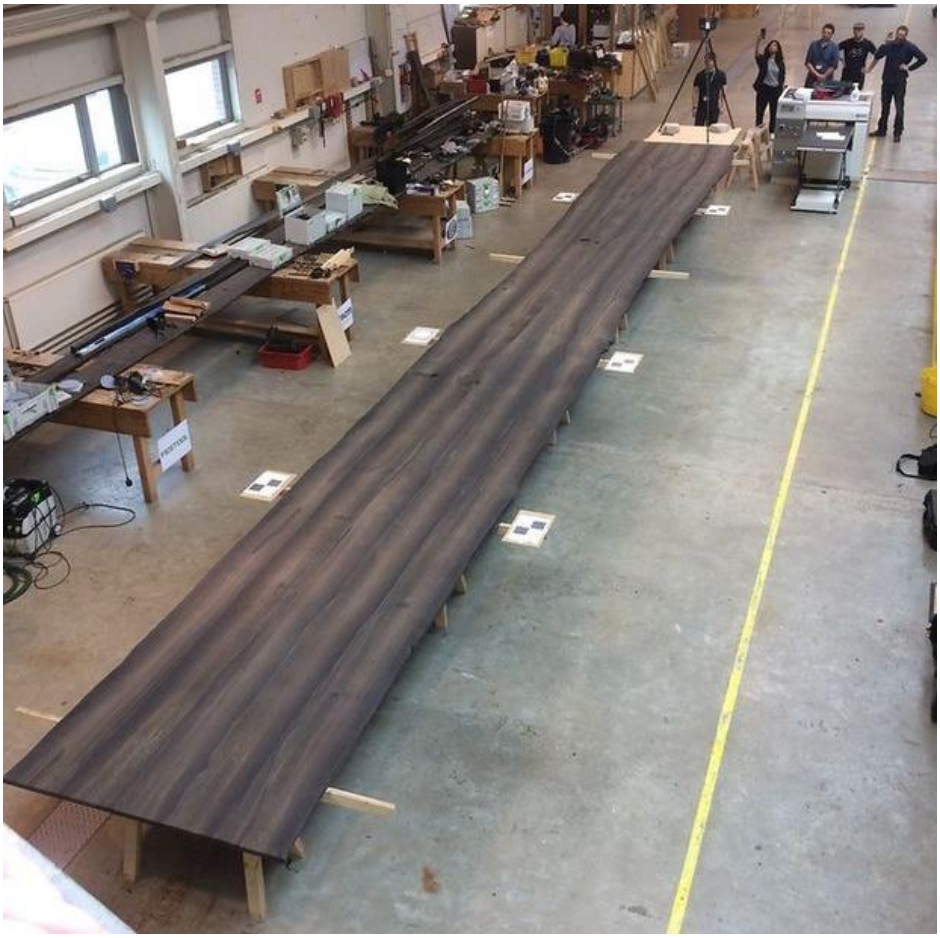
On arrival in Ely, Lesley suggested that we visit the cathedral. Now I totally agree that it is a magnificent building, full of fascination things to see, but over the years the entrance fees I've paid must have mounted to the full original building costs! (Slight exaggeration I guess!!).

It was then that Lesley played her trump card (just how many of the darned things does she have left???).

"You do know that big table they made from that massive tree trunk they dug out of the ground is on display here, don't you?"

I've long since ceased trying to deny that I am a complete turnip so meekly said "shall we pay the entrance fee and see it then dear?"

I was totally blown away. As you know, one of my hobbies has always been cabinet and furniture making and therefore I am fascinated by the world's various woods. What I saw in Ely Cathedral, however, was on a different planet!!



5000 years ago a rise in sea level caused the rivers to back up and flood the ancient high forests. These huge trees died standing in water and eventually fell into the silt of the forest floor where some have been preserved under anaerobic conditions until now.

Due to the cultivation of this productive land the preserved trees are emerging from the peat. They are extremely fragile when exposed to the elements unless wrapped, converted into planks, dried and stabilised.

Fortunately some Fenland land owners recognise the significance of these ancient trees and are very supportive of their constructive use.

The 5,000-year-old fossilised black oak tree that has been transformed into a large sculptured table was unveiled at Ely Cathedral on 17 May in honour of The Queen and has been described as ‘a table for the nation’.

The unique Fenland Black Oak Project has seen a team of craftspeople preserve the tree since it was unearthed in the Fen peat of Southery in March 2012 (Her Majesty the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee year).

The team's vision for the table was for it to sit in Ely Cathedral’s Lady Chapel as its on high grounds surrounded by fields which, very occasionally, still yield buried ancient black oaks. Now, after 10 years of hard work with key sponsors, the tree has been transformed into an iconic sculptured table and the team’s vision will soon come to life.

Hamish Low, project leader, said: “This project has been entirely funded by private individuals who have shared the vision of the project as well as some charitable foundations and trusts.

“Other support has come from The Building Crafts College in Stratford, London, who allowed the use of their workshop facilities and encouraged students from their cabinet making and woodworking courses to get involved.”

Upon discovery, the massive 5,000-year-old boards were put on an articulated lorry and transported to the college ahead of construction in 2019. 18 people had to lift each board into a specifically designed and constructed 14-metre drying kiln.

The famous intensity of colour associated with black oak is a result of soluble irons in the mineral sub soil reacting with tannins in the oak.

Today black oak is the nation’s rarest and most valuable native hardwood. Occasionally weighing over 1000 kg/m^3 (2205 lbs) black oak is by far the densest native hardwood, meaning very fine detailed accurate work can be achieved.

At between 4800 to 5500 years old black oak is the nation’s most ancient hardwood.

Black oak has intense and unique colour fade characteristics which, along with stunning medullary figure – this offers great creative opportunities for visual impact, particularly when used as a contrast and in combination with other native hardwoods.

It has recently been discovered that black oak is a tone wood with unique sound and is highly prized for use in hand made percussion, wood wind and stringed musical instruments.

lack oak is the only native hardwood that is black.

For more information and to support the project, visit the website at www.thefenlandblackoakproject.co.uk

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Recording Scotland's Extreme High-Altitude Trees

By Steven McKenzie, BBC Scotland Highlands and Islands reporter

SCOTLAND'S hilltops were once a landscape full of woodlands but tree cover disappeared over thousands of years due to human activity. Now researcher Sarah Watts is among those collecting information on where trees are taking root as part of her work on mountain woodland restoration.

"When we are talking about altitudes above 900m that is very, very extreme for a tree to grow, but trees have been found at heights of more than 1,000m (3,281ft) on some of Scotland's highest peaks” she says.

The trees reach the mountains as seeds, often blown on winds or deposited in bird droppings after being eaten. "It's a natural process" says Ms Watts, a PhD researcher based in the Highlands with the University of Stirling's Global Change Ecology research group.

"Native trees should be there if the seeds are managing to make it there and germinate and grow without intervention." However, she says they are unlikely to ever reach maturity because the harsh conditions stunt their growth.

Ms Watts, who is also chairwoman of the Mountain Woodland Action Group, says she hopes hillwalkers and climbers will contact the MWAG with any high-altitude tree sightings.

Other organisations are also gathering data on mountain trees, with the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland collecting UK-wide information and Mountain Birch Project interested in details of where mountain birch is found in the Scottish hills.

Ms Watts is eager to see Scotland's mountain woodlands flourish once more. These woods are believed to have occupied altitudes to 600m (1,968ft) or more on hills and

mountains, above extensive lowland forests and below a mosaic of scattered shrubs higher up.

The decline began around Neolithic times, with trees cleared for agriculture or felled for use as building materials and charcoal. There was a further loss of trees in the 18th Century as large-scale hill sheep farming and increasing deer densities resulted in overgrazing.

Ms Watts says: "We now have a situation where there is almost no altitudinal treeline left in Scotland and what little remains is restricted to inaccessible cliff ledges and ravines. There needs to be a balance between sustainable grazing of large herbivores and tree regeneration.

"There are lots of benefits to mountain woodland," she says. "It supports insects and birdlife and provides what are called ecosystem services like stabilising soil on steep slopes, reducing down-stream flooding and offering shelter to animals.

"These nature-based solutions will be hugely important for mitigating the impacts of more extreme weather due to climate change."

Top five high altitude trees in Scotland

These trees were recorded by experts or other visitors to the hills:

- **Scots pine at 1,160m (3,806ft) on Cairn Lochan, Cairngorms**
- **Scots pine at 1,137m (3,730ft) on Fiacaill Ridge on Ben Macdui - the UK's second highest mountain**
- **Rowan at 1,130m (3,707ft) on Sgurr nan Ceathreamhnan, Glen Affric**
- **Scots pine at 1,100m (3,609ft) on Sgoran Dubh Mor, Cairngorms**
- **Rowan at 1,093m (3,586ft) on Ben Macdui**
- **A dwarf willow - a mountain specialist - has been recorded at more than 1,300m (4,265ft) on the summit plateau of Ben Nevis, the UK's highest mountain. Sarah says it is classified as a willow species, but tends not be counted as a tree because it grows as a dwarf shrub barely more than a few centimetres above the ground**

Dip in UK Woodland's Ability to Capture CO_2 as Felled Trees Are Not Replaced

By Severin Carrell Scotland Editor for the Guardian

WHILE planting rates have risen in Scotland, carbon capture figures overall have fallen every year since 2009, official data shows. The amount of carbon dioxide captured by the UK's forests has fallen by millions of tonnes and will remain at historically low rates for over a decade, because of a failure to quickly replace old forest stocks.

Official data shows the amount of CO_2 absorbed annually by trees in the UK peaked at just under 20m tonnes in 2009, but has fallen every year since. Millions of mature conifers have been felled but not replaced, reducing the carbon they capture and store.

Official projections, which are based on the forestry stocks and policies in place in 2019, forecast the carbon they absorb will fall by 25% to 15m tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent ($MtCO_2e$) a year by 2025. In the absence of any further forests being planted, that could fall by half by 2038 to 10 $MtC0_2e$ a year, the forecasts show.

The UK has committed to planting 30,000 hectares (74,131 acres) of new trees annually by 2025 to replace older forests that have been harvested and to increase the UK's overall tree cover. In Scotland, after falling sharply planting rates have risen recently to 11,000 hectares a year and are helping arrest that decline, but have barely risen in the rest of the UK.

Forestry and climate experts say it could take well over a decade before the amounts of CO_2 these new forests will capture begins to climb back towards the levels of carbon stored by the UK's forests in the 1990 and 2000s.

They say that makes it imperative ministers meet their promises to rapidly increase forest and woodland cover, and protect the funding needed, to make sure the UK can hit its ambitious promises to reach net zero by 2050.

The UK's independent adviser on tackling the climate emergency, the Climate Change Committee, said this month that woodland strategies were "significantly off track", adding to its warnings Britain was at real risk of missing its climate targets.

It said the British government had to urgently increase new planting by 4,000 hectares a year to meet its 2025 target, and urged ministers in all four UK governments to give "further clarity" on meeting the next targets to plant 40,000 hectares by 2030 and 50,000 hectares by 2035.

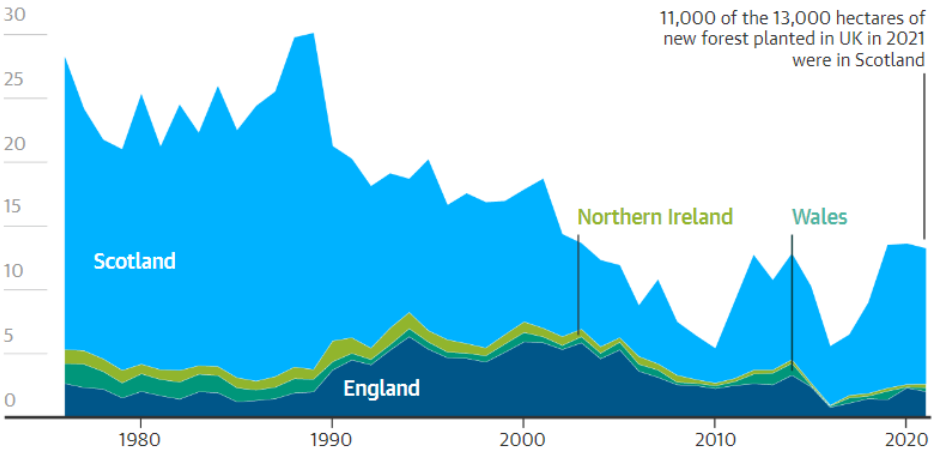
The Wildlife Trusts said government planners also had to pay far greater attention to the increased risks of forest fires for the UK, which could consume large areas of forestry and woodland as droughts in-creased through climate heating.

Others say a changing climate greatly increases the risks of violent storms felling millions of trees, as storm Arwen did last November, and also increases the threat of diseases and parasites fatal to trees – which will also cut the UK's total forest stock.

Kathryn Brown, director of climate action for the Wildlife Trusts, said: "We shouldn't forget that trees are dynamic, living things. It takes an individual tree a few decades to start absorbing carbon at a high rate even under ideal conditions for growth. It is therefore especially concerning that planting rates are still not as

Planting rates in Scotland have risen recently to 11,000 hectares a year but have barely risen in the rest of the UK

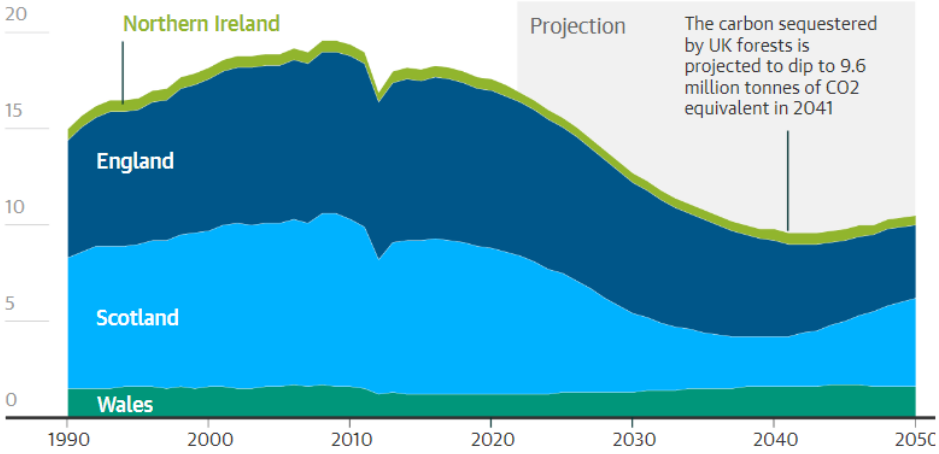
New planting per year, thousand hectares a year



Guardian graphic. Source: Defra/Forestry Commission. Forest Research: Forestry Statistics 2021

If more forests are not planted the amount of CO2 absorbed annually by trees could halve by 2038

Net carbon stored in UK woodlands, million tonnes of CO_2 equivalent



Defra/Forestry Commission. Forest Research: Forestry Statistics 2021. Note: The dip in the net carbon stored in 2012 is due to a change in the modelling used

high as we would want to see right now.

"What is also concerning is that the most recent UK climate change risk assessment projected a doubling of wildfire risk by 2050. This scale of change does not appear to be included in the government's woodland carbon projections; if it is not there, it should be".

Pat Snowdon, head of economics and Woodland Carbon Code with Scottish Forestry, a government agency previously part of the Forestry Commission, said the peak in sequestration and the subsequent fall was owing to a surge in commercial forestry planting in the 1970s and 1980s.

Those trees, such as Sitka spruce and pine, had matured and were being harvested, but had not yet been fully replaced. The latest tree-planting targets and any plantations that had been approved and funded since 2019 were not factored into the official Forestry Statistics 2021 projections, he added.

"A large area of new woodland was created across the UK in the latter half of the 20th century. Some of this woodland is managed through a sustainable cycle of felling and restocking – felled woodlands must be replanted under law – which results in peaks and troughs in the amount of CO_2 that it removes from the atmosphere.

"However, as growth of young trees accelerates in the coming decades, CO_2 removals will increase again. Significant increases in new planting in recent years will also contribute to rising levels of CO2 removals in future, supported through actions across the four administrations in the UK."

Why Fake Grass is Far from Green in Ways You Might Not Guess

An article by Ros Coward published on The Guardian website

I COUNT myself lucky having a very small garden in London. It won't win any horticultural prizes and "No Mow May" is the perfect excuse for benign neglect, but it has grass, the shade of an old apple tree and a water feature and, in this heatwave, it's a sanctuary. Most people have the same instincts, heading for shaded parks. In heat like this, we all want grass and trees.

However, I keep getting leaflets urging me to destroy my leafy garden and to landscape it with artificial grass, allegedly "almost maintenance free". They show "gardens" with emerald-green plastic "lawns" surrounded by austere plant-free fencing.

These lifeless green carpets are set off with paving stones and have concrete "planters", bleak designs sending a message: no living creatures tolerated here.

In my neighbourhood, this advertising has worked. Two decades ago, most London gardens would have shrubs and grass. Now the lethal shroud of plastic grass is everywhere, a coal- and oil-derived product, which can't be easily recycled, replacing natural vegetation.

Those who adopt it usually destroy front gardens too, ripping out hedges and tiling over the flower beds. Estate agents call these "stunning low-maintenance gardens" and treat them as performance indicators that the house has been "modernised".

Imagine how grim those bright white slabs and plastic lawns are in this heatwave. Artificial lawns get hotter than bitumen and concrete. Without a blade of grass, and no shading vegetation, they are furnaces, emitting an unpleasant smell of melting plastic.

For dog owners, there are particular perils, and not just the smell of dog urine. "Whoever has fake grass in their garden," one hapless owner on the Isle of Wight wrote last week, "Don't let your dogs on it, it's just burnt my dog's paws."

Artificial "lawns" turn out to be high maintenance after all. They need to be watered to cool them down. They need special cleaning products to get rid of smells and stains. You even have to vacuum them to get rid of leaves.

It would be funny if there weren't serious consequences. Trees and grass have cooling effects caused by shading and transpiration, when water within the tree is released as water vapour through their leaves. Hard surfaces, typical of "urbanised" areas, are much hotter than areas of natural vegetation.

Destroying vegetation changes how the land absorbs and releases energy, contributing to temperature rises. Recent research found that "tree-covered areas in cities have a much lower land surface temperature compared with surrounding areas".

Just as serious is the loss of biodiversity. With rampant development destroying the countryside, urban gardens are even more critical in providing a habitat for birds and insects, but now I'm surrounded by the concretisation of gardens the outlook is bleak. This year, almost none of the regular garden birds have been to my garden. Blackbirds, tits, wrens have disappeared altogether, with only occasional visits from sparrows. The butterfly count is shockingly low too.

There's plenty of public anger about this. The Twitter account Shitlawns, "showcasing the hideous trend of plastic lawns" has 30,000 followers. Newcastle city council has just agreed to "avoid" fake grass in landscaping. More boldly, Quebec prohibits plastic grass, and several German cities, including Nuremberg, have recently banned what they call "horror gardens".

Their plague involves gravel not plastic grass but the issues are the same. There is "no cooling effect in gravel gardens", the council said, "the hard surfaces contribute to flooding risk", and "horror gardens" are disastrous for biodiversity.

Last week, Sir James Bevan, chief executive of the Environment Agency, invoked Rachel Carson's Silent Spring and warned of the catastrophe facing Britain's wildlife.

The biodiversity crisis, he said, "poses just as great an existential risk to humanity as climate change", and called for nature-based solutions to reverse shocking declines in wildlife.

As ever, there's a gulf between these alarming reports and how most people just carry on with their ecocidal ways regardless. When so many people choose to annihilate all life in their own back gardens, it's an uphill struggle to cajole them into nature-friendly behaviour.

Challenging nonsensical greenwash misinformation like "artificial lawns are good for the environment because it means fewer petrol-driven mowers" would be a start but regulation is required. There's nothing good to say about artificial grass. The rubber granules are toxic, it's hard to recycle, it destroys biodiversity and you can't even sit in the garden when it's hot.

In the meantime, from my deckchair, under my apple tree, I'll try to block out the sound of my neighbours vacuuming their plastic carpet.

North Wales' Ancient Felled Pontfadog Oak Returns in Five Cloned Saplings

An article by Steven Morris published on the Guardian website

ON a stormy night in April 2013, a resounding crack echoed around a valley in north-east Wales and when day broke a melancholy sight met the eyes of villagers. The mighty Pontfadog oak, a glorious tree that had stood sentinel over the Ceiriog valley for 1,200 years, had been toppled, and a heap of broken branches, decayed wood, lichens and fungi lying among the spring flowers.

On 6 July 2022, almost a decade later, a ceremony took place at the National Botanic Garden of Wales to mark the return of the oak in the form of five cloned saplings, two of which will be planted in north-east Wales, close to the spot where the magnificent tree stood.

"It's emotional," said Chris Williams, 69, a member of the family whose land at Cilcochwyn Farm the oak graced for dozens of generations. "When it fell it was like someone had died. We all grieved for it. It was more than just an oak tree sitting in a field, it was part of the family. What's happening now is delightful – it feels like the circle of life continues. The Pontfadog oak is not dead. It lives and continues to be relevant."

Williams fondly remembers playing on, around and in the hollowed-out oak as a child. "You could climb the outside and the inside. I remember shooing out cattle that had sheltered in there. A neighbour used it as an extra sheep pen, it was so big."

His sister, Jo Williams, 71, added: For someone else it might be just a tree but it meant more than that for us. We played hide and seek in there, you could put in a table and six chairs and have dinner in it. So many people going back years had carved their initials in it."

The tales spill out – a bull once went missing and was found in the oak. Two golden chisels, legend has it, were discovered in the tree.

When the tree came down, she was shocked by the paucity of its roots. "They were hardly there." It must have only been standing because of its weight. "That was sad to see."

Alex Summers, curator of the National Botanic Garden of Wales in Carmarthenshire, explained that when the sessile oak (*Quercus petraea*) fell, a number of branches about the thickness of a pencil were taken. Experts at Windsor Great Park in Berkshire, home to one of the largest collections of ancient and veteran oak and beech trees in northern Europe, used their grafting skills to create five clones.

"They've grown them on and are now saplings of about 1.5 to 1.8 metres tall. They are genetically exactly the same as the Pontfadog oak and now they are back here."

Three will be planted on the approach to the great glasshouse at the botanic garden. Summers, who is overseeing the creation of a national arboretum there, said giants such as the Pontfadog oak were the survivors of forest that had once covered so much of Wales.

"Part of this project is protecting genetic diversity. We hope these saplings will live for 1,200 years themselves. They certainly have the pedigree to become ancient trees and it's good to think that in 200 years or so people may be sitting in the shade of three nice big oak trees here."

Two will be planted near Pontfadog, one at Chirk Castle, the other at Erddig, where a woodland to remember those who died during the Covid pandemic is being created as part of Welsh government plans to shape a new national forest.

Rob McBride, the self-styled "tree hunter", who has just finished a 13-year audit of the many significant trees to be found on Offa's Dyke, was effusive in his praise of the oak. "It was one of the most culturally significant trees ever to have grown on planet Earth."

The Welsh first minister, Mark Drakeford, and the Prince of Wales were at the ceremony at the botanic gardens for this next part of the oak's journey through time.

Drakeford told the story of a former Welsh prince, Owain Gwynedd, rallying his army beneath it before taking on, and defeating, the English at the battle of Crogen. "It meant a lot to Wales. I hope that the trees will grow and develop into mighty oaks that will stand for centuries to come."

Scientists Design Contraceptives to Limit Grey Squirrels

By Justin Rowlatt, BBC Climate Editor

A PLAN to use oral contraceptives to control grey squirrel populations in the UK is making good progress and could soon be put to the test in field trials, say government scientists. The mass birth control plan involves luring grey squirrels into feeding boxes only they can access, using pots containing hazelnut spread. These will be spiked with contraceptives.

The project could help eradicate the grey squirrel in the UK without killing them, says environment minister Lord Benyon. It should reduce the "untold damage" grey squirrels do to woodland eco-systems and native red squirrel populations, he says.

The government scientists leading the research say the contraceptive, which makes both male and female grey squirrels infertile, should be ready to deploy in the wild within two years.

Grey squirrels, first introduced from North America in the late 19th century, damage UK woodlands by stripping bark from trees to get at the nutritious sap beneath. The species has flourished in the UK. There are now reckoned to be 2.7 million grey squirrels here.

The animals target young trees, typically 10-50 years old, and favour broadleaf species including oak, beech, sweet chestnut, and sycamore. They can kill or maim trees, leaving scarring that allows an entry point for other tree pests and diseases which can stunt their growth.

The damage they can do threatens the effectiveness of government efforts to tackle climate change by planting tens of thousands of hectares of new woodlands, environment minister Lord Goldsmith has warned.

Grey squirrels have also driven the UK's native red squirrel to the verge of extinction across much of the country. There are thought to be just 160,000 red squirrels left in the UK, with only 15,000 remaining in England.

Grey squirrels are significantly larger and stronger than reds and carry a squirrel pox virus that is deadly to reds but to which they are immune.

The traditional way of managing the grey squirrel population is by culling them, but grey squirrels breed rapidly and populations can recover quickly. A century of culling pro-grammes has failed to reduce the population.

Dosing the animals with a contraceptive drug is a more humane alternative and will ultimately be more effective, says the lead scientist on the project, Dr Giovanna Massei, from the government's Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA).

She says her team have developed a vaccine that prompts the immune system to restrict the production of sex hormones, which leaves both male and female squirrels infertile.

The drug is not permanent, and further tests are being carried out to find a dose that has a long-lasting effect and is safe to use in the wild.

The team have also developed a special feeding hopper with a weighted door designed to keep out species other than squirrels. Trials in Yorkshire and Wales showed 70% of squirrels in each wood visited the bait boxes over a four day period. The only other animals that got in were two particularly enterprising mice.

The plan is to bait the hoppers with pots of a hazelnut paste greys find "irresistible" and which will be laced with the new contraceptive.

The scientists are also exploring special feeders to be used in areas where there are both red and grey squirrels. These will be triggered by a plate which weighs the animals and only lets the heavier greys get access to the bait.

Dr Massei says computer modelling shows the contraceptive method could bring grey squirrel populations to the brink of extinction in some places. "It could even eradicate them from some areas, provided you can do a coordinated control over an area, so they don't start to re-immigrate", Dr Massei says.

If the work with grey squirrels is successful Dr Massei believes similar techniques could be used to help control the population of other invasive mammals including rats, mice, deer, and wild boar.

The research is being funded by the UK Squirrel Accord (UKSA), a partnership of forestry and conservation organisations. It has raised just over £1m to cover the research and development of the project.

The contraceptive scheme is an important additional non-lethal tool for managing grey squirrels, says Kay Haw, the director of the UKSA.

"Red squirrels now only survive in island ecosystems where there aren't any grey squirrels or where a red squirrel community group are working hard to keep back the grey squirrels", she says.

The financial cost of the damage grey squirrels do is estimated at £37m a year in England and Wales alone. The cost to the UK's biodiversity has not been calculated.

A mature oak tree can support up to 2,000 other species.

The initiative has wide support, including from the Prince of Wales, who was instrumental in the setting up of the UKSA.

The animal rights pressure group People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals says if population control has to be implemented, it backs non-lethal options, but it cautions: "We mustn't forget that grey squirrels and other species deemed "invasive" are where they are through no fault of their own and entirely due to human carelessness, and they deserve to be left in peace."

The broadcaster and naturalist Chris Packham believes a species-specific oral contraceptive could be a "dream ticket" if it proves to be economically viable and practical.

He describes the project as "non-violent direct action" to control "a widespread and extremely numerous invasive animal" and suggests an effort should also be made to encourage pine martens back into their previous haunts across the country.

These predatory mammals - a native UK species that has suffered historic persecution - have been shown to reverse the spread of invasive grey squirrels in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Editor's Comment – I'm sorry, but I have to say that it was man that introduced the grey squirrel to the UK. It didn't ask to come here, nor did it pay for some people smuggler to put it in a rubber boat to cross the English Channel from France. Man's population explosion is a bigger problem!

Meet the Giant Sequoia, the 'Super Tree' Built to Withstand Fire

An article by Andrea Thompson published on www.scientificamerican.com

WHEN the Grizzly Giant sprouted from the ground in what is now Yosemite National Park, the Roman Republic was nearly two centuries away from forming, Buddhism would not develop for at least more than a century and the geoglyphs making up the Nazca Lines of southern Peru would not be etched for around 200 years.

At an estimated 2,700 years old and possibly even older, this giant sequoia is one of the oldest trees in the world. A majestic specimen of a remarkable redwood species that has evolved to withstand the flames that periodically sweep through its environment.

Some of these trees, which can grow more than 300 feet tall (about as high as a 30-storey building) and dozens of feet wide, are the world's most massive tree and one of the largest organisms on earth.

Giant sequoias are found only in about 73 groves scattered along the western slopes of California's Sierra Nevada, from Tahoe National Forest to the Giant Sequoia National Monument northeast of Bakersfield, Calif.

President Abraham Lincoln first set aside the Grizzly Giant and the other sequoias of Mariposa Grove as federally protected in 1864, eight years before the designation of the country's first national park.

Mariposa Grove has recently been threatened by the Washburn Fire, which began on 7 July and has burned through more than 4,000 acres of forest. The Mariposa trees have so far escaped the fate of Alder Creek Grove, another stand of sequoias in the Giant Sequoia National Monument that was scorched during the Castle Fire in 2020.

Almost all the trees in the most intense part of the fire perished, amounting to the loss of 10 to 14% of all living giant sequoias. There is concern that more of these towering giants could meet the same fate, with wildfires increasingly amplified by rising temperatures and decades of fire suppression that have allowed branches, leaves and other fuel to build up.

To learn more about these extraordinary American icons and how conservationists and others are working to better protect them, Scientific American spoke with Paul Ringgold, chief program officer of the non-profit Save the Redwoods League. An edited transcript of the interview follows.

How are giant sequoias able to grow so big is still a question that hasn't been completely answered, but we certainly know that, like their cousin the coast redwood, these trees have adapted to be very effective at pulling in water and translocating that water high up into the canopy. Their cellular structures seem to be very specifically adapted to draw water to such great heights.

However, I also think just the resilience that they have (they've adapted to be able to survive climate impacts and threats such as droughts and wildfire) has allowed them to continue growing for so much longer than most of the trees they are co-existing with.

In addition, the specific adaptations in their bark, which is a natural insulator. That very thick and fibrous bark that can get up to two feet thick in some of the largest trees. It's a perfect insulator. They're super trees. That bark allows them to withstand the impacts of a fire where other trees often have not and that adaptation, I think, has got them to where they are.

The height of the crown, the height of the branches, is also a part of that adaptation. In the face of natural fires that occur in that environment, you generally don't have flames reaching up into the canopy.

I think the key to their adaptation and their survival is also that they were adapted to re-seed and re-populate and regenerate in a fire-adapted environment. The giant sequoia cones are serotinous, which means that they don't open and release seed unless subjected to heat. In a normal situation, a ground fire would spark the release of the seeds from those cones, at the same time providing a bare mineral-soil seedbed for the sequoia.

These seeds will not do well and generally don't survive if they fall onto a layer of litter on the soil. They just can't withstand the dryness of the Sierran summer without having that mineral soil that they can start getting down into and reaping the rewards of the moisture that is stored there.

So how are these trees being affected by climate change?

To start with, we're experiencing these much longer periods of prolonged drought and that has been a significant challenge for a number of reasons. I think the first one is there's less moisture (and there's increased competition for that moisture) resulting from the fact that there has not been the natural thinning of trees in these groves.

In addition to that, the drought itself has been a challenge for the sequoia, regardless of the competition or the situation that we find ourselves in with the fuels build up. There have been studies that have shown that the sequoia in some of these really, really serious drought periods during the summer are demonstrating some dieback in their foliage. Not enough to kill the tree but enough to demonstrate that the tree is definitely stressed right now. There's no doubt that even those trees that have withstood drought historically over the past thousands of years are definitely stressed right now as a result of the prolonged drought.

Then that stress exacerbates these other stressors that are coming into the environment. For example, the fact that we now see these bark beetle populations exploding. What otherwise would be trees that are stress-free and robust and able to withstand some level of insect attack are falling victim to these insects because they're under so much stress and because the beetle populations are so much larger.

How can we protect giant sequoias from the more frequent and intense wildfires we're seeing now?

I think the first thing to keep in mind is that the giant sequoia groves, which represent a

very small portion of the Sierran landscape, exist within the broader context of this same challenge around the fuels' build up that exists throughout the Sierra forests. I think that most of the wildfires that we've seen started outside the groves. The Save the Redwoods League, of course, is focused on the protection of the Sequoia groves, but this all leads to one of our conclusions, which is that we can't really accomplish effective protection of the groves by doing work just inside them.

We've already reduced the level of fuels in some groves. We need to do that not just in the groves themselves but in sort of this buffer area surrounding the groves to ensure that adjacent fire doesn't carry into the crowns of groves prepared for low-intensity ground fire.

The biggest challenge that we have right now is that we have such an incredible build up of fuel on the landscape and when these wildfires start they become completely impossible to control. We saw that just last year. For the first time we saw a fire that carried across the summit of the Sierra and down into Lake Tahoe.

There are unprecedented events that we're seeing, at least within our history and our memory, and I think the challenge is the fact that you have these unmanageable fires that are burning so intensely that when they do burn through sequoia groves, they are wiping out significant populations of large sequoias within those groves that would otherwise have been able to withstand the fire.

Then the other concern we have is around type conversion and the fact that there was 100% mortality in the sequoias hit by some of the recent fires. Without some active measures to reintroduce seedlings through plantings or re-seeding and watering, we're going to see conversion of what was a sequoia grove to brush fields and other species because the fire was so hot that not only did it kill the standing trees, but it killed all of the seeds and cones that were ready otherwise to re-establish that population.

Is there anything we can do to protect trees when there is an imminent threat of fire?

Yes. In fact, fire management staffers did some of that in the Alder Creek Grove when that fire burned and they're doing it now in Mariposa Grove. Ground-based sprinkler systems. I think often times people assume that they're up in the trees, but it really is to keep the floor of the forest moist, which really is effective in reducing the severity of fire as it burns through those areas.

I know last year fire managers were doing some wrapping of the larger, named monarchs [the term for the largest individuals in a grove] that they wanted to make sure were protected with a foil insulator. They have not done that this year in the Mariposa Grove, but they did wrap the buildings there to protect them. However, what I've been hearing is that they're now concerned that wrapping up the trees in that material may actually have an adverse impact, in the sense of putting foil over a casserole going into the oven, that it may actually reflect some of that heat back into the tree.

When I first saw that the trees were being wrapped I was a little puzzled because, as far as I know, the threat to old-growth sequoias is not ground fire but crown fire. If you have a fire burning through a grove and you're wrapping the trees, you're basically putting the Band-Aid on the part that doesn't really need it.

Part of the reason we want to protect these species is their unique grandeur and it seems difficult to convey how immense they are, even in photographs.

You really do have to experience it in person, I think, to get the full sense of awe and that's what I love about the giant sequoias and coast redwoods. They exist in such different contexts. With the coast redwood forests, you get into these forests and you can go for miles and you're experiencing this consistent pattern on the landscape of these large trees. Whereas the giant sequoia exist in these very remote, often very secluded groves where you just come around a corner and, all of a sudden, there's a whole other world. I just love that sense of surprise.

Broadland Landowner Tree Grants

I RECENTLY shared a telecon with Polly Cobb, Environmental Project Assistant at Broadland District Council, informing me that the Council has finally managed to agree on the pilot projects to let her identify problems before we start promoting the grants across the district in the Autumn.

They have a site in Salhouse and another in Cantley and are working through the details for the application forms at the moment. The plan is still to launch the scheme more widely in the Autumn.

The plan is to source the trees through the Norfolk County Council framework of suppliers, so hopefully that won't impact on the local supply.

Grants will be up to about £2000 and cover trees and guards only. Not labour costs. Landowners will be asked to contribute 20 – 25% of the total cost. That is what The Woodland Trust and Tree Council do to ensure a bit of commitment from the landowners.

Parish councils and Tree Wardens will be encouraged to participate as a way of having a local view of any applications. BDC will say that they will 'fast-track' applications which have parish councils and/or Tree Wardens involved in developing the plans and how it fits with the wider community.

BDC is not planning to fund labour costs for planting but will encourage local community involvement. Hence the value of getting parish councils and Tree Wardens on board as points of contact, not providing the labour themselves!

BDC also plans to talk to some of the local community volunteer groups, to see if they can signpost the landowners to these, either directly or through their parish council or Tree Wardens. (This might even prompt a few of these volunteers to want to become Tree Wardens themselves!)

I gave Polly guarded support for the idea but pointed out that the Network has a planting budget from BDC. It would definitely help us if we could provide trees for planting on sites other that "publicly owned land". That has always limited the number of trees we are able to plant. Polly will look into that

I expressed my concern that this may increase the pressure on local nurseries to supply trees and last season I had difficulty locally sourcing trees because Norfolk County Council had already purchased them.

Anyway, it's early days and there are more discussions that have yet to take place, but I have to say that I am most encouraged by this … and you all know what a cynical old goat I am!!

I'll keep you all informed.

Forestry Commission Introduces Further Controls to Tackle Bark Beetle Tree Pest

A press release from The Forestry Commission on 13 July 2022

WOODLAND managers, landowners and the forestry industry are today being urged to increase their vigilance to the risk of the tree pest *Ips typographus* – also known as the larger eight-toothed European spruce bark beetle – following new findings of the insect by the Forestry Commission on spruce trees in Kent, Surrey, East Sussex and West Sussex. The new findings were made following routine plant health surveillance activities carried out by the Forestry Commission.

A robust programme of management is in place to manage the outbreak sites and prevent potential spread of the pest, in line with the eradication action taken to manage outbreaks of *Ips typographus* found in 2021.

To combat further potential spread, an extension to the existing demarcated area is being introduced to cover parts of Hampshire. Within the demarcated area, the movement of susceptible tree material such as spruce wood, bark and branches is restricted.

The south-east of England in particular is vulnerable to the arrival of the eight-toothed spruce bark beetle because it can naturally be blown over from Europe.

An extensive network of pheromone traps has been positioned across the south-east to monitor for potential incursions of the pest from the continent and to identify suspect sites. In the long-term, the Forestry Commission are encouraging landowners in the affected regions to remove stressed or weakened spruce and replant with other species to limit potential spread of *Ips typographus*.

Jane Hull, Forestry Commission Area Director for the South East and London, said "The enhanced plant health enforcement actions announced today will prevent this potentially damaging pest from becoming established, protect the forestry sector, and ensure our vital spruce are retained within the landscape."

Nicola Spence, the UK's Chief Plant Health Officer, said "The eight-toothed spruce bark beetle poses no threat to human health, but can have a serious impact on spruce tree species and the forestry industry.

"We are taking swift and robust action to limit the spread of the outbreaks as part of our well-established biosecurity protocol used for tree pests and diseases. Any sightings should be reported to the Forestry Commission via its TreeAlert online portal."

Grants are available through the Tree Health Pilot to support woodland managers with spruce trees affected by, or at risk of, the eight-toothed spruce bark beetle. The grants can pay back the costs of felling trees; protective measures like fencing and netting; installing infrastructure and access aids, such as temporary road surfaces, to improve access to trees; and restocking and capital items to replace the trees with different species that are more likely to withstand pests, diseases and climate change.

Today's announcement follows the introduction of controls in December last year requiring woodland managers to provide written notification to the Forestry Commission if they intended to fell susceptible spruce material, or kill any trees of the genus *Picea* A. Dietr over three metres in height, within the demarcated area.

Prohibitions on susceptible material being left in situ in the demarcated area following felling, without written authorisation from an inspector, were also implemented. These built on existing restrictions on the movement of susceptible materials out of or within the demarcated area.

A notice extending the existing demarcated area will come into force on Wednesday 20 July 2022

Tree Warden Training

OUR programme of Tree Warden training, following the Tree Council's excellent training materials, will continue with Module 2 – Tree Biology on Wednesday 17 August 2022 starting at 19:00. Please make every effort to attend.

I must apologise to those of you who tried to join last month's session after it had started but once I have shared my screen with everyone I cannot see that people are waiting to join.

Furthermore, to admit someone after I have started means that I would have to shut down the presentation, admit the person, then re-start the presentation trying to find the place where I left it. It is chaotic.

I try to give everyone the chance to join a little late, not starting for five or ten minutes after the published 19:00 starting time, but I cannot accommodate everyone I'm afraid.

Another thing I should mention is that I start preparing for the sessions at 18:30 at which time I disconnect our home 'phone in my office and also turn off my mobile., so please don't try to call me after that.

If you are unhappy at using Microsoft Teams or you would like me so show you how to use it then just let me know and I will arrange a short training session. Honestly, it is easy to use.

One final thing. Several of you seem to be unaware or have forgotten that I circulated copies of the Tree Council's new Handbook some months ago. If you want me to re-send them then please just let me know.

I'm sorry, but I am not permitted to send you copies of the training PowerPoint presentations.

So please join this month's training session on your computer or mobile app (by 19:00) using the link below.

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_Yzg5YzMxZTYtZWJlMC00MDkwLTlkYjYtNGZmY2YzYmVhYTY0%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22d09b94a0-57a0-488a-ab26-d4868e917949%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%2253a5c999-e894-4be1-b83b-b9ea77af145f%22%7d

Woman Must Pay £200,000 to Neighbour with Wasp Allergy

By Rory Tingle, Home Affairs Correspondent for MailOnLine

A 'SCHOOL BULLY' gardener has lost her battle to overturn an order to pay £200,000 to a neighbour with a wasp allergy who sued her over a tree that kept dropping apples into the garden of her Surrey cottage. A High Court judge threw out claims by apple tree owner Antoinette Williams that Barbara Pilcher 'fabricated' evidence against her in order to secure the bumper judgment.

The pair clashed in court after falling out over a series of issues, including Mrs Williams' tree dumping hundreds of rotting apples onto Mrs Pilcher's lawn each season.

Mrs Pilcher had previously been hospitalised after wasp stings and said she was unable to use the bottom of her garden due to the insects attracted by the fruit, claiming she was made to feel 'like a prisoner' in her home.

She sued, accusing Mrs Williams of a campaign of 'creepy' harassment during the dispute and last October won her case when county court judge, Recorder Lawrence Cohen QC, ruled in her favour.

Last month, the case went to the High Court, where Mrs Williams tried to overturn the judgment, accusing her neighbour of 'fabricating' evidence during the five-day trial last year.

However, the gardener, who has won prizes for her flowers as a member of Dunsfold and Hascombe Horticultural Society, now faces having to pay out about £200,000 in damages and lawyers' bills after High Court judge, Mr Justice Soole, rejected her bid for a new trial.

The court heard Mrs Williams moved into £600,000 Frensham Cottage, in Dunsfold, near Godalming, Surrey, almost 40 years ago, while Mrs Pilcher bought the adjoining three-bedroom £500,000 Farleigh Cottage in 2010, but the two women soon fell out over a series of issues, including the position and state of repair of a garden fence, use by Mrs Pilcher of a right of way down the side of her neighbour's house, fallen apples from the tree and a smelly compost bin in Mrs Williams' garden.

Mrs Pilcher's barrister, Oliver Newman, said during last year's trial that she had to take matters into her own hands, cutting back her neighbour's tree when Mrs Williams failed to do it herself. It resulted in a 'barrage of allegations' from Mrs Williams, which along with other incidents Mrs Pilcher claimed 'led her to fear confrontation' with her neighbour.

At the end of the Central London County Court trial, Recorder Cohen awarded Mrs Pilcher compensation for harassment, which she had told the court had led to her 'dreading coming home.'

The campaign involved a range of incidents, including Mrs Williams repeatedly peering in through Mrs Pilcher's windows, 'monitoring' her comings and goings and 'standing and watching.'

The judge branded Mrs Williams' behaviour 'completely abnormal and disturbing', adding that the campaign of watching 'caused alarm and distress to Mrs Pilcher and her family on an ongoing basis'.

He accepted Mrs Pilcher's complaint of her neighbour deliberately having loud phone conversations in her garden in order for her to hear, in which she accused Mrs Pilcher of having mental health problems.

Mrs Williams denied the allegations, but the judge accepted they happened, adding: 'The kind of conduct alleged rather reminds me of bullying behaviour by school children trying to cause distress and exclude one of their number.'

The dispute over the tree was resolved between the neighbours during the trial, the judge said, with Mrs Williams agreeing 'to have the tree professionally pruned so that it is well away from the boundary.'

However, at the High Court, Neil Vickery, representing Mrs Williams, argued the trial judge had made a series of errors, resulting in an 'unjust' ruling and a crushing costs bill, which was a 'major issue' for her.

The judge had found as a whole that Mrs Pilcher was more reliable as a witness than Mrs Williams - but had not given enough thought to evidence that Mrs Pilcher had 'fabricated' a key part of her claim, the barrister said.

As part of her case alleging that Mrs Williams had obstructed a right of way alongside her house, Mrs Pilcher had put forward a series of photographs showing items blocking it, but he said metadata in the images showed that it must have been Mrs Pilcher who moved the items to block the passageway, since they were absent in one picture and then there moments later.

"One can see there is nothing obstructing the right of way, but then another, taken immediately after that, there was an obstruction across it with fencing panels," he told Mr Justice Soole.

"Our submission is that those photographs, produced by Mrs Pilcher, showed activity by Mrs Pilcher that, on balance, showed that she was obstructing the right of way herself in order to improve her case, and then not telling the truth about it in court. The judge didn't effectively deal with that.

"That apparent fabrication of an obstruction would have been an important matter for the judge to rule on in deciding whether or not the credibility of Mrs Pilcher was as he considered it. It was put to her, but she didn't give a clear answer."

The barrister also complained that, out of six years of CCTV footage at the houses, Mrs Pilcher had put forward only 30 minutes to back up her case of being 'watched' by her neighbour.

Some of the events used by the judge to find a 'course of harassment' could also be seen as individual events, explained as part of individual disputes about the fence or parking rights, rather than an overarching campaign, he said.

He also argued that the ruling that Mrs Williams should pay 75% of the total costs of the case was wrong, since an allegation of negligence in relation to damp ingress into Mrs Pilcher's house had been rejected.

However, at the end of a day-long hearing, Mr Justice Soole rejected Mrs Williams' bid for a new trial, saying that there was no hope of any of her arguments overturning the ruling.

"The particular problem that the appeal faces is the high hurdle on appeals based on challenges to findings of fact or exercise of a judge's discretion," he said. "I am quite satisfied that none of these matters which have been raised have a real prospect of success."

The decision leaves Mrs Williams having to pay £12,000 damages, as well as picking up 75% of the £243,000 costs bill for the original trial and her lawyers' bills for her failed appeal.

Protestors Gather to Prevent A303 Oak Tree from Being Destroyed

REGULAR readers of Broadsheet will know very well that, whilst I share the same aims as Extinction Rebellion, I cannot support many of their actions. I cannot support action that steps outside the law of the land, no matter how important the subject of protest. However, a recent article by Daniel Mumby, Local Democracy Reporter for the Somerset County Gazette, filled me with hope that Extinction Rebellion will succeed in its latest protest.

Protesters have occupied a veteran oak tree in Somerset in a desperate bid to prevent it from being torn down as part of a major road-building scheme.

Work started in September 2021 on a £250M scheme to dual the A303 between the Podimore and Sparkford roundabouts, following approval by transport secretary Grant Shapps MP earlier in the year.

As part of the approved scheme, put forward by National Highways, an elderly oak tree near the Sparkford roundabout will be cut down to make room for a new slip road connecting the new dual carriageway to the nearby Hazlegrove Prep School.

Protesters surrounded the tree on Thursday 21 July 21, camping underneath it and up in its branches in a bid to convince National Highways to move the slip road and leave what has become dubbed 'the Queen Camel oak' in place.

Simon Be, one of the main protesters, has posted numerous updates to his Twitter feed since the protest began.

He said: This tree's stood watch over this land for 600 years. National Highways England has deliberately misrepresented its age and size in order to avoid its legal obligations.

"Those here are all willing to get arrested by resisting non-violently."

The protest has attracted the support of Extinction Rebellion and BBC Springwatch presenter Chris Packham.

Mr Packham tweeted on 21 July: "This is a magnificent tree. It's beautiful. It's important, precious, a treasure. It needs to be cherished. Please National Highways, rethink this. It will never be replaced."

The protestors made an appeal to the High Court to secure the tree's future, which was supported by deputy mayor of Glastonbury Indra Donfrancesco – but that proved unsuccessful.

The group has remained at the site ever since pending their eviction by bailiffs.

Mr Be said on 24 July: "Our climbers are back in action and we are busy preparing for eviction as well as welcoming visitors to this mighty oak. Our biodiversity in Britain is plummeting; we need to resist yet more needless destruction."

National Highways stated that their own assessment of the Queen Camel oak had estimated it to be "around 400-450 years old", and that it was not subject to any form of protection order.

Moving the slip road was considered during the planning process, but officers this would have resulted in the scheme being "severely delayed" and attempts to move the tree were not viable.

The agency said it was committed to planting new trees to prevent biodiversity being lost from the A303 scheme, and that removing the tree was always "a last resort".

A spokesman said: "We respect the right to protest and will work with police and all relevant authorities, and those protesting, to ensure everyone is safe.

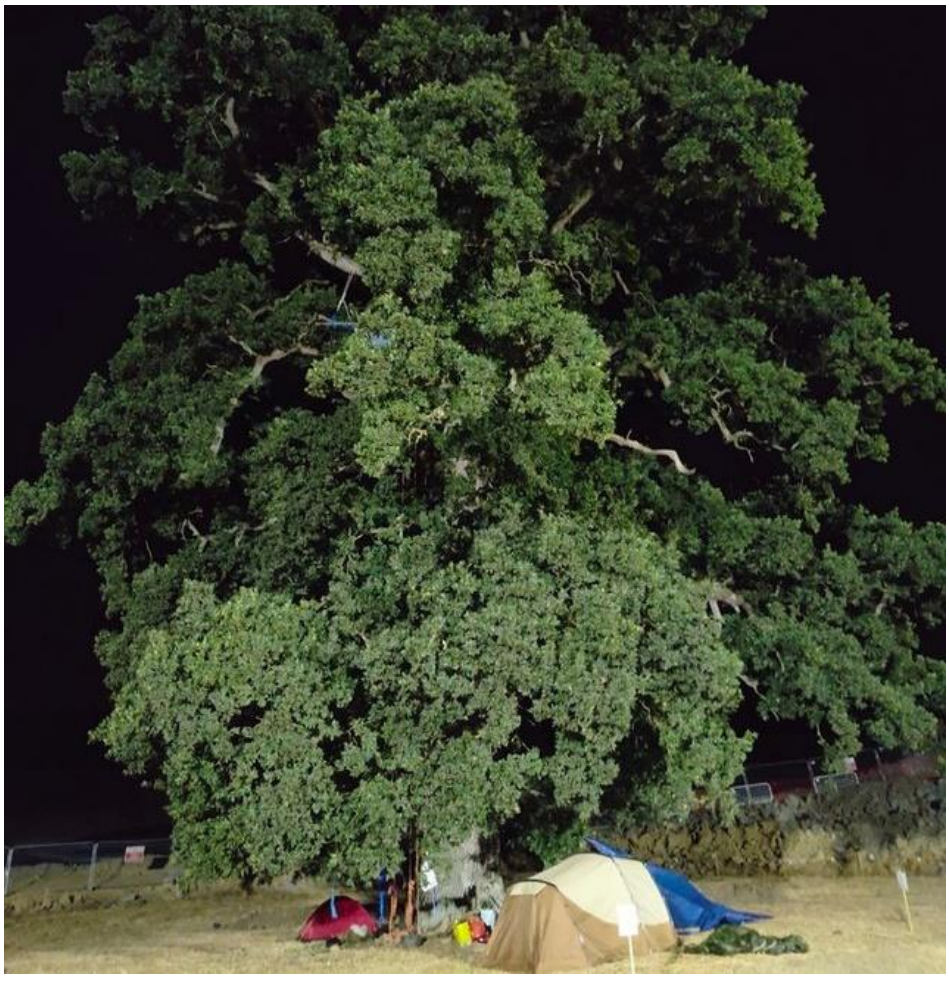
"We take our environmental responsibilities very seriously and are one of the largest tree planting organisations in the UK, with plans to plant an extra 3 million trees by 2030.

"We only cut back or fell trees where it is essential to keep people safe, protect the environment or where it is necessary to allow us to improve journeys.

"Where we plan to remove old trees on the A303 Sparkford scheme, we have made sure to investigate other possibilities to see if we can avoid removal. Sadly, that was not possible on this occasion.

"We continue to work with ecologists and other specialists to make sure our environmental mitigations are as thorough and beneficial as possible."

Well, this might be the exception to my rule. Read my editorial. I'm off to Somerset. Now, where's my ladder???!!!



WILD PATCH

Charity Ref No: XT31995
August 2022

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Tree Preservation Orders and Conservation Area News

Broadland Tree Preservation Orders Served, Confirmed and Revoked

TPO No	Address	Served	Trees Protected	Status
2021 No 13	97 Thunder Lane, **Thorpe St Andrew**	30/11/2021	Cypress	Confirmed
2022 No 2	87 Fakenham Road, **Taverham**	24/01/2022	A1 – various species	Confirmed with modification
2022 No 3	Hill House, 2 Middle Hill, **Reedham**	04/02/2022	Beech	Confirmed
2022 No 5	12 High Street, **Cawston**	18/02/2022	Beech	Confirmed
2022 No 6	The Blue Boar PH, 259 Wroxham Road, **Sprowston**	11/05/2022	Oak	Confirmed
2022 No 7	151 Taverham Road, **Taverham**	27/05/2022	Oak x 4	Provisional
2022 No 8	87 Cawston Road, **Aylsham**	31/05/2022	T1 & T2 walnut, T3 lime, T4 Scots pine, T5 Bramley apple, T6 beech, T7, T11 & T12 silver birch, T8 hawthorn, T9 maidenhair, T10 Norway maple.	Provisional
2022 No 9	Low Farm Barns, Postwick Road, **Brundall**	08/06/2022	Oak x 3	Provisional

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

App No	Address	Cat	Species / Requested Works	Decision
20191982	Bircham Centre, Market Place, **Reepham**	211	T1 & T2 holly – fell.	31/12/2019
20201760	Land West of Abbey Farm Commercial Park, Church Street, **Horsham St Faith**	TPO	G1 5 x ash and sycamore and G19 1 x verge tree - full details provided within the attached cover letter.	21/09/2020
20220220	The Hollies, 43 Waterloo Road, **Hainford**	TPO	T1 & T2 species unknown – fell. T3 species unknown - remove dead overhanging branches.	Appeal lodged
20220378	8 Station Road, **Brundall**,	TPO	T12 pine -fell.	03/03/2022
20220625	The Norwich Golf Club, Drayton High Road, **Hellesdon**	TPO	T1 spruce - 4m height reduction. from 14m to 10m.	13/04/2022
20220879	8 Stanmore Road, **Thorpe St Andrew**	211	Silver birch - reduce height from 15m to 7.5m.	Approved
20220893	8 Westbourne Road, **Coltishall**	TPO	Lime x 9 - remove lower branches to provide access along drive.	Approved
20220894	Petersons House, Petersons Lane, **Aylsham**	211	Walnut - approx height 12m. Prune away from neighbouring property by 2m and crown lift by 2.5m. Reduce growth on the east side by 1.5m.	Approved
20220911	Tall Trees, 17 Pond Lane, **Drayton**	TPO	T1 willow – 17m. Tip back laterals growing over 17 Pond Lane by 2.5m.	31/05/2022
20220918	Gribbins, 21 The Avenue, **Wroxham**	211	T1, T2, T3 & T4 conifers (lapsed hedge) - 11m high. Reduce height to approx 7m due to debris falling and blocking neighbours' gutters.	Approved
20220296	Cottage Plantation, 5 Gurney Drive, **Sprowston**	TPO	T1 pine - reduce height as per photograph. T2 chestnut – reduce crown as per photograph.	26/05/2022
20220929	Dawdys Farmhouse, The Street, **Halvergate**	211	Scots pine x 2 - fell and replace.	Approved

20220932	Trees, Lady Lane, **Hainford**	TPO	G1 silver birch - remove 3 stems at northernmost end of group and 2 small suppressed stems leaning west over garden to ground level. T5 silver birch - reduce northern portion of crown by 1.5m. Current spread of northern portion of crown 7m. T7 oak & T9 beech - remove deadwood. T8 Scots pine – fell. T12 oak - current diameter of crown 12m, height 15m. Reduce by 3-4m. T13 oak - Current spread of northern portion of crown 10m. Reduce by 1.5-2m. T14 beech - current northern portion of crown 8m - Reduce northern portion of crown by a maximum of 2m. T15 holly - reduce height from 10m to 3m. T2 cherry - current easterly spread 7m. Reduce by 1.5m.	Approved
20220934	Lodge Farm, Cromer Road, **Blickling**	211	3 x Scots pine and 1 x walnut – fell. Apples – reduce to 2m in height & width.	Approved
20220940	The Old Rectory, 23 Norwich Road, **Strumpshaw**	TPO	T1 sycamore – fell.	Approved
20220949	218 St Faiths Road, Old Catton	211	T1 wild cherry, T2 sycamore & G1 beech hedgerow – fell. G2 & G3 mixed species along boundary - trim, tidy, crown clean, general maintenance.	Approved
20220963	52 Highfield Avenue, **Brundall**	TPO	T1 oak - fell and re-plant.	13/06/2022
20220962	1 St George's Loke, **Sprowston**	TPO	T1 Monterey cypress – r educe height by 2m from 19m to 17m, garden side from 7m to 5m and road side from 6m to 4m. Remove broken and dead branches.	07/06/2022
20220964	15 Stanmore Road, **Thorpe St Andrew**	TPO	T1 cedar - fell and replace with liquidamber	Refused
20220965	24 Stanmore Road, **Thorpe St Andrew**	211	T1 magnolia - reduce by 2 to 3 m leaving height of approx 3 to 4 m and spread of approx 3m.	Approved
20220966	16 Oxcroft, **Acle**	TPO	T1, T2 & T3 hornbeam and T4 whitebeam – reduce height by 3m to a finishing height of 7m to reduce shading and regulate size and shape.	Approved
20220968	Beeston Garden Centre, North Walsham Road, **Beeston St Andrew**	Hedge	Remove hedgerow.	Approved
20220969	24 Bishops Close, **Thorpe St Andrew**	211	Cherry - fell and replace. Robinia- fell.	Approved
20220983	8 Gibsons Row, Morgans Way, **Hevingham**	TPO	Oak - approx 19m in height - Tidy crown, reduce branches overhanging parking bays by 2.5m and blend in with rest of crown. Crown raise to 2.5m and remove gradually lowering lower limb.	Approved
20220990	The Old School, 8 School Lane, **Thorpe St Andrew**	211	T1 2 x sycamore - reduce height from 20 to 18m and width from 12 to 8m. T2 ash - reduce height from 22 to 18m and width from 20 to 16m	Approved
20220992	11A Blofield Road, **Brundall**	TPO	T1 and T2 copper beech - approx 21m tall. Reduce to approx 18m. Reduce width of crowns from approx 18m to approx 16m	04/07/2022
20221005	7 Bircham Road, **Reepham**	211	T1 rowan tree - fell. T2 cherry - approx 8m in height and 6m wide. Reduce height by approx 2.4m and width by 1m.	08/07/2022
20221006	5 Copeman Road, **Little Plumstead**	TPO	T1 silver maple - height 23m, diameter 20m. Crown reduction of approx 3m using drop crotch method throughout the crown, crown clean and deadwood to reduce loading.	Approved
20221010	9B School Lane, **Thorpe St Andrew**	211	1 x Norway maple - reduce from 9 to 7.5m height and from 7 to 5.5m width. 2 x chestnut - reduce from 7.5 to 6m height and from 6 to 4.5m width. Ash - fell.	20/07/2022
20221024	Playground, Park Road, **Wroxham**	211	T1 cherry - height 8m, width 4.7m and T2 cherry - height 7m, with 4.7m. Reduce main stem by 2m and bring extended limbs back into main crown form. Raise lower canopy to 4m .	Approved
20221025	Dolphin House, 15 Lower Street, **Salhouse**	211	T1 blue spruce - 80% of needle loss from suspected drought stress or needle blight. Tree has become poor in form and client wishes to remove this tree.	Approved

20221026	Lime Tree Cottage, School Road, **Drayton**	TPOP	C T1 lime - height 12m and width 5m, crown raise and reduce branches back to give clearance of 3m from property, blending in additional branches to windfirm crown parts if needed. T2 lime - height 12m and width 7m, Re-pollard to previous points. T3 lime - height 13m and width 7m. Crown raise to 4m to give lower crown clearance, reducing growth into the garden above this by up to 2.5m and reduce extended left limb back by up to 2.0m.	27/06/2022
20221027	St Margarets House, 1 Staitheway Road, **Wroxham**	211	T1 lime - height 15m and width 5.4m. Pollard at 10m to allow more natural light into the main house.	Approved
20221028	10 Burma Road, **Old Catton**	211	Oak - approx 12-15m high and 12-13m wide. Dismantle and remove 4-5 branches.	07/07/2022
20221037	5 Western Avenue, **Thorpe St Andrew**	211	Cedar - fell as tree is dead/dying.	Approved
20221038	Greystoke Lodge, 10 Hartwell Road, **Wroxham**	211	T10 conifer - remove.	Approved
20221040	92 Links Avenue, **Hellesdon**	TPO	T1 oak - height 10m and spread 8m. Reduce in height and spread by 2-3m	28/06/2022
20221041	38 Keys Drive, **Wroxham**	TPO	Lime - fell because tree is dying will soon be in dangerous state of falling large branches. Replacement tree to be planted.	Approved
20221042	2 Ronald Brown Drive, **Little Plumstead**	TPO	Leyland cypress - approx height 30m and width 20m. Reduce height by 15m and width by 10m.	20/07/2022
20221043	St Agnes Cottage, 11 Booton Road, **Cawston**	211	T1 conifer – fell. T2 pine – fell.	Approved
20221047	50 Charles Close, **Wroxham**	211	T1 oak - reduce radial spread to north from 6.5m to 5.5m and reduce radial spread to the south from 9.5m to 6.5m and lift to provide clearance from new structure.	Approved
20221048	Masonic Hall, 108 Norwich Road, **Wroxham**	211	T1 & T2 oak - clean out crown removing dead wood and damaged or broken branches. G3 Lawson cypress - remove declining group suppressed by oak. G4 - clear area of scrub regeneration in corner of car park	Approved
20221052	Lakeside, Haveringland Hall Park, **Haveringland**	TPO	T1, T2 and T3 willow - pollard. Start height approx 12m and spread 8m. Finish height 10m and spread 6m.	29/06/2022
20221053	Land at Haveringland Hall Park, **Haveringland**	TPO	T1 self-set cherry and oak- approx 20m of overhang where residents park their white vans to be pruned back due to branches scratching vans. Approx start spread of overhang is 4m finish spread approx 2m	20/07/2022
20221055	8A South Avenue, **Thorpe St Andrew**	211	T1 spruce – fell.	Approved
20221057	The Hollies, 13 Parkside Drive, **Old Catton**	211	Yew - crown reduction from 7 to 5m, northern spread 8 to 6m, eastern spread 5.2 to 2m and southern spread 2.4 to 1.9m.	11/07/2022
20221064	Chapter Ii, Hemblington Road, **Strumpshaw**	TPO	T1 ash (large) – fell.	01/07/2022
20221068	24 Maple Drive, **Taverham**	TPO	T1 oak - crown lift to 5m, reduce north-western canopy spread from 6.5m to 5m. To reduce the dominance the tree has over the rear of the house and garden and to increase light levels to this and surrounding gardens.	04/04/2022
20221072	29 New Street, **Cawston**	211	T1 oak - diameter 1.2m, height 15m and width 12m. Reduce height by 2m and width by 2m. G1 ash x 2 - stem diameter 0.8m, height 12m and width 6m. Remove lower limbs over garden path.	04/07/2022
20221078	4 Manor Farm Close, **Drayton**	TPO	Lime - approx 20m in height. Crown lift to achieve a maximum of 6m clearance from ground level.	04/07/2022
20221082	The Beeches, 68 Cawston Road, **Aylsham**	TPO	T1 oak – fell. T2 oak - remove deadwood. T3 cherry - height 10m. Reduce by 2m and shape.	30/06/2022
20221089	Blickling Hall, Blickling Road, **Blickling**	211	Horse chestnut - 23m in height and 4.6m wide. Use drop crotching pruning techniques to ensure as much aesthetic character of the tree is retained. Reduce upper leaders of crown by 5-6m. Reduce large upright limb to south (mid crown) by 7-8m. Reduce remaining limbs as necessary at discretion of the arborists carrying out work. Where necessary use conservation dead wooding techniques over footpath (shortening- not removal). Support cracked lowest limb with steel cable brace, so it can be retained in situ. Note: pruning amounts recommended are larger than we normally specify, but in this instance because of the extent of decay, it is thought the pruning work will enable the long-term retention of the tree as well as help alleviate safety concerns.	Approved

20221093	The Old Pump House, 2 Holman Road, **Aylsham**	211	T1 laurel - approx 3.5m in height. Reduce to fence level of approx 1.8m. T2 yew - reduce height from 10 to 8m and side to give building and wall a 1.5m clearance.	Approved
20221101	Ollands Farm, **Heydon**	211	T1 Bay tree – fell.	Approved
20221103	2 Deepdale, **Brundall**	TPO	Oak - approx 15m in height and 10m in width. Reduce branches to clear property by 2.5m.	08/07/2022
20221106	The Hall, Church Street, **Horsford**	TPO	T1 oak - 18m DBH 1.5m canopy spread Ns 13m. EW 10m acute Oak decline, dying back from tips, dead wood throughout canopy. Retrenchment prune by 2-4m and remove dead wood. 5cm diameter and 50 cm long. Height after work 14-16m spread NS 11m EW 8m. T2 Oak - height 18m DBH, 2m spread NS 15m EW 12m. Dead tree reduce to habitat monolith. Height after work 4-8m. T3 sycamore - remove tree. T4 oak - height 15m DBH 1.2m spread NS 6m EW 8m acute Oak decline. Dying back from tips, showing vigorous epicormic growth lower down. Pollard down to live wood. Height after work 8-10m Spread NS 4m EW 4m. T5 oak - height 23m DBH 1.8 Spread NS 8m EW 5m. Dead wood throughout canopy. Remove dead wood throughout canopy, retaining some hardened deadwood at safe length as habitat, fracture pruning for natural look and habitat.	11/07/2022
20221110	The Avenue, **Wroxham**	211	1 x beech - remove dead branches. 1 x cherry laurel - fell.	Approved
20221120	The Rectory, 1 Guist Road, **Foulsham**	211	2 x cherry - approx 14m high and crown spread 12m. Reduce crown by up to 2.5m. Raise lower crown by 3.5m. All pruning points shall be made back to secondary sub lateral growth points.	Approved
20221121	20 Beech Way, **Brundall**	TPO	Cherry – dead. Remove.	Approved
20221133	20 Bishops Close, **Thorpe St Andrew**	211	T1ak - approx height 9.5m and radius 5.5m. Crown thin by up to 20%. Reduce by approx 2.1m. Reduce smaller lateral branches growing towards house by up to 2m giving a radius of approx 3.6m. Reduce sweeping stem to lateral limb. Remove 2 branches back to stem. T2 maple - approx height 12m and radius 7m. Crown thin by 15-20%. Reduce left hand lower branch up to vertical branch. Reduce lower left hand branch to union 2.1m from the main stem. Reduce lateral branches towards bungalow by up to 3m giving a radius of approx 4m. Reduce spire left hand side 2.4m. Right hand limb over shed reduce back to knuckle approx 2.4m from ground.	Approved
20221135	22 Bishops Close, **Thorpe St Andrew**	211	T1 maple - approx 12m in height and radius 7m. Crown thin approx 15-20% mainly on left hand side. Reduce left hand side lower branch up to vertical branch. Lower left hand branch reduce to union 2.1m from the main stem. Reduce lateral branches towards building by up to 3m giving a radius of approx 4m. Reduce spire left hand side. Right hand limb over shed reduce back to knuckle approx 2.4m from ground level.	Approved
20221141	Broads End, 142 Lower Street, **Salhouse**	211	T1 willow - height 4m and width 6m. Pollard at 2m due to excessive lean. T2 maple - height 8m and width 6m. Crown reduce by a maximum of 2m to form smaller, neater shape.	14/07/2022
20221143	The Orchard, 4 Lower Street, **Salhouse**	2311	T1 Eucalyptus - height 6m. Pollard at 2m. T2 ash - height 9m and width 9m. Crown raise to 2.5-3m. Crown reduce by up to 2m to form a smaller crown.	14/07/2022
20221144	The Old Barn, 2 Upper Street, **Salhouse**	211	T1 Acacia - height 6m. Remove, grind and replant with more suitable species.	14/07/2022
20221145	Oakwood House, Beech Road, **Wroxham**	211	T1 fir - approx 13m. Remove due to severe needle defoliation probably from drought conditions or needle blight. T2 hazel - approx 5m. Remove 4 stems growing over garden. T3 magnolia - approx 5m. Remove due to poor positioning within the lawned area.	14/07/2022
20221146	Oakwood House, Oakwood Landings, Beech Road, **Wroxham**	211	T1 alder - 15m in height and 6m wide. Remove the 2 lowest branches towards the boathouse. T2 pine - 5.5m in height and 3m wide. Reduce and remove required branches to achieve 4m clearance from the boat house. G3 alder and holly - heights 13m and widths 6m & 3m. Cut back hollies to allow clearance from boathouse, to reduce, raise and remove required branches to achieve 4m clearance from boathouse and smaller stems growing into quay heading.	14/07/2022
20221150	10 Bulwer Close, **Buxton**	TPO	T1 beech - fell and replant.	14/07/2022

20221157	Land at Tracey Road, **Thorpe St Andrew**	TPO	Scots pine – dead. Remove	Approved
20221163	Station Yard, Kerris Farmhouse Pine, Station Road, **Reepham**	TPO	T1 English oak - heavy ivy growth that has been severed at base. Stem decay on southern lower trunk with good occlusion. Reduce northern aspect of crown by to clear building by 2m and raise canopy to provide 4m clearance above ground level. T2, T4, T5 & T6 ash - Fell and replace.	16/07/2022
20221165	Blickling Hall, Blickling Road, **Blickling**	211	Horse chestnut - crown reduce upper canopy by 5-6m. Crown reduce rear southern stem by 7-8m. Reshape the remaining crown in a proportional amount at the discretion of the arborist. Brace the lowest split limb with steel rope to ensure it remains connected to the parent stem. The tree has extensive basal decay- large coalescing cavities in the upper crown, bacterial wet wood, bacterial canker and has a history of limb loss and shedding	Approved
20221166	St Peter and St Pauls Church, The Street, **Halvergate**	211	T1 lime - current height 15m. Reduce to a monolith at 3m and pollard healthy stem to a height of 3-4m. Remove deadwood. T2 lime - ganoderma fungus has caused decay at around 4m where a recent large branch failure has occurred. Pollard down to around 4m in order to regenerate at a safe height. T3 lime - extensive decay in both stems. Pollard larger stem to a height of around 4-5m (current height 12m) and remove pollard growth back to previous points (around 2m) on smaller stem.	20/07/2022
20221184	The Chestnuts, Low Road, **Wickhampton**	TPO	T1 sycamore - approx height 9m. Reduce to 1m coppice stool above where iron railings are included within bark.	21/07/2022
20221186	Sunny South, The City, **Halvergate**	211	Golden leylandii x 7- approx 10.5m tall. Reduce by approx 6m.	22/07/2022
20221189	48 Keys Drive, **Wroxham**	TPO	T1 beech - Remove lowest branch 4m up facing south back to the main stem. Remove two large pieces of deadwood overhanging drive located 5.5m and 7.5m high back to the main stem. T2 ash - current height approx 14m and spread 8.8m. Remove lowest branch 6.5m up facing south back to main stem. Reduce all branches amongst canopy overhanging number 48 back by 3.5m. T3 oak - approx height 14m and spread 9.1m. Heavily reduce all branches amongst canopy overhanging number 48 back by 5m. T4 oak - cut first lateral branch over garage 5m up growing toward house back to the main stem. Remove smaller branch which hangs lowest over garage back to its union 6m up. T5 elm - fell t and leave the trunk 1.3m high (height of the fence). T6 elm – dead and within falling distance of garden and garage. Fell and leave trunk 3m high as a monolith. T7 pine - remove lowest dead branch 4m high over garden back to the main stem. T8 oak - sever through ivy all the way around the trunk. Cutting out a section between 120cm to 140cm above ground level.	22/07/2022
20221191	Aylsham High School, Sir Williams Lane, **Aylsham**	211	T15 beech - reduce crown toward property approx 2-2.5m to suitable growth points. T16 oak - reduce branches back from property approx 1.5m and road side approx 1.5m to suitable pruning points retaining crown shape. T17 oak - remove deadwood. T18 beech - clear undergrowth around base. T19 & T20 oak - remove and stabilise deadwood. Area D various oaks - remove and stabilise deadwood.	22/07/2022
20221200	Wherry House, 300 Saint Faiths Road, **Old Catton**	TPO	T4 holly - coppice to 0.5m. T5 Norway spruce - remove deadwood... T9 Leyland cypress - remove split and hung up branch to north east of lower crown over building. T51 beech - carry out soundwave scan to determine extent of decay and location of tear out wound. T61 sycamore - deadwood. Reduce extended limb over access drive by approx 3m. T63 sycamore and T93, T97 & T98 ash - fell.	25/07/2022
20221206	Keys Hill Lodge, 55 Keys Drive, **Wroxham**	211	2 dead trees – fell.	Approved
20221207	2 Market Hill, **Foulsham**	211	T1 and T2 holly - approx 6m wide and 7m high. Reduce width and height by 1-2m. To reduce shading in the small back garden of 2 Market Hill and also reduce overhang into garden.	26/07/2022
20221212	3 Chapel Road, **Halvergate**	211	G001 boundary hedge - reduce back front face to clear road. Reduce height to 2m. T001 sweet chestnut - crown raise over road and garden, reduce from property and utility wires, remove deadwood.	26/07/2022

20221215	The Red House, 54 Taverham Road, **Drayton**	TPO	T1 oak - substantial brown heart rot to upper stem and limbs weakening structural integrity. Reduce crown by 2.5m to prevent failure of major limbs . Finished height 12m crown radius 4m. T2 oak - overhanging road and bee hives. Previously suffered limb failure due to overweighted limbs over highway. Reduce crown spread only on selected overweighted limbs by 1.5m to suitable growth points on south and east over road. No height reduction. Finished crown radius 6.5m	27/07/2022
20221218	Cawston Primary School, Aylsham Road, **Cawston**	TPO	Please refer to tree survey	27/07/2022

Explanatory Notes:

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