

Broadsheet



The Magazine for Broadland Tree Wardens

Issue 201 – June 2021

An Opportunity Missed

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The Monthly Magazine for
Broadland Tree Wardens



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This Month's Cover Picture

I love ramsons (wild garlic) *Allium ursinum*, particularly in such a woodland setting.

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An Opportunity Missed

THE government has recently published a number of initiatives designed to increase tree planting in the UK, most of which are part of HM Treasury's £200m Shared Outcomes Fund. However, applications for funding can only be made by County and Unitary authorities.

As you all know, during recent weeks I have been involved in discussions with officers from Norfolk County Council (NCC) regarding obtaining funding for suitable projects.

Unfortunately, you also know that those discussions came to nought because Norfolk County Council was unable to leave sufficient time for the Broadland and South Norfolk Networks to submit their requirements.

There was also the problem that yours truly does not have a degree in gobbledygook, so was unable to fill in the multitude of forms and specifications required for each project!

In the end Henry Gowman, South Norfolk Tree Wardens' Co-ordinator, and I were given just a few days to submit our applications and that was simply impossible. The whole process should have been started several months ago.

A lot has been learned from the exercise however and after contacting colleagues on the Tree Council's National Tree Warden Advisory Group I have learned that this has been a common problem up and down the country.

Here in Norfolk, as in other counties, many County and Unitary Authorities (ie those responsible for submitting bids for funding) appear to be unaware of Tree Warden Networks, what we do and just what a valuable resource we can be.

I'm pleased to say that Norfolk County Council is now aware that there are only two Tree Warden Networks on the county. Broadland and South Norfolk. Breckland used to have one but the District Council closed it some years ago. North Norfolk, Great Yarmouth, King's Lynn & West Norfolk and Norwich City Council do not and have never had Tree Warden Networks.

I haven't forgotten the Broads Authority which did have a Network for a few weeks but you can only flog a dead horse for so long before you realise that you're wasting your time!

At least Norfolk County Council has now acknowledged that Tree Wardens are volunteers, unpaid and have other commitments in their lives. They cannot be expected to be on call 24/7 ... something Lesley is constantly reminding me about!

Anyway, the result is that we shall not now be making an application for funding. It really is a missed opportunity, but we are now trying to see what we can salvage from the wreckage and there are definitely one or two promising possibilities.

Finally, as you know, I believe that you can always find some good from bad and so it has been from this. Firstly, it has been great to secure a firmer bond with Henry Gowman and between the Broadland and South Norfolk Tree Wardens. That can only be good for the future.

Secondly, I believe that we now have a better understanding with Norfolk County Council and, in particular, with Tom Russell Grant, the recently appointed Arboricultural and Woodland Officer at the Authority. I plan to build on those two things.

WITH all the new tree planting projects being announced recently, one big question is whether there will be enough trees to plant?

This Network has its own tree nursery at Salhouse of course, where James Cleaver has done a wonderful job, and today there's a lot of interest nationally in whether more trees could be grown by projects like that.

Defra is currently funding research into community tree nurseries as part of its "Trees Outside Woodland" project. The pilot is based here in Norfolk and the project is looking at different ways of supporting volunteers to grow trees.

So, just what does this mean for this Network? How can we be involved? What opportunities are there for you? Exactly what have I dropped us into this time?????

Well, Emma Cross, who is the Project Officer at Norfolk County Council, has informed me that her project partners are very interested in some ideas I put forward some time ago. So, take a deep breath, sit back and read about just what opportunities await us.

I told Emma about the Tree Council's "Seed Collection Season" and how I used to get the local school involved. Seed Gathering Season inspires everyone to join Tree Wardens to gather seeds, fruits and nuts which can be nurtured to grow the trees of the future. The Tree Council are looking at reviving seed collection celebrations and developing more resources for schools.

I suggested we build on this and develop small nurseries in a number of schools. Tree Wardens would work with teachers to collect seed, look after trees and plant them out. By having Tree Wardens involved, biosecurity could be ensured (or as much as it ever can be) which is one of the biggest hurdles to overcome these days. Emma could help us decide the right practices for this.

Emma could provide a budget for set-up costs, covering the cost of pots, root trainers, netting, water butts etc as well as other costs such as Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks which are essential for Tree Wardens if they are to work with young people, particularly in schools.

In the future, once the trees are ready to be planted out, the NCC 1 million trees application form (soon to be released) could help match people interested in planting trees with the new trees grown in schools. Through the application NCC will have checked that the planting site is sensible and legal. Right tree right place.

Trees planted through the 1 million trees project will be added to a map, so depending on how that works the school could potentially see on a map the location of the trees they grew.

So if you'd be interested in getting involved in growing trees in your local school please do get in touch! You can either contact me or, if you prefer, contact Emma direct at tree.project@norfolk.gov.uk

Finally, Emma is also looking at other ways

to support volunteers to grow trees. If you'd be interested in setting up a Community Tree Nursery or just discussing an idea for one then please get in touch with Emma at tree.project@norfolk.gov.uk.

As you will be acting as a Broadland Tree Warden, we must ensure that the Network and Tree Council are not liable to be brought into disrepute so please keep me informed of any arrangements you may make.

Without doubt, this is a project with endless potential to be developed further. The school (and the pupils) can have their own supply of trees ready for planting out with the parish. If you get each pupil to tag their seedlings with their name and that attached that tag to the planted-out trees that will give them a sense of pride and ownership.

Woe betide anyone who tries to vandalise the trees then!

BEX CROSS, our Tree Warden for Hellesdon, has been known to do some pretty zany things in her young life but I have to say that her most recent escapade just has to be the whackiest of them all.

Wishing to raise some money for the Tree Council, she decided to undertake a 30 mile sponsored bike ride from Norwich to Cromer Pier, with stops in woodlands, including Felbrigg and Bacton woods ... all dressed as a tree!

On a chilly, overcast and noticeably windy 1st May Bex set off, supported by three equally insane friends, for the ride north. Luckily her tree was not yet in full-leaf so was not so badly affected by the wind!

Afterwards, Bex described the event as "a great adventure and challenge! It was fun dressing up and we incorporated cycle safety into our costumes.

"I'm a nature lover and wanted to do something to help trees. The Tree Council is the best charity to utilise this support. From being a volunteer with the Tree Council, I've seen first-hand the excellent work that it does!"

As I write this editorial on 29 May, Bex's bike ride has a commendable raised £840.

One of the best things I have ever done for this Network was recruiting Bex. I so well remember the first day I actually met her to deliver her introductory training. She was like a hurricane! She simply oozed enthusiasm, but by her own admission she had a lot to learn. It has been that willingness to learn that has made her such a force.

I joined her to help plant up Mountfield Park (over 100 trees) and then replacement planting for the vandalism and loss through hot weather. I will join her when we replace the appalling losses through vandalism the site recently suffered when Bex lost so many of those trees.

Richard Farley (Brundall) joined Bex and I when she planted her community orchard. We are both too old to keep pace with her I'm afraid!

On learning of Bex's achievement, I immediately contacted Sara Lom, CEO of the Tree Council, to inform her. Within minutes Sara contacted Bex with a wonderful congratulatory message.

"That is truly awesome news and a magnificent effort by you, Bex, in a treely fabulous outfit. Thank you! I'm going over to the fundraising page right now to add a small contribution in recognition of your amazing ride.

"Please may we use your photo on social media? Perhaps we could also feature it in the next edition of Branching Out (due to be

published very shortly).

"Wow, this was such a lovely message to receive. I hope you enjoyed a hot soak afterwards Bex and that you are not too sore today.

"Congratulations and best wishes and many thanks again, Sara"

What enthusiasm. What energy. What determination. What dedication. That's why I call her my "Pocket Dynamo"!!

I WAS delighted to read an article by Justin Rowlett, BBC Chief Environment Correspondent, reporting that curbs on the sale of house coal and wet wood for household burning in England have come into force under new rules aimed at cutting air pollution.

People will still be able to use stoves and open fires but they will need to burn cleaner alternatives.

These are the first restrictions on what people can burn in their homes since the clean air acts of the 1950s.

The UK's air is far cleaner now, but in recent years pollution from log burners has increased dramatically. Only 8% of households use them, but they are now the biggest source of the tiny pollution particles that are most damaging to health, according to government data.

It shows domestic wood burning in both closed stoves and open fires was responsible for 38% of pollution particles under 2.5 microns in size, three times more than road traffic.

These tiny particles can enter the bloodstream and lodge in lungs and other organs, the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) warns, and have been identified by the World Health Organization as the most serious air pollutant for human health.

Log burners and open fires are not being banned, but the government says people will have to buy dry wood or manufactured solid fuels which produce less smoke.

It says both options are just as easy to source and more efficient to burn, making them much cleaner and more cost effective.

Defra claims burning dry wood produces more heat and less soot than wet wood and can reduce emissions by up to 50%.

The changes mean that selling bagged traditional house coal and wet wood in small units (less than 2m³) is now unlawful; wet wood in volumes greater than 2m³ has to be sold with advice on how to dry it before burning; and makers of solid fuels need to show they have a very low sulphur content and only emit a small amount of smoke.

Similar proposals to reduce the burning of wood and coal are being considered in Wales and Scotland.

Wet, also known as green or unseasoned wood, is often sold in nets and is cheaper to buy. It contains moisture which, when burned, creates more smoke and harmful particles of air pollution (PM2.5) than dry wood. Wet wood can also damage chimneys much more, by allowing tar and soot to build up.

Dry or seasoned wood, which has been dried out, often in a kiln, has a moisture content of 20% or less.

This marks the latest step in the government's Clean Air Strategy, says environment minister Rebecca Pow. "Burning cleaner fuels is a more efficient option for households across England, helping reduce our exposure to this incredibly harmful pollutant and benefitting the environment," she said.

The move was welcomed by Harriet Edwards, the senior air quality policy adviser for Asthma UK and the British Lung Foundation. She warned that air pollution is particularly harmful to people with lung conditions such as asthma or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

"It can put them at risk of suffering potentially life-threatening asthma attacks or flare-up," she said.

Other lung experts believe that it is only a matter of time before all log burners and other fires are banned in built-up areas.

Prof Jonathan Grigg, who sits on the UK Committee on the Medical Effects of Air Pollution, told the BBC that unless new technologies were developed to reduce harmful air pollution from wood fires, then wood should not be burnt in areas where exposure to pollution from fossil fuel emissions is high.

I WAS interested to read on the Guardian website that Springwatch presenter Chris Packham has asked the people of East Anglia to "find some bravery" and say no to the controversial Western Link Road.

During a YouTube episode of his Self-Isolating Bird Club, the naturalist derided the Norfolk project as an unjustifiable threat to the super colony of rare Barbastelle bats living in a woodland between Weston Longville and Ringland.

If approved, the Western Link would see the Norwich Distributor Road link up to the A47 to the west of Norwich. Currently, the NDR stops at the A1067 Fakenham Road, but supporters of its extension include the N&N, Norfolk Chamber of Commerce, Norfolk Fire and Rescue, the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership and city and district councils.

Mr Packham, however, stands firmly among opposition ranks. Speaking on his programme, Dr Lotty Packman, director of Wild Wings Ecology and associate at the University of East Anglia, said: "These bats can live for more than 20 years, which is incredible for such a small species. They are very site faithful and return here year after year to raise their pups."

She said that last summer her team had tagged the bats with tracking devices, and through that discovered they had maternity roosts in the Norwich woodland. Cutting that woodland corridor in two would be disastrous for the colony, she added.

Building on Dr Packman's report, Mr Packham said that building the road would cause irreparable damage and that the compensation offered by the developers would never be enough. "The idea you can replace ancient woodland with 50cm saplings is nonsense", he said. "We can't carry on building, building, building."

The presenter and naturalist then drew viewers' attention to a crowd funder, set up to acquire donations for legal advice and an ecological consultant for the "Stop the Wensum Link" campaign. "I'm saying to East Anglia: find some bravery up there and say no to this development", he said.

His step daughter and co-presenter Megan McCubbin echoed him: "Get talking to your communities. Local elections are coming up next week. Remember to vote with the environment in mind."

Writing on the EDP web-site, Dan Grimmer reported that newly elected county council Greens have pledged to fight NDR Western Link. Stopping the controversial plan will be

their priority at County Hall, say newly-elected Green county councillors.

Norfolk County Council has its first Green councillors since 2017, after taking seats from Labour in last month's election counts. Jamie Osborn took Mancroft, Ben Price won in Thorpe Hamlet and Paul Neale triumphed in Nelson and Mr Osborn said their number one priority was to put pressure on the council to scrap the mooted £153m Western Link road.

Mr Osborn said the new Greens at County Hall would fight to prevent it. He said: "The figures just do not stack up, in terms of the environment and in terms of money. Legislation has come in emissions need to be cut to zero by 2050 and to be down by 78% by 2035, but the Western Link would push carbon emissions up by about 20%."

The Labour group at County Hall is opposed to the road, while Lib Dem Steffan Aquarone quit as group leader over his party's support for it.

Mr Osborn said: "I am really pleased to see there is increasing opposition within the other political groups. The Greens have been campaigning about this for a long time and we will be happy to work with other parties to put the pressure on."

The Department for Transport gave conditional support last summer. The council must submit a business case to the government, but that has been delayed three times.

Supporters include the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital, Norfolk Chamber of Commerce, Norwich Airport, First buses and Konectbuses. Council leaders say it would bring economic benefits and ease rat-running and they would mitigate for any environmental impact.

I WAS most disappointed to learn that a plan to chop down 111 trees on The Sandringham Estate is being considered at the same time the Queen's "Plant a Tree for the Jubilee" scheme, which was launched (see the dedicated article in this edition of Broadsheet).

Mature sycamores, Norway maples, beech and Scots pine, some of which are more than 100 years old, are set to be removed to expand the visitor's car park from 416 to 600 places.

However, the planning application lodged with King's Lynn Borough Council comes at the same time as the

Some of the trees which have been earmarked to be removed are "category A" with an estimated life expectancy of at least 40 years, according to an arboricultural impact assessment. A preliminary ecological appraisal also said "four birds' nests were observed at the time of the survey."

A spokeswoman for Sandringham Estate said: "Within the redevelopment of the car park, the Estate will plant native trees and introduce wildflower planting, as part of its commitment to improving biodiversity."

"Planning is also underway for the creation of a number of new large-scale tree plantings and hedgerows elsewhere on the Estate. Many more trees are being planted at Sandringham than will be removed as part of the redevelopment."

"The trees in the current car park are classed as 'commercial woodland', to be used for timber. They are not native to the area and were planted in the 1960s for this purpose. The timber will be repurposed elsewhere at Sandringham, including as chipping fuel for the biomass boilers on the Estate."

GREAT news from the Broads Authority as it continues to monitor its carbon emissions and, in particular, explores ways to reduce the carbon budget of the operational work of the Authority.

The Authority has been able to secure a supply of Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) for use in various plant and vessels.

The fuel is certified as a direct diesel replacement, even capable of being mixed in the same tank and gives a 90% reduction in carbon dioxide emissions, so could potentially be a very positive route whilst other technological developments are brought to the marine and heavy-plant engine markets, such as hydrogen fuel cells.

The Authority is also continuing to work closely with boating businesses, New Anglia and Hethel Innovation, on plans to promote the use of new technologies. An "Electrifying the Broads" bid is being developed for submission to the Clean Maritime Demonstration Competition.

A COMPREHENSIVE report by The Morton Arboretum and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) revealed that 31% of the world's estimated 430 oak species, are threatened with extinction, while an estimated 41% were found to be of conservation concern.

The countries with the highest numbers of threatened oak species according to the report are China with 36 species, Mexico with 32 species, Vietnam with 20 species and the USA with 16 species.

While the cause of decline is still partly unknown for some species, the main causes the scientists determined were climate change and invasive pests in the US and deforestation and urbanisation in Asia.

AFTER thirty years of Tree Wardening I've come to accept that, like it or not, we have to expect a certain amount of vandalism of our planting schemes.

It will never be acceptable but it is one of the pandemics running through society for which the government has never enforced a lockdown!

Brundall has taken the abuse of tree planting to a whole new level though.

I spent two days in pouring rain and wholly unpleasant conditions helping our Tree Warden for Brundall, Richard Farley, plant trees and hedging in Brundall cemetery and we were most successful. The planting was well received by the community. One person in particular was especially grateful because he or she helped themselves to a lovely field maple we had planted as one of the feature trees.

I remember well that lovely feeling of satisfaction I had when I finished planting it and Richard joined me to say what a difference the 2.5 m tall tree had made already.

Well, some low-life liked it so much that they went along one night last month and stole it!! No sign of vandalism. The buckle tie had been released and the tree and guard carefully removed. The stake was left undisturbed with the buckle toe still attached.

I do hope that when the tree dies (as it most probably will) he or she doesn't return for a replacement.

I CANNOT understand why Forestry England has decided to shut its nursery in Wykeham in April 2022, despite pledges to build more trees.

Forestry England has said it will concentrate tree seedling production at its Delamere facilities in Cheshire. It is understood the closure will hit 10 employees and 30 agency staff.

"This has been a difficult decision, but we need to be efficient and ensure we have a viable long-term supply of tree seedlings for the woodlands we create and manage," said Forestry England.

"Although demand for trees is generally increasing across the UK forestry sector, and we expect to plant an additional 1 million trees each year from 2022, the demand for trees from Forestry England's nurseries is set to reduce by more than 5 million plants from 2021 as public sector customers Natural Resources Wales and Forestry and Land Scotland buy their seedlings from private sector nurseries.

"Climate change is also starting to directly impact on nursery operations and we need to modernise as well as scale up the production of a wider range of tree species which can thrive in a warmer, drier England of the future. Focusing our operations at our Delamere nursery will allow us to do that."

Chief Executive Michael Seddon said: "Our immediate priority is working with our team at Wykeham and putting every effort into helping them through this difficult time.

"We are aiming to redeploy as many colleagues as possible and minimise any redundancies. This will be a stressful time for everyone involved and we are determined to offer the support our staff need in the lead up to the nursery closing in April 2022."

Scarborough's MP Robert Goodwill said: "It does appear that Forestry England have failed to invest in the latest technology and therefore failed to maintain the competitiveness of their own in-house tree nursery, which seems very disappointing but to be honest does not surprise me given the impression I have always had of the Forestry Commission that it is often overly top-heavy with management and bureaucratic, compared to many private sector operations.

"It was very disappointing around 10 years ago that we did not manage to privatise the Forestry Commission because I believe that would have meant that the nursery would have been put in the hands of those more competent to run it and the necessary investment would have gone in, because they would not have felt insulated from the competitive pressures that appear to have resulted in under investment in technology."

He has written to Chairman of the Forestry Commission, Sir William Worsley, expressing his concern. An early day motion has been tabled in Parliament calling on the Government to intervene in the closure.

OK. Another editorial done and dusted. I just have to find some articles for the other twenty or so pages.

Have a great June, enjoy Broadsheet and stay safe.

John Fleetwood

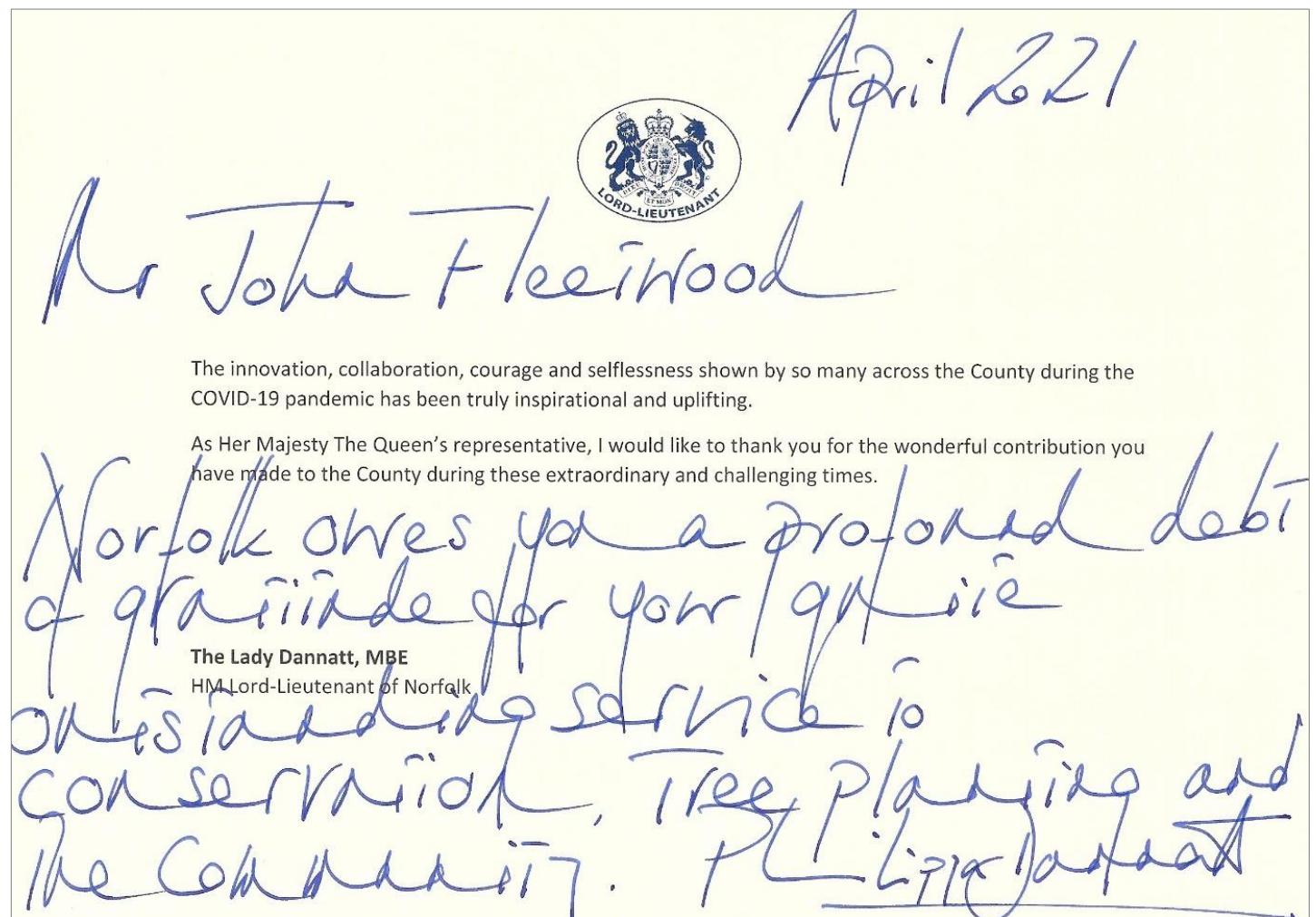
A Message from the Lord-Lieutenant

I MUST admit to being totally shocked and most humbled when opening the morning mail a few weeks ago. As I pulled the enclosed card from the envelope, I saw the crest of the Lord-Lieutenant and immediately had visions of being dragged to the Tower of London to stand trial for some misdemeanour!

No. The work and achievements of this Network had been officially recognised by The Lady Dannatt, MBE, HM Lord-Lieutenant of Norfolk.

The Lord-Lieutenant is the personal representative of The Sovereign in Norfolk. She represents Her Majesty the Queen on a wide variety of occasions which merit support and which celebrate significant achievement in the public, private and voluntary sectors.

The Lord-Lieutenant works across the County with her Deputy Lieutenants to promote Norfolk and to help it become a better place in which to live and work



Of course, this isn't a personal card to me but is, in fact, to the Network as a whole in thanks and recognition of the work you have all carried out and I am so pleased that your efforts have been recognised. You all really deserve it.

I may be the mouthpiece or wordsmith at the forefront of this small but amazing Network, but it is you Broadland Tree Wardens who come up with the ideas for viable ... not to mention a few unviable ... projects!

It is you Broadland Tree Wardens who go out in all weather to plant and care for trees, who recommend trees for protection and monitor works being carried out on protected trees.

It is you Broadland Tree Wardens who clear up vandalised trees then go back to the site to plant more ... often more than once. It is you Broadland Tree Wardens who attend your Parish Council meetings to guide Members on the importance of our trees and woodlands.

It is you Broadland Tree Wardens who go into schools at every opportunity speaking to young people and planting orchards and other trees within school grounds to help young people learn the value and importance of these wonderful things mother nature has provided.

So thank you, each and every one of you, for your efforts in making Broadland and Norfolk a better place to live and, above all, for making me so proud to be your Network Co-ordinator.

Green Light for 'Net Zero' Equivalent for Nature

By Helen Briggs and Victoria Gill, Science correspondents, BBC News

THE government has promised to "halt the decline of nature" as part of a new drive to improve the environment. More trees are to be planted, the sale of peat will be banned and new targets will be set to return species such as wildcats and beavers to the countryside. The measures include a legally binding 2030 target to address wildlife loss.

Environment Secretary George Eustice described the move as "a huge step forward". In a speech from Delamere Forest, in Cheshire, he said: "We hope that this will be the net zero equivalent for nature, spurring action of the scale required to address the biodiversity crisis."

The legally binding target will apply to England only, with devolved administrations able to set their own policy.

Wildlife groups have welcomed the proposals as "an important milestone".

Richard Benwell, CEO of Wildlife and Countryside Link, a coalition of 57 nature groups, said: "If the legal detail is right, and the targets are comprehensive and science-based, then this could inspire the investment and action needed to protect and restore wildlife, after a century of decline."

The government has also set out new proposals to protect England's peatlands as part of a drive to achieve its goal of bringing greenhouse gas emissions to zero overall - known as net zero - by 2050.

It plans to ban sales of peat compost to gardeners in England by 2024 and provide funding to restore 35,000 hectares (86,000 acres) of degraded peatlands in the next four years, about 1% of the UK's total.

Healthy peatlands play an important role in storing carbon - three times as much as forests. However, peatlands damaged by draining, planting with trees, or farming, start to leak carbon, contributing to greenhouse gas emissions.

Only a fifth of the UK's 2.6 million hectares (6.4 million acres) of peat are in good condition. Estimates suggest the habitat, which ranges from upland moors to rich agricultural lowland, could give off as much as 23 million tonnes of carbon emissions a year.

The Wildlife Trusts' chief executive Craig Bennett said the government's initial target to restore 35,000 hectares of peatland was disappointing and called for a commitment to restore all upland peatland and at least a quarter of lowland peat.

He said: "It's essential that we stop nature's decline and restore 30% of land and sea by 2030. Doing so will help wildlife fight back and the government also plans to treble tree planting rates in England to 7,000 hectares of new woodland a year by 2024."

There will also be funding to provide incentives for landowners and farmers to plant and manage trees, and at least three community forests will be created.

How ambitious is the tree-planting plan? Chris Morris, Reality Check correspondent, wrote that the plan to treble tree-planting rates in England by 2024 sounds like an awful lot, but it is starting from a very low level. We've looked at previous tree planting pledges made by the

Percentage of the UK covered in woodland



1905



2019

Source: Forestry Commission

BBC

various parties at the last general election. Tree planting is a devolved issue, so there are different policies across the UK.

At least three community forests will be created as part of the new England Trees Action Plan, but the government's UK-wide goal is for 30,000 hectares of trees to be planted annually by 2024.

That means most of the planting will still be of non-native trees on commercial conifer plantations in Scotland, which deliver fewer benefits for wildlife and biodiversity.

The government hopes to increase tree cover from 10% to 12% of total land area in England and the aim is to increase the UK-wide figure to 17% by 2050 to help the country reach net zero carbon emissions.

The average tree cover across the rest of Europe is about 35% of land area. So, the UK target, and England's in particular, is actually quite modest.

The Wildlife Trusts said it could be "embarrassing" for the UK, as hosts of the key climate summit in Glasgow in November, to allow carbon-rich peat to be "dug up and sold".

"Peatland is so important for carbon sequestration and for wildlife and, currently, we're wrapping it in plastic and selling it in garden centres," said Elliot Chapman-Jones.

Abi Bunker, director of conservation and external affairs at the Woodland Trust, said the UK's woodland cover had nearly tripled since 1900, but much of the increase has been low diversity forestry plantations.

"Native woods and trees are fragmented, at risk from development, and too many are in poor condition, with half of UK wildlife and plant species that depend on woodland in decline," she said. "Government's targets for new

woodland should be met by integrating UK sourced and grown native trees into our landscapes, helping to deliver for nature and people."



Prince Charles Urges People to 'Plant a Tree for the Jubilee' to Mark Queen's 70-Year Reign

I WAS absolutely astounded to learn from the Evening Standard website that Prince Charles has been reading Broadsheet. He has now adopted my idea that I revealed to you all a few months ago regarding each parish and each school planting a tree to mark the Queen's platinum jubilee. The Queen's Green Canopy scheme has now been launched to encourage people to plant trees from the start of the tree-planting season in October 2021 through to the end of 2022, to mark her 70 years on the throne.

The scheme will also highlight 70 irreplaceable ancient woodlands across the UK and identify 70 ancient trees and create a pilot training programme for unemployed young people to plant and manage trees.

Schools and community groups will be able to apply for three million free saplings from the Woodland Trust as part of the project.

The Prince of Wales was joined by the Queen for the first jubilee tree-planting in the grounds of Windsor earlier this year, during the tree-planting season.

In a video message to launch the initiative, Charles urged people to join him to "plant a tree for the jubilee – in other words a 'tree-bilee'".

He said: "It is absolutely vital that more of the right species of trees are planted, in the right places, and that more woodlands, avenues, hedgerows and hedgerow trees and urban planting schemes are established, whilst ensuring that we also protect and sustain what we already have."

"Whether you are an individual hoping to plant a single sapling in your garden, a school or community group planting a tree, a council, charity or business intending to plant a whole avenue of trees or a farmer looking to create new hedgerows, everyone across the country can get involved."

Charles described planting a tree as a "statement of hope and faith in the future" and said planting trees and hedgerows and protecting existing woodlands and forests were simple, cost-effective ways to protect the planet.

However, he said trees must be planted with care, at the right time of year, in the right place and with species that are not prone to prevailing diseases, so he said he hoped the initiative would encourage people to learn about the best ways to plant trees.



The scheme was launched as part of the Royal Horticultural Society's "virtual" Chelsea Flower Show, taking part online last month.

People are being encouraged to use the summer to plan their jubilee projects and be ready for the start of the planting season in October, when they will be able to upload details and images on an interactive Queen's Green Canopy map.

The Queen's Green Canopy is a fitting tribute to her majesty's years of service to this country.

Taking part in the scheme, which is being hosted by climate charity Cool Earth, could range from individuals planting trees in their own garden to the creation of platinum jubilee copses on council land or avenues in cities or housing developments.

The pilot training programme for unemployed young people aged between 16 and 24 will be run through Capel Manor College, London's only specialist environmental college,

of which the Queen Mother was patron.

Donations to the scheme will go to deprived areas and urban schools through one of the partner organisations of the Queen's Green Canopy, Trees for Cities.

The scheme has been backed by Prime Minister Boris Johnson who said: "Our trees stand at the frontline of our fight against climate change and by sustaining our beautiful countryside for generations to come."

"The Queen's Green Canopy is a fitting tribute to her majesty's years of service to this country. I urge everyone to get involved and 'plant a tree for the jubilee'."

The Queen has herself planted more than 1,500 trees around the world during her reign.

Woodland Trust chief executive Darren Moorcroft said: "There is no more fitting way to celebrate Her Majesty's jubilee than through striving to increase and protect our native tree cover."

"The last year has emphasised the central role that trees and woods play in the life of the nation. We need more projects like this, giving people access to our natural heritage, opportunities to do something positive for the environment, and helping to safeguard it for our children in the face of a combined climate and nature crisis."

For more information about the scheme you can visit: www.queensgreencanopy.org.

So come on. If we can get a tree planted in each of Broadland's 64 parishes, that is the 27 that we cover plus the other 37, that will be a great achievement. If we can add to that each of the schools in Broadland then it will be nothing short of incredible. Even if we only do half of them, we would have done well!

You cannot afford to wait though. You can't leave it for a few months. You need to start planning now.

Go on. You know it makes sense!

The Sentinel Treescapes Project – Update

While our efforts to secure funding from the various government schemes via Norfolk County Council came to nought, I am pleased to report that the Sentinel Treescapes Project is just about ready to take-off. I held a most informative meeting with Jon Stokes and Sam Village from The Tree Council when we were able to solve several problems. Mind you, we did find several more but that's the way of such a project.

On Saturday 12 June we shall be training our project team of Paul Cowley, Jo Parmenter, Richard Farley, Bex Cross, Tony Baker, Joanne Collins, Anna Rodriguez, Peter Harrold, James Cleaver and Angus Turvill. I am so pleased that so many of our recent recruits have volunteered to take part in the 18 month project, monitoring the health of trees. Good for them and thank you.

We shall have an evening visit to the woods at 19:00 on Wednesday 14 July 2021 to see the work of the project and view the magnificent ancient trees. Full details will be given in July's Broadsheet, but for now mark the date in your diaries.

Is Tree Planting the Solution to Carbon Reduction in the Atmosphere?

An article by Catherine Early published on www.bbc.com/future

AT a former intensive dairy farm in Sussex, oak trees now tower up to 6 metres tall, sucking in carbon from the atmosphere, providing habitat for birds, mammals and insects, purifying air and water and protecting land from flooding. Alder, hornbeam, ash and birch trees are also thriving. Twenty years ago, these trees weren't here at all. The transformation is the kind of story that many countries are aiming for with large-scale tree planting programmes, from India to the US to Ethiopia, but they might be surprised to learn of the secret to this farm's success. None of these trees were "planted" here at all.

Instead, the trees at Knepp Castle Estate in southern England were allowed to spread naturally. Birds such as jays can disperse as many as 7,500 acorns in four weeks.

"Not a single tree was planted, no saplings were bought from commercial nurseries, no tanalised wooden stakes, no polypropylene tubes and plastic ties, no direct financial or carbon costs – no effort," says Isabella Tree, co-owner of Knepp Castle Estate.

The trees' growth was aided by thorny scrub that had also been allowed to grow at the farm, which acts as "nature's barbed wire", protecting the saplings from nibbling deer and the estate's free-roaming cattle and ponies.

The method described by Tree is known as natural forest regeneration. Distinct from active tree-planting, trees are allowed to grow back spontaneously, or with limited human intervention, on land where the original forest cover had been cleared for uses such as agriculture or destroyed by fire.

Trees grow from seeds blown in by the wind, carried there by animals or birds, or from plant parts such as stems, leaves or roots. For this reason, the greatest potential for natural regeneration is in areas next to existing forest, according to the UN's Food and Agricultural Organization.

It does not necessarily involve sitting back and letting nature take its course. Some intervention, such as removing competing plants or grazing animals, may be needed to give natural processes a kick-start. This is known as assisted natural regeneration.

Far from being a new way for tree cover to increase in landscapes around the world, natural forest regeneration has taken place in countries as diverse as Norway, Brazil, Costa Rica, Nepal and the Ukraine, according to research published last year by Robin Chazdon, professor emerita in the ecology and



evolutionary biology department at the University of Connecticut. However, this has largely taken place unintentionally, as people have abandoned farmland to move to more productive areas, or in search of jobs in cities.

Chazdon, who has studied natural regeneration for more than 30 years, questions the commonly held assumption that trees need to be actively planted to tackle climate change and biodiversity loss. "There's a perspective that humans did this damage and it's our job to fix it, and that we should govern the process, and just let nature help when it can," she says. "Another view is that forest restoration is fundamentally natural, and that humans can assist it, but ultimately it should be governed by natural processes."

In January, scientists at Royal Botanic Gardens Kew in the UK warned that tree planting was often being presented as an easy answer to the climate crisis and a way out for businesses to mitigate their carbon emissions, but it was not as simple as it seemed. The wrong trees in the wrong place can cause considerably more damage than benefits and fail to help people, nature or capture carbon. For example, South Africa spends millions of dollars to clear Australian acacias that became invasive after being introduced to stabilise sand dunes during the 19th and 20th centuries. Instead, the trees took over heathlands and grasslands, and lowered the water table, the experts at Kew noted.

In a new publication, the Kew scientists say that, where new trees are needed, the focus should be on letting forests grow naturally, as

long as the conditions at the site like soil quality and proximity to existing forests were suitable.

PROPONENTS are arguing for natural regeneration to be taken more seriously in national and international efforts to mitigate the climate and biodiversity crises.

Recent research has shown that natural regeneration can potentially absorb 40 times more carbon than plantations, and provide a home for more species. It is also significantly cheaper than tree planting, with different studies in Brazil showing costs reduced by 38%, or even up to 76%.

This could make a significant difference to the costs of international ambitions to restore forests, such as the Bonn Challenge, which is targeting 1.4 million square miles. This could cost £8.5 trillion if only active tree planting is used.

Not only that, but the ability of naturally regrowing forests to absorb carbon has been underestimated by 32% by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), according to research by US-based environmental organisations the World Resources Institute and The Nature Conservancy, which was published in the journal *Nature* in September.

The IPCC's rates are used by many countries to estimate the capacity of forests to absorb carbon and to report progress towards climate change goals. This strengthens the case for a greater focus on allowing forests to regrow as a climate change mitigation policy, alongside

active tree planting, says Susan Cook-Patton of The Nature Conservancy and an author of the report.

The rate at which trees accumulate carbon varies up to 100-fold, depending on factors like climate and soil quality, so the researchers also produced a global map, down to a 0.6 mile resolution, highlighting areas with the greatest carbon returns from allowing lands to re-forest naturally. They hope this will help decision-makers see where natural forest regrowth could have the most impact for climate change mitigation, taking the guesswork out of using the approach.

"There are lots of ways to get trees back into the landscape, including actively planting them, setting up a timber plantation, or letting them grow naturally," says Cook-Patton. "Our goal is to help people have the information they need to decide which makes the most sense."

SO far, the potential for natural forest regeneration has been overlooked in national and international efforts to increase tree cover.

Reasons include a lack of recognition that it is a viable restoration option; perverse incentives that favour the clearing of young tree growth for plantation development or other land uses; lack of support by government agencies and other organisations; lack of incentives for local communities; and uncertainty about processes and outcomes, according to the UN's Food and Agricultural Organization.

Natural regeneration is sometimes criticised for looking "messy", says Tree. "Humans are such control freaks. The more compelling the climate emergency becomes, the more we feel like we physically have to do something, and our instinct is often to tidy up," she says.

As more policymakers, conservation organisations and members of the public see the approach in action, the mindset will change, Tree believes. She agrees with Kew's scientists that natural regeneration of trees should be the default unless there is a specific reason for active planting.

Tree believes that funding models need radical change to recognise the benefits of natural regeneration. "The current system for establishing trees in the UK is entirely dictated by the commercial forestry model, which is all about numbers of trees per hectare," she says. However, the UK government is now considering the evidence base for natural regeneration in its new Tree Action Plan.

A simple change in the language used could make a difference, according to Karen Holl, professor of environmental studies at the University of California. "I'd like to see 'tree planting' campaigns called 'tree growing' campaigns. It's about keeping the forest standing, and allowing for natural regeneration. You don't necessarily have to plant the trees. There's an obsession with digging a hole," she says.

Cook-Patton agrees that natural regeneration of trees may seem a bit passive and intangible to some people. Tree planting is also often easier to justify in order to get funding, and to prove progress. "When it comes to climate mitigation, it's very important to demonstrate that you're doing something additional beyond what would have happened otherwise, and it's much easier to demonstrate that when you're planting a tree," she says.

She acknowledges that active tree planting could be necessary if a particular type of tree is needed to support certain wildlife species, or for timber. "With natural re-growth you're at the whim of what is blown or carried in, so planting



does give you more control over what the ecosystem ultimately looks like, but natural regrowth should at least be considered first, because it can be cheaper and easier," she says.

Socio-economic issues are the greatest barriers to natural regeneration, according to Chazdon. For example, farmers in Costa Rica are given £88 a year for each hectare of plantation they establish, but only £27 a year if that land is used to protect natural regeneration, she notes. This means that clearing young forest regrowth for plantations is the more financially attractive option.

Landowners should be given sufficient financial compensation to leave land for natural regeneration, Chazdon suggests. In the longer term, natural regeneration can pay back, for example, by providing jobs in eco-tourism, she says.

IN OTHER parts of the world, the regenerative approach is already paying off. In Rwanda, a project by the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) in the Nyungwe Forest National Park is creating jobs for local people in regenerating around 23 sq miles of forest lost to fires set by poachers and wild honey collectors in the 1990s.

The forest had failed to grow back by itself due to the proliferation of ferns that suffocated tree seeds buried in the soil. Previous experiments with active tree planting were not successful and proved expensive, says Mediatrix Bana, WCS Rwanda's project lead in Nyungwe.

In January 2020, they began using assisted natural regeneration instead, with 125 local people employed to remove ferns that had flourished in the area, to give tree seeds latent in the soil a chance to germinate by themselves. The process will need to be repeated three times a year, for three years, till the naturally growing saplings are established, Bana explains. However, it is already showing signs of success, with new tree shoots visible on the forest floor across 0.27 sq miles of the park. The government of Rwanda is now supporting the project so it can be scaled up across more than 19 sq miles of remaining deforested area.

Another country where awareness of the power of allowing trees to grow naturally is growing rapidly is Scotland. This has partly come from comparisons of the Scottish Highlands with south-west Norway. Both areas are very similar in climate and geology, yet much of the Highlands is treeless, while Norway is covered in forest.

The difference is that land in the Highlands is heavily grazed by deer, while unmanaged natural regeneration has taken place in Norway, where farmland was largely abandoned in the early 20th Century as farmers migrated en-masse to the US, according to Duncan Halley, a wildlife biologist at the Norwegian Institute for Nature Research.

"There used to be a very much used presumption in Scotland that trees could not grow unless they were planted behind fences, and given the grazing pressure from deer in the Highlands that was true in most places," he says. Now that deer have been removed in the Cairngorms by the landowning partners Wildland, RSPB and NatureScot, trees are growing at over 800m above sea level, more than 150m higher than previously, he says.

In the past year, estates in the Highlands have achieved record values, largely driven not by their potential for shooting deer as had typically been the case, but by their potential for restoration, as rich people and corporations look to invest in the concept, pointing to a potentially radical shift in thinking, he adds.

CHAZDON is optimistic that the concept of natural regeneration is coming to the fore. There are several existing opportunities where trees could be brought back in this way such as on the outskirts or buffer zones of protected areas, where there is no competition for commercial use.

It could also be done in areas populated by indigenous people who already understand how nature regenerates due to their lifestyle of moving herds around different areas. Another option is to do it on land where cattle is kept, since there is often sufficient space to keep the same numbers of cattle as well as fence off areas for natural regeneration.

Back at Knepp, thousands of wild trees are now flourishing and providing wildlife habitats and carbon storage that is not just vital, but resilient in the face of change.

"Their random appearance, spontaneously generated from seed and pollen sources near and far, mean they have astonishing genetic diversity. Nothing human beings can do in terms of planting and propagation can ever replicate the genetic diversity of wild trees," says Tree.

"This is the best hope for the survival of our trees in the face of climate change, extreme weather, pollution and disease."

How Calls for Climate Justice are Shaking the World

By Helen Briggs, BBC Environment Correspondent

YOUNG activists are breathing new life into the long-running debate over climate justice. The framing of global warming as an ethical issue rather than a purely environmental one. When world leaders took to the (virtual) stage at President Biden's climate summit, they were given a gentle telling off by 19-year-old climate activist, Xiye Bastida.

"Solutions must be aligned with the fact that climate justice is social justice," she said, echoing the words of Greta Thunberg.

The Mexican-born teenager is among a new generation of climate activists drawing attention to environmental and social injustices they say are blighting lives worldwide. Her words cut through the noise in a video that has been viewed more than a quarter of a million times.

Harriet Lamb of the climate solutions charity, Ashden, says people have been talking about the problem of climate injustice for decades but young activists are giving it new momentum. "It has undoubtedly changed the agenda," she says.

For her, climate justice is about making sure we address historic injustices over emissions, including the carbon footprint of the wealthy, whose lifestyles have contributed most to global warming.

At the same time, climate change is predominantly impacting those who've done the least to contribute to carbon pollution and who have the least resources to deal with it because they are living below the poverty line.

The starkest inequalities are seen in the poorest countries of the world, where people leaving only a tiny carbon footprint are at the front line of climate chaos, from floods to ruined crops, but even in wealthy countries like the UK, there are warnings of carbon inequality.

Amy Norman, researcher at the think-tank, The Social Market Foundation, says politicians need to level with voters on what the transition to net zero will mean for the way we live.

There is potential for a public and political backlash over issues of unfairness, she says, which could damage trust and ultimately the wider transition to net zero (removing as many emissions as we produce).

"This is an entire economical, societal shift and transition that we need to make," she says. "Politicians need to have the public on board and bringing them alongside. If you're hitting lower incomes where it hurts with their finances, you're going to lose support quickly and especially if that's seen to be unfair."

Anyone driving around in a clapped-out car they rely on for the school run might well wonder how to afford a shiny new electric car and if you live in a tower block, where would you even charge one?

Furthermore, those dreading a hefty bill to fix a faulty boiler will be shuddering at the thought of an expensive heat pump.

These are some of the issue's politicians must wrestle with as they work out how to



deliver on their promises for curbing emissions.

Amy Norman says there needs to be a package of support for low-income households to help meet the costs of electric vehicles and funding for local authorities to install public charging points.

Issues of climate justice are thrown into even sharper relief when looking at emissions through a global lens. Studies show that the combined emissions of the richest 1% of the global population account for more than the poorest 50%.

The global south will bear the brunt of economic impacts from rising temperatures, with those on lower incomes more vulnerable to the likes of floods, drought and extreme heat.

In Nigeria, for instance, the poorest 20% of people are 50% more likely to be affected by a flood, 130% more likely to be affected by a drought, and 80% more likely to be affected by a heat wave than the average Nigerian.

In addition, in Bangladesh, India, and Honduras, poor people are losing two to three times more than the wealthy when hit by a flood or storm.

One recent study found that enacting policies to fight climate change will push an additional 50 million people into poverty by 2030.

Study researcher, Dr Bjoern Soergel of Germany's Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, says the drive towards net zero could mean higher prices for food and energy, which will have a greater impact on the poor.

However, he says there is a "win-win" situation by which you can protect the climate

and reduce extreme poverty. This would involve carbon pricing - essentially a carbon tax on polluting fossil fuels - with governments re-distributing some of the profits on a per capita basis. Richer countries would then need to give a fraction of the money to the countries where people live in extreme poverty.

"Making [climate policies] in an equitable way really needs to be at the core of climate action first of all because the currently rich industrialised countries are responsible for the large majority of emissions in the past," he says.

"They have contributed most to the issue so far, but also they have the biggest means to tackle the problem both in terms of financial resources and technology."

Harriet Lamb says there is a danger that measures designed to encourage cleaner, greener living might exacerbate existing socio-economic divisions and derail the drive towards a net zero world.

She says "We have to have exactly the right policies that tackle climate inequalities and social inequalities at the same time because the two are absolutely intertwined and while people have been talking about the problem of climate injustice for decades, young activists are now giving it new momentum."

"This is not David against Goliath, which is the cliché representation of so much of civil society, this is Goliath slugging it out against Goliath," she says.

"I would not say the battle is yet won for those pushing for the dramatic action we need to ensure we do see climate justice but I would say the scales are beginning to tip."

The Ersatz Hedge: How We're Debasing England's Rural Landscape

An article by Richard Mabey published on www.theguardian.com

REMEMBER the English hedge? That meandering, bushy-bottomed muddle of blossom and blackberries, honeysuckle and wild rose, singing warblers and gothic trees half-buried in the greenery? More than 150,000 miles were grubbed out by farmers between the end of the second world war and the 1970s to make room for their big machines.

What have been called the countryside's "locust years" ended, mercifully, and in the 80s there were a few half-hearted attempts at planting new, mixed hedges. However, over the past decade, and especially the last two years, a new threat has emerged.

Not destruction this time but debasement. We've entered the era of the ersatz hedge, a hybrid of plastic and bush that is being planted across lowland England, especially in arable areas, and which is managed as ruthlessly as a suburban privet border.

I'm sure they are being planted with the best of intentions, to restore the lost miles and contribute to carbon capture but that is not how these new growths behave.

They're easy to spot: flimsy, single lines of hawthorn slips encased in plastic, either wrapped tightly round like clingfilm, or in short, opaque tubes. I know places where they've become the most obtrusive feature in the landscape, the lines of pallid verticals stretching across the fields like some ghastly ceremonial graveyard.

In East Anglia where I live, the *reductio ad absurdum* is the Norwich northern bypass, where 10 miles of field-edge and verge have been planted up with lurid lime-green tubes. It's rural Norfolk's biggest eyesore and if this quantity of single-use plastic had been fly-tipped by the side of a road it would be prosecutable.

The guards are rarely removed, so a few years on the hawthorns, with all their lower growth suppressed, look like characterless green lollipops, smaller versions of what the great woodland ecologist Oliver Rackham derided as "gateposts with leaves".

The practice of "plashing" hedges (basically bending and layering vertical shoots to thicken up the lower growth) is more or less extinct, so now the hedges are flailed to smithereens once a year, often so severely that they don't blossom.

The end result is typically a leggy artefact about a metre tall and half a metre deep, mulched by a detritus of degrading plastic. It's a monoculture, of minimal value for wildlife and for carbon sequestration too, since so little woody growth is allowed to accumulate.

So how did this new model hedge take over? The earliest hedges, as boundary markers or stock-proof barriers, were often strips of woodland retained during agricultural deforestation – "woodland ghosts". They were rich in shrubs and finicky ground flora like wood



anemone.

Planting saplings was a late development, and for much of the medieval period hedges were grown from seed. A favourite method was to twist acorns, sloes, ash-keys and holly berries in a thick rope and then bury it in a shallow trench – no need for any sort of guard as the thorny species protected the rest.

New tree and shrub species arrived of their own accord, their seed blown in by the wind or dropped by birds, and bound into the hedge by sensitive management. As a rule of thumb, one new species arrived per 30-metre stretch every 100 years.

About 50 different species of native shrub and tree occur regularly in old hedges, including aspen, wild cherry, sweet briar and wayfaring tree. There are many surviving hedges in England that date to long before the Norman conquest – contrary to what we were taught at school, that hedges were "invented" during the enclosure acts, just 200 years ago.

The straight quickthorn rows of that era were created as bureaucratic and territorial fences, and it's hard to understand why modern hedges should ape their style. Why single rows, and of just one species? Why, above all, the disfiguring plastic guards?

The conventional explanation is that young trees need protection from wind, frost and browsing animals, particularly some fantasised army of super-rabbits. The idea that our native tree and shrub species, evolved on an offshore Atlantic island with a highly variable climate, are in mortal danger from their environment, seems

like something from the age of "here be dragons".

There is plenty of scientific evidence to the contrary: that, for instance, young saplings root more sturdily when they are exposed to wind; and that the only real browsing threat is from sheep and deer – which of course are indifferent to guards that come up no higher than their thighs.

However, the real evidence for the irrelevance of tree guards is the overwhelming weight of history: all those ancient hedges that have sprouted and thrived, unguarded, for millennia; every patch of heath and downland, that, to their conservation manager's sighs, bristles spontaneously and ceaselessly with young trees.

I suspect what is really being protected here is not young plants, but our ingrained commitment to retaining control over nature and our arrogant belief that it cannot survive without our intensive paternal care. The debris from these plastic security blankets will be with us for decades.

However, the minimalist hedges they currently constrict can be overplanted with multiple species of free-growing native shrubs and forest trees. Then the new hedges will find their 21st-century meanings, not as virtuous gestures or bleak barriers but as corridors linking wildlife-rich areas, highways for birds and insects, and the visual delight they once were.

Richard Mabey is a writer and broadcaster

Farmers Putting Trees Back into the UK's Fields

An article by Patrick Barkham published on www.theguardian.com

ANDY GRAY stands beside an enormous hill of bare red earth and smiles with a hint of mischief. This is his best field, its soils known as Crediton red land. The region was once known for producing swedes prized by Covent Garden market. Now, every six metres, planted in rows 14 metres apart, stands a tree guard shielding a young oak, aspen or alder.

"You can grow anything on it and I'm planting trees," says 16th-generation Devon farmer Gray. "I'm seen as the fool on the hill. One neighbour said 'you might as well concrete it over and build houses'. They could be right. Who knows?"

Gray's radical change of direction is not tree-hugging environmentalism but a hard headed commercial calculation. It's also born out of curiosity. He wants to know how trees might benefit his soil and livestock. By planting 5,600 trees on his 165-acre farm, he is participating in a unique 12-year trial to test how well silvopasture – farming livestock with trees – improves the environment and increases productivity.

Studies outside Britain suggest silvopasture's benefits include sequestering additional carbon, reducing flooding, increasing drought-resilience, improving animal health and weight and boosting biodiversity. but there is little evidence of its impacts on British farming.

The trial, involving seven farms in Devon and scientists from Rothamsted Research and the Organic Research Centre, is the brainchild of Luke Dale-Harris of the charity Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group. It is being co-funded by the Woodland Trust and Innovative Farmers, a Soil Association programme helping farmers participate in agricultural research.

Lowland Britain's prevailing livestock tradition of fields stocked with a high number of animals grazing near-monocultures of grass only works in the landscape and economy of the past 50 years that provided predictable weather and artificial fertilisers, argues Dale-Harris. The climate crisis and a series of recent spring and summer droughts, including this year, have driven farmers to look for alternatives. Plenty of Devon farmers were keen to join the trial. The climate emergency, he says, is a catalyst for change that "involves working more closely with natural processes, which can only be a good thing".

Participating farmers planted their trees this past winter in three different schemes developed by Dale-Harris with Woodland Trust experts. The larger trees are guarded by young hawthorns, which it is hoped will form natural buffers around them, stopping the livestock from rubbing and stripping the bark. Shrubber varieties such as spindle, holly, elder and elm will provide browsing for the animals, as well as denser habitat for wildlife. The trees will be shielded from livestock for the first five years at least but then farmers will move animals into the wooded areas; scientists will monitor the impact on soil and animal health and behaviour.

Planting trees on areas of Devon's most fertile soil may be viewed by some farmers as sacrilegious but Gray says it's an economic decision, as well as a desire to tackle the climate crisis and reverse the declines in wildlife he has observed around his farm. "I'm a commercial



farmer. This is a commercial enterprise and I will make it make money," he says.

Until recently, his farm was arable, with Gray also running a successful speciality foods business supplying venison and other game to restaurants. The coronavirus pandemic and the closure of restaurants wiped out 80% of that turnover overnight, but Gray had already begun to transform his farm.

Trees fit into the new business plan because Gray believes they will bring a multitude of productivity benefits. He has chosen the most conventional "agroforestry" scheme in the trial, with regimented rows of trees on 26 acres of his land. Between the trees are corridors of land that can be farmed. In five years, the trees should be mature enough to allow cattle to graze among them, although Gray may have to wait a decade before he can let his deer loose.

The trees (and guards) were provided free by the Woodland Trust. Gray contacted a local charity and found 60 volunteers to plant them. "The world is full of people who are deeply concerned by climate change but, unlike me, have no ability to help," he says. "This gave them the chance to help. If I can also sell them food that gives them a chance to help, that's like lots of threads being braided together – run a business and engender positive change."

Gray has also received payments from the government's Countryside Stewardship scheme to plant 15 acres of pollen mixes and 15 acres of plants that provide seeds for wild birds. This delivers an income during the early years when he can't graze his animals among the trees. "I get money for them and I can bathe in wildlife, which will be extraordinary," he says.

Gray has a keen eye on other income streams, adding 350 walnut and chestnut trees and apple trees to his planting. Farmers, he says, look at the rows of trees and wonder how he will farm between them, but Gray believes

farmers won't be using heavy tractors in five years' time. "We're going to be using robots. Our farming future is very exciting and trees can be part of it."

A near future of climatic changes is one reason Henry Andrews has added 5,000 trees to his 120-acre beef cattle farm in west Devon. Improving the health of his animals is another motivation for taking part in the trial. "We've forgotten what our forebears used to do," he says. "Silvopasture was a huge part of farming. We relied on hedgerows to provide shelter. They got ripped out for larger fields to try to be progressive but in hindsight it was regressive."

During droughts, he noticed how lightly shaded grass survives better and he hopes the trees will be part of a long-term solution for a small farm like his. "With recent droughts we've been so tight on grazing but in [the future], when the droughts will be harder, we'll be in a much better place."

"There's increasing interest from farmers in buffering their systems to extremes of climate change," says Dr Lindsay Whistance of the Organic Research Centre. She will assess what happens to the livestock in a few years' time, when the animals are free to live among the established trees. Shade, shelter and additional nutrition appear to be clear benefits.

For Hen Curtis, participating in the trial was a response to a world that suddenly seems hostile to her kind of farming. For 20 years she has been proud of her 240-acre mixed organic farm – beef cattle, sheep and some crops – in mid-Devon. "There have been vegetarians all my farming life but this is the first time that the whole legitimacy of what you're doing is questioned. I like livestock farming. I don't want to just grow plants and I want to feel I'm doing something of value. It's a bit depressing that meat farming has become frowned upon."

The trial will help Curtis further boost wildlife

after she planted 10 acres of native woodland. To that, she has added all three of the trial's planting designs. Her livestock already prosper within an extensive grazing system, outdoors and free-ranging, and so she does not expect any radical animal health or welfare benefits from the trees.

Scientists from Rothamsted have already taken more than 1,000 soil samples from the farms to provide a baseline measurement of soil carbon. They will also collect samples from control areas they have identified, such as conventional pasture on the farms and nearby woodlands (which might represent the maximum potential for soil carbon in the area). This helps the scientists account for any annual variability in soil carbon and more general trends.

"We don't know what's going to happen. That's why this work is so exciting," says Dr

Martin Blackwell, senior research scientist at Rothamsted and leader of its silvopasture study. Every three or four years for at least 12 years "and hopefully longer than that", Rothamsted will collect further samples to assess how the silvopasture systems are benefiting soil carbon.

As tree roots reach down further than grasses, they are likely to deposit additional carbon they've extracted from the atmosphere into the soil. "Grassland soils represent one of the largest terrestrial pools of carbon. Is putting the trees in going to damage that? We don't think it will," says Blackwell. "Evidence from other countries and other studies suggests that this will be environmentally and economically beneficial."

The farmers in the trial are keen on this participatory research. "The disaster with farming is that we've been at the hands of science provided by vested interests. The

chemical companies," says Gray. "I hope we can get more money for science done by people like Rothamsted so the government's farm policies which define the next 20 years of farming are based on something intelligent."

Ultimately, Blackwell and Dale-Harris hope the trial could influence the government's Environmental Land Management schemes (Elms), which are being devised to provide financial support for British farming after Brexit.

Politicians say they want the Elms schemes to provide "public money for public goods" – such as improved soil fertility or flood alleviation. If silvopasture's likely benefits for carbon sequestration, biodiversity and flood management are quantified in a British setting then it could be boosted by financial support.

"If the government puts the right support packages together there could be an explosion in silvopasture," says Dale-Harris.

National Trust to Recreate 19th-Century Norfolk Woodland Using RAF Photos

An article by Jessica Murray published on www.theguardian.com

THE National Trust is reconstructing a 19th-century landscape in Norfolk using an Edwardian survey map and aerial photographs taken by the Royal Air Force after the second world war. The £190,000 project at Oxburgh Hall, which will take a decade to complete, will re-plant native trees in the Grade II-listed landscape, making it one of the largest wood pastures the charity has ever created.

Most of the parkland around the hall was lost when it was auctioned off for farmland in the 1950s, but thanks to some historical detective work, the charity is confident it will be able to restore the site back to its heyday.

The conservationist and historian Dr Sarah Rutherford, who has researched the project, said: "Using an Ordnance Survey map from 1904, we have been able to research details of how the landscape looked when it was at its peak. We've also used RAF aerial photographs from 1946 which show the park before its sale in 1951 which clearly show numerous trees."

The project team used the sales details for trees sold at auction for timber to identify individual locations and species of trees for replanting, although they have made some changes to account for the impacts of climate change and ash dieback where the historic species would no longer thrive.

Tom Day, an area ranger who is overseeing the project, said: "It's incredibly exciting, being able to actually restore the swathe of old farmland back to what it would have been in its heyday. It will become an immersive historical experience where people can experience the estate as it would have been."

The National Trust bought Oxburgh Hall, home to the Bedingfield family for 500 years, in 1951 to save it from demolition. However, much of its original 1,442-hectare (3,563 acre) estate was sold at auction and most of the parkland around the hall converted to intensive arable farmland.

In 2017, the charity acquired an additional 51 hectares and now work is under way to



restore 70 hectares of the original 162 hectares of parkland habitat. Working in partnership with Natural England and Historic England, 227 trees will be planted, including native species such as the rare black poplar, white willow and oak.

In winter the first 150 trees will be planted in newly established grassland areas using satellite positioning to locate the exact spot for replanting according to the original parkland design, while 10 remaining ancient trees will also be incorporated.

"The majority of wood pasture [in the country] was turned over to industrial agriculture post-second world war, so we lost an incredibly

large area of what is now a very rare priority habitat," Day said.

"Lots and lots of creatures that would have called that home have been displaced so restoring such a large area, in what is still quite an industrially farmed landscape, is going to be a really important stronghold for lots of the species we are starting to lose."

The National Trust will also recreate ponds and planting areas of scrub to create habitats more resilient to climate change, and the wood pasture will be grazed by native breeds of cattle, helping conserve the breeds for future generations.

Housing Firms Slammed for Removing Trees and Hedgerows 'in Error'

An article by Daniel Moxon published on www.edp24.co.uk

TWO housing giants have been criticised for cutting down trees and hedgerows – including some outside the permitted zone. Persimmon Homes and Taylor Wimpey are working together on a 1,200 home project in Hethersett., which could grow by 200 after their latest planning bid. Concerns were raised in April over trees and hedgerows along Little Melton Road which have recently been cut down.

A spokesperson for Persimmon and Taylor Wimpey said: "All tree and hedgerow removal work is being carried out in accordance with the outline planning consent." However, South Norfolk District Council has now confirmed that some of the vegetation cut down was outside the site for which they had planning permission.

A spokesperson for the council said: "The part of the works which is outside of the application site was unfortunately carried out in error. However, the trees are not protected and are not within a conservation area, so no offence was committed. We will be working with the developer to get the hedgerow replaced once

works are complete."

Concerns were raised that the work may have been carried out without a felling license, but SNDC said the works did not require a licence from the Forestry Commission.

Councillor Bridget Williamson said the loss of habitats meant wildlife was being chased from pillar to post with nowhere to go.

One Hethersett resident said: "The damage to flora and fauna with the destruction of hedgerows and trees which were probably hundreds of years old is awful for biodiversity and already hard-pressed green space."

A spokesperson for the consortium said: "All

of the vegetation clearance was necessary to facilitate the approved highway infrastructure, which include providing a new footway on both sides of Little Melton Road, meaning the retention of a small section of trees would not be possible.

"We are committed to providing a sustainable wildlife habitat which will be delivered alongside the housing within each phase. The number, species and location of the replacement trees will be subject to discussion with the local authority during the forthcoming reserved matters applications."

Giant Sequoia in California still Smouldering from Last Year's Castle Fire

By Lauren M Johnson, CNN

SCIENTISTS and fire crews with the National Park Service (NPS) have discovered a smouldering Sequoia that is still burning from the 2020 Castle Fire in California. The tree is located in the Board Camp Grove in Sequoia National Park, an area with no direct trail access, the NPS said in a news release. However, "it may be still visible from the Ladybug Trail," NPS said.

Mike Theune, fire information officer for the park, told CNN that although lingering smoulder from intense fires is not uncommon in general, it is rare for a Sequoia to remain on fire.

"One of the things to keep in mind is that giant Sequoias need fire to be healthy and they also need that fire to be able to rejuvenate and open up their cones with seeds on the forest floor," Theune said.

"They have adapted to low intensity fire, but unfortunately with over 100 years of fire exclusion in many of these areas you have this build-up of vegetation, that we call fuel, so when a fire does come through -- especially a very intense, very hot wildfire -- that fuel is capitalised on and the intensity is so much more."

In addition to the vegetation build-up, drought and low levels of precipitation are also factors, according to NPS.

California had its worst wildfire season ever last year. The state's wildfires consumed more than 4.2 million acres. California is bracing for

more destruction this year due to worsening drought conditions and above-normal temperatures.

"The fact areas are still smouldering and smoking from the 2020 Castle Fire demonstrates how dry the park is," Leif Mathiesen, assistant fire management officer for Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks, said in a statement. "With the low amount of snowfall and rain this year, there may be additional discoveries as spring transitions into summer."

As a result of the tree's location, NPS officials said they are more worried about the safety of park visitors as the summer months approach. Rangers want all visitors to stay on the trails and have a plan for their hikes, including telling someone else when and where they will be, Theune said.

NPS officials also want the public to know that rangers are aware of the tree, so there is not an influx of calls to emergency services.

The park has a few prescribed burns planned to control the build-up of fuel in other areas to help the restoration and growth of the forest, Theune.

"It's not all doom and gloom," Theune said.

"There is some hope, and the National Parks are still a wonderful place to visit and spend time with your family."





Correspondence

AS I told you in last month's edition of Broadsheet, I searched on-line and found contact details for Margaret Macqueen, the original co-ordinator of Broadland District Council's Tree Warden scheme and the authority's Arboricultural Officer at that time. I wanted to send Margaret a copy of the 200th edition of Broadsheet as it was her idea that I started it in the first place.

Well, not only did I find her and send that copy, but I immediately received an e-mail reply which just about made my 200th edition celebrations complete.

John

How lovely to hear from you on such an auspicious occasion! Broadsheet 200 surely reflects the sum of your steady dedication to the Scheme. No doubt fired by your enthusiasm which I well remember. Just amazing to know you have developed an independent network - citizen science and localism rolled into one!

To hear you are elected as the East of England rep is a huge achievement so my

congratulations to you - carrying the Broadland "torch"!

Coincidentally I recently visited the Old Vicarage gardens in East Rushton for the first time in literally years and recounted to my sister that it was one of the Broadland DC tree warden visits. Memories of our dear mum who was on that visit and who died only a couple of years ago in her 101st year, Chrissi Crouch who emigrated to Australia with her family, who I keep in touch with, and the indomitable Eve Richardson who I also keep in touch with.

My work has certainly developed in my time with the firm I moved to in 2004 - though I still live in Norfolk. Still working too though I made the transition to home working like everyone

else last March which fairly surprised me as I'm generally known as the office IT luddite. But needs must last March - I had to get to grips with remote working.

You stay safe well and energised too please!

Regards

Margaret

I'm sure that those of you who remember Margaret will be pleased to know that she is doing so well. I was certainly delighted to have received such a warm reply.

We all owe this lady a huge debt. She started our Network.

Forests the Size of France Re-Grown Since 2000, Study Suggests

By Helen Briggs, BBC Environment Correspondent

AN area of forest the size of France has regrown naturally across the world in the last 20 years, a study suggests. The restored forests have the potential to soak up the equivalent of 5.9 gigatonnes (Gt) of carbon dioxide - more than the annual emissions of the US, according to conservation groups. A team led by WWF used satellite data to build a map of regenerated forests.

Forest regeneration involves restoring natural woodland through little or no intervention. This ranges from doing nothing at all to planting native trees, fencing off livestock or removing invasive plants.

William Baldwin-Cantello of WWF said natural forest regeneration is often "cheaper, richer in carbon and better for biodiversity than actively planted forests".

However, he said regeneration cannot be taken for granted - "to avoid dangerous climate change we must both halt deforestation and restore natural forests. Deforestation still claims millions of hectares every year, vastly more than is regenerated."

"To realise the potential of forests as a climate solution, we need support for regeneration in climate delivery plans and must tackle the drivers of deforestation, which in the

UK means strong domestic laws to prevent our food causing deforestation overseas."

The Atlantic Forest in Brazil gives reason for hope, the study said, with an area roughly the size of the Netherlands having regrown since 2000.

In the boreal forests of northern Mongolia, 1.2 million hectares of forest have regenerated in the last 20 years, while other regeneration hotspots include central Africa and the boreal forests of Canada, but the researchers warned that forests across the world face "significant threats".

Despite "encouraging signs" with forests along Brazil's Atlantic coast, deforestation is such that the forested area needs to more than double to reach the minimal threshold for conservation, they said.

The project is a joint venture between WWF, BirdLife International and WCS, who are calling



on other experts to help validate and refine their map, which they regard as "an exploratory effort".

One of the simplest ways to remove carbon dioxide from the air is to plant trees, but scientists say the right trees must be planted in the right place if they are to be effective at reducing carbon emissions.

Secrets of the Dead Wood: Ancient Oaks Hold Key to New Life

An article by Phoebe Weston published on www.theguardian.com

OAKS are the elders of London's Richmond Park. Some of them are 800 years old and have slumped, bulged and grown cavernous with age. By the time King Charles I visited in 1625 and turned a collection of medieval farms into the royal park we have today, they would have already been veteran trees. A disused medieval track is visible from the way the trees lean into a gentle gully, now grassed over. Richmond Park is something of an open-air museum and among its most precious exhibits is its dead wood.

Dead wood has many guises and starts forming inside healthy standing trees. As they age, it expands, creating a rich habitat that we still know little about. "How many jobs involve managing assets that are 700 or 800 years old?" says Simon Richards, manager of the park. "You're planting trees thinking, what's that tree going to be like in 400 years' time? That's a real joy of the job. We're just a footnote in history."

England has more ancient oaks than all other European countries put together. This is largely thanks to the long-held obsession of royals and the aristocracy with creating medieval parks to hunt deer, as venison was considered a "noble" meat. Within these landscapes, oaks had space to flourish, and thanks to careful management, Richmond is one of the best places to see them.

However, it is a difficult attraction to manage. This national nature reserve and site of special scientific interest (SSSI) is also a popular urban park. Modern London breathes people in. Lycra-clad cyclists, cars, babies in prams and dogs wearing coats. Herds of photographers surround herds of deer.

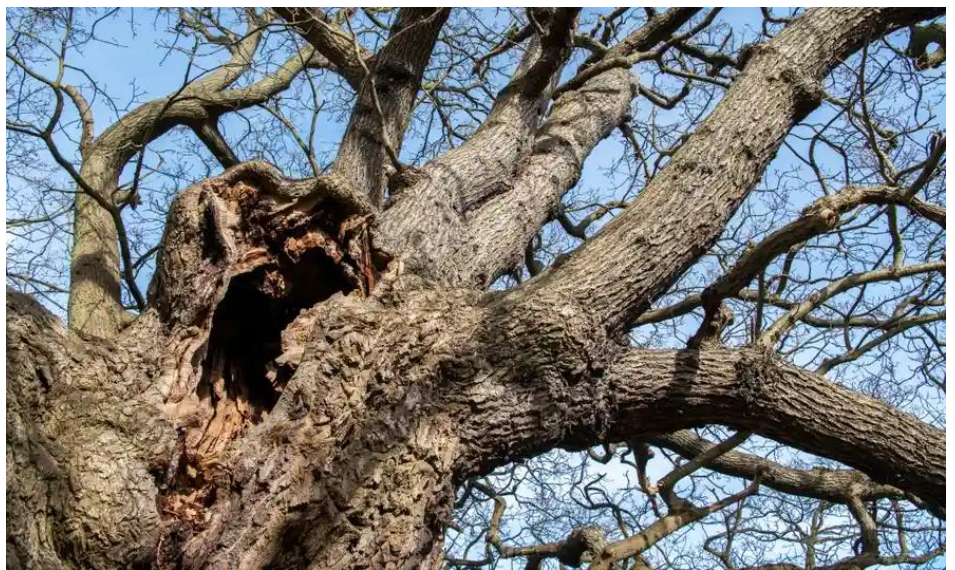
During the pandemic, visitor numbers swelled. "We're the only show in town at the moment," said Richards, shortly before the lockdown began to ease. Last June, staff and volunteers picked up 42 tonnes of litter from the park, 650% more than the previous June.

"Don't get me going on the doggy bags," he says, not referring to the variety you put food in.

Many feel the elders are not being treated with the respect they deserve. Arthritic old trees shed limbs that make perfect play frames, benches or backdrops for amateur photoshoots. Their gnarled caverns create amazing dens and their bulges give small children a convenient leg-up. Looking at the shiny bits of bark, you can see which parts are most clambered upon.

"Such a small act of picking up a bit of dead wood can destroy a habitat that's been developing over a number of years. It's a really difficult issue," says Peter Lawrence, manager of the royal parks' Mission: Invertebrate project. "It's particularly difficult here because it's such a massive tourist attraction. You're not just talking to people from the local neighbourhood but to people from all over the world."

The abundance of dead wood excites ecologists as much as children and one of the



reasons Richmond Park became an SSSI in 1992 is its saproxylic invertebrates (insects that require dead wood for part of their lifecycle). Park wardens changed their management practices and intentionally left out dead wood, letting limbs lie where they fell. In the 90s, Richards got a number of letters from the public complaining that he had "let the park go", but now visitors have got used to it, he says.

There are 320 ancient oaks in the park, meaning they are more than 400 years old. These are the oldest of the park's 1,300 veteran trees, which are of an undisclosed age, and starting to develop ancient characteristics, such as hollowing at the base, a smaller crown, and generally becoming wider and squatter. It may sound familiar.

Trees of this advanced age might look old and tired, but they have lived so long because of these features, not despite them. Dropping branches and hollowing makes them lighter and more stable. With trees that could pose a risk to the public, temporary fences are put around them, so they can drop limbs in peace – they may still have hundreds of years ahead of them.

As soon as hollows develop, parakeets, owls, nuthatches, bats and other wildlife compete for them. The fact we put up so many bird-boxes is a reminder that cavities – which are natural nesting sites – are missing from our landscape.

As well as natural structures within veteran trees, the dead wood itself is full of life. There can be 280 invertebrates in one large handful of rotten wood inside a tree. Richmond Park has

more than 1,000 species of beetle, many of which rely on dead wood, including the nationally rare cardinal click beetle and stag beetle.

However, across the country, dead wood is still being cleared away as people try to make woods "tidy", or because it's "dead" and unsightly. In wild, natural woodland a quarter of wood is dead, but in most managed woodlands this is less than 10%, according to the Wildlife Trusts.

"To appreciate the different forms of dead wood, don't think of it as bad or dangerous. All that deadness has a lot of life in it," says the author and naturalist Steven Falk, who has written a report on saproxylic insects for the Woodland Trust. Falk's study showed 320 saproxylic insects in the UK also pollinate flowers, 16% of the national total. Previously, it was not known that many saproxylic insects were also pollinators.

If land managers want to protect these insects, many of which are rare, they need to create light-rich habitats around veteran trees so that flowers can grow near them, meaning pollinators have everything they need to complete their life cycle.

Giving a tree space is a bit like providing it with a pension. It means it has enough light to develop large lateral spreading limbs and space for roots to penetrate deep. If an oak can grow old with grace it can provide value for wildlife in many hundreds of years' time, not just the next 50. This will be useful information for those planting the next generation of veteran trees.

"We have a bit of a problem about what we perceive woodland to be," says Emma Gilmartin, conservation adviser at the Woodland Trust, who specialises in ancient and veteran trees. "For a lot of people it's quite a dark, shady environment, and certain species certainly require those dark shady spots, but veteran trees are refugia for other species that also require lots of light. Flowers are really light-dependent. To get maximum pollen and nectar sources, we need those open spaces within woodland."

Back in the park, Richards is examining an old tree surrounded by oaks planted about 10 metres away from it in the 50s and 60s, at a time when people did not yet appreciate the true value of old trees. He is considering whether to



chop down competing branches to give the veteran tree the space it needs to age. Election pledges to plant millions of trees are "all meaningless if you don't look after them", he

says.

Walking around the park, Richards inspects the health of trees like a doctor might examine human bodies, making note of their fragilities, and where they might need support. With each passing year, old trees become more valuable, entering new, richer phases of life that command more respect. Imperfections are assets.

"People are reluctant to accept the concept of death. We see it in all of us, we want to live for ever. So when you see an old tree, or a dead tree, it's almost as if we have failed," says Richards. "But it's just a natural process, and I think that's it. It's not living, it's dead. It's evolved and the habitat has evolved and is just continuing to recycle."

Climate Change: Promises Will Mean Rise of 2.4°C - Study

By Roger Harrabin, BBC Environment Analyst

RECENT climate change promises by major nations will bring the world a fraction closer to the prospect of a more stable climate, analysis suggests. The Climate Action Tracker group says the new targets have reduced projected warming by the end of century by 0.2°C. The forecast now stands at 2.4°C, a small improvement, but higher than the 1.5°C threshold nations are aiming for under the Paris climate agreement.

Final calculations by researchers of the emissions gap in 2030 between Paris pledges and a 1.5°C pathway show it's been narrowed by 11-14%. The biggest prospective contributors to reducing emissions are the US, EU countries, China and Japan.

The researchers noted that Canada announced a new target at President Biden's recent climate summit while South Africa is consulting on an increased target. Argentina has increased its target, and the UK has a stronger target of a 78% emissions cut by 2035.

The research comes with a warning about the potential gap between aspiration and achievement. Based on current national policies the estimated warming is 2.9°C. That's nearly twice what governments agreed it should be when they sealed the big climate deal in Paris in 2015.

Bill Hare from Climate Analytics, one of the partner organisations for the report, said: "It is clear the Paris Agreement is driving change, spurring governments into adopting stronger targets, but there is still some way to go, especially given that most governments don't yet have policies in place to meet their pledges."

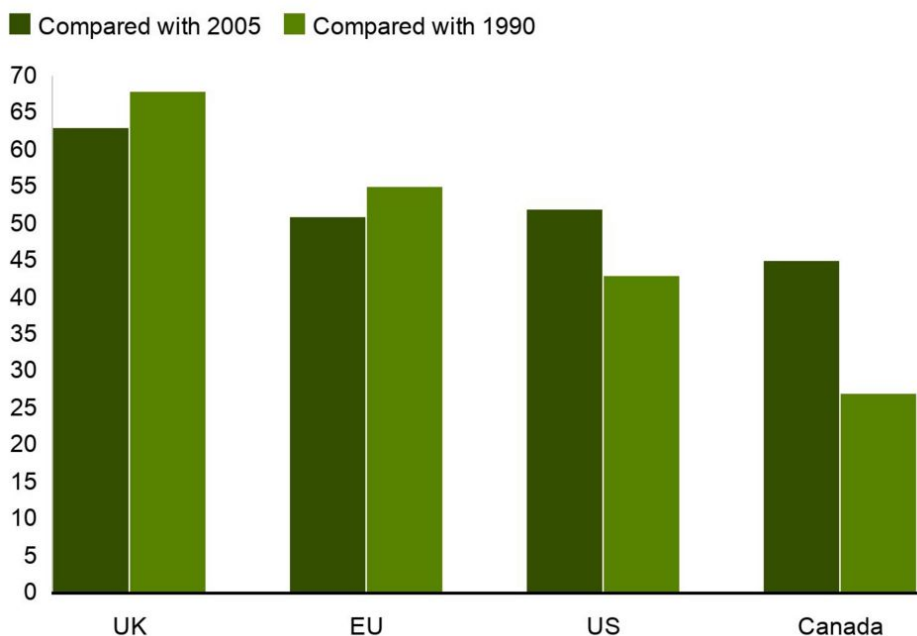
He said Brazil, for instance, had brought forward its climate neutrality goal, but changed the baseline from which it was calculated - actually making its 2030 target weaker.

Some governments also continue to build coal-fired power plants, and to increase the usage of natural gas for electricity.

The report also identifies a major problem with automobiles, as drivers steer towards larger, less efficient SUVs.

Niklas Höhne of New Climate Institute, the second report partner, said: "The wave towards

2030 emission cuts: How pledges compare



net zero greenhouse gas emissions is unstoppable. The long-term intentions are good, but only if all governments flip into emergency mode and propose and implement more short-term action, global emissions can still be halved in the next 10 years as required by the Paris Agreement."

Furthermore the changes required by society won't all be driven by national governments. The local council in Holland's Amsterdam, for instance, has just imposed a ban on adverts for cheap flights and gas-

guzzling SUVs on the city's Metro.

In New York, a major advertising agency, Forsman & Bodenfors, says it won't work with oil and gas companies, in a move that one executive compared to the refusal of an earlier generation of ad managers to back the tobacco industry.

Oil and gas firms are now finding it harder to recruit new graduates for a career in fossil fuels and in many economies pressure is building for major corporations to first declare their carbon footprint, then reduce it.

My Neighbour's Tree is Blocking Sunlight to my Garden and He Refuses to Prune it... Can I Force Him and What are my Legal Rights?

By Ed Magnus for thisismoney.co.uk

It is a common complaint. "My neighbour's tree is blocking the sunlight in my garden. With every year the tree grows taller, the problem worsens. I have made a number of polite requests to my neighbour to either prune or cut down the tree, which he has rebuffed. We now get almost no sunlight in our back garden, but he is still refusing to do anything because he says it acts as a privacy screen from other properties."

"We are also concerned that some of the tree's branches that overhang our garden are a danger to our children, and could also damage our conservatory roof."

Tree disputes between neighbours are commonplace, so rest assured, you're not alone.

Living in the shadow of a neighbour's tree and being deprived of that rare and precious British sunlight is enough to upset most homeowners, but with its overhanging branches posing a potential danger to both your family and your property, there is even more justification to kick up a fuss.

If there is still chance of compromise with your neighbour, an amicable solution would always be best. Perhaps offering to pay for the tree to be removed yourself, or finding a way to compensate for their loss of privacy such as putting in a higher fence, might help change their mind.

However, we will assume based on your previous interactions with your neighbour that diplomacy has failed. Prior to doing anything, it would be worth checking whether you are in a conservation area or if the tree might be subject to a Tree Preservation Order.

In both cases, the tree may be protected. By contacting your local council, you should be able to establish whether this is the case.

If the tree is protected, you will likely need the council's permission first before launching any arboreal offensive. If the tree is not subject to any protections, you will be within your rights to cut back any branches that overhang your property.

Avoid cutting any branches beyond your boundary into the neighbour's land. If you do, your neighbour could take you to court for damaging their property or sue for trespass.

As for the constant shadow you find yourself now living under, the law states that if a property has received daylight for the last 20 years you may be entitled to continue to receive that light. However, much depends on whether there is more than one tree blocking the sunlight that you had previously been able to enjoy.

If there are two or more trees, or a hedge, which is over two metres in height and is negatively impacting your enjoyment of your property, you can complain to your local council by applying for something called a high hedges notice.

You will need to complete a complaint form and pay a fee for lodging the complaint, the amount of which is set by the local authority.

The council cannot order your neighbour to remove the trees, but the notice, if served, will require them to at least cut the branches back.

The council is unlikely to accept your application for a high hedge notice unless you've tried to negotiate first with your neighbour, according to Citizens Advice, so it may help if you provide written evidence to prove this.

If it is just the one tree that is the menace, the high hedges route won't be possible. Instead, you will need to remind your neighbour of their legal responsibility to make sure it doesn't damage your property, garden, or boundary fence.

We spoke to Mary Rouse, head of property litigation at Wright Hassall, Paul Fawell, director at Right of Light Consulting and Michael Kilbane, senior associate solicitor at Hodge Jones & Allen solicitors to delve deeper into answering your issue.

Paul Fawell replies: Despite trees reducing the light to properties, they are rarely capable of infringing rights of light. This is because the majority of trees are deciduous in nature and allow glimpses of light to penetrate from between the branches and foliage. For a right of light claim, the obstruction needs to be a solid block to the light.

Mary Rouse replies: You have a right to enjoy the natural light that enters your property through a 'defined aperture' such as through a window for example. Your title deeds may grant you a right, or you may acquire it if you have had uninterrupted light for more than 20 years.

However, there is no right of light for land which has not been built on, and so a right to light can't be obtained in respect of light into a garden.

If there is simply less and less natural light coming into your garden because of trees growing taller and taller, you can't claim to have a right to light.

If only one tree is causing the problem, and it's the height of it that is the main issue, your only option is to try and negotiate with your neighbours.

If there is more than one tree, or a hedge adversely affecting your property and they are more than two metres high, you may be able to get help from your local council.

The council can serve your neighbours with a notice requiring them to reduce the height of the trees or hedge and even prosecute your neighbours if they don't co-operate.

What about the potential danger to your household and property? Mary Rouse replies: If branches that are overhanging your garden

are a potential danger to your family or your property, then this is classed as a nuisance. If you can't reach them to easily cut them back, you should write to your neighbour and ask them to do so. If they refuse, you can ask the local council to inspect.

If they consider the tree to be a danger to the public, they can serve notice requiring your neighbour to remove it or cut it back and prosecute them if they don't comply.

Alternatively, you could bring a private nuisance claim in the county court, asking the court to order your neighbour to take the necessary steps to make the tree safe. You will need a solicitor to help you with this, and you will have to be prepared to meet the legal costs.

If you win your case, you may well get a court order requiring your neighbour to pay most of your costs.

What else should you be aware of? Michael Kilbane replies: Unless the tree is protected, remember you have the right to at least cut back any overhanging branches of the tree that are encroaching upon your property, but any cutting back must not stray over the boundary between your land and your neighbour's.

Agreement should be obtained from your neighbour for this work to avoid any potential claims for damage and don't throw the branches into your neighbour's garden without their consent as this could be deemed as fly tipping, which is illegal.

Identify a local tree surgeon to do this work for you. They know what they're doing and spending the money would be worth it so the job is done safely and professionally.

The tree surgeon says they need access to your neighbour's garden in order to prune the branches overhanging your land. What should you do next?

Michael Kilbane replies: It might be worth approaching the neighbour one last time to try and agree matters. It shows that you are reasonable and you have taken the opportunity to emphasise the potential injury and damage the tree could cause.

If agreement isn't reached, the time may have come to instruct a solicitor to formalise the issues in writing, but before instructing a solicitor check all your insurance policies to see if you have legal expenses insurance. This is a form of insurance that could cover the legal costs of many everyday issues or disputes.

If you do have it, then you should contact the insurance provider to find out if this dispute would be covered. If covered, the insurance provider will inform you about your choices for instructing a solicitor to assist you.

Off-Road Bikers Causing Havoc

BROADSHEET has reported in the past about off-road bikers, both motorbikes and pedal cycles, causing damage in woodlands and posing threats to those who wish to enjoy the peace and tranquility that nature provides. Regrettably, I now have to report that matters appear to be deteriorating and the damage being caused is extremely serious.

Of course, it is not the machine that pose threats and cause damage, but the selfish, arrogant users who sit on them.

Two cases last month have highlighted the problem and one has forced action that I have no doubt will cause complaint and will probably be ignored. Firstly, a nature lover was horrified to discover off-road motorbike riders had dug up bluebells and churned up the ground in a treasured woodland to make ramps and jumps for a track.

Duncan Lees had gone to the site near Rushy Mead Nature Reserve, off Hallingbury Road on the outskirts of Bishop's Stortford, with his partner Jandira Guasque to see the bluebells in their "favourite woodland".

He said "It's something we do every year with much anticipation. Last year and this year it's obviously meant even more to us than in any 'normal' year."

When they got there they were "horrified" to find someone had built the motocross track through the woodland. They noticed six young men, aged 18 to 25, riding around on electric motorbikes. They went to the woodland the following day and the riders were there again.

He said that apart from his anger that they had destroyed so many of the legally protected, delicate, and precious flowers, so they could ride their bikes, he was furious they had left rubbish. The men left shovels at the site, which Duncan says were used to make the track.

"The evidence that they have dug up and sculpted large parts of this wood to make ramps and jumps is especially mortifying," added Duncan, who lives in Bishop's Stortford and is a forensic surveyor and was an archaeologist for 25 years.

The land beside the nature reserve is owned by farmer Tom Streeter, of Harps Farm, Bedlar's Green, Great Hallingbury, and he was furious when he heard the news of the destruction. "It's ancient woodland," said Tom. "Sadly, those involved have no respect for other people's property."

He revealed that after similar problems a few years ago he had fenced off the land. "I'll have to take a good look at the fencing there as they must have got through some gaps," added Tom. "We seem to be fencing more and more when we shouldn't be."

He was more than happy for people to appreciate the bluebells there, but said that sadly, due to repeated vandalism at the woodland, he could not open it up.

Tom added there had been other acts of destruction there in the past, including fires lit and trees broken by people hanging swings from branches.

IN a second case, barriers installed in one Welsh forest will discourage off-road bikers from riding in the area, local authorities hope.



Wentwood Forest, an ancient woodland in Monmouthshire, has seen the installation of large rocks as a means of preventing off-road bikers from causing damage in the area (see the picture above).

The forest is managed by both Natural Resources Wales and the Woodland Trust, both of which worked in partnership with Gwent Police and the fire service to tackle the issue of off-road biking.

Off-road biking is an ongoing issue across Gwent. In April, a dog was allegedly killed by off-road bikers who failed to stop. Sheepdog Jess was sitting in the gateway of a field belonging to Parc-Y-Brain Farm in Goytre on 18 April when four dirt bikes apparently came up the lane at speed.

Jess's owner Elaine Lanchbury said one of the riders got distracted whilst looking behind him and swerved into her 12-year-old working animal, who'd just completed a morning's sheep herding.

Last year, residents from different areas spoke to WalesOnline about their concerns regarding off-road bikes and what action they want taken. One resident of Cwmcarn said that off-road bikes had "completely torn away some public footpaths."

Discussing the measures taken in Wentwood Forest, a Gwent Police spokesperson said: "Illegal off-road biking is never acceptable. This type of activity not only causes massive environmental damage to our beautiful countryside but affects the lives of those who live there.

"We're committed to tackling this issue across all areas of the force. We often support and work closely with partner agencies to tackle this issue together. "If you have any information about illegal off-road biking in your community, report to it us via 101 or our social media channels on Facebook and Twitter."

Rob Davies, Site Manager at the Woodland Trust said: "The Woodland Trust are proud to offer free public access to all woods in our care and we welcome walkers, cyclists and horse-riders at Wentwood.

"Unfortunately, we've seen an increasing amount of antisocial behaviour from people driving motorised vehicles through sensitive areas of the ancient wood, which has resulted in significant damage to scheduled ancient monuments and important wildlife habitats on the site.

"We have installed counter measures to limit access to these vehicles and are working with the Gwent Police to resolve the ongoing issue. However, concerns remain about the financial and environmental implications of such irresponsible behaviour".

Ancient woods like Wentwood are some of the UK's most valuable natural assets. They are irreplaceable and are home to many vulnerable and threatened species. Unfortunately, this important habitat is now under serious threat and we must do all we can to protect it before it is lost forever.

The Woodland Trust in Wales work to protect and restore ancient woods for the benefit of people and wildlife.

WHAT these people are doing is illegal and shows no regard for the value of woodland and wildlife.

Perhaps they should consider how they would feel if they were sitting, quietly watching TV or something, and I roared through the house in a tank or a steamroller. I bet they wouldn't think much of that but is it any different to what they are doing to our precious natural environment.

Angry? Upset? Furious? Too right I am. It's not right.

Such people should be charged and heavily fined. Perhaps confiscating their bikes would be a good idea. My Dad confiscated my bike when he saw me riding on the pavement and I worked. I never did it again.

He then made me save up my pocket money to pay for a new bike and when I had enough money he got the bike for me. I remember it looked just like the one he had confiscated!

What We've Learned from Tree Wardens: Harriet and Holly Share Parting Reflections

An article published on the Tree Council's website

LAST month, the Tree Council bid a sad farewell to Harriet Rix, Science and Research Project Manager and Holly Chetan-Welsh, Head of Communications & Partnerships, who are both striking out on exciting new projects. Harriet and Holly have been invaluable to The Tree Council and The Tree Warden Scheme, bringing so much passion, wit and dedication to their work it's difficult to imagine what we'll do without them.

We know many Tree Wardens and Co-ordinators will have interacted with Harriet and Holly so we thought we'd invite them to share a few reflections on what they have learned from their time working with you all.

Holly: I can't believe it's been two years now we've both been working at The Tree Council and working with Tree Wardens. Can you remember your first experience working with Tree Wardens when you started?

Harriet: I think it was going up to visit Tree Wardens in the Wirral which was an incomparable intro! Dave Ellwand was I think the very first Tree Warden that I met and he was incredibly inspiring, thoughtful, generous and sensationally knowledgeable. We talked about hedges, perry pears and fruiting hedgerows and the structure of the hedges of the Wirral, as well as ecotones that contribute to the biodiversity of the Wirral. We also chatted about Simon Armitage – his poem about Sir Gawain and the Green Knight! It was amazing because I didn't know anything about the trees of that area, and suddenly I was meeting a set of people who knew everything there was to know!

Holly: The first time I met Tree Wardens I had only been here a week and it was National Tree Week. We went to plant a line of hedge with Dick Walters, a Tree Warden in Eastleigh. Dick has secured funding from Tesco bags community funds and he'd got nursery children all engaged and they helped us plant a line of hedgerow backing onto a community woodland they had already rejuvenated so the hedgerow as a natural barrier that would protect it.

It was such a beautiful and well-conceived project, the kids were really cute and it was amazing watching the volunteers inspire these young people, and just everyone across generations getting passionate about trees – an amazing day. We ended up at Dick Walters house to have a slice of cake! I remember the thrill of being out doing something really practical and also learning from these inspiration=al people. It's been amazing. I've loved it.

Harriet: Yes. I think it can be really hard to keep an overall vision of what you want to do in mind while doing something incredibly practical on the ground. I still remember being impressed by the way that the Wirral Tree Wardens had an eye to the tree strategy being developed and the overarching vision. There was this group of incredibly knowledgeable volunteers – doctors of Botany, experts in birds etc, – coming together to create a vision, but everyone was also really into the minutiae of you know – this particular tree in this particular place.



Holly: were you surprised at how strategic they were at the local level?

Harriet: I wouldn't say I was surprised, but I was really impressed. You tend to think of grass roots organisations as little blades of grass standing by themselves. You don't necessarily think how well-connected all the roots are! There was such an energy in that connection. Lots of different community organisations responsible for parks, foreshore, trees, but they were all sparking off each other and had meshed together. In a way which is so hard to do.

Holly: goes to show the value of having volunteers that have been working in the same area locally for a long time, they've really got a solid understanding of the issues. The longevity of the scheme is kind of amazing.

Harriet: Yes. Here were people who'd known a certain tree for forty years! That was amazing and of course it wasn't just personal knowledge. Dave gave me a phial of damson gin he'd made from a recipe that goes back hundreds of years to keep me going on the long train journey. So it was great to hear all that folkloric local cultural knowledge too.

Holly: like you say, it really is truly grass roots. Grass roots has come to be seen as a modern term, but the Tree Wardens have been doing grassroots work, activism, volunteering for 30 years in some places.

Harriet: and I think particularly with trees which have such a long-term presence. You know, when you plant a sapling you have to be so patient, protecting it season after season. That is especially valuable. Councillors come and go and local authorities come and go but underneath it all you've got this set of individuals who work together almost like multi-cellular organisms in the long-term. Renewing each other and passing on knowledge.

Holly: it puts me in mind of actually what the Tree Warden scheme has is the ability to take lessons from the past and apply them to the future. The future is not further fracturing and digitising things, the future is to come back to some sense of local community and having to lean on one another and to do it in a way that is consultative and collaborative. It's a really great model for the future, and a reason why it's so important to help support Tree Wardens to continue to do what matters to them rather than determining things from the top.

Harriet: You're completely right. Life changes and things come and go, but the Tree Warden scheme has this flexibility where one person will be super-proactive because they have time, but then withdraw a bit when they become busy with other things. People do what they can on the tree themes they are passionate about. And that is really beautiful.

Holly: what parting words would you like to offer to the Tree Wardens?

Harriet: Thank you for being inspirational and keep it up! And don't undervalue yourselves or worry about whether you're behind the times. Environmental trends and government policies come and go. They love reinventing themselves, but passion for trees and knowledge about them never grows old.

Holly: and you're heading off to progress some seriously exciting new projects, is that right?

Harriet: Not too exciting, I hope! As you know I used to work in landmine clearance in Iraq, and was shocked by the environmental destruction in these areas as well as the human cost. So I'm setting up a charity which will focus on reforesting parts of the Middle East which have suffered as a result of conflict. I'll be working with tree species such as *Quercus Brandi* and *Fraxinus syriaca* – not so very different from the oak and ash we know and love! I'm also developing a vegan, carbon-neutral fertiliser with a friend to help mitigate the environmental impact of gardening... What about you?

Holly: I'm starting a two-year interfaith ministerial training, but I'll also be doing some freelance work with charities I care about so Z hope this won't be the last I see of Tree Wardens!

Harriet: Exciting! What's your parting message?

Holly: oh, gosh. I want to just thank Tree Wardens from the bottom of my heart for your passion, staying power, amazing wisdom and welcome. You have given me the gift of hope. Please keep doing what you're doing, planting seeds and championing our amazing trees and I hope to find myself out in the cold one November morning planting trees with you for National Tree Week in the future!

Bethnal Green Mulberry Tree Saved by Campaigners

REMEMBER some years ago writing an article about the threat to the oldest tree in London's East End, the Bethnal Green Mulberry. Today, I am once again delighted to report that campaigners have won a High Court battle over the latest plans to remove the tree to make way for flats.

The East End Preservation Society's Geoffrey Jude led a legal challenge against Tower Hamlets Council to save the tree which is said to be 400 years old.

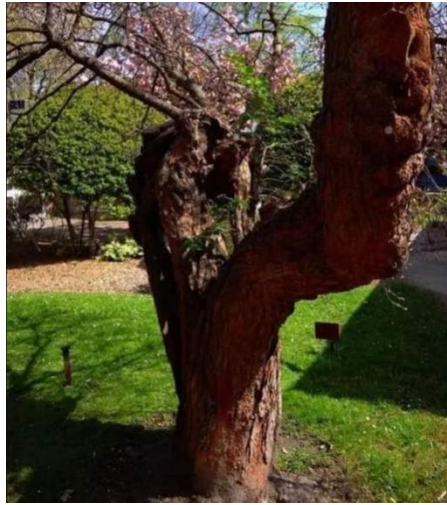
The High Court found the council's planning committee had misinterpreted national policy when making its ruling.

The tree had some high-profile backers, among them Dame Judi Dench. The veteran actor said the thought of the tree being dug up filled her "with horror".

The tree once stood next to a chapel but the building was destroyed by a bomb during World War Two. The mulberry was left with scarred bark.

The East End Preservation Society said: "We are delighted that in this case justice has prevailed and the Bethnal Green mulberry is saved."

Planning permission to demolish part of the site, excluding the main hospital building and sanitation tower, to build 291 residential units, was granted in October 2020.



Permission to demolish part of the former London Chest Hospital, excluding the main hospital building and sanitation tower, to build 291 residential units was granted in October.

At a hearing last month, the High Court was told the tree originally grew in the grounds of Bishop Bonner's Palace. The court heard that "an inkwell in the museum of the Royal London Hospital, made in 1915 from a bough, has a brass plate engraved with the sardonic yarn that the clergyman sat beneath it to enjoy shelter in the cool of the evening while deciding which heretics to execute".

In a judgment delivered on Friday, Sir Duncan Ouseley said the council's planning committee had unlawfully misinterpreted national planning policy when it considered whether the tree would die or deteriorate if it was moved.

Sir Duncan said: "A policy was misinterpreted, a material consideration was ignored."

In a statement, the East End Preservation Society said it was "overjoyed to learn the decision of the High Court to refuse (developers) Crest Nicholson's redevelopment of the former London Chest Hospital and prevent the developer digging up the 400-year-old tree".

Woodland Trust Objects to Plans for £70m A120 to A133 Link Road

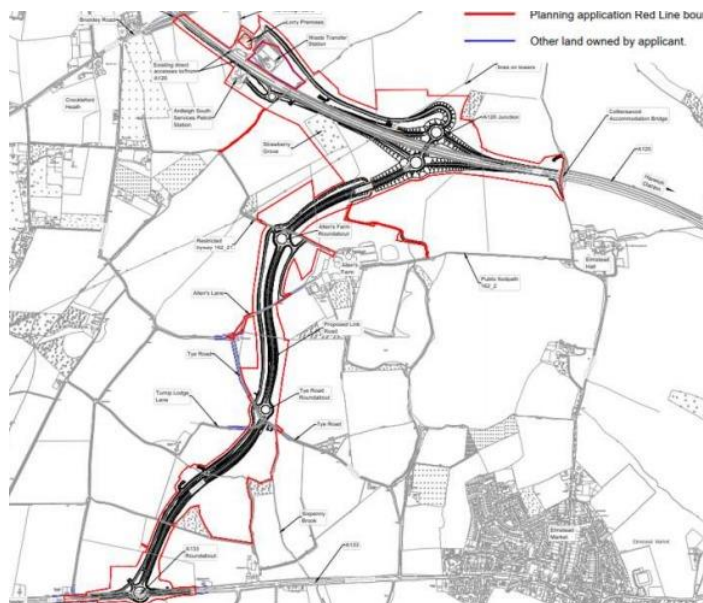
THE Woodland Trust says Essex County Council's plans for a new £70 million dual carriageway road, between the A120 and A133, will lead to the loss of "irreplaceable" ancient woodland at Strawberry Grove, off the A120 near Elmstead. The charity has submitted an official objection to the proposals, claiming the road will lead to "direct loss, damage and deterioration" of woodland and demanding a rethink of the plans.

The objection states: "The Trust objects to the planning application on the basis of direct loss of Strawberry Grove."

"Strawberry Grove appears on maps dated in the 1870s and is considered within this application as likely ancient woodland. As such Natural England should be consulted for their opinion on the antiquity of the site and its likely effect on this important piece of woodland."

The new 2.4km link road, which will have a 50mph speed limit, is being built to allow a 9,000 home new town on the Tendring Colchester border to go ahead. Funding has been secured through the Government's Housing Infrastructure Fund.

The objection continues: "We are particularly concerned direct loss to an area of likely unmapped ancient woodland from the construction of a new slip road connecting the A120 to



the proposed link road.

"Development in ancient woodland can lead to long-term changes in species composition, particularly ground flora and sensitive fauna, ie nesting birds, mammals and reptiles. Majorly adverse impacts would occur as a result of the removal of the ancient woodland, which contains valuable habitat, to make way for the construction of the proposal."

It adds: "Ancient woodland is irreplaceable habitat, once lost it is gone forever."

Natural England has not raised an objection to the proposals.

The road is being built in conjunction with a so-called rapid transit system in Colchester, linking the new town with the centre. The garden community cannot go ahead until plans are in place for both the link road and rapid transit system.

Farmer Trying to Save Italy's Ancient Olive Trees

An article by Agostino Petroni published on www.atlasobscura.com

In early 2016, Giovanni Melcarne, an agronomist and the owner of an extra virgin olive oil farm in Gagliano del Capo, walked through the southern Italian countryside of Puglia. He was with a fellow olive-oil farmer who had called and told him there was something he had to see. The two approached a centuries-old olive tree growing at the edge of the street along a traditional stone wall.

All around, the old olive trees that covered the red clay were either dead or in an advanced state of decay, filling the landscape with an unnatural greyness. Melcarne was not surprised. At least two million olive trees in Puglia looked this way, including many of his own.

The cause of the blight was *Xylella fastidiosa*, a bacteria that researchers believe arrived around 2010 from Latin America, possibly from Costa Rica on an imported ornamental plant. Today, *Xylella* has infected at least one-third of the 60 million olive trees in Puglia, which produces 12% of the world's olive oil. The bacteria leaves no chance of survival. Once a plant is infected, it's doomed to die in a handful of years.

Today, *Xylella* is spreading fast across Puglia, crossing into other Italian regions and Mediterranean countries, and upending the production of olives and olive oil, the symbols of the Mediterranean.

When the two reached the tree, the olive farmer pointed at a live, green bough on the otherwise dead trunk.

"The man told me that his father had grafted the tree with a Barese olive variety, which is good for eating," Melcarne says. Grafting is common practice in the area: People take a twig of a different variety and insert it on the trunk of an older tree, where it will grow and bear the kind of olives of the tree it came from. Melcarne immediately suspected that the grafted branch was resistant to *Xylella*. It seemed to be keeping the olive tree alive.

"And then I thought, 'Could it be that grafts could save the oldest and grandest olive trees?'" Melcarne says.

At the time, efforts to contain the *Xylella* blight were going poorly. Italian media and politics were dominated by vicious fights, accusations and conspiracy theories that prevented a co-ordinated response. However seeing that bit of green, Melcarne felt hopeful. The agronomist was already exploring ways to fight the disease with a team of scientists, and that visit showed that there might be some hope against the olive-tree apocalypse.

"If today we don't try to save at least some of the monumental olive trees," Melcarne asks, "what identity will be left to this region?"

Whether you are in New York, London, or Melbourne, chances are good that the extra virgin olive oil you use to dress your salad, finish a fresh mozzarella or sear a sea bass comes from Puglia. It is either explicitly labelled as such or, in many cases, disguised under the branding of other estates that didn't quite yield the harvest they were expecting.

In Puglia, olive trees are everywhere. They have populated these lands since 1,000 BC,



when the ancient Greeks brought them. Some trees still growing today saw ancient Romans passing by or welcomed Emperor Frederik II on his way to the Sixth Crusade, while many more were already old when Christopher Columbus stumbled upon the Americas.

The trees have always been present in their corrugated fairy shapes, and they are an inherent part of the local culture. Each family owns a few olive trees and treats them like family, like immortal grandparents. Pugliesi have taken their presence for granted for a long time, but *Xylella* is now crushing that timeless, idyllic reality.

Xylella fastidiosa is carried by a sap-feeding insect, a spittlebug called *Philænus spumarius*. When the insect bites an infected leaf, it involuntarily takes the bacteria on its saliva, giving *Xylella* a free ride to the next plant it feeds on. Through the bite, the bacteria enter the xylem—the plants' vascular tissue, where water and nutrients flow—traveling counter-current towards the roots. As the bacteria reproduce, they create a gel that clogs the channels, preventing water and nutrients from passing through. Once the plant is infected, it slowly starts dying.

The disease's symptoms first appeared around 2010, but Italians didn't know what was killing their trees. In 2013, scientists realized that it was *Xylella*. It was the first detection in Europe, and the European Union and Italian government immediately pushed for containment measures that implied the eradication of the infected trees. Speed was crucial: Stopping the spread would only get harder as it dispersed across Italy.

However, many Pugliesi could not believe that a bacteria could kill these eternal trees. So thousands of people campaigned to stop the uprootings. Farmers chained themselves to infected trees, stopped railways, protested in city centres and got full support from TV

personalities, singers, and politicians, including Michele Emiliano, the region's governor.

Much like the millions of people who would later resist pandemic lockdowns or call COVID-19 a hoax, the protesters believed that what was happening was part of a conspiracy. Some believed it was Monsanto's fault and that the agrochemical company wanted to sell seeds for immune, genetically modified olive trees to farmers. Others said it was entrepreneurs and the Mafia, who wanted to build indiscriminately where the trees stood. A few more blamed chemtrails.

The enraged public opinion led by an anti-science movement got so much momentum that in December 2015, government prosecutors from the city of Lecce started investigating the scientists studying the disease, blaming them for having brought it to Puglia. (After four years of investigations, all charges were dropped.)

"I do not expect to be thanked, but being pilloried by the media for having done my work with passion is a paradox," says Donato Boscia, a plant pathologist and head researcher for *Xylella* at the National Research Council of Italy (CNR).

While conspiracies flourished, the disease advanced north at a speed of 18.6 miles a year. *Xylella* is present in several countries worldwide, including the U.S., where it has been known for more than a century for attacking grapevines, but before arriving in Puglia, *Xylella* had never been detected on olive trees before.

"We could not wait for somebody else to deal with it," says Pierfederico La Notte, an agronomist and researcher working on *Xylella* at CNR with Donato Boscia. While they studied how *Xylella* impacted the olive trees, Boscia and La Notte met with Giovanni Melcarne, the olive oil producer from Gagliano del Capo. Melcarne had noticed that in Salento, the lower tip of Puglia, certain olive trees were still alive between an ocean of death.

It was 2016, and Melcarne brought the scientists to Gallipoli to check the green and thriving graft his fellow farmer had shown him, which later turned out to be Leccino, one of the only two olive varieties known to be resistant to the bacteria.

"That plant lightened up lots of lightbulbs," La Notte says. Grafting, a technique as old as agriculture, seemed to show promise, just like it did a century ago when it saved European grapevines from *Phylloxera*, a tiny aphid that nearly destroyed the continent's wine industry. If a resistant variety of olives could be grafted on the millenary trunks, the plant appeared to have a chance of survival.

In April 2016, while local politicians were delaying scientific research by withholding funding, Melcarne invested 130,000 euros, his lifetime savings, to graft 14 hectares of his olive trees. His family had been in the olive business since the 1500s, so Melcarne took the enormous financial risk not only to save his company, but to maintain his family's tradition. He and the CNR researchers wanted to see if the varieties known to be resistant to *Xylella* - Leccino and Favolosa - could be grafted on older trees and if other types had some resistance too.

La Notte called on greenhouses, collections, and producers from every corner of the globe, and this international community of scientists and farmers responded by shipping samples of their olive varieties to Puglia. In a short time, they grafted 270 different olive varieties on Melcarne's fields.

While still solely funded by Malaren's life savings, due to the chaos and conspiracies paralyzing the government response, their work advanced with trial and error. Grafts died from disease, broke during inclement weather, and were vandalised. One morning Melcarne found that dozens of his grafts had been snapped during the night. He suspected conspiracy theorists were behind it.

Word of the group's experiment spread. Vanzio Turcato, a northern Italian who had decided to build his house in Puglia, on land

home to a few dozen olive trees, became an early adopter of Melcarne's grafts. He and his wife couldn't stand the idea of seeing their 54 monumental olive trees die, so, in 2017, Melcarne grafted them all with patch grafts of Favolosa, but only two grafts out of 250 worked. It took two more years of trials to understand that crown grafts, chopping the old branch clean and inserting the grafts on the mutilated extremity, was the way to go. They had finally perfected a grafting protocol.

"I'd be happy if we manage to save even just 50% of the trees," Turcato says. Today, though, his trees are vegetating luxuriantly, surrounded by his neighbours' endless fields of grey, dead olive trees.

Ninety miles from Turcato's fields, Armando Balestrazzi, the owner of Masseria Il Frantoio, a boutique hotel and olive-oil farm, was well aware of the problem that was about to hit and according to La Notte and Melcarne, olive trees have a higher probability of surviving if they are grafted before getting infected. The more advanced the infection, the less likely the grafts will work.

"When I heard about the grafts, I decided to run a test," Balestrazzi says. It was 2019. His area was part of the disease's buffer zone, and Balestrazzi had in his property 300 Leccino trees resistant to the disease. So he used their twigs to graft 50 of his 2,300 trees, all at least 1,000 years old. "I couldn't stand with my arms folded while the scourge hit my home. I had to try to save them. And after two years, I know that it works."

Balestrazzi says that 70% of his grafts have survived and are flourishing and he has 2,250 more trees to graft. The region of Puglia recently issued a 5-million-euro incentive, advised by the work of La Notte and Melcarne, to push farmers to graft their oldest trees, but Balestrazzi is sceptical: "We still haven't received any money from the damages of the 2016 flooding. Multiply \$120 [the cost to graft a tree] by 2,250. How can I advance that amount of money knowing that probably I will never be reimbursed?" Many farmers are stuck in limbo: They want to save

their trees, but bureaucracy and pandemic-related financial difficulties prevent them from doing so.

Grafting cannot save every olive tree of Puglia, though. It would take decades, as well as money that residents and the region do not seem to have. The researchers know that the grafting technique can only save the oldest trees and their beauty.

According to Melcarne, what's needed to save Puglia's olive groves is a long-term, coordinated plan led by politicians and scientists that stops the northward spread of the disease while investing in finding resistant varieties and grafting the oldest olive trees.

After three long years, the region's administration recognized the value of Melcarne and La Notte's work. They granted them 2 million euros to continue grafting and uncover new resistant, local varieties. Besides leading the grafting crusade,

Melcarne is currently looking to reproduce wild Puglian olive trees that are still alive where *Xylella* has killed any other olive tree. The quality of local olives is what distinguishes the region's extra-virgin olive oil from others, and local farmers are wary of planting resistant varieties such as Favolosa that do not belong to that territory and taste different. While they have found a grafting technique to save the region's grandest trees, it is this search for local, resistant varieties that could protect Puglia's beloved olive oil and the industry and food culture it supports.

Thanks to the thousands of tips he receives on social media, Melcarne has checked about 30,000 wild olives trees, covering 372,822 miles in his car in the process. He dreams of finding a local olive variety to replant the orchards destroyed by the bacteria. He picked 30 of them for reproduction, and he says he has found good candidates.

"I think we found one," Melcarne says proudly. The future of the olive tree in the Mediterranean might well be in his hands.

£4 Million Funding to Help National Trust Create 5,000 Acres of New Woodland in Four Years

An article published on www.inyourarea.co.uk

THE National Trust will plant or establish two million trees over the next four years with a £4 million gift from HSBC UK, the charity has said. The funding will be used to create woodland covering around 2,000 hectares (5,000 acres), an area roughly the size of Worcester. The woodland will lock in 1.25 million tonnes of carbon, the equivalent of taking 15,000 cars off the road a year, the trust said.

Most of the woodland is being created near urban areas, so people in towns and cities will be able to visit new nature-rich woods, according to the charity.

Sites in England which will see woodland creation include Killerton, near Exeter, Devon, Wallington in Northumberland, Dunham Massey, Cheshire, the Buscot and Coleshill

Estate, Oxfordshire, and Wimpole in Cambridgeshire.

Woodland and other habitat which stores carbon is also set to be created in Wales and Northern Ireland, with sites in the process of being identified.

The £4 million gift is the biggest environmental donation the National Trust has ever received and is part of HSBC's climate solutions partnership, which aims to unlock barriers to finance for companies and projects that tackle climate change to bring them to scale.

The scheme will involve National Trust staff,

volunteers and communities, as well as HSBC employees, and will involve tree planting and then letting woods expand through natural regeneration.

National Trust director general Hilary McGrady said: "This gift represents a major step in our attempt to try and tackle the effects of climate change and ensures we can plant the trees in the right places to really maximise the impact they will have in locking in carbon."

"This donation offers so much more than just tree planting. By creating these woodlands, we hope to see further benefits by allowing the

landscape to regenerate naturally and without the need for so much intervention by way of tree planting in the future.

"Nature has a way of healing if we can just give it a chance. The recent lockdowns have taught us that access to nature is more important than ever and by planting trees in the right places we can ensure these carbon rich

habitats work for both nature and people."

Michaela Wright, head of corporate sustainability, HSBC UK, said the climate solutions partnership aimed to accelerate change in the short term to help realise international goals on tackling climate change in the long term.

"We believe nature-based solutions can

provide a third of the global climate mitigation needed by 2030, protecting nature as well as meeting people's needs," she said.

The National Trust has committed to planting or establishing 20 million trees, covering an area the size of Birmingham, as part of the charity's plan to cut its emissions to zero overall – known as net zero – by 2030.

Evening Visit to Salhouse Community Tree Nursery Wednesday 9 June 2021

OUR first evening visit of the year will be to our Salhouse Community Tree Nursery to see the sterling work of James Cleaver and his band of volunteers. We shall meet at 19:00 at James' home nursery at 37 Heron Close, Salhouse, NR13 6SB. If you are cycling or walking, you can go direct to the house, but if you are driving, please park at the Salhouse Playing Field car park NR13 6RQ and walk to James' house (see the map below right).

Once we have seen just what can be achieved in a Tree Warden's back garden we shall return to the cars and drive up to the nursery, giving lifts to cyclists and pedestrians of course!

The nursery is located at the agricultural 'Black Barn', Norwich Road, Salhouse NR13 6QG as shown on the map below left, but please don't go there direct. Meet at James' house and we shall all drive there together.

I'm sure we shall all find this of great interest. James has set up this nursery properly with all the relevant certification and he is to be congratulated on creating something that is as biosecure as one could possibly expect.

So I look forward to seeing you there. Don't be late!



Please remember that I shall be attending a meeting of the Tree Council's National Tree Warden Advisory Group on Tuesday 29 June 2020. The group is the voice of Tree Wardens and the meeting is the latest opportunity for you to voice your opinion or seek answers to questions. As East Anglia's representative on the group I need you to tell me what you wish to be discussed, otherwise I must assume that everyone is content ... and I'm sure that isn't the case! So, come on. E-mail or telephone me as soon as you can and I will put your views/questions to the group.

Dr Jo's Corner

The column by Jo Parmenter, our Tree Warden for Reedham

Wildflower of the Month *Veronica filiformis* or Slender Speedwell

THIS pretty little perennial speedwell is a relatively recent addition to our flora, having been brought to the UK as a rock garden plant in the early 19th century from Turkey and the Caucasus. Within 25 years it had made its escape to the wild, but remained very scarce until the 1920s, when it began to increase its range to cover much of lowland UK, still generally sticking to man-made habitats such as lawns and paths, where its low-growing habit and ability to root at the nodes of its creeping stems make it able to compete amongst taller more vigorous species and also survive regular mowing.

Interestingly, it rarely sets seed in the UK, being self-incompatible (you need two speed-wells to meet and fall in love with a little help from a passing bee) and is propagated almost entirely by small fragments

of stem being moved about by mowing equipment or feet.

As it becomes more common, of course, we will start to see more new populations spread about by seed.

It likes a little humidity and also dislikes being completely scalped, so the best places to

find it are churchyards, playing fields and less well-maintained lawns on clay or loam soils, where the large, bright blue flowers on delicate wiry stems and tiny kidney-shaped leaves make it stand out amongst the grass.

Keep an eye out for it when delivering tree planting initiatives or checking on last winter's planting!



ADDITIONALLY this month, I thought you may all be interested in the progress of our disease resistant elm *Ulmus* 'New Horizon' planted on the Reedham playing field to

commemorate thirty years of Tree Wardening.

All the buds are opening now and now that I look at it closely the elm has a characteristic 'fishbone' arrangement to the branches.

The nursery had pruned off the lower branches as they developed and must have

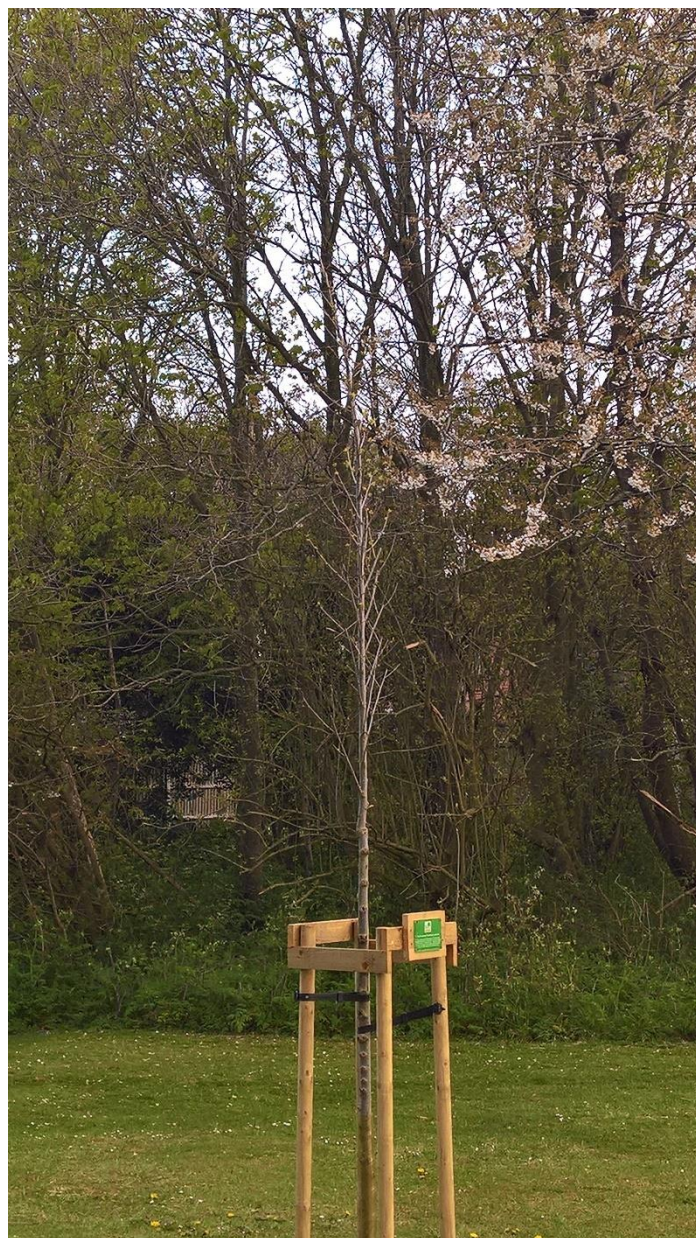
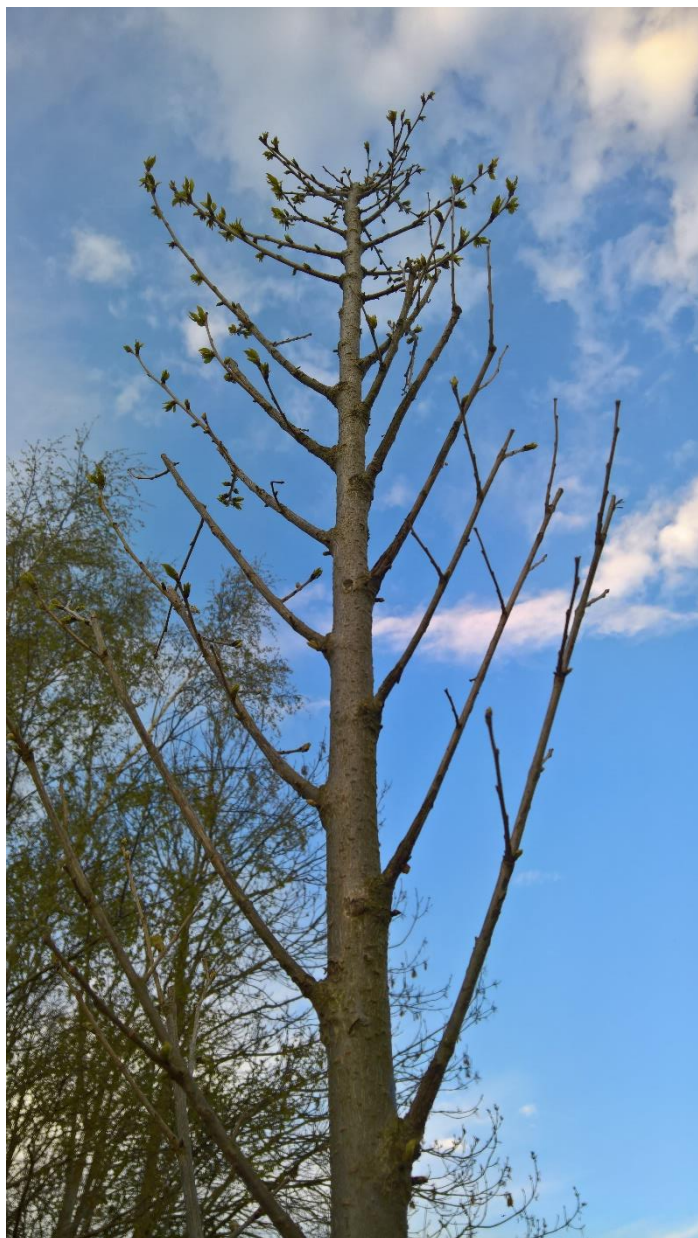
spent a fair bit of time persuading it to adopt its present form. I went over the lower part of the trunk again, removing dozens of small buds which had arisen from the branch scars.

I suspect this will need to be done on a regular basis for the next several years so that the tree does not put unnecessary effort into producing new growth which then has to be

pruned off. At least now that it has rained I can decrease the watering effort to weekly!

Anyway, I hope these pictures will indicate what a wonderful commemorative elm this is

becoming. Why not come to Reedham and have a look for yourself?



Valerie Sabberton's Memorial Bench in Littlewood, Drayton

VALERIE SABERTON'S memorial bench has been installed in Littlewood, about half-way along the path. There was a small gathering on the morning of 25 May to do the job.

The work to install the bench was led by Matt Davies of the Norwich Fringe project, ably assisted by volunteers, Judith and Richard Spicker, Phil Rees, Valerie's family and friends.

Set among the delights of the newly revealed bluebells, it is hoped that the seat will be a favourite stopping off point as well as a pleasant memorial to a person who was a valued Tree Warden for Drayton and who did so much to make Littlewood a pleasant green space for the community. Please make a point of visiting Littlewood and view the bench. Say hello to our dear departed friend and colleague and tell her how much she is sadly missed.

Our Network will be supplying a commemorative tree for planting later this year. The species and the site have yet to be decided, but I am sure that it will be a fitting tribute to a lovely lady and a fine Tree Warden.



Project Aims to Stop Himalayan Balsam Choking River Wensum

An article by Chris Hill published on www.edp24.co.uk

A NEW PROJECT has been launched to rid the River Wensum of Himalayan balsam, *Impatiens glandulifera*, invasive plant which threatens to choke this delicate ecosystem. Norfolk Rivers Trust (NRT) and the Norfolk Non-Native Species Initiative (NNNSI) have joined forces to remove and, where possible, eradicate Himalayan balsam from the river catchment.

The project, funded by Anglian Water and launched to coincide with Invasive Species Week, will run until 2025, aiming to bring together organisations, businesses and community and recreational groups across the Wensum area.

As one of only 200 chalk streams worldwide, the River Wensum is recognised as a globally important ecosystem, with the mineral-rich water supporting an array of wildlife including water voles, brown trout and white-clawed crayfish.

However, balsam threatens the river's ecological balance, growing up to two metres tall in dense stands, with the ability to steal light, space and nutrients from native plants.

The plant can colonise new areas rapidly, using "explosive" seed pods which fling seeds up to seven metres away, releasing as many as 800 seeds per plant. The seeds can also be carried downstream by water, where they will colonise any damp area.

The NNNSI has already been working on balsam hot spots found near Taverham,

Lenwade and Lyng.

Martin Horlock, environment manager for Norfolk County Council, said: "We've already been controlling balsam in some areas, but since balsam seeds can remain viable in the soil for several years, ongoing removal is critical.

"Co-ordinated control at a catchment scale is essential for full eradication, and this project enables us to expand efforts to cover the full Wensum area over a number of years."

The partnership has developed web and mobile apps to encourage the public to report balsam sightings, along with any control work already taking place.

A baseline survey of the Wensum catchment will be carried out between April and September 2021, when balsam is in full flower and highly visible, to ascertain its full extent and levels of infestation.

Control of balsam will begin in 2021 at high priority locations and known hot spots including Taverham Mill.

Balsam removals will be intensified from 2021 through to 2025 using a top-down approach: Infestations found at the top of the catchment, and upstream of Anglian Water sites, will gain priority to reduce the likelihood of



recolonisation.

Georgia Waye-Barker, evidence and engagement co-ordinator for Norfolk Rivers Trust, said volunteer involvement will be a crucial element of the project.

"We'll be hosting various 'balsam bash' events and coordinating work parties in line with Covid-19 guidelines," she said. "Since balsam can be easily identified and uprooted, we'll also be encouraging landowners and volunteers to take their own action, following a best practice guide that we've produced.

"Fortunately, giant leaps in progress can be made over a short period of time, so control work is really quite satisfying."



Tree Preservation Orders and Conservation Area News

Broadland Tree Preservation Orders Served, Confirmed and Revoked

TPO Number	Address	Served	Trees Protected	Status
2020 No 1 (1303)	Robin Hill, 16 South Walsham Road, Acle	17/02/2020	All trees on site	Lapsed
2020 No 3 (1305)	Land at Wood Green, Salhouse	09/03/2020	1 x Leyland cypress	Re-made
2020 No 4 (1306)	Land rear of 48 Spixworth Road, Old Catton	29/04/2020	T1 oak, T2 deodar cedar, T3 copper beech and T4 yew	Provisional
2020 No 8 (1310)	Land south of Heydon Road, Aylsham	08/10/2020	2 x oak	Confirmed 07/04/2021
2020 No 10 (1312)	92 Links Avenue, Hellesdon	14/12/2020	T1 oak	Confirmed 11/05/2021
2021 No 1 (1314)	Land at Mokyll Croft, Taverham	14/03/2021	9 x sycamore and 1 x oak	Provisional
2021 No 2 (1315)	Land at Wood Green, Salhouse	31/03/2021	1 x cypress	Provisional
2021 No 3 (1316)	Land west of 29 St Edmunds Road, Acle	26/05/2021	1 x oak	Provisional

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

App No	Address	Cat	Species / Requested Works	Decision
20191982	Bircham Centre, Market Place, Reepham	211	T1 and 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
20201835	26 Rosemary Road, Sprowston	TPO	T11 Scots pine – fell. T22 & T44 common oak - reduce laterals by up to 2m; current width 7m, reduce to 5m. T27 & T35 common beech - crown raise to 4m. T36 common beech - reduce laterals from 9m to 5.5m wide. T37 common beech - reduce crown by 1.5m; current height and width 13m/6.5m, reduce to 10m/5m. T38 common beech - reduce laterals by 2m; current height and width 10m/8m, reduce to 7m/5m. T39 common beech - reduce crown by up to 2m; current height and width 12m/8m, reduce to 10m/6m. T40 common beech - crown raise to 5m. T41 copper beech - reduce crown by 1.5m, current height and width 14m/7m, reduce to 12m/5.5m. T46 common oak - reduce laterals by 1m & width from 6 to 5m.	06/10/2020
20210375	1 The Courtyard, Fengate, Marsham	TPO	T5 ash - crown reduction by 2m and lateral spread by 2m all around leaving the crown at 16m tall and 13m spread.	Approved
20210411	6 Sylvan Way, Taverham	TPO	G1 field maples - tip back laterals growing towards 5 Orchard Bank by 1.5 to 2m.	07/04/2021
20210434	32 The Avenue, Wroxham	TPO	T84 green beech - 6m crown lift including removing horizontal limbs parallel to road. Current spread 9m from trunk on 3 sides. Reduce various horizontal limbs and rival lead stems by 4m. T85 copper beech - current spread from trunk: 7.5m to road, 7.8m towards house & 6.5m towards T88 across driveway. 6m crown lift and reduce horizontal limbs by 4m. T88 silver birch - current measurement from trunk centre ranging from 3.5 to 5.2m. Reduce two rival lead stems by 4m and clear deadwood and crossing limbs.	Split decision
20210445	8 Mill Reach, Buxton with Lamas	TPO	G4 - 5 x Lombardy poplar in Nos 8, 10, 12 & 14 Mill Reach – fell. T22 - pollard to previous cuts. T34 - branches overhanging footpath to be cut for clearance. T23 & T24 - light crow thin to provide light and removal of branches over highway. T25 - removal of branches over highway.	10/03/2021
20210453	Trees overhanging the footpath and NCP car park next to Brundall Train Station, Station New Road, Brundall	TPO	Common ash – remove.	Withdrawn
20210480	Dunelm House, 47B The Street, Brundall	TPO	T1 ash - remove top of tree to leave a trunk of approx 10m.	Approved
20210484	14 Barnby Road, Badersfield	TPO	T16 ornamental cherry – fell.	Withdrawn
20210485	The Old House, 15 Church Street, Coltishall	TPO	5 x ash – fell.	Withdrawn
20210511	The Manor House, 23 Manor Farm Close, Drayton	TPO	See Arboricultural Safety Report for works	Split decision
20210551	18 A Stanmore Road, Thorpe St Andrew	TPO	T1 Irish yew, T2 <i>Cryptomeria</i> , G4 & G5 Lawson cypress - fell. T3 Atlantic cedar - crown lift to 3m and reduce crown by 2m.	Approved
20210559	St Michaels Recreation Ground, Cawston Road, Aylsham	TPO	T2 fir - remove top of extended limb to reduce sail area. T3 conifer - remove limb growing through fence. 02-2 x Scots pine, 06 Scots pine & 03 3 x dead conifers - fell. 04 rowan in major decline & 05 oak in decline - fell. T15 oak - re-balance crown. CP1 sycamore - crown lift to approx 4m. Laurel hedge - reduce by 2m. T16 willow - pollard to height of adjacent stem.	Approved
20210561	6 Mill Pightle, Aylsham	TPO	Holly encroaching garden from Mill Lane & touching garage. Cut back by approx 2m to ensure no damage is caused to property.	25/03/2021
20210563	9 Stanmore Road, Thorpe St Andrew	211	T1 & T3 conifer - remove and replace with a silver birch. T2 conifer - remove and replace with an <i>Acer</i> or <i>Magnolia</i> . T4 horse chestnut & T6 holly x 3 – remove.	Approved

20210565	33 Barnby Road, Badersfield	TPO	T72 weeping willow in rear garden - remove / reduce diseased branches, dead wood and selectively reduce any end-weighted / over-extended lateral side branches on all points of peripheral crown by up to 3m back to sub-lateral growth point. Crown lift tips of tertiary branches to give up to 2.5m clearance.	Approved
20210576	Dunelm House, 47B The Street, Brundall	TPO	Ash - current height 30m. Reduce by 20m to about 10m.	Withdrawn
20210612	68 Charles Close, Wroxham	TPO	Overgrown laurel trunk has split and two branches overhang property. Lop branches overhanging boundary. Have contacted NCC (Highways) with regard to them cutting down the laurel and completely removing it. A representative visited the site and verbally agreed this should be done, but subsequent communication reports that NCC will not be taking further action.	Approved
20210616	Hill House, Market Hill, Foulsham, Dereham	TPO	Red oak - 18m tall and crown spread is 20m. Crown reduction of no more than 2.5m leaving spread no less than 17.5m.	Approved
20210621	177 Norwich Road, Wroxham	TPO	T1 <i>Prunus</i> and T3, T4 & T5 holly – fell. T2 ash - remove long lateral growing over garage.	Approved
20210622	Crofts, 3 Cromer Road, Aylsham	211	T1 cherry & T2 silver birch – fell. T3 cotoneaster - approx height is 7.5m, reduce to 5m to promote re-growth.	Approved
20210634	36 South Avenue, Thorpe St Andrew	211	T1 T5, T6 & T7 sycamore, T3 holly, T4 ash and g9 laurel – fell. T2 holly - height 6m with extensive dieback. Coppice back to epicormic growth to create understory stock. G8 yew - selective removal of up to 50% of trees (reducing poor or sub-dominant specimens) and formative prune retained specimens by reducing and removing up to 30% of growth.	Approved
20210641	24 South Avenue, Thorpe St Andrew	211	T901 oak - clean out crown of all deadwood, small crossing and suppressed branches. Reduce large dead branch on north side of canopy back to upright growth point 1m from stem. T902 Scots pine - fell for safety reasons due to the fairly recent root severance and poor structural condition of the upper stem in relation to the high target zone of the house. T903 & T905 common oak, T910 horse chestnut & T912 beech - clean crown of deadwood, crossing and suppressed branches. T911 common lime - clean crown of deadwood, crossing and suppressed branches. Carefully prune epicormic shoots. T913 cherry plum - reduce weakly attached limb leading off main stem with decay by 4m. Reduce two remaining upper sub-dominant stems by 3m to natural growth points. Reduce lower hanging branch with surface cavity by 2m. T914 holly & T917 sycamore - fell in favour of adjacent trees and poison stump to restrict re-growth. Carry out replacement planting as specified in the attached method statement. T916 wild cherry - formative prune to improve crown structure. T922 sycamore - clean crown of all deadwood, crossing and suppressed branches. T923 oak - fell. T926 Corsican pine – decayed. Reduce lateral branch leading to the north off tear wound by 4m to a growth point in order to lessen structural loading on attachment point. T928 sycamore - pollard sub-dominant stem to north with basal sapwood decay to 1.3m.	Approved
20210643	Woodland adjacent to Hospital Road and Water Lane (to north and west of Little Plumstead C of E Primary School), Little Plumstead	TPO	T76 sweet chestnut - thin crown, coppice. T102 sweet chestnut - leaning, weak anchorage. Coppice. T355 sweet chestnut - partially failed at base hung up in neighbouring tree. Fell. T364 oak - remove partially failed branch over road.	08/04/2021
20210650	14 Stuart Road, Aylsham	211	T1& T2 silver birch - located in rear garden of property. Current height approx 12.5m and current spread 5m. Crown reduction by not more than 3.5m. Raise canopy by 3m.	12/04/2021
20210653	10 Parkside Drive, Old Catton	211	Killarney strawberry - height 7m. Branches extend 2.5m into property. Cut branches back to the boundary line by 2m.	Approved
20210654	20 Spinney Close, Thorpe St Andrew	TPO	T1 beech current height 18m & T2 beech current height 20m - 4 to 5 m reduction and pollard section above the crotch.	07/05/2021
20210657	33 Neville Road, Sprowston	TPO	T1 oak - crown reduction of approx 1.5m - 1.8m. Lowest limb reduced by 2.4m. Reduction from approx 9.5m - 7.2m.	11/04/2021
20210658	4 Walnut Close, Taverham	TPO	Oak - approx height 15m and width 11m. Crown clean and up to 2m reduction.	21/04/2021

20210666	Avenue House, 10 Staitheaway Road, Wroxham	TPO	G1) 6m high conifers close to garage to be removed. T2) 16m high pine - raise crown over garage by up to 3.0m (tree owned by neighbour, works agreed with client). H3) 5m high conifer hedge, partially lapsed. Remove. T4) 18m high pine - remove deadwood and declining branches. T5) 3.5m high yew - pollard at 1.4m main union. T6) 9m high fir - remove due to location. G7) & G8) 9m high tree groups to be re-reduced to former cuts and re-shape (approximately 2.0-2.5m crown loss). T9) 5m high conifer, T12) 5m high conifer and G13) 4.5m high <i>Acers</i> - remove. T10) 21m high pine - remove 2 lowest branches over house, whilst sympathetically and only to branches required to be reduced to re-form shape from limb removal. Excessive needle fall causing issues. G11) 5m high holly, sycamore x 2, 1 x lime coppice. Lime to be coppiced, holly and 2 sycamores to be removed.	12/04/2021
20210672	Cramond Lodge, 6 Hartwell Road, Wroxham	211	T1 group of 12-15 small trees, T2 silver birch, T3 blackthorn and T4 <i>Prunus</i> – fell.	Approved
20210682	43 Delane Road, Drayton	TPO	Crown reduce oak branches overhanging west boundary of 43 Delane Road. Reduce branches by 1-1.5m from end points on east side of oak trees. Branch length from 7.5m to 6.5m to a height of 3-3.5 above ground level.	Approved
20210697	Overbury House, 9 Staitheaway Road, Wroxham	TPO	T1 fir-reduce limb approaching neighbouring garden by 4m. T2, T4 & T5 lime-remove dead wood down to 40mm at attachment point. T3 lime-reduce lowest limb over garden by up 2m & remove dead wood down to 40mm at attachment point. T6 lime-reduce lowest limb over garden by up to 2m & remove dead wood down to 40mm at attachment point. T7 yew-crown lift to 2.5m over parking bays & reduce branch approaching on phone line by 1m.	15/04/2021
20210701	84 Mill Road, Blofield	TPO	T1 larch - crown lift to 4m by removing lowest major branch on southern portion of crown and removing branch above which looks as though it has partially failed. Remove ivy. T2 Lawson cypress fell due to low amenity value, excessive shading and to benefit neighbouring ornamental pear and larch.	16/04/2021
20210705	49 Bircham Road, Reepham	TPO	T1 oak - crown lift over road to approx 4m. T2 oak - crown lift over path to 2.4m. Reduce extended upper crown growth by 2m to suitable pruning point. T3 beech - reduce away from neighbouring property approx 1-1.5m to suitable pruning points.	Approved
20210715	Greenbraec, 132 Lower Street, Salhouse	211	T1 ash - current height. 10m. Crown raise to 4m. T2 oak - current height 12m spread 16m. Crown reduce by 1.5 - 2m. T3 tree of heaven - reduce height from 16m by 3.5 - 4m. T4 willow - reduce height from 9m by 1.0 - 1.5m. T5 ash – re-pollard.	Approved
20210716	14 Ringland Road, Taverham	TPO	T1 oak - situated within a soft bank. Current height 13m. Crown raise limb over summer house. Reduce crown by 2.0 - 2.5m to rebalance and reduce risk of wind throw.	01/04/2021
20210730	1 Harker Way, Blofield	TPO	T1 sycamore - fell due to low amenity value and excessive shading. Removal will benefit form of neighbouring beech and western red cedar and provide a more appropriate spacing for a residential garden. Replanting of an understory tree in its place would be welcomed. T2 & T3 cypress - dead. Fell. T4 beech - crown lift to 3.5m to alleviate impact on garden area. Reduce major scaffold stem extending over garden on eastern portion of crown to growth point around 1-2m from main union (reducing western portion of crown from 7m to 3m) in order to alleviate any chance of failure of main union and to correct westerly crown bias.	21/04/2021
20210734	8 - 12 New Street, Cawston	211	G1 4 x conifers - approx height 4m. Fell	Approved
20210735	Ollands Farm, Ollands Lane, Heydon	211	T1 - semi-mature ash, height approx 14m. Fell.	Approved
20210744	Hillside Farm, 98 Lower Street, Salhouse	TPO	Blue Cedar in front garden. Application to renew previous approval to fell PA20121701 which was not carried out. We prefer to save this tree, however it has recently suffered another major branch fall so we are seeking professional advice to make safe. If this means felling the entire tree then so be it, but we will try to avoid that outcome if possible.	23/04/2021

20210748	44 Keys Drive, Wroxham	TPO	<i>Quercus robur</i> - selective reduction of overhanging branches 1.5 to 2 m max. Branches in question overhanging log cabin & shed.	26/04/2021
20210749	Cheyne, 11 Barberry Close, Taverham	TPO	T1 sycamore - 11m. Fell. Heavy presence. Concerned it has moved away from fence and is in close proximity to the house.	26/04/2021
20210750	69 Buxton Road, Spixworth	TPO	T1 sycamore - remove dead section/branches for safety reasons and to avoid potential damage to neighbours' cars as significant dead branches have been falling over the last winter.	Withdrawn
20210757	7 Charles Close, Wroxham	211	T1 beech - remove lowest limb growing towards house. Limb approx 5m.	Approved
20210760	Willow Barn, 59 Coltishall Lane, Horsham St Faith	TPO	T1 willow - approx height 15-20m, approx 20m crown spread. Reduce extended laterals from dominant branch by 5m (total length currently 10m) or 50% on eastern crown. Reduce crown by 3m. 4m on northern extended lower lateral.	06/04/2021
20210761	148 Norwich Road, Wroxham	211	T1 group of 2 sycamores - fell. Current height approx 11m.	Approved
20210775	343 St Faiths Road, Old Catton	TPO	Oak - raise canopy by removing lower tier of branches by up to approx 5.5m. Clean out.	Approved
20210776	Carinya, 22 Brook Street, Buxton With Lamas	TPO	T1 ash in front garden – approx 22m high and 10m wide. Reduce by 5-6m in height and 2m from sides.	27/04/2021
20210787	St Margaret's Churchyard, Church Lane, Swannington	TPO	Horse-chestnut – fell.	08/04/2021
20210791	The Old Cottage, Frogs Alley, Halvergate	TPO	Remove eucalyptus and replace with native species (silver birch).	29/04/2021
20210799	The Manor, 28 The Street, Burgh	211	Dead beech – remove.	Approved
20210806	The Old House, 15 Church Street, Coltishall	211	Ash - to be felled as it is showing signs of dieback and is heavily leaning. Re-plant with standard oak in same position.	03/05/2021
20210809	The White House, 33 Wroxham Road, Coltishall	211	T1 poplar - 15m high. Fell due to adverse lean, heavy ivy content and basal decay. T2 hazel - 5m high. Reduce overhang back to boundary as agreed with neighbour. Tree overhangs tennis court. T3 cherry - 5m high. Fell due to position on boundary line. T4 beech - 14m high. Reduce overhang back to clear tennis court by approximately 2m, blending and re-shaping crown above to re-form crown shape. T5 beech - 14m high. Reduce overhang back to boundary of tennis court where required, blending in upper crown to re-form natural shape. All works proposed are to mitigate growth impact on tennis court.	03/05/2021
20210815	1 Banningham Road, Aylsham	211	Pine x 2 - fell due to damaging wall and roots are pushing up the tarmac on the road surface.	04/05/2021
20210829	2 Sylvan Way, Taverham	TPO	Hornbeam - fell and re-plant to allow development of garage.	05/05/2021
20210834	Buxton Post Office, 9 Brook Street, Buxton With Lamas	TPO	Fell due to poor condition and limited life expectancy.	05/05/2021
20210856	Woodhurst, 69 The Street, Brundall	TPO	T2 Lime - current height 25m. 10m crown reduction. G1 Leyland cypress - height 13-15m. 3m crown reduction.	23/04/2021
20210865	5 The Elms, St Faiths Road, Old Catton	TPO	T3 oak - raise the crown about 1m to avoid branches laying on top of/damaging hedge.	10/05/2021
20210868	19 Hilly Plantation, Thorpe St Andrew	TPO	G1 group of laurel & yew - cut back over flower borders by 2-3m. T1 yew - reduce by 3m to re-shape canopy leaving a height of approx 5-6m and spread of 4m.	14/04/2021
20210869	17 Stanmore Road, Thorpe St Andrew	211	T1 - T2 <i>Cotoneaster</i> - reduce by 3m leaving height of 3m. T3 <i>Prunus</i> - reduce by 3m to re-shape crown canopy leaving height of approx 5m.	14/04/2021
20210873	Twin Oaks, 15 South Avenue, Thorpe St Andrew	211	Cherry – overhanging. Trim back left-hand and middle trunks.	15/04/2021
20210874	Church Farm House, 6 Booton Road, Cawston	211	T1 & T4 sycamore and G1, G2, T2 & T3 conifer – fell.	10/05/2021
20210875	3A Sylvan Way, Taverham	TPO	Oak - pollard to original crown.	13/04/2021
20210878	13 Spinney Road, Thorpe St Andrew	TPO	2 x sycamore – fell. Heavily covered by ivy and with substantial unbalanced lean. Risk of damage to property.	10/05/2021
20210881	Primrose Farm, Heydon Road, Wood Dalling	TPO	T1 & T2 multi stem sycamores – fell. Shading and risk of failure due to multi-stem nature causing damage to property.	10/05/2021
20210888	Royal Norwich Golf Course, Weston Hall Road, Weston Longville	TPO	Removal of a dead larch, pine and elm.	Approved

20210899	18 The Green, Woodbastwick	211	T1 oak - 11m high. Thin crown by 15% max to allow natural light percolation into the garden. T2 pear - 6m high. Remove lowest limb overhanging neighbours' property back to the stem. T3 ash - 9m high. Reduce overhanging limbs by up to 3m. Current width is approximately 4-5m.	11/05/2021
20210890	24 A Dixons Fold, Old Catton	TPO	2 sycamore & 1 ash – fell. Crown lift all other trees to approximately 5m.	10/05/2021
20210909	21 Kinsale Avenue, Hellesdon	TPO	Lift crown to 3m by removing small low lateral limbs and small secondary branches that are crossing or rubbing and detrimental to the future health, vigour and safety of tree. Deadwood.	11/05/2021
20210933	18 Seton Road, Taverham	TPO	T14 Douglas fir - reduce length of over-extended laterals to reduce sail and weight to minimise risk of failure. Work required due to previous failure of this nature. T4 sweet chestnut - remove / coppice limb extending over garden toward house to minimise risk to garden fencing and pergola.	14/05/2021
20210935	Woodlands, 12 Staithe Way Road, Wroxham	TPO	Fir - fell due to danger of falling. 2 x cypress - fell due to blocking light of neighbouring property and causing damage to fence.	14/05/2021
20210958	2 Yare Valley Rise, Brundall ,	TPO	???	25/04/2021
20210960	Field House, Heydon Road, Aylsham	TPO	T18 grand fir - reduce height to same as surrounding canopy.	18/05/2021
20210961	???	TPO	Beech - fell and re-plant with another tree due to roots causing issues with power supply.	26/04/2021
20210966	UCP Zeller Plastik, Salhouse Road, Sprowston	TPO	G1 overhanging canopies - cut back to full height to give 1m clearance over path. Trees on adjacent woodland will be crown raised to a height of 5.5m. G3 - 3 stems of phototrophic silver birch and one phototrophic beech overhanging boundary. Fell. T1 oak – leaning - Canopy could receive some targeted reduction of the peripheral crown edge over road, reducing selected branches back by around 1.5 – 2m.	26/04/2021
20210967	18 Anchor House, Anchor Street, Coltishall	211	<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i> - trunk size at base approx 0.25m. Thin branches to be trimmed back approx 600mm. 3 x silver birch - height approx 14m. Trunk at base approx 0.35m. Overhanging branches approx 30mm tapering to approx 5mm to be cut back by approx 2m.	28/04/2021
20210968	Spinney Lodge, 82 Taverham Road, Taverham	TPO	T1 poplar - fell. T2 Douglas fir - reduce longer laterals extending out of crown by 2.5m keeping shape but lessening end loading. T3 beech - reduce branch ends by 2m over drive into garage. T4 <i>Acer</i> - reduce away from house roof to clear by 3m and crown lift over flower bed to 5m. T5 cypress - crown lift to 2.5m.	18/05/2021
20210969	5 Yare Valley Rise, Brundall	TPO	Lime - ???	26/04/2021
20210970	4 Swansgate, Old Catton	TPO	T1 whitebeam - appears to have died. Fungus on trunk and visible roots over winter. This year it has not blossomed. Concerned as it is near footpath used by pedestrians, local school children and the doctors opposite.	19/05/2021
20210972	Former Oasis Centre, Thorpe St Andrew	TPO	T36 cherry - remove dead wood. T23 rowan - fell. T30 sycamore - remove hung up dead tree over path. T61 giant sequoia - remove damaged boughs. T68 red horse-chestnut - reduce canopy on western side above decayed pollard. Remove 30% of secondary growth back to branch unions. T83 beech - thin canopy to remove 30% of secondary growth below 60mm dia back to branch unions. T95 beech – diseased. Fell. T102 beech - thin canopy to remove 30% of secondary growth below 60mm dia back to branch unions.	04/05/2021
20210976	50 Charles Close, Wroxham	TPO	T1 oak - fell due to damage to underground services and defects in the crown. Re-plant with one standard maple nearby.	20/05/2021

20210983	Siennabelles, Scotch Hill Road, Taverham	TPO	Works to be completed in woodland. Remove all dangerous deadwood that may cause harm to children that play beneath. Make piles of deadwood collected for habitat. Remove any hanging/torn out or hazardous limbs. Make piles for habitat and woodland preservation. T1 silver birch – fallen and hazardous. Remove. Make piles of timber for habitat. T2 oak - severely leaning due to added weight of ivy. Reduce to a monolith.	21/05/2021
20211009	The Oaks, Back Street, Reepham	211	T1 conifer and T5 <i>Ailanthus</i> – fell. T2 ash – reduce over-extended side laterals around peripheral crown by 2-3m. T3 ash - crown thin by approx 20%. Reduce selected limbs by no more than 2.5m in any instance. T4 willow - selective reduction of approx 3m of limbs over driveway to suitable growth points. Crown clean. T6 oak – reduce over-extended side lateral over greenhouse by up to 2.5m to suitable sub-lateral growth point. T7 group of leylandii – fell far left end group. Over-extended limb to be reduced back to parent stem. Reduce remaining group down to approx 8m in height.	18/05/2021
20211019	Field House, Heydon Road, Aylsham	211	T3 pine - reduce boughs where close to overhead phone lines by removing minor upright limbs 20mm diameter. T18 fir - reduce canopy from 23 to 18m to a sub-canopy growth point.	26/05/2021
20211020	Northwood, 104 Lower Street, Salhouse	211	Holly and leylandii - prune 25 to 75 mm.	10/05/2021
20211021	44 Springfield Road, Taverham	TPO	2 x oak - crown raise to 5m and thin upper canopy by 20%. 3 x sycamore - crown raise to 5m and reduce height by approx 5m. 3 x silver birch - crown thin by 20% and reduce by approx 5m. All work proposed to allow light in.	12/05/2021
20211025	4 South Avenue, Thorpe St Andrew	TPO	G1 – 7 x sycamore growing from and around fallen trunk. Fell. G2 holly - reduce overhanging branches to boundary. T3 holly - reduce height from 8m to 7m.	27/05/2021
20211026	Brook House, 2 Parkside Drive, Old Catton	TPO	T1 Lawson cypress - fell due to low amenity value. T2 Scots pine - reduce western portion of crown by 2.5m from 6.5m to reduce likelihood of failure and bias. T3 yew - reduce western portion of crown by 2m from 6m in order to alleviate conflict with neighbouring tree. T4 yew - reduce eastern portion of crown by 2m from 5m in order to alleviate excessive shading. T5 & T6 yew - reduce western portion of crowns by 2m from 5m in order to alleviate bias and excessive shading.	28/05/2021

Explanatory Notes:

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