

# Draft Tree Strategy: Version 2.2

# 1 INTRODUCTION

Salisbury City Council (SCC) has set a target of increasing tree canopy cover on land it owns or controls so that it exceeds the current national average of 16% by 5%, ie. SCC Land will support a tree canopy coverage of at least 21% within each of the Wards in Salisbury parish.

This Tree and Ecosystem Service Strategy is designed to support the achievement of this target by:

• defining the current tree stock including locations, numbers, canopy coverage, species, and function on SCC owned and managed land;

- · identifying suitable SCC land for planting and advise on suitable native trees for the identified areas, or alternatives;
- providing an aerial canopy survey which produces a map and percentages of coverage; and
- taking into account the findings of consultation with residents and partners.

The tree strategy also provides the opportunity to identify and therefore maximise a wide range of stacked nature-based benefits ("Ecosystem Services" that are and can be delivered from SCC owned land, including biodiversity, carbon, natural flood management, air quality, pollination, amenity, landscape, heritage, shade and cooling, health and wellbeing benefits), all set within the context of adapting and increasing Salisbury's resilience to climate change.

Salisbury City Council's trees and associated "natural capital" (together with other trees and habitats in the parish) is of critical importance to the community, the local environment and also has a large economic value. They are therefore clearly worthy of protection and enhancement, whether situated within legally or policy protected locations or elsewhere. This strategy seeks to promote, protect, enhance, and increase Salisbury's trees, and the habitats associated with them, and the role they play in this historic and beloved city.

The Tree and Ecosystem Services Strategy (TrESS) comprises the following elements:

- Digital tree atlas for Salisbury City Council land (provided separately as GIS and PDF files)
- Spatial mapping and assessment of where these trees/land is located and associations with non-statutory and statutory designations and environmental/heritage and community features of importance (Appendix A);
- Outputs from extensive walkover surveys of Salisbury City Council trees/land collated as a tree database and a series of plans that can be cross referred to the digital tree atlas, including overview summary information about individual/groups of trees and associated land, images, and recommendations for enhancement/management from a carbon sequestration and storage/biodiversity/ecological emergency and wider ecosystem service standpoint (contained within the body of this report, Appendix A, B and separate Excel spreadsheet);

- Tree and Ecosystem Service Guide. Summary descriptions of the areas where trees are found across the Parish on Salisbury City Council's land and relationship with other areas supporting trees (contained within the body of this report);
- Photo Gazetteer of the trees, linked to the Digital Tree Atlas (Appendix C);
- A review of the Council's existing Environment and Tree Policy and production of a series of recommendations for revising this from a tree planting/management/carbon reduction/ biodiversity/ ecological emergency standpoint (in the main body of this report and Appendix D);
- Identification of opportunities for tree planting, as text and plans, ranked in terms of ecosystem service benefits/costs/potential constraints (in the main body of this report and Appendix E)
- Outputs from consultations made throughout the project and how these feed into the TrESS (in the main body of this report and Appendix F)
- Discussion around the information gathered, policy, legislation, pressures, opportunities and recommendations. (main body of this report)
- A series of advice notes supporting further enhancements to the following categories of areas where trees are found: footpaths; highway verges; cemeteries, small amenity sites; allotments; hedges; woodlands, larger public parks/country parks (Appendix G).

The outputs are:

- Full TrESS, containing all of the prepared information;
- Summary TrESS for public consumption;
- Digital Tree Atlas on GIS;
- Tree database;
- Associated plans;
- Suggested wording for future revised Tree Policy.

# 2 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

# 2.1 SALISBURY CITY COUNCIL – ROLE AND JURISDICTION

Salisbury City Council (SCC) is a parish Council with responsibility for various open spaces in the parish including allotments, amenity sites, cemeteries and play areas. It has recently taken on responsibility for other areas passing over from Wiltshire Council (WCC), via asset transfer, in particular a number of road verges and grassland / trees associated with some housing.

## 2.2 OTHER KEY PARTNERS AND CONTRIBUTORS

This strategy has been developed with the grateful inputs received from a number of key partners and stakeholders including: The Woodland Trust, Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, Salisbury Greenspace Partnership, Wiltshire Council, the Environment Agency and Natural England, as well as taking into account information provided by the community.

• The Woodland Trust is the largest woodland conservation charity in the United Kingdom and is concerned with the creation, protection, and restoration. The Woodland Trust has three aims: to protect ancient woodland which

is rare, unique and irreplaceable, to promote the restoration of damaged ancient woodland, and to plant native trees and woods to benefit people and wildlife.

- The Woodland Trust maintains ownership of over 1,000 sites covering over 24,700 hectares (247 km2). Of this, 8,070ha (33%) is ancient woodland. It ensures public access to its woods.
- Wiltshire Wildlife Trust is a conservation charity based in Devizes, England which owns and manages 40 nature reserves in Wiltshire and Swindon. It also works to encourage Wiltshire's communities to live sustainable lifestyles that protect the environment. It is one of 46 Wildlife Trusts across the United Kingdom, which together form the largest voluntary organisation dedicated to protecting wildlife and wild places everywhere at land and at sea.
- Salisbury Greenspace Partnership is a community-led initiative. It represents a wide range of interests in greenspace in the local area. It undertakes a wide range of activities including: mapping local greenspace assets with a view to developing a local green infrastructure strategy and action plan, planning and influencing work, initiating practical projects and responding to planning applications and appeals.
- Wiltshire Council is a council for the unitary authority of Wiltshire (excluding the separate unitary authority of Swindon) in South West England, created in 2009. Wiltshire Council provides local government services to 435,000 Wiltshire residents and is also the biggest employer in Wiltshire, being responsible for schools, social services, rubbish collection and disposal, county roads, planning, natural environment and heritage, and leisure services.
- Natural England is a non-departmental public body in the United Kingdom sponsored by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. It is responsible for ensuring that England's natural environment, including its land, flora and fauna, freshwater and marine environments, geology and soils, are protected and improved. It also has a responsibility to help people enjoy, understand and access the natural environment.
- The Environment Agency is a non-departmental public body, established in 1996 and sponsored by the United Kingdom government's Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, with responsibilities relating to the protection and enhancement of the environment in England (and until 2013 also Wales). Based in Bristol, the Environment Agency is responsible for flood management, regulating land and water pollution, and conservation.

# 2.3 CLIMATE AND BIODIVERSITY EMERGENCIES

The Council fully acknowledges the Climate and Ecological Emergencies. The Council is committed to reducing the carbon footprint of its community in support of Government and Wiltshire Council targets to reduce carbon emissions, alongside wide-ranging measures to conserve and protect, as well as restore and enhance biodiversity within the Parish.

#### Climate Change Action Plan

Salisbury City Council declared a Climate Change Emergency at Full Council on 17 June 2019.

#### Our Declaration

- Working to make Salisbury as carbon neutral as possible by 2030
- Working with partners to achieve "clean air" in Salisbury, in particular by taking action to reduce vehicle emissions, supporting public transport, cycling and walking

- Replacing or converting all council-owned or operated vehicles to electric powered vehicles as soon as is practically possible
- Encouraging the rapid phasing out of diesel-powered buses in the City by bus operators and their replacement by cleaner or non-polluting alternatives
- Increasing wherever possible the extent of pedestrianised areas within the City centre
- Undertaking a comprehensive programme of improvement of the insulation of all council-owned property
- Ensuring that such property shall be fitted with solar panels wherever possible
- Doing everything within its power to ensure that such standards should also apply to any new buildings which are permitted within the City

#### Our Policy – 6 Themes

- General Environmental Management
- Waste Management
- Energy and Water Management
- Sustainable Procurement
- Transport/Travel
- Natural Environment Management

The Environment and Climate Committee consider:

- Environmental Services which includes Facilities, Street Scene, Parks & Open Spaces, CCTV, Crematorium and Cemeteries
- Environmental Action Plan and associated matters- which includes the monitoring and delivery of the plan
- Any other matter which may be delegated to it by the Full Council from time to time

The operational delivery of services relevant to this TrESS is led by the Environmental Services Manager supported by the Parks Manager and Parks and Grounds Maintenance Team.

#### 2.3.1 Salisbury City Council Environmental Policy

The Council's Environment Policy includes the following elements which have synergies with this TrESS. Please refer to Appendix C for the full policy.

Table 2: Synergies between Council's Environment Policy and this TrESS

Environment Policy	Synergy with TrESS
General Environmental Management Policy	Native tree and shrub
The City Council aims to improve the environmental quality of the city by:	management and planting
Minimising any adverse environmental impacts resulting from its own activities;	Protection of trees
Encouraging others in the community to do likewise through their activities.	Managing for wildlife
Salisbury City Council will adopt the following:	Minimisa posticida usa
Keep its own activities under review, setting objectives, targets and responsibilities to ensure the aims of this policy are met	Engagement and communication
Operate an environmental management system (BS 8555) which enables the council to set objectives and targets, monitor performance and make this information publicly available;	with the community, partners/wider stakeholders and Council employees and sub- contractors in relation to looking
Raise awareness amongst staff of the council's environmental policy and objectives;	after the natural environment
Provide information and encourage an open dialogue with the local community on environmental issues.	Use of appropriate signage/information boards in
Natural Environment Policy	value of trees and green spaces
The overarching objectives of this policy are to balance the needs of the animals, plants, birds and insects that call Salisbury City Council's sites home. It is committed to continually improving its biodiversity performance at its sites, whilst aiming to deliver its services in the most sustainable way.	managed by the Council
It will:	
• Ensure an overall improvement in the management of the wildlife within its landholding, particularly with regard to an increase in priority habitats and species and managing the spread of invasive species. Continued creation of wildflower/bee friendly planting across our estate.	
• Work with Wiltshire Wildlife Trust to conduct Habitat surveys of SCC main sites.	
<ul> <li>Ensure compliance with all applicable environmental laws and regulations.</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Protect and enhance biodiversity during its activities with no net loss of 'priority' habitat.</li> </ul>	

٠	Provide a platform that will deliver opportunities for more people to enjoy the wildlife on our sites by increasing access/awareness.	
•	SCC has ceased use of pesticide in light of emerging evidence	
•	Where possible mitigate against flooding and be as prepared as possible for when flooding does occur.	

#### 2.3.2 Salisbury City Council Tree Policy

The Council's Tree Policy includes the following elements which have synergies with this TrESS. Please refer to Appendix C for the full policy.

Table 2: Synergies between Council's Tree Policy and the TrESS

Tree Policy	Synergy with TrESS
This Policy is intended to act as a point of reference for the public, Councillors, officers and professionally interested people to enable informed discussion and to establish a clear, consistent and more structured approach to the issues affecting trees.	Native tree and shrub management and planting Protection of trees Managing for wildlife
The Policy has been designed for the following purposes:	Minimise pesticide use
<ul> <li>To establish the responsibility of Salisbury City Council in relation to its tree stock</li> <li>To identify and subsequently adopt a tree risk management system</li> </ul>	Engagement and communication with the community, partners/wider stakeholders and Council employees and sub-contractors in relation to looking after the natural environment
• To provide officers and members of the public with advice and guidance in relation to requested remedial tree works	
• To adopt best practice with regards to the appointment and subsequent management of council arboricultural contracts/contractors	
• Tree planting objectives and maintenance	

### 2.3.3 Salisbury Neighbourhood Plan

Salisbury City Council is preparing a Neighbourhood Development Plan that will help shape and guide future development in the city. Neighbourhood planning gives communities the power to develop a shared vision for their area. The policies in the neighbourhood plan can have a long-term positive impact upon the future of Salisbury. The plan will add local detail to Wiltshire planning policies based on the priorities identified by the Salisbury community.

The neighbourhood plan will be prepared alongside other Wiltshire Council projects such as the Central Area Framework and the emerging Local Plan. These mechanisms aim to create a robust and attractive context within which Salisbury will

grow and thrive. The Neighbourhood Plan is managed by a steering group composed of members of the Salisbury community and elected Salisbury City councillors. The steering group is supported by town planning consultants.

Neighbourhood Planning is based on consultation with the community. To develop the plan, the steering group has been meeting with the wider community to understand what Salisbury needs. The whole consultation process started in May and June 2019 with a series of 6 consultation events. With the aims of the plan having been agreed individual working groups have been established and are being led by members of the steering group. The key topic areas are: climate change, transport and movement, green and blue infrastructure, design, housing and employment.

The draft working vision for the Neighbourhood Plan (accessed on the SCC website in February 2023) highlighted two key aspects that align with the objectives of this TrESS:

- Comprehensive green infrastructure networks will link people to jobs, leisure, services and the countryside. The city will be greener with more street trees, improved landscapes and biodiversity. The private sector will play an important role in establishing, maintaining and improving the city's green infrastructure.
- National climate change standards and objectives will at least be met, but largely exceeded.

#### 2.3.4 Trees, Conservation Areas and TPOs

The local planning authority have a statutory duty to designate and manage conservation areas under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. Conservation areas are defined as an area of special architectural or historic interest where the original appearance is preserved or enhanced. Most of Wiltshire's conservation areas are made up of historic parts of towns and villages with some others including special landscapes. Most conservation areas have a high concentration of historic buildings, many of which are listed.

The character of a conservation area is not defined by these buildings alone. The setting, location, features and open spaces also have a large part to play. Additional regulations apply to most trees growing within conservation areas. Anyone wanting to fell or prune a tree or carry out other work which could damage a tree must inform the local planning authority at least six weeks in advance. During this time the Wiltshire Council tree team will consult the local town or parish council and if necessary, serve a Tree Preservation Order. Good partnership working between relevant authorities is required to protect the local character and positively reinforce change.

A Tree Preservation Order is an order made by a local planning authority in England to protect specific trees, groups of trees or woodlands in the interests of amenity. An Order prohibits the:

- cutting down
- topping
- lopping
- uprooting
- wilful damage
- wilful destruction

of trees without the local planning authority's written consent. If consent is given, it can be subject to conditions which have to be followed. In the Secretary of State's view, cutting roots is also a prohibited activity and requires the authority's consent.

Owners of protected trees must not carry out, or cause or permit the carrying out of, any of the prohibited activities without the written consent of the local authority. As with owners of unprotected trees, they are responsible for

maintaining their trees, with no statutory rules setting out how often or to what standard. The local planning authority cannot require maintenance work to be done to a tree just because it is protected. However, the authority can encourage good tree management, particularly when determining applications for consent under a Tree Preservation Order. This will help to maintain and enhance the amenity provided by protected trees.

Arboricultural advice from competent contractors and consultants, or the authority, will help to inform tree owners of their responsibilities and options. It is important that trees are inspected regularly and necessary maintenance carried out to make sure they remain safe and healthy.

#### 2.3.5 Trees and Protection for Sites of Nature Conservation Interest

Trees can be afforded protection if associated with a statutory or non-statutory site of nature conservation importance.

Statutory sites receive protection by means of certain legislation in recognition of its biodiversity and/or geological value. Examples of such sites where trees can be found are Special Areas of Conservation (e.g. the River Avon SAC and some of its river corridor), Sites of Special Scientific Interest (e.g. East Harnham Meadows SSSI). SACs are designated where they support internationally important habitats and/or species listed in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (as amended). SSSIs are designated under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 as amended where they support habitats and/or species of national importance.

Other forms of statutory sites include Local Nature Reserves e.g. Avon Valley Local Nature Reserve (LNR). Town and parish councils can create LNRs if the local planning authority council has given them the power to do this. To qualify for LNR status, a site must be of importance for wildlife, geology, education or public enjoyment. LNRs must be controlled by the local authority through ownership, lease or agreement with the owner.

The protection, management, damage and removal of trees associated with statutorily protected sites is governed by criminal law, with offences being addressed by the Police and Natural England, which can result in a fine, confiscation of equipment, a custodial sentence or a combination. These sites are afforded strong planning policy protection.

Non-statutory designated sites of nature conservation importance are not afforded the same legal protection as a site, but may enjoy legal protection if it forms part of a statutory SSSI, SAC etc, or supports legally protected species and associated habitats. These sites are afforded strong planning policy protection. The Wildlife Trusts provide a helpful description of these sites. "Local Wildlife Sites are sites with 'substantive nature conservation value'. They are defined areas, identified and selected for their nature conservation value, based on important, distinctive and threatened habitats and species with a national, region.

Found on both public and private land, LWSs vary in size and shape from small ponds and copses and linear features such as hedgerows, road verges and water courses to much larger areas of habitat such as ancient woodlands, heaths, wetlands and grassland. They support both locally and nationally threatened wildlife, and many sites will contain habitats and species that are priorities under the county or UK Biodiversity Action Plans (BAP). Collectively they play a critical role in the conservation of the UK's natural heritage by providing essential wildlife refuges in their own right and by acting as stepping stones, corridors and buffer zones to link and protect other site networks and the open spaces of our towns and countryside.

There are currently a number of different terms in use to describe Local Wildlife Sites, including Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs), Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCIs) and County Wildlife Sites. They are usually selected by the relevant Wildlife Trust, along with representatives of the local authority and other local wildlife conservation groups."

Further protection can be afforded to trees if they provide habitat to legally protected species, for example bats, dormouse, birds (during nesting activity and before young fledge) and if associated with habitats typically used for

resting/shelter for other species such as otter, great crested newt, common reptiles. Relevant legislation include the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as amended, Conservation Regulations 2017 as amended.

Trees within certain hedgerows may also be protected under the Hedgerow Regulations 1997 as a result of the hedgerows length, location and importance as defined by the Regulations.

#### 2.3.6 Felling Licence

Felling trees without a Forestry Commission Felling Licence, where one would have been required, is an offence. Only someone with an interest in land (for example a freeholder, leaseholder or tenant – or any agent acting on their behalf) can apply for a felling licence. Not every tree felling project requires a felling licence. Exemptions can be based on:

- location
- the type of tree work
- the volume and diameter of the tree
- other permissions already in place
- legal and statutory undertakings

#### 2.3.7 Ecological Appraisals, Enhancement and Management with the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust

Salisbury City Council are working in partnership with the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust at a number of its larger sites. It has commissioned Preliminary Ecological Appraisal surveys at three woodland areas: The Folly, Harnham Slopes and Chiselbury Grove. Three more planned are planned in March 2023 for grazing paddocks: wildlife meadows at Fisherton (whips donated by the Woodland Trust and planted as natural hedging), Harnham Rec and Green Croft Park.

#### 2.3.8 Salisbury River Park

Wiltshire Council has produced the Salisbury Central Area Framework (CAF) which is an overarching strategy to help shape the future of the city centre and enable it to respond positively to these challenges. The Salisbury River Park is the centrepiece of the Salisbury Central Area Framework and is a collaborative project between Wiltshire Council and the Environment Agency to reduce flood risk to various areas in the city, to provide environmental improvements and opportunities for biodiversity, to improve leisure and recreation and to support the regeneration of the Maltings and Central Car Park area. It will be transformational and provide a lasting legacy for future generations.

The Salisbury River Park will deliver a green infrastructure link through the centre of the city, incorporating the rivers that run through The Maltings and Central Car Park at its core, extending to the Ashley Road/Fisherton Recreation Ground to the north, and towards Elizabeth Gardens to the south.

The outcomes being sought through the delivery of the Salisbury River Park are:

- To reduce flood risk on the Maltings and Central Car Park site and enable strategically important redevelopment of the central car park.
- To reduce flood risk to existing residents and businesses in central Salisbury and the Ashley Road area.
- To improve and enhance the internationally designated habitat and ecology of the River Avon watercourse and its margins.
- To create new and improved spaces for public enjoyment of the river and dwell time in the city centre, in line with the endorsed Masterplan for the Maltings and Central Car Park.

• To build climate change resilience, in response to the climate emergency.

The council, with support from the Environment Agency, Salisbury City Council and the Swindon and Wiltshire Local Economic Partnership have prepared the Salisbury River Park Masterplan which sets out guiding principles for development of the Salisbury River Park to be delivered in phases over the coming years.

The scheme will:

- Reduce flood risk to existing homes and businesses
- Create wildlife corridors and improve biodiversity by connecting fragmented green spaces
- Improve the recreational and amenity value of the area
- Enable regeneration of key development sites.

As part of the first phase of the Salisbury River Park project it was necessary to remove approximately 100 trees. These were in locations where either excavation was required to provide the necessary extra area for flood flows, or in locations where flood defences had to be constructed. The project looked to avoid tree loss wherever possible and also ensured no impact on the highest value trees. Most of the tree removal was along the River Avon channel in the Central Car Park area where, due to a lack of maintenance, the trees were overshading the river and banks and having a negative impact on the local wildlife. Through the project almost 1,000 new trees are being planted of a variety of species. This includes a large number of semi-mature trees. The planting schedule for this has been agreed with the Local Planning Authority and land owners. A maintenance plan is in place for the future care of the trees. This is funded through the project using a Section 106 agreement.SCC New Tree Planting

#### 2.3.9 Salisbury City Council Replacement Tree Planting

In 2023 sixty replacement trees were planted to replace trees which were removed over the past 12 months, this procedure takes place each year in-line with our tree policy. SCC aims to get as close as it possibly can to the same species/family of tree, but it does depend on what its contractor can supply. It also endeavours to plant as close as possible to the location of the original tree.

SCC offer a memorial tree service. In most cases people are content to purchase a memorial tree from our replacement tree list.

Location	Year planted	Group	Tree Species	Tree size	Quantity	Initiative
Harnham Slope	2023	FOHS & SCC	Beech	Whips	50	Replacement
Chiselbury Grove Woodland	2023	SCC	Beech	Whips	10	Replacement
Across Parish	2023	SCC	Mixture	6 – 12ft Root ball	60	Replacement
Parsonage Green Salisbury	2023	Harnham Community Network Group	Limes trees (T. cordata Greenspire)	6 – 12ft Root ball	9	Funded, improve wildlife corridor and mark Queens Jubilee
Fisherton Meadow re- wilding project (Kensington meadow)	2023	Volunteer group and SCC	Mix native hedge row	Whips	80 metres double planted.	SCC re-wilding project
Fisherton Meadow re- wilding project (Sarum Meadow)	2023 (planting commences on 21st March)	Volunteer group and SCC	Mix native hedge row	Whips	400 metres double planted	Re – wilding project. Volunteer acquired whips through the woodland trust
Fisherton Meadow	2023	SCC	Rowan, Hazel, Hawthorn, Dog wood and Yew	3 – 7ft	12	Re-wilding project
Middle Street Meadow	2023	Friends of Middle Street Meadow	Oak tree	Sapling	1	Grown and donated by local resident
Hudson Field	2022	SCC	Beech	6 – 12ft Root ball	20	Queens Jubilee
Victoria Park	2022	SCC	Beech	6 – 12ft Root ball	20	Queens Jubilee
Victoria Park	2022	Salisbury Rotary Club	Cherry (Prunus Kanzan)	6 – 12ft Root ball	10	Donated by the Rotary Club to mark 100 years supporting international, national and local communities and to provide a permanent gift to the people of Salisbury

St Marks Open	2021 - 2022	Janet Davies	Hornbeam and	Saplings	2	Grown and
Space		(local volunteer)	Damson			planted by
						Janet Davies.
						Janet also
						watered these
						trees over the
						summer
						months

#### 2.3.10 Other Community Initiatives

Friends of Harnham Slope 2023: 50 Beech whips Harnham Slope, 10 Beech whips Chiselbury Grove woodland. Whip planting on Harnham slope was a joint effort between SCC Grounds team and the Friends of Harnham Slope volunteer group.

Harnham Community Network's Jubilee Tree Planting at Parsonage Green 2023: Harnham Community Network Group acquired funding for planting trees. Their aim was to improve the green corridor between the river and water meadows and the woodland on Harnham Slope/Hill and to mark the Queens Jubilee with something that will have a lasting benefit for residents and the environment. A consultation with local residents was held and from this, design/plan was devised. The group along with local volunteers planted nine Limes trees (*T. cordata Greenspire*) at Parsonage Green in Harnham.

Fisherton Meadow re-wilding project 2023

Kensington Meadow – 80 metres of double planted hedging whips (mixed native hedge row)

Sarum Meadow – The volunteer group have successfully acquired 400 metres of mix native hedging plants which will be planted by the group on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2023.

Fisherton Meadow: 12 other trees and shrubs have also been planted on Fisherton Meadow these include, Rowan, Hazel, Hawthorn, Dog wood and Yew.

Friends of Middle Street Meadow 2023: In February this year the group of volunteers planted an Oak tree which was grown and donated by a local resident.

Rotary Club tree planting at Victoria Park 2022: Salisbury City Council's Parks Team have planted 10 Cherry Trees following a kind donation from Salisbury Rotary Club. The Cherry Trees, together with a plaque, were donated to celebrate The Rotary Club's 100 years supporting international, national and local communities and to provide a permanent gift to the people of Salisbury. The Club contacted Salisbury City Council with their donation and the Parks Team decided that Victoria Park would be the ideal location for the trees. The variety *Prunus Kanzan* have been planted in the centre of the park close to the Kiosk and play area which will offer shade in the summer months for people to relax and enjoy their picnics.

#### 2.3.11 Salisbury City Council tree planting for the Queens Jubilee 2022

Trees were planted at Hudson's Field and Victoria Park to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, marking 70 years of service by the Queen after she took to the throne on 6 February 1952.

Salisbury City Council worked with contractors PW Maintenance Solutions to plant a distinctive row of Beech Trees across Hudson's Field and Victoria Park. Each location consists of over 20 trees and is roughly 167 metres long. The row of trees at Hudson's Field is located to one side of the pedestrian path which runs from below the Pavilion through the field and down to Stratford Road. The trees significantly change the landscape and create a delightful addition to the path. At Victoria Park, the planting is located adjacent to Park Lane close to the park entrance near the Co-op. As the trees grow, they will provide shade for park users during the summer months.

HM Lord Lieutenant of Wiltshire Mrs Sarah Rose Troughton visited Victoria Park (Tuesday 1 March) at 3pm, alongside the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Salisbury, and enjoyed taking part in planting a tree.

The Mayor of Salisbury, Cllr Caroline Corbin said, "I was delighted to welcome the Lord Lieutenant to the city to help us plant the jubilee trees. These trees will be a lasting reminder of the Jubilee in Salisbury and a great addition to our parks."

Salisbury City Council's tree planting project is part of the Queen's Green Canopy where people from across the United Kingdom are being encouraged to "Plant a Tree for the Jubilee".

#### 2.3.12 Local Nature Recovery Strategy and Environment Act

Local Nature Recovery Strategies (or LNRS) are featured in the 2021 Environment Act, Part 6 and are intended to cover the whole of England through adjoining Local Authority area parcels. WCC and Swindon Borough Council, although separate authorities, are working together on a joint LNRS.

The LNRS will highlight areas of priority where nature focus can add most value to the Nature Recovery Network and support resilient populations of wildlife as well as people. It is likely that the Wiltshire and Swindon LNRS will be used in part to guide:

- What actions by farmers would be most locally beneficial and attract payment under new post Brexit environmental land management schemes
- Where biodiversity lost to development should be replaced
- Which areas should be prioritised to be kept clear of development altogether
- How the targets for habitat creation and the Nature Recovery Network can be met most sustainably

Land management of Salisbury's open spaces and wildlife habitats could contribute positively to achieve the 'bigger, better, more joined up' environmental outcomes intended by LNRS.

### 2.3.13 Integrated benefits – nature and mental health, exercise, enjoyment of nature

Salisbury's parks and open spaces are a vital resource for its residents and are used for a variety of informal and formal recreational purposes e.g. walking, dog walking, running, creative play, sports, exercise, enjoyment of wildlife and relaxation. They are therefore of prime importance for the population's mental and physical health and contribute positively to reducing negative health impacts.

The objectives for trees associated with these green spaces and their associated management needs to balance these uses and ensure all residents are able to gain maximum enjoyment from their local areas. This TrESS aims to promote integrated approaches to open space management which will deliver these multiple benefits – many are not mutually exclusive.

Cost savings – reducing the intensity of management can increase biodiversity, reduce carbon and also save money. As a public body, Salisbury City Council needs to make best use of public funds and seek efficiencies wherever possible. Adopting a more nature friendly approach to open space management can result in significant cost savings, e.g. creation of wildflower meadows in parks can reduce the mowing of grassland from 1-3 cuts every month March-October, down to two cuts a year. Extending or creating new copses of trees will reduce this further. Rewildling of areas can improve wildlife and require non-intervention. Equally, closing the loop on green recycling can turn cut arisings from parks into locally available cheap compost.

## 2.4 TREES AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

Salisbury City Council's land, as well as the remaining parts of Salisbury provide a wide range of services, which we often take for granted. Referred to as Ecosystem Services or 'nature-based services', they considerable increase the value of what might otherwise appear as an everyday area of grassland, scrub, allotments, woodland or trees in streets.

**Supporting**: Ecosystems are underpinned by supporting services without which they could not function. These include the nutrient cycle, soil formation and habitat provision, forming the basis of the other three services. **Provisioning**: These are physical elements that can be extracted from the environment including food, water, fuel, wood and fibre.

**Regulating**: These are services that occur to benefit the ecosystem by keeping a balance of factors such as pollution, water filtration and flood management.

**Cultural**: This service includes ways that a person's health and wellbeing is affected by their environment. The natural environment can improve mental as well as physical health, provide recreation and support education and learning. Biodiversity underpins all these services. An ecosystem approach to the way we manage land, freshwater and sea, requires reference to the ecosystem services and an understanding of the connections between them.

The following figure explains more about ecosystem services and where these might be found in Salisbury's landscape.





The ecosystem services provided by trees are expanded on in greater detail below. Not all of these are directly relevant to land owned and managed by Salisbury City Council, but they are all relevant to Salisbury as a City and as a Parish.

Tree ecosystem services	
Regulating services	Reducing energy use
Absorbing air pollution - particulate matter (PM), NO	Reducing glare
Bemoving dust and odour	Reducing rate and volume of storm water runoff
Producing oxugen	Reducing flood risk
Sequestering and storing carbon – directly and in soil	Recharging ground water
Providing shade	Enhancing water quality
Reducing summer air temperatures and the urban heat	Reducing soil erosion
island effect	Attenuating noise
Providing shelter from wind	Screening unattractive or noisy places
Benefits to agriculture	No. 1 House the second s
Providing shelter for crops and livestock	Providing stock enclosure
Providing shade for livestock	Reducing spread or disease - especially bovine TB
Supporting pollinators and enhancing crop yields	Providing nabitat and cover for game birds
Enhancing pest control	Enhancing output for free-range poultry farms
Cultural services	the second se
Providing and enhancing landscape character	Enhancing community cohesion
Contributing to sense of place and identity	Reducing aggression, violence and crime rates
Part of cultural heritage	Increasing security
Enhancing aesthetics	Enhancing driver and pedestrian safety
Benefiting physical health - reducing blood pressure,	Reducing road traffic speeds
Stress, astrinia	Enhancing privacy
Speeding recovery from surgery and liness	Bringing people closer to nature
Enhancing accention and cognitive function	Providing setting for outdoor learning
Improving mental nearth and weitering	Improving educational outcomes through improvements
Reducing mortality rates - especially related to	for illness
cardiovascular and respiratory diseases	Enhancing quality of life
Encouraging physical activity	Providing spiritual value and meaning
Provisioning services	
Source of timber, fuel, fodder, fruit, nuts and berries	Source of biofuels
Economic benefits	
Increasing land and property prices	Reducing heating and cooling costs
Reducing 'time on market' for selling property	Increasing property taxes
Attracting business and customers	Enhancing rental income
Reducing health care costs	Increasing tourism revenues
Reducing expenditure on air pollution removal	Reducing screening costs especially next to main roads
Reducing expenditure on storm water infrastructure Reducing expenditure on flood defences	Reducing agricultural costs and enhancing farmer income
Saving investment in new power supplies	Providing potential for future carbon offsetting trade

# 3 METHODOLOGY

The following methods were adopted to develop the Salisbury City Council TrESS

#### Confirm land ownership/control boundaries

Liaison with SCC staff to obtain hard copy of digital or hard copy land ownership boundaries (including large open spaces such as parks or other public open spaces, and smaller spaces such as verges). This was extended to include land that was leased, managed or used by SCC but owned by identified third parties. This data, and the Parish boundary was used to provide a spatial boundary for the primary scope of the project. Land parcels were labelled with the ownership status being highlighted to allow for future analysis.

#### Initial Digital Tree Atlas

Purchase the National Tree Map data set as ESRI shape files and integrate this with the land ownership boundary data. This information includes: Trees over 3m in height, Measurements of location, height and canopy spread, Idealised crowns, Detailed crowns, Height points, Created from stereo aerial photography, OSGB Projection, Vector format – ESRI .shp as standard. The latest aerial imagery will also be purchased (2021). The data can be modified to show all trees and only those trees within SCC ownership. The data was then combined with OS base mapping to form an initial digital term atlas.

A corresponding database was produced including the details of each tree, individual/group tree reference number and the items listed above. This information can be transferred to a handheld device to allow subsequent on the ground tree location, and verification of additional information.

This information will be shared in multiple formats to help with collaboration and sense-checking, including interactive PDF so different features can be switched on and off.

#### Integration of SCC Tree Data

The project team, led by the SCC Environmental Service Manager and Parks Manager worked together to identify and agree what additional tree data could be integrated into the Digital Tree Atlas. Tree surveys to inform ongoing tree management have been completed and as such, tagged trees and numbers, tree specific data and tree health/information was included where it exists. This stage also confirmed other relevant information such as the identity and location of Tree Preservation Orders, known veterans, trees that have a particular heritage, ecology, landscape or amenity value and other critical tree specific parameters. This information would be integrated into the tree database.

#### Integration of Wider OpenSource Data

Relevant opensource data will be integrated the GIS to enable evaluation of wider constraints/opportunities associated with the study area and its trees, including in relation to opportunities for wider tree planting. This will include: ancient woodland, national woodland inventory, priority habitats, designated sites, heritage assets and designation, conservation areas, landscape designations, public rights of way, general soil type, lidar (if available), river network, flood zones and the Natural England Green Infrastructure dataset. Confirmed character areas associated with the Neighbourhood Plan/Design Guide have been agreed, and location of city 'gateways' along main transport routes. This information would be integrated into the database.

#### Field Survey - Ground Truthing

The agreed SCC land that forms the project area will be visited to ground truth and add to the data already assembled. This will incorporate the use of mobile mapping, data capture and digital photography. The trees listed on the digital atlas will be visited and the following additional information captured: species, trunk diameter at chest height if over 1m diameter, candidate veteran, potential suitability for roosting bats, nearby conflicts of interest/hazards. In addition, trees less than 3m (not shown on the National Tree Map) will be mapped as groups/individual and species/species mix recorded. The walkover surveys will include a rapid UKHAB survey https://ukhab.org that will characterise the associated habitat type and condition, to allow the future calculation of a baseline biodiversity net gain calculation using the Defra3 metric (the calculation is included, but based on one modelled and agreed future tree planting scenario at the end of the project)

http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6049804846366720 Where there are areas within the study area not planted with trees, Johns Associates will measure soil moisture and soil pH to help support potential future species selection.

#### Production of Field Survey Maps and Initial Analysis

Additional data was added to the GIS/database following the field surveys. This included the additional tree data, updates to correct data where needed, alongside the habitat and constraint/hazard data. This information was analysed and reported on to confirm: constraints on where trees could be planted, areas where trees can be planted without/minimal constraints, coincidence with other existing projects such as the EA River Park Project and the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust PEA work in Harnham Slopes, Chisleham Slopes and Folley/Bemerton Heath, alongside influences such as floodplain, proximity to built environment, designations/protections, character areas and soil character.

#### Community Engagement and Analysis

The initial findings were shared and presented online with this information also being provided in hard copy at a the City Library. This provided an exhibition of key information about the project, and A0/A1 maps that could be marked up by people attending (using wipeable pens and post it notes), alongside questionnaires to complete and leave at the event. This helped to promote and share the work to date by seeking the engagement and involvement of the local community and Ward Members in defining future tree (and wider ecosystem service) strategy across the city, linking to local values, needs and opportunities. This was also an excellent opportunity to seek the involvement and local participation in the future custodianship of the open spaces and trees in the City. This included involvement with relevant organisations already undertaking such work in the city (such as Salisbury Area Greenspace Partnership) and considered the Nature Recovery Network requirements of the Environment Act (such as Wiltshire Council). The outputs of the workshops were then collated and analysed. This information has been fed in the TrESS and a summary from the consultation can be found in Appendix E.

#### Final Report/Outputs

All of the information gathered from the desk study, field survey and engagement will be integrated and used to update the GIS, database and to provide final written outputs. This would includes: comprehensive illustrated project report and appendices; 4 page A4, colour illustrated and plain speaking summary for electronic distribution or printing; text and images for the SCC website and social media; suggested wording for an updated Tree Policy, an excel copy of the database, shape files for all the maps (to be used in ESRI ArcGIS or QGIS) and interactive PDFs.

Wider specific aspects that were addressed through the project and its outputs includes: which Wards have a good coverage of trees and which have less; opportunities for mass tree planting as well as individual tree planting; a

mapping layer showing potential future tree planting areas based on the project outputs, alongside a list of suitable species per location and estimated numbers; verifying the potential effect of tree planting (the right trees in the right place) through the use of the habitat survey data and the Defra 3 biodiversity metric; estimate of current carbon stock in soils and trees and the potential future increase in carbon stock, what are the current ecosystem services provided and what opportunities exist to increase/expand these across the 8 Council Wards; integrate with the EA River Park Project (include within the SCC Strategy), acknowledging and signposting the work of others included where this is within SCC land and beyond to promote shared values and partnership working; highlight other areas of land/landowners (if known) with trees/potential for additional trees beyond SCC boundary; provide guidance/specification for enhancing the gateways to the City through specimen/character tree planting.



# 4 TREE AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICE GUIDE

# 4.1 OVERVIEW OF TREE AND TREE CANOPY DISTRIBUTION

### 4.1.1 Salisbury Parish

The total number of trees within Salisbury Parish (based on tree points within the National Tree Atlas in 2022) is 53,172. Please refer to Appendices A and B for further details.

## 4.1.2 Salisbury City Council Land

The total number of trees on land that Salisbury City Council owns or manages (based on tree points within the National Tree Atlas in 2022) is 12,050.



Figure 4.1 highlights the location and distribution of Salisbury City Council Land.

Figure 4.1 SCC Ownership and Management Land

Table 4.1 lists the larger sites/locations owned or managed by Salisbury City Council and the percentage canopy cover and number of trees within each of them. It can be seen that some locations (e.g. Blue Boar Row), do not have any trees present, as a reflection of their setting and land use, whilst others have a much larger extent (e.g. parks, nature reserves).Salisbury City Council has also acquired responsibility for a significant number of other (typically smaller) land parcels from Wiltshire Council, many of which also have trees (not shown here). Please refer to Appendix A and B for full details.

	Area	Total	Canopy	Remaining	Tree
Name of SCC Land	Ref	Area Ha	Cover	Area	Points
47 Blue Boar Row, Salisbury	1	0.062	0.000	0.062	0
Bemerton Heath Post Office, Salisubry	2	0.030	0.000	0.030	0
Salisbury Brown Street Alzheimers Centre	3	0.024	0.000	0.024	0
Scout Hut	4	0.291	0.004	0.287	4
Rampart Road Store, Salisbury	5	0.028	0.000	0.028	0
84 Fisherton Street, Salisbury	6	0.126	0.000	0.126	0
Salisbury Market Place Car Park	7	0.704	0.137	0.567	36
Salisbury Poultry Cross	8	0.025	0.000	0.025	0
Lower Bemerton Recreation Ground	9	1.440	0.255	1.185	49
Westwood Open Space	10	5.215	0.720	4.495	102
Barnard's Folly	11	2.829	1.108	1.721	188
Bemerton Folly	12	10.417	9.794	0.623	1777
58-64 Pinewood Way right of way	13	0.051	0.001	0.051	0
58-64 Pinewood Way	14	0.150	0.001	0.149	0
Devizes Road Cemetery	15	3.424	1.066	2.358	160
Fisherton Farm Allotments	16	11.429	0.794	10.635	220
Primrose Farm	17	6.658	1.559	5.099	249
Stratford Shelley Drive Allotments	18	2.894	1.099	1.795	222
Fisherton Recreation Ground	19	3.655	0.605	3.050	127
Coldharbour Lane Allotments	20	0.943	0.059	0.885	18
Ashley Road Open Space	21	1.771	0.120	1.651	21
Butts Warwick Close Allotments	22	1.759	0.084	1.675	17
Victoria Park	23	6.388	1.561	4.827	229
123-125 Castle Street	24	0.240	0.004	0.236	2
Wyndham Park POS	25	1.148	0.276	0.871	39
Bourne Hill Swimming Pool Site	26	0.338	0.047	0.291	8
St Edmund's Churchyard	27	0.908	0.428	0.480	50
Bourne Hill Gardens	28	1.446	1.052	0.395	102
The Greencroft	29	1.420	0.599	0.822	92
Greencroft St Garages	30	0.050	0.009	0.041	3
Winchester St Garages	31	0.027	0.004	0.023	1
Brown Street Gym	32	0.020	0.000	0.020	0
68 Milford St	33	0.020	0.002	0.018	0
Guildhall	34	0.131	0.001	0.130	0
Maltings POS	35	0.325	0.115	0.210	15
Queen Elizabeth Gardens plus links to city					
centre	36	3.161	0.930	2.231	183
Lush House Car Park	37	0.259	0.029	0.230	8

Name of SCC Land	Area Ref	Total Area Ha	Canopy	Remaining Area	Tree Points
Mill Boad	38	0.018	0.005	0.013	1
Churchill Gardens and Car Park	39	9.354	3,295	6.060	583
Mevrick Close POS	40	1.326	0.101	1.225	23
Chiselbury Grove woodland	41	2.461	2.358	0.103	280
Harnham Slope	42	3.341	2.888	0.452	431
Old Blandford Road Open Space	43	0.412	0.380	0.032	54
Parsonage Green POS	44	1.358	0.111	1.247	19
Warres Trust Allotments	45	0.906	0.100	0.806	14
Wiltshire Road Allotments	46	0.323	0.009	0.314	2
Harnham Recreation Ground	47	3.115	0.629	2.486	103
Middle St Open Space	48	4.546	1.178	3.368	192
Churchfields Open Space	49	6.623	4.619	2.003	833
Skew Bridge Open Space	50	0.280	0.070	0.210	16
Westwood Allotments	51	0.473	0.088	0.386	29
Hudson's Field Rugby Club Campsite	52	6.636	0.464	6.172	93
Hudson's Field Trust Land	53	16.316	0.587	15.730	121
Portway Sports Field	54	0.917	0.040	0.877	8
Hudson's Field Trust Land	55	0.833	0.146	0.687	26
Hilltop Way Open Space	56	0.394	0.100	0.295	28
St Francis Road/Crescent	57	0.114	0.017	0.097	5
Bishopdown POS Wyndham Park Option					
Land	58	0.267	0.037	0.230	10
Bishopdown Playing Field	59	1.790	0.111	1.679	15
Crematorium	60	3.876	2.065	1.811	308
London Road Cemetery	61	6.485	3.010	3.475	462
Tunnel Allotments	62	1.419	0.188	1.231	34
St Mark's Open Space	63	1.339	0.783	0.556	145
London Road Allotments	64	1.987	0.181	1.806	33
Wain a Long Road Open Space	65	0.028	0.01/	0.011	6
18 College St	66	0.104	0.010	0.095	3
	6/	0.125	0.124	0.001	13
New Bridge Road Open Space Options	68	0.319	0.067	0.252	13
New Bridge Road Open Space	69	1.539	0.765	0.773	97
IVIaltings Island	/0	0.037	0.029	0.009	8
54 FISNERTON ST	/1	0.008	0.000	0.008	0
96 Fisherton St	/2	0.007	0.000	0.007	U

Table 4.2 below shows the number of trees (measured as tree points on the National Tree Atlas) on Salisbury City Council owned/managed land associated with each Ward. It also shows the percentage that the Salisbury City Council trees make up of all the trees recorded for each Ward. This analysis shows that Salisbury City Council is responsible for between 9% and 18% of all trees within the Salisbury Parish Wards.

Ward	Count	Percentage
St Francis & Stratford Ward	1,557	13%
CB1	1,410	
CB2	147	
Fisherton & Bemerton Village Ward	777	6%
CD1	74	
CD2	318	
CD3	385	
Bemerton Heath Ward	2,371	20%
CA1	30	
CA2	2,284	
CA3	57	
St Paul's Ward	1,785	15%
CE1	921	
CE2	294	
CE3	570	
St Edmund's Ward	949	8%
CF1	635	
CF2	314	
Harnham West Ward	1,338	11%
CG1	376	
CG2	624	
CG3	338	
Harnham East Ward	1,051	9%
CH1	783	1
СН2	268	
Milford Ward	2,222	18%
CC1	1,088	
CC2	178	
CC3	198	
CC4	758	
Total Trees owned by Salisbury CC	12,050	

#### 4.1.3 Trees by Ward

There are eight Wards within Salisbury parish, which are represented on Figure 4.2 below. These cover the city centre, semi-urban edges of the city, with some Wards including agricultural land and other green space. This influences the distribution of trees within the Parish (e.g. typically trees are absent within large open agricultural fields).

The National Tree Atlas data have been used, alongside the Parish and Ward boundaries to confirm the percentage and area of canopy coverage in Salisbury and per Ward. This can be seen below in Table 4.3. Overall, Salisbury Parish has a canopy coverage of 257.56ha. The Ward with the largest canopy coverage % is Harnham West, with the majority having a canopy coverage of 11 and 18%. The percentage canopy coverage for Salisbury Parish (measured as an average of the individual ward % cover) is 10.9 %.

T I I I O	<b>T</b> . 17	- /		$\sim$	1 14/ 1
Table 4 /	Lotal	ree (	anony	Overade	by Ward
10010 1.2	i otai i		cunopy	coverage	Sy vvara

Ward	Canopy Area (ha)	Percentage
St Francis & Stratford Ward	39.71	15%
CB1	25.74	
CB2	13.96	
Fisherton & Bemerton Village Ward	32.48	13%
CD1	8.56	
CD2	10.15	
CD3	13.76	
Bemerton Heath Ward	30.47	12%
CA1	5.83	
CA2	22.36	
CA3	2.29	
St Paul's Ward	21.68	8%
CE1	10.98	
CE2	4.53	
CE3	6.16	
St Edmund's Ward	13.77	5%
CF1	8.90	
CF2	4.87	
Harnham West Ward	46.98	18%
CG1	13.78	
CG2	22.62	
CG3	10.58	
Harnham East Ward	28.87	11%
CH1	10.41	
CH2	18.46	
Milford Ward	43.62	17%
CC1	14.59	
CC2	5.70	
CC3	5.24	
CC4	18.09	
Total Trees within Salisbury CC	257.56	





Figure 4.2 Canopy Coverage of All Trees in Salisbury Parish by Ward

This can be compared to an analysis of canopy coverage percentage of the trees owned or managed by Salisbury City Council within each Ward, which is shown in Table 4.3 and on Figure 4.3

Ward	Canopy Area (ha)	Percentage
St Francis & Stratford Ward	9.32	13%
CB3	8.71	
CB2	0.61	
Fisherton & Bemerton Village Ward	3.96	6%
CD	0.39	
CD2	2 1.80	
CD	1.77	
Bemerton Heath Ward	13.10	19%
CA	0.19	
CAL	2 12.68	
CAS	0.22	
St Paul's Ward	9.86	14%
CE	5.01	
CE2	2 1.71	
CES	3.14	
St Edmund's Ward	5.67	8%
CF	4.11	
CF2	2 1.56	
Harnham West Ward	9.04	13%
CG	2.98	
CG	4.05	1
CG3	3 2.01	
Harnham East Ward	5.86	8%
CH	4.08	
CH2	1.78	
Milford Ward	12.98	19%
0	6.89	
CC	0.91	
CCS	1.00	
CC4	4.18	
Total Trees within Salisbury CC	69.79	





Figure 4.3 Canopy Coverage of All SCC Trees and by Ward

## 4.1.4 Comparison Against National Trends

The percentage canopy coverage for Salisbury Parish is 10.9 %. This can be compared against a national average of 15.8%. Using the i-Tree Canopy tool, the canopy cover for 283 towns and cities in England was assessed by Forest Research in 2016 as part of a baseline study. Canopy cover was assessed at the town or city level, and an average canopy cover of 15.8% was estimated. The average ward canopy coverage for Salisbury as a percentage is 10.9% St Paul's and St Edmond's Wards have the lowest level of canopy coverage with 8% and 55 respectively, which is well below the national average.

# 4.2 OVERVIEW OF HABITAT AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICE PROVISION

## 4.3 GUIDE TO LARGER SALISBURY CITY COUNCIL SITES

## Churchfield's Riverside



Adjacent to the River Nadder and bordering Churchfields Industrial Estate, this linear site becomes wider to the south. Here the land rises up from the river to an area of higher ground with better drained soil.

From the north west entry point at Salisbury Canoe Club to the south west access path, many of the most mature trees are semi mature to mature London Plane, with substantial stands of well established alder along the waters edge. There are also ash along the Site boundary. Further south black poplar, occasional horse chestnut and young cherry.

At the southern access point there is scrub with occasional hawthorn and goat willow. Further south are young black poplar and mature Normandy poplar and ash.

At the north east path the dominant trees along the river bank are in form of stands of mature and semi mature white poplar, other species including black poplar and weeping willow. Occasional specimens include false acacia, Scots pine, hazel. and Lombardy poplar.





As the site widens to the south the species mix broadens, with numerous mature ash and semi mature to mature chestnuts interspersed with mature coniferous trees.

Occasional trees include: mature London plane, sequoia, false acacia, ash, cherry and oak. At these higher levels is ground cover of bramble, dogwood, occasional Buddleja and areas of ivy and grass cover.

At the waters edge to the south, trees include younger white poplar and black poplar, alder and occasional mature lime.

The southern and eastern areas are more open than the rest of the Riverside, the eastern side with views extending across the river to the water meadows.



# Harnham Slope Open Space



Harnham Slope Open Space sits to the south of Salisbury at the edge of Harnham and agricultural land beyond. This 2.96 hectare site forms part of the Avon Valley Path and contains evidence of an Anglo Saxon burial ground. Artefacts from the Iron Age have also been found here. At the Old Blandford Road entrance to the site is an old military bunker now used as a youth music centre.

This north facing escarpment is a designated County Wildlife Site as the woodland is of geological significance. Further to the west are the chalk pits, a designated Site of Scientific Interest (SSSI).

The habitat is broadleaf woodland with some scrub and species rich semi improved grassland in the glade areas. The woodland tree species consist mostly of sycamore beech and ash.

The land was gifted to the people of Salisbury by Bishop John Wordsworth. This monument now sits at the top of Harnham Slope on 'Bishops Walk'. Along this top path, mature beech trees along the boundary allow light through to a glade maintained by Friends of Harnham Slope.



# Harnham Slope Open Space



A larger glade links upper and lower paths and provides habitat for wildlife. Glade edge and understorey species include hawthorn, holly, privet and yew.

Other habitats include steeply sloping shady areas with ferns and mossy logs adjacent to the upper path, and scrubby areas adjacent to the southern boundary with residential properties. Much of the site is woodland and nearly all is north facing slope.

Regular maintenance is evident throughout the site and the Friends of Harnham Slope (FOHS) actively maintain glades and work to improve the habitats.

Uphill from the Slope is a further open space adjacent to the Old Blandford Road. Here trees include beech, hornbeam, sycamore and oak framed by the mature trees behind, at the top of the Slope. This wider verge area is ablaze with colour when the spring bulbs flower.



# The Greencroft



The Greencroft is an open space close to Salisbury Arts Centre which has been spared development as it was a burial site from the 1620s for many who succumbed to the plague. Saxon burials were also found here and a Paleolithic axe.

The Greencroft was also the site of the Michelmas fair from 1570, for the sale of sheep, depicted in the mosaic above.

Today the area is a recreational space containing a playground and basketball facilities, and forms an open space venue for various community and arts events.

Most trees here are formal avenues of mature lime which cross the site. Adjacent to the ringroad other species include Norway maple, silver birch, sycamore and wild cherry.



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## Salisbury Arts Centre grounds



Salisbury Arts Centre, formerly St. Edmunds Church, was founded in 1975 and is surrounded by peaceful grounds to the north of the town centre.

The churchyard contains the World War I memorial amongst a number of specimen trees and also seating and outdoor café space in the summer. The grounds have hosted various Arts events and sculptures, some of which remain on the Site.

Specimen trees on site include a cedar of Lebanon, silver fir and walnut. The majority of trees are limes and yew. More recently planted trees include wild cherry and silver birch.

A swathe of daffodils brighten up the westernmost area of the grounds, adjacent to the path just outside the site.



## Wyndham Park Open Space



Wyndham Open space is a square park near the Council offices, within a residential area just to the north of the town centre. Previously the site of the old swimming pool, the park contains a sports wall and is a popular site for informal sports and dog walking.

On three sides, the Open Space is bounded by residential streets, and Bourne Hill Gardens and the Secret Garden the South.

The mature boundary trees are mostly lime to the western boundary, and largely hornbeam to the north. To the east, mature trees include sycamore, beech and hornbeam with others including ash. Many trees to the south west are walnut, with further tree planting continuing into the adjacent car park.

Lines of younger trees have been planted over recent years parallel to the mature boundary trees. These include species such as hornbeam oak and walnut.

Much of the most recent planting is towards the southeast if the Site and includes birch maple and hornbeam.



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Much of the most recent planting is towards the southeast if the Site and includes birch maple and hornbeam.


#### Portway Football Field



This small site of improved grassland contains a football pitch and clubhouse. Views extend from the site to Old Sarum and over nearby fields.

A group of garden trees sits behind the boundary hedge (to left of image below), the only group of trees on site being a small group of mixed hedgerow species with ivy growing through, seen to the right of the larger garden trees below.

Open views extend from the field to a residential area beyond.

The wire boundary fence is skirted by sporadic blackthorn and hawthorn shrubs and elder but is visually open to the landscape beyond.



#### Salisbury Crematorium



Built in the 1960s the 2.6 hectare landscape design was completed by Landscape Architect Brenda Colvin, a nationally important designer. Salisbury Crematorium is included on the Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest at Grade 11.

The Crematorium grounds fall gently away from the main building, with glades formed between groups of mature trees. These groups are mostly beech amongst others including yew and Swedish whitebeam.

A Garden of Remembrance provides a contemplative space with seating in a more ornamental setting.

Mature lime trees within the adjacent Cemetery form a visual boundary to the site, whilst in other directions the glades continue to the distance, with groups of boundary trees softening the site edges yet still allowing some views to permeate through to the residential area beyond.



#### **Devizes Road Cemetery**



Opened in 1856, Devizes Road Cemetery is a largely open green space within an otherwise residential area, containing many fine mature trees and a small chapel.

Specimens such as the cedar of Lebanon at the entrance and the monkey puzzle tree create dramatic silhouettes. A mature avenue of beech trees provides formality and scale to the west of the Cemetery.

Boundary trees include mature western red cedars in the northern part of the Cemetery, largely beech and lime to the east and south west.

Further specimens include Western red cedar, Scots pine, Lawson cypress and common juniper.



#### London Road Cemetery



Opened in 1857, the Cemetery contains war graves from First and Second World Wars and a memorial, the 'Cross of Sacrifice' situated on the main avenue. There is also a dedicated area for Muslim burials.

The Cemetery contains many mature specimens; the formal main avenue is lined by mature Deodar cedar, as is the northern avenue. The site is bounded on three sides by mature boundary trees, the majority of which are mature lime on the northern and western boundaries.

To the south west boundary there is a more scrubby area which is not easily accessed, but is of value as natural habitat to deer and other wildlife.

Specimen trees around the site include red pine, copper beech, Wellingtonia, Chinese juniper and Scots pine among others.



#### Victoria Park



The oldest park in Salisbury, Victoria Park was opened in 1887 to celebrate Queen Victoria's Jubilee.

Today the park contains tennis courts, a childrens play area, basketball facilities and houses The Pantry Partnership local enterprise in the former bowls club.

Within Victoria Park is an impressive collection of trees, many of which by their maturity bring a truly grand scale to the public space. At the main entrance, a single cedar of Lebanon greets visitors before a pair of mature beech which form the start of the central walk. The central cedar of Lebanon create an imposing avenue, continuing with the limes which rise up the central path adjacent to the play area and nearby café.

Victoria Park has its own dedicated team of volunteer gardeners who tend to a garden area adjacent to the tennis courts. Bug boxes and tree houses have been installed, along with compost heaps and a planter containing edible herbs. Evidence of the local community's growing interest in wildlife is present all around the park.

A Bug Hotel has been constructed, and the award winning Salisbury Bee Trail offers visitors the opportunity to learn more about pollinators.



#### Victoria Park





From the café area, an oval path surrounds the football pitch and structure is provided by mature horse chestnuts, some of which have been lost in recent years.

The northwest boundary planting of mature Austrian pine, Weymouth pine and yew forms a mature and impressive backdrop to the park.

Further tree planting including pines, cherry, sycamore, chestnut and new pissards plum trees in the car park area.

Numerous younger trees have not been included in the report, such as the 20 beech trees planted in celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and 10 cherry trees planted thanks to a donation by Salisbury Rotary Club.



#### 4.4 GUIDE TO SMALLER SALISBURY CITY COUNCIL SITES



#### **5** OPPORTUNITIES FOR PLANTING AND ENHANCEMENTS

- 5.1 PROMOTING AND LIMITING FACTORS
- 5.2 SPACE TO PLANT
- 5.3 INEQUALITY IN WARD CANOPY COVERAGE



#### 6 ADVICE NOTES

A series of advice notes have been produced for the following land use types known to be associated with trees on SCC land: footpaths; highway verges; small amenity sites; hedges; trees. These are set out in Appendix G.

- Footpaths
- Highway verges
- Small amenity sites
- Cemeteries/crematorium
- Allotments
- Hedgerows. Hedgerow strengthening
- Trees. Woodland edge/glade management
- Woodland management thinning, creation of log piles, ash die back approach, hazel coppicing.
- Larger Public Parks
- Country Parks

7 SYNTHESIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS



#### 8 REFERENCES AND FURTHER INFORMATION



#### APPENDIX A SALISBURY CITY COUNCIL TREES AND IMPORTANT/SENSITIVE LAND









Salisbury Parish Boundary

**PROJECT** Salisbury City Council: Tree and Ecosystem Service Strategy

TITLE Salisbury Parish Boundary

 SCALE @ A3
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 MJ

 REFERENCE
 ISSUE/REVISION
 DATE

 J00911-001 v2
 16/6/2022







Salisbury Parish Boundary Salisbury City Council (Sold Transferred Land) Property Boundaries Salisbury City Council Town or Parish Transferred

Property Boundaries

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TITLE

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**PROJECT** Salisbury City Council: Tree and Ecosystem Service Project

SCC Ownership and Management Land

CHECKED BY

CLIENT Salisbury City Council

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#### Salisbury City Council (Sold Transferred Land) Property Boundaries Salisbury City Council Town

Salisbury City Council Town or Parish Transferred

Property Boundaries

CLIENT	Salisbury	City	Council

**PROJECT** Salisbury City Council: Tree and Ecosystem Service Project

TITLE SCC Ownership and Management Land

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#### Salisbury City Council (Sold Transferred Land) Property Boundaries

Salisbury City Council Town or Parish Transferred

Property Boundaries

#### Canopy

Tree Canopy Areas (National Tree Mapping -©Bluesky)

## CLIENT Salisbury City Council PROJECT Salisbury City Council: Tree and Ecosystem Service Project TITLE SCC Ownership and Management Land with National Tree Map Canopies SCALE @ A3 CREATED BY CHECKED BY 1:17,500 CA MJ REFERENCE ISSUE/REVISION DATE J00911-004 v2 16/6/2022







## Salisbury City Council (Sold Transferred Land) Property Boundaries Salisbury City Council Town or Parish Transferred Property Boundaries

CLIENT	Salisb	ury City Council	
PROJECT	Salisb Servic	ury City Council: e Project	: Tree and Ecosystem
TITLE	SCC C Bluesk	Ownership and N xy CIR Aerial Ph	Aanagement Land with otography
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Salisbury Parish Boundary Salisbury City Council (Sold Transferred Land) Property Boundaries Salisbury City Council Town or Parish Transferred

Parish Transferred
Property Boundaries

Areas of Special Interest Conservation (Natural England)

Scientific Interest (Natural England)

CLIENT Salisbury City Council

**PROJECT** Salisbury City Council: Tree and Ecosystem Service Strategy

TITLE Designated Sites

 SCALE @ A3
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 ISSUE/REVISION
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 16/6/2022







Salisbury Parish Boundary Salisbury City Council (Sold Transferred Land) Property Boundaries Salisbury City Council Town or Parish Transferred Property Boundaries Living England Habitat Map Phase 4 (Natural England) Acid, Calcareous, Neutral Grassland Arable and Horticultural Bare Ground Bare Sand Bracken Broadleaved, Mixed and Yew Woodland Built-up Areas and Gardens Coastal Saltmarsh Coniferous Woodland Dwarf Shrub Heath Fen, Marsh and Swamp Improved Grassland Scrub Unclassified Water

CLIENT Salisbury City Council

**PROJECT** Salisbury City Council: Tree and Ecosystem Service Strategy

TITLE Natural England Living England Map

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REFERENCE	ISSUE/REVISION	DATE
J00911-008 v2		16/6/2022





## JOHNS ASSOCIATES

Salisbury Parish Boundary Salisbury City Council (Sold Transferred Land) Property Boundaries Salisbury City Council Town or Parish Transferred Property Boundaries Natural England GreenBlue Instrastructure Local Nature Reserve Access Land (CRoW) Activity Spaces Provision (Inc Bowling Greens, Tennis Courts) Allotments or Community Growing Spaces Cemeteries and Religious Grounds Golf Course Other Sports Facilities Play Space Provision Playing Fields Public Park - General Water Courses and Surface Water Features Woodland

CLIENT Salisbury City Council

**PROJECT** Salisbury City Council: Tree and Ecosystem Service Strategy

TITLE GBI Data

 SCALE @ A3
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 DATE

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 16/6/2022







 Salisbury Parish Boundary
 Salisbury City Council (Sold Transferred Land)
 Property Boundaries
 Salisbury City Council Town or Parish Transferred
 Property Boundaries with Trees
 Areas of Special Interest
 Tree Preservations Orders
 Conservation Areas (Salisbury)

CLIENT Salisbury City Council

**PROJECT** Salisbury City Council: Tree and Ecosystem Service Strategy

TITLE TPOs and Conservation Areas

SCALE @ A3	CREATED BY	CHECKED BY
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REFERENCE	ISSUE/REVISION	DATE
J00911-011 v2		16/6/2022







ATIData\_Public SalisburyCC

## Salisbury City Council (Sold

Transferred Land)
 Central Tree Points (red boundary)
 Property Boundaries

Salisbury City Council Town or Parish Transferred

• Central Tree points (orange boundary)

Property Boundaries with Trees

CLIENT	Salisbury City Council	
PROJECT	Salisbury City Council: Tre Service Project	e and Ecosystem
TITLE	SCC Ownership and Mana Central Tree Points	agement Land with
SCALE @ 1:17,500	A3 CREATED BY CA	CHECKED BY MJ
<b>REFEREN</b> J00911-012	CE ISSUE/REVISION	<b>DATE</b> 16/6/2022







- SCC Town or Parish Trees
- SCC Trees of Interest (ATI Data)

SCC Town Or Parish Transferred Land (with Trees)

Salisbury Parish Boundary

CLIENT	Salisbu	ry City Council	
PROJECT	Salisbu Service	ry City Council: 1 Survey	ree and Ecosystem
TITLE	SCC O or Paris	wnership and Ma sh Land) with Cer	nagement (Town htral Tree Points
SCALE @	A3	CREATED BY	CHECKED BY
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Salisbury Parish Boundary
 Previously Surveyed Trees (Bawden Tree Care)

Salisbury City Council (Sold Transferred Land) Property Boundaries

Salisbury City Council Town or Parish Transferred Property Boundaries with Trees

# CLIENT Salisbury City Council PROJECT Salisbury City Council: Tree and Ecosystem Service Project TITLE SCC Ownership and Management Land with Previously Surveyed Trees SCALE @ A3 CREATED BY CHECKED BY 1:17,500 CA MJ REFERENCE ISSUE/REVISION DATE J00911-013 4/7/2022





## JOHNS ASSOCIATES

- Salisbury CP
  - Bemerton Heath Ward
  - Fisherton & Bemerton Village Ward
  - Harnham East Ward
  - Harnham West Ward
  - Milford Ward
  - St Edmund's Ward
  - St Francis & Stratford Ward
  - St Paul's Ward
- All Trees in Salisbury Parish Boundary ©Blueskies

Ward	Count	Percentage
St Francis & Stratford Ward	9,062	17%
CB1	5,044	
CB2	4,018	
Fisherton & Bemerton Village Ward	6,946	13%
CD1	1,717	
CD2	2,449	
CD3	2,780	
Bemerton Heath Ward	6,460	12%
CA1	1,224	
CA2	4,766	
CA3	470	
St Paul's Ward	4,502	8%
CE1	2,226	
CE2	1,023	
CE3	1,253	
St Edmund's Ward	2,952	6%
CF1	1,882	
CF2	1,070	
Harnham West Ward	8,625	16%
CG1	2,459	
CG2	4,068	
CG3	2,098	
Harnham East Ward	5,604	11%
CH1	2,320	
CH2	3,284	
Milford Ward	9,001	17%
CC1	2,805	
CC2	1,263	
CC3	1,167	
CC4	3,766	
Total Trees within Salisbury CC	53,152	

- CLIENT
   Salisbury City Council

   PROJECT
   Salisbury City Council: Tree and Ecosystem Service Strategy
- TITLE
   Number of All Trees in Salisbury Parish Boundary per Ward
- SCALE @ A3
   CREATED BY
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   REFERENCE
   ISSUE/REVISION
   DATE

   J00911-014a
   16/11/2022





### IOHNS ASSOCIATES

- Salisbury CP
  - Bemerton Heath Ward
  - Fisherton & Bemerton Village Ward
  - Harnham East Ward
  - Harnham West Ward
  - Milford Ward
  - St Edmund's Ward
  - St Francis & Stratford Ward
- St Paul's Ward
- Trees owned by SCC

Ward	Count	Percentage
St Francis & Stratford Ward	1,557	13%
CB1	1,410	
CB2	147	
Fisherton & Bemerton Village Ward	777	6%
CD1	74	
CD2	318	
CD3	385	
Bemerton Heath Ward	2,371	20%
CA1	30	
CA2	2,284	
CA3	57	
St Paul's Ward	1,785	15%
CE1	921	
CE2	294	
CE3	570	
St Edmund's Ward	949	8%
CF1	635	
CF2	314	
Harnham West Ward	1,338	11%
CG1	376	
CG2	624	
CG3	338	
Harnham East Ward	1,051	9%
CH1	783	
CH2	268	
Milford Ward	2,222	18%
CC1	1,088	
CC2	178	
CC3	198	
CC4	758	
Total Trees owned by Salisbury CC	12,050	

CLIENT Salisbury City Council **PROJECT** Salisbury City Council: Tree and Ecosystem Service Strategy Number of SCC owned Trees in TITLE Salisbury Parish Boundary per Ward CHECKED BY CREATED BY SCALE @ A3 1:25,000 MJ CA **ISSUE/REVISION** DATE REFERENCE

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## IOHNS ASSOCIATES

- Salisbury CP
  - Bemerton Heath Ward
  - Fisherton & Bemerton Village Ward
  - Harnham East Ward
  - Harnham West Ward
  - Milford Ward
  - St Edmund's Ward
  - St Francis & Stratford Ward
  - St Paul's Ward
  - Trees in Salisbury Parish Boundary (Canopy)

Ward	Canopy Area (ha)	Percentage
St Francis & Stratford Ward	39.71	15%
CB1	25.74	
CB2	13.96	
Fisherton & Bemerton Village Ward	32.48	13%
CD1	8.56	
CD2	10.15	
CD3	13.76	
Bemerton Heath Ward	30.47	12%
CA1	5.83	
CA2	22.36	
CA3	2.29	
St Paul's Ward	21.68	8%
CE1	10.98	
CE2	4.53	
CE3	6.16	
St Edmund's Ward	13.77	5%
CF1	8.90	
CF2	4.87	
Harnham West Ward	46.98	18%
CG1	13.78	
CG2	22.62	
CG3	10.58	
Harnham East Ward	28.87	11%
CH1	10.41	
CH2	18.46	
Milford Ward	43.62	17%
CC1	14.59	
CC2	5.70	
CC3	5.24	
CC4	18.09	
Total Trees within Salisbury CC	257.56	

- CLIENT Salisbury City Council **PROJECT** Salisbury City Council: Tree and Ecosystem Service Strategy
- Canopy Area of All Trees in Salisbury Parish Boundary per Ward TITLE

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## JOHNS ASSOCIATES

- Salisbury CP Bemerton Heath Ward
  - Fisherton & Bemerton Village Ward
  - Harnham East Ward
  - Harnham West Ward
  - Milford Ward
  - St Edmund's Ward
  - St Francis & Stratford Ward
  - St Paul's Ward
  - SCC Owned Trees (Canopy)

Ward	Canopy Area (ha)	Percentage
St Francis & Stratford Ward	9.32	13%
CB1	8.71	
CB2	0.61	
Fisherton & Bemerton Village Ward	3.96	6%
CD1	0.39	
CD2	1.80	
CD3	1.77	
Bemerton Heath Ward	13.10	19%
CA1	0.19	
CA2	12.68	
CA3	0.22	
St Paul's Ward	9.86	14%
CE1	5.01	
CE2	1.71	
CE3	3.14	
St Edmund's Ward	5.67	8%
CF1	4.11	
CF2	1.56	
Harnham West Ward	9.04	13%
CG1	2.98	
CG2	4.05	
CG3	2.01	
Harnham East Ward	5.86	8%
CH1	4.08	
CH2	1.78	
Milford Ward	12.98	19%
CC1	6.89	
CC2	0.91	
CC3	1.00	
CC4	4.18	
Total Trees within Salisbury CC	69.79	

**PROJECT** Salisbury City Council: Tree and Ecosystem Service Strategy

CLIENT Salisbury City Council

Canopy Area of SCC owned Trees in Salisbury Parish Boundary per Ward TITLE

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J00911-015b		16/11/2022

APPENDIX B REFERENCED / LOCATED SCC TREES / TREE GROUPS








































# Legend

	MJ Boundaries		
SCCTP Trees			
0	Surveyed Group		
0	Surveyed Individual		
0	Other Trees		
$\bigcirc$	Trees now Removed		



# Legend

	MJ Boundaries	
SCCTP Trees		
0	Surveyed Group	
0	Surveyed Individual	
•	Other Trees	
$\circ$	Trees now Removed	

APPENDIX C TREE PHOTO GAZETEEER



APPENDIX D SCC ENVIRONMENT AND TREE POLICY





# **Tree Policy**

Policy	Version	Author	Doc	PDF	Date	Review	Review
Number			No.	No.	Published	Due	Team
CS023	3	DB MC	80002		21 Sept 20	21 Sept 23	Man
CS023	2	DB	50282		12 Nov '15	1 Nov '18	Man
CS023	1	DB	50282	51471	1 July '15	1 July '18	Man

# **Distribution**

Internal: All SCC Staff External: Website/Councillors/Partners

# Index:

	Торіс	Page
1	Responsibilities of Salisbury City Council	4
2	Tree Risk Management System and Risk Zones	5
3	Guidance - Requested Tree Work	9
4	Standard of Works – Appointment of Contractors	18
5	Tree Planting and young Tree Maintenance	20
6	Management of Riverside Trees	22
7	Ash Dieback	24
8	Appendix One – Schedule of Areas Managed by Salisbury City Council	26
9	Appendix Two – Tree Inspection Matrix	28

#### Introduction:

This Policy is intended to act as a point of reference for the public, Councillors, officers and professionally interested people to enable informed discussion and to establish a clear, consistent and more structured approach to the issues affecting trees.

The Policy has been designed for the following purposes:

- To establish the responsibility of Salisbury City Council in relation to its tree stock
- To identify and subsequently adopt a tree risk management system
- To provide officers and members of the public with advice and guidance in relation to requested remedial tree works
- To adopt best practice with regards to the appointment and subsequent management of council arboricultural contracts/contractors
- Tree planting objectives and maintenance

#### 1. Responsibilities of Salisbury City Council:

- 1.1 If a tree fails and causes injury or damage its owner could be held negligent if they omitted to take sufficient care of the tree. Trees are a potential liability and SCC, as a landowner, has a duty of care to ensure that all of the trees on its land are kept in an acceptable condition and do not put persons and property at unreasonable risk.
- 1.2 The Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 also apply to this situation. Failure to comply with this legislation could lead to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) taking criminal action against the Council. Section 3 of the Act places a duty on the Council to take reasonable care for the health and safety of third parties. The Regulations effectively require the Council to have an adequate management system to ensure health and safety.
- 1.3 The need for Councils to carry out tree surveys has been recognised for some time. Government guidance in the form of circulars requires Local Authorities to regularly inspect trees under their control and/or management.

#### Putting risk into perspective:

1.4 This policy aims to accord with the `Common Sense Risk of the management of trees `- guidance on trees and public safety in the UK for owners, managers and advisors - 2011 as published by the National Tree Safety Group (NTSG). A pdf of this document can be obtained by visiting <u>www.ntsg.org.uk</u> it also aims to accord with HSE publication SIM01/2007/05 Management of risk from falling trees or branches. Both documents endorse the sensible, proportionate, reasonable and balanced management of the risk from trees. The law does not expect owners to maintain their trees in completely safe condition, but risk needs to evaluated and controlled.

#### Industry Best Practice:

- 1.5 Best practice now strongly favours a risk-based system of tree management relying on a programme of regular inspection and the prioritisation of potential hazards.
- 1.6 In the event of a tree failure causing loss, such a system is recognised as a reasonable method of management. It should also provide the basis of a robust defence in the event of litigation.

#### 2. Tree Risk Management System:

- 2.1 The Council will adopt a proactive approach to managing its trees and undertake regular and routine inspections of all trees on Council managed land.
- 2.2 The main aim of the Council is to have in operation a reasonable, defensible and proactive tree management system that conserves and enhances the tree population on the land for which it is responsible.
- 2.3 In order to implement the new system effectively, the land SCC is responsible for has been divided into areas, and each area will be routinely and systematically inspected. These areas are distinct packages of land such as Victoria Park, Churchill Gardens etc. (See Appendix 1) for the complete list of Salisbury City Council Managed areas.

#### **Risk Zones:**

2.5 It is essential that all areas for which SCC is responsible are categorised in relation to the risk they represent. This is in conformity with industry best practice and is a significant step in ensuring a defensible system of tree management is implemented.

Areas will be categorised as High, Medium or Low Risk, dependant on their location:

- **High Risk Zone Areas** of high density pedestrian and vehicle use or areas frequented by vulnerable age groups including major roads, areas near to schools, car parks, playgrounds and busy parks.
- Medium Risk Zone Areas of medium density pedestrian and vehicle use including estate roads and green spaces, allotments, major woodland paths,
- Low Risk Zone Areas of low density pedestrian and vehicle use including woodlands, minor roads, isolated green spaces
- 2.6 When inspection is undertaken priority for works will take into consideration the *Risk Zone* the tree is located in and the priority of the works will be adjusted accordingly.

#### Tree Risk Assessment:

2.7 Each individual or group of trees on all land SCC is responsible for will be inspected to determine their general condition and health. Hazards will be identified and recorded. Where necessary, remedial works will be specified and prioritised accordingly. See also Appendix Two.

There will be three types of inspection:

1. Informal Observations of trees contribute to wider management and tree safety. They are essentially those day-to-day observations of trees made by employees who have a good local knowledge of the trees and location and see them during the course of their working day.

To be undertaken by:

People with good local knowledge and familiarity with local trees who are not tree specialists, but rather those closely associated with a site, such as the parks team, who understand the way the site is used (areas most and least frequented) and the extent of the danger, should a tree be found that is clearly failing. Reports of problems by staff or members of the public are a fundamental part of the SCC risk management process.

2. Formal Inspection of a tree is when a specific visit to a tree or group of trees is made with the sole purpose of performing an inspection that is not incidental to other activities. From Salisbury City Council's perspective the formal inspection process would assess the overall condition of the tree/s. It provides a useful, cost-effective means of inspecting the SCC tree stock which is an important means of identifying when further action is needed, including tree surgery or further detailed inspection.

To be undertaken by:

People who have a good general knowledge of trees and the ability to recognise normal and abnormal appearance and growth for the locality. This includes an ability to recognise obviously visible signs of serious ill health or significant structural problems where tree failure, could result in serious harm. They also need to know when to request a detailed inspection. In practice these inspections will be undertaken by Parks Officers (following suitable training) and SCC appointed tree surgeon/s.

**3. Detailed inspection** of a tree should be applied for individual, high value trees giving high-priority concern in well-used zones. The detailed inspection is normally prioritised according to the level of safety concern. Detailed inspections are therefore reserved for trees valued for their heritage, amenity or habitat and which are suspected of posing a high level of risk, as already identified through a previous formal or informal assessment.

To be undertaken by:

An appropriately competent person, experienced in the field of arboricultural investigation. The inspector must be suitably qualified and experienced and carry appropriate professional indemnity and public liability insurance.

- 2.8 The frequency of inspections will be as per **fig one** below and **Appendix Two** the **Tree Inspection Matrix**
- 2.9 The frequency of future inspections will be determined by the age and condition of the tree and its location within a high, medium or low risk zone. For example a high risk tree may be inspected annually and a tree with negligible risk inspected five or more years after initial survey.

Tree Risk Zone	Informal Inspection Frequency	Formal Inspection Frequency	Detailed Inspection Frequency
High			
	On going	2 years	As required
Medium			
	On going	4 years	As required
Low			
	On going	6 years	As required

#### Fig one

#### Inspection Records:

- 2.10 The results of tree inspections will be recorded on the council data management system. Customer enquiries will also be recorded on this system, which will provide a clear audit trail of the enquiry and action taken.
- 2.11 Each particular job will be categorised and will reflect on the urgency of the situation, the degree of inconvenience being caused and the best time of year for the work to be undertaken.

#### The following categories will be used when prioritising tree works:

PRIORITY	RESPONSE	DESCRIPTION
Urgent	Up to 1 week	EMERGENCY tree work requiring an immediate response to remove a hazard – Access to tree location may be restricted until work can be completed.
High	Within 12 weeks	Work to be classified as ESSENTIAL, associated with mitigation of a danger. The Council will endeavour to ensure that works will be undertaken within 12 weeks of the inspection.
Mod/High	Within 6 months	Work to be classified as DESIRABLE. The Council will endeavour to ensure that work will be undertaken within 6 months of the inspection. These will be works associated with the mitigation of nuisance such as branches brushing against buildings in normal winds.
Moderate	Within 12 months	Non-essential maintenance work including cyclical pruning, cultural pruning and pollarding work.

Mod/Low	Within 24 Months	Non-essential maintenance work. Needs to be undertaken at the appropriate time of year to ensure the longer term health of the tree.
Low	Only to be done if budget allows.	Work classified as NON ESSENTIAL or NON DESIRABLE.

#### 3. Guidance – Requesting Tree Work

- 3.1 It is important to remember that people rarely contact the Council when they are happy about local trees. Only when trees become an apparent problem are comments made, and therefore a distorted picture of peoples' perception of trees develops. It is important to seek alternatives to felling or severe pruning when conflicts arise, so that the trees can remain for the silent majority who value them.
- 3.2 It is not always necessary to remove or severely prune a tree because it is causing a problem. Often, there are other options available and these need to be considered first. Furthermore, the Council is not legally required to mitigate all tree related nuisances, and to do so would not be practicable with the resources available.
- 3.3 This section looks at some of the most common issues associated with urban trees and how these can be mitigated or overcome. The aim of the following policies is to ensure the Council is meeting its legal obligations in respect of trees on its land and strike a balance between removing problem trees and retaining trees in good health.

#### **Tree Safety:**

- 3.4 Where there is a clear and foreseeable threat to the personal safety of residents or visitors, or to property, that is directly related to the condition of a tree, action will be taken to minimise that risk. If damage to property has occurred directly relating to a tree or hedge and the resident feels Salisbury City Council are liable, they should follow the process set out in: **3.30** *Damage caused to property from a Council owned/managed tree or hedge.*
- 3.5 Risk that is an indirect consequence of a tree (e.g. slippery leaves on the pavement in autumn) will not be dealt with through pruning or felling other than in exceptional circumstances and where other options (such as clearing the leaves) are not available.

3.6 Unfounded fear of a tree (e.g. due to the height or size of the tree) will not normally result in action to prune the tree unless there has been a recent change in circumstances.

#### **Emergency Tree Work:**

- 3.7 The 1987 gale highlighted the fact that in bad weather even the healthiest of trees can become hazardous. Salisbury City Council has an established procedure for prompt action in such emergencies, to ensure that everything possible is done to protect road users, residents and property.
- 3.8 Dangerous or fallen trees reported to the Council will be inspected by a trained officer within two hours from the initial call in order to assess the risk, determine the extent of the hazard and implement health and safety measures where necessary. Removal of the hazard identified will be prioritized based on the risk to the public and the tree contractor engaged to undertake the work.
- 3.9 Where it is not possible to immediately undertake the works (e.g. for safety reasons or due to fallen electricity cables) a Council Officer will liaise with the relevant WC highway officers and emergency services to ensure the site is safe until such time as the hazard can be removed.

#### **Council Owned Trees that Overhang Neighbouring Properties:**

- 3.10 The Council has no legal obligation to prune overhanging trees unless they are causing direct damage to an adjacent property or are dangerous. The Council will not prune trees that overhang neighbouring properties unless the trees are dangerous or are causing an actionable nuisance. This reflects the Council's position as an owner of thousands of trees and the resources available.
- 3.11 Adjacent landowners are entitled to prune encroaching tree branches or roots back to the boundary of their property providing that the works do not unbalance the tree or do other damage to it. Legally, they are required to retain the prunings and offer them back to the Council, but the Council is not obliged to accept them.
- 3.12 Where access to the Council's land is required in order to undertake tree works, the adjacent landowner must seek the permission of the Council to enter their land. This will not be unreasonably refused.
- 3.13 It is a requirement that all Contractors working on Council land are suitably qualified to undertake the proposed work. It is also a requirement that adequate public liability insurance is in place and that appropriate risk assessments and method statements have been completed. The Council will request evidence of this before permitting access.

#### **Obstruction of Roads, Cycle ways, Footpaths and Street Furniture:**

- 3.14 The Council will maintain its trees to provide the statutory clearance for pedestrians and vehicles over footways and roads respectively, so as to maintain a free and unobstructed passage.
- 3.15 The Council will ensure that branches shall be reduced back where they are touching streetlights, road signs and other street furniture, so as to maintain vehicular and pedestrian safety.

#### **Pruning Trees for Light Improvement:**

- 3.16 A common complaint about urban trees is that they block light from properties or shade gardens. However, the seriousness of this effect is variable and often removal of the tree will have little effect on the amount of sunlight reaching the house or garden. An example of this is where the house is north facing and the tree is small or at a distance.
- 3.17 There is no right to light under the law and therefore the Council has no legal obligation to abate this perceived nuisance. However the Council will consider taking action (pruning or felling) in the following circumstances:
  - Trees over 12m in height distance between base of the tree and the window of the nearest habitable room is less than 5m
  - Trees smaller than 12m high distance between base of the tree and the window of the nearest habitable room is less than half the height of the tree.
  - Where the separation between the edge of the tree canopy and a vertical line through that window is less than 2m. A 'habitable room' means a dining room, lounge, kitchen, study or bedroom but specifically excludes WCs, bathrooms, utility rooms, landings and hallways.
  - It is recognised through the preparation of the Equalities Impact Assessment that there are exceptional circumstances in which this approach needs to be more flexible. Where it can be established that the presence of trees is causing a detriment to the health of residents, further consideration will be given to the management approach of trees. This consideration will also take in to account the quality and importance of the tree in question. This approach is important as the presence of trees also has a beneficial impact on other residents and the reduction in the number or size of trees may have a greater impact than on just one original enquirer.
- 3.18 Where a situation falls within these guidelines cases will be prioritised according to proximity and account will also be taken of the orientation of the affected window. The results of any consultation exercise may modify decisions if it appears that any work would be by and large unpopular with the rest of the community.

#### Pruning Trees to Improve Television and Radio Reception:

- 3.19 Interference with television or satellite reception causes frequent complaints. Interference is worse when leaves are on trees and in bad windy and rainy weather. Satellite reception is more sensitive to interference than television reception. There has been an increase in these complaints in recent years with the advent of this new technology and increased numbers of subscribers.
- 3.20 There is no right to good reception and in many cases it is possible to resolve issues of poor reception by finding an engineering solution.

The Council will only consider requests to prune trees to improve reception where all the following conditions are true:

- Efforts have been made to find an engineering solution to the problem and have not been successful
- The work required is consistent with good arboricultural practice and will not unduly affect the amenity or health of the tree
- The work required can be executed within financial resources available

#### Pruning to Prevent General Nuisances:

- 3.21 The Council will not fell or prune Council owned trees solely to alleviate problems caused by natural and/or seasonal phenomena, which are largely outside of their control.
- 3.22 There are a variety of potential nuisances associated with trees, most of which are minor or seasonal and considered to be social problems associated with living near trees.

Examples of such problems are:

- Falling leaves, sap, fruit, nuts, bird droppings or blossom.
- Reduction or increase of moisture to gardens.
- Suckers or germinating seedlings in gardens.
- Leaves falling into gutters, drains or onto flat roofs.
- The build-up of algae on fences, paths or other structures

Clearing of leaves from gutters and pathways and weeding of set seeds are considered to be normal routine seasonal maintenance which property owners are expected to carry out.

As with leaves, honeydew is not readily controllable by pruning and cleaning of affected surfaces can be considered to be routine maintenance. Pruning will not normally be considered solely as a way of alleviating problems with honeydew.

# Pruning for Clearance of Overhead Power Cables and Telecommunications Equipment:

#### **Overhead Power Cables**

- 3.23 In accordance with Schedule 4 of the Electricity Act 1989, electricity suppliers are empowered to remove obstruction to their equipment. This applies where any tree is or will be in such close proximity to an electric line or electrical plant that it will:
  - Obstruct or interfere with the installation, maintenance or working of the line or plant
  - · Constitute an unacceptable source of danger to the public
- 3.24 In both the above cases routine cyclical pruning of trees would enable the Council to proactively manage trees to reduce the risk of obstructions to overhead power and telecommunications equipment.

#### Pruning to Prevent Direct Damage to Property:

- 3.25 The Council will cut back trees from properties where they touch windows, walls, roofs or gutters. This will ensure that damage to property such as aerials, tiles or gutters is avoided. If an Officer notices whilst carrying out inspections, that a Council owned tree or hedge is growing to the extent where it's nearly touching or damaging a property, they will monitor the situation and arrange for work before damage to the property takes place. If an Officer notices that there is direct damage to a property caused by a Council owned tree or hedge, they will notify the resident and action the required tree work immediately. If the resident feels that the tree or hedge has caused damage to their property, they should follow the guidance information below in: **3.30** Damage caused to property from Council owned/managed tree or hedge.
- 3.26 Cases of direct root damage will be considered on an individual basis. A balance will be struck between the nuisance experienced by individuals and the benefits offered by the tree to the wider community.
- 3.27 The Council will not normally take action in response to complaints that Council trees are damaging drains. Trees do not have the capacity to break into a sound drain, but they will ruthlessly exploit any existing fault. The removal of one tree will not prevent other vegetation from exploiting the same opportunity.

3.28 The Council's presumption is that the appropriate way to deal with tree root blockage of drains is to ensure that the drains are watertight.

#### High Hedges:

3.29 When a complaint is received about a hedge on Council land, Council Officers will apply a recognised formula, devised by the British Research Establishment (BRE) and approved by the Department of Communities and Local Government, to determine if the hedge is in breach of the Act. If, as a result, the hedge is found to be too high it will be reduced in height or removed dependant on the individual circumstances of the case.

A high hedge is a continuous barrier to light or access that rises to more than two metres above the ground and comprises a line of two or more evergreen or semi-evergreen trees or shrubs. The hedge must also impact on a residential property (house, bungalow, flat etc.) or part of a property in more than one use, which is being used for residential purposes (such as a flat over a shop).

Specifically a high hedge is:

- The hedge is more than 2m (approx. 6½ft) tall (there is extra guidance for hedge heights on slopes)
- The hedge must impact on a residential property (house, bungalow, flat etc.)
- A hedge is defined as a line of two or more trees or shrubs
- The hedge is formed wholly or predominantly of evergreens or semi-evergreen
- Bamboo and ivy are not included
- Where a hedge is predominantly evergreen, the deciduous trees and shrubs within the hedge may be included in the work specified. However, these trees may be excluded or require a different approach.

Salisbury City Council will only consider a high hedge complaint if it satisfies the following criteria:

- It must relate to a high hedge as defined in the Act;
- The hedge must be on land that is owned by the council;
- It must be affecting a domestic property;
- The complaint must be made on the grounds that the height of the hedge is adversely affecting the reasonable enjoyment of the domestic property in question; by the owner or occupier of that property.

Upon receipt of a complaint meeting the above criteria Salisbury City Council will follow the guidance as offered by – High Hedges Complaints: Prevention and Cure. Please see link below.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\_data/file/11476/ highhedgescomplaints.pdf

#### Ordinary Hedges

These are all other hedges that do not meet the high hedge criteria.

Council hedges have no entitlement to occupy the air space above residents land. Residents can therefore alleviate the nuisance caused by this encroachment by trimming back branches to the point at which they each cross the boundary.

Residents are required to retain the prunings and offer them back to the Council, but the Council is not obliged to accept them.

The council is entitled to decide to what height the hedge grows – subject to High Hedge guidance so residents are not entitled to reduce the height of the hedge.

Note - If you live in a conservation area, or the trees in the hedge are protected by a tree preservation order you may need council's permission to trim.

#### Miscellaneous

- If a resident considers that a council owned or managed hedge is structurally damaging a fence/boundary they should follow the advice below 3:30 Damage caused to property from Council owned/managed tree or hedge.
- Encroachment of brambles etc. residents are entitled to cut back brambles and or other vegetation that is encroaching onto their land and trim back to the boundary. Residents are required to retain prunings and offer them back to the Council, but the Council is not obliged to accept them.

#### Damage caused to property from a Council owned/managed tree or hedge:

#### 3.30

If a resident believes that their property is suffering subsidence due to the action of trees or hedges owned or managed by Salisbury City Council (or they're concerned about any potential damage to a building, boundary fence or path) they're advised to contact their property insurer (private ownership) or Wiltshire Council (Council tenants) in the first instance, so that they may discuss their concerns and agree an appropriate course of action. Should they, or those acting on their behalf, wish to make a claim for damages against the Council, alleging that a Council owned/managed tree or hedge is causing/caused damage to their property, then they will be required to carry out an independent report at their own cost and send it to the Council's Insurance Department.

#### Submissions to the Council should include:

- Photographs of the tree or hedge suspected of causing damage to property.
- Photographs of the damage.
- A written letter or email giving a full description of the damage and the tree or hedge in question.
- Map indicating the exact location of the tree or hedge.

#### In the case of suspected root damage:

- Photographs of the suspected tree or hedge causing the damage.
- Photographs of the damage.
- Root analysis (presence, condition and identification).
- Crack/level monitoring (showing greater than seasonal movement).
- Two trial pits should be dug and photographed, one remote and one at the point of damage.
- Soil analysis (soil type, moisture level).
- Depth of foundations.

This flow chart indicates how an inquiry should be handled and dealt with by a resident and by a Salisbury City Council Officer and is aimed to be a quick reference guide to accompany this policy:



#### Tree Protection Order/Tree Conservation Area:

Tree Protection Orders (TPO's) are administered by the Local Planning Authority, Wiltshire Council, and are made to protect trees that bring significant amenity benefit to the local area.

All types of tree, but not hedges, bushes or shrubs can be protected, and a TPO can protect anything from a single tree to all trees within a defined area or

woodland. Any species can be protected, but no species is automatically protected by a tree preservation order.

A TPO is a written order, which in general, makes it a criminal offence to cut down, top, lop, uproot, wilfully damage or wilfully destroy a tree protected by that order, or to cause or permit such actions, without the authority's permission.

Trees not protected by a TPO may be in a tree conservation area. SCC must give written notice to the Wiltshire Council of any proposed work, describing what we want to do, at least six weeks before the work starts. This is called a 'section 211 notice' and it gives the Wiltshire Council an opportunity to consider protecting the tree with a TPO.

SCC does not need to give notice of work on a tree in a conservation area less than 7.5 centimetres in diameter, measured 1.5 metres above the ground (or 10 centimetres if thinning to help the growth of other trees).

Some areas of SCC owned parks and open spaces are TCAs, for example Queen Elizabeth Garden's, whilst others are not, for example Victoria Park.

#### 4. Standard of Works – Appointment of Contractors:

- 4.1 It is important to ensure that Salisbury's trees are maintained to a high standard. Poor tree pruning can not only look unsightly, but also reduce the life expectancy of a tree or lead to it becoming hazardous. Tree surgery is not only specialised and skilled work, but also can be dangerous. Staff who are involved in this work require training to protect themselves and the public.
- 4.2 Tree planting is also a specialised task and requires proper consideration. All too often trees are planted in poorly prepared pits with inadequate protection and maintenance.

#### Tree Maintenance Contracts:

- 4.3 The City Council will prepare and regularly review technical specifications for tree work that require the highest standards of arboriculture and compliance with the most up-to-date health and safety legislation.
- 4.4 The Council will identify approved contractors, who have achieved the highest standards of safety and technical expertise. All contractors will need to be Arboricultural Association Accredited or be committed to achieving this accreditation over a three-year period from the start of their contract with Salisbury City Council.

#### Standards of Work:

- 4.5 The Council will ensure that all work will be carried out to modern safety and technical standards.
- 4.6 Documentation needs to be regularly updated to ensure that the standards set are up to date with current best practices. The accepted standard for tree work

at present is BS 3998 British Standard Recommendations for Tree Work (1989). This will be used as a guide for the specification of tree work.

4.7 The accepted standards for tree planting and nursery stock are: BS3936, BS 4043, BS 4428 and BS 5236.

#### Training:

- 4.8 Appointed Contractors will be required to have achieved LANTRA/NPTC qualifications for the area of work in which they are engaged.
- 4.9 Tree officers will receive appropriate training and regularly update skills through Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Courses.

#### Insurance:

4.10 Contractors employed by the Council will be required to obtain Employee and Public Liability Insurance to a value of £10 million

#### Health and Safety:

4.11 All contractors employed by Salisbury City Council are required to achieve the appropriate standards of health and safety and demonstrate compliance with these standards as part of their work operations. Contractors are required to complete generic and on-site risk assessments for all operations, and complete method statements for more complex operations.

#### **Protecting Wildlife:**

- 4.12 Precautions are to be taken to avoid disturbance of nesting birds and bat roosts in accordance with the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.
- 4.13 Contractors working for Salisbury City Council are required to inspect trees and hedges thoroughly before commencement of work and also look thoroughly in the immediate proximity of the works; this should be noted down as part of the Risk Assessment done before the start of every job.
- 4.14 If nesting birds are found to be present then the tree work will not commence and will be rescheduled for later in the year. If Bats are found roosting in a tree scheduled for removal then the Council is legally required to obtain advice from qualified persons before starting work.
- 4.15 The above will limit and may prohibit certain tree pruning or felling work during spring and summer. Birds will nest in trees and shrubs between March and August each year, while bats will use roost sites in trees between April and September, depending on weather conditions. Some species may hibernate in large old trees, during the winter months.

#### Monitoring Tree Contractors:

4.16 The Council will regularly monitor contractors to ensure standards of work and health and safety are being maintained. An annual review of all Contractors will take place to ensure that they have adequate insurance in place, standards of health and safety have been achieved and that staff are adequately trained for the work in which they are engaged.

All contractors are required to comply with the following, when working on the public highway:

- New Roads and Street Works Act 1991
- Street Works and Road Works Code of Practice

#### Working near to Power Cables:

4.17 A shutdown of overhead power lines is required when working close to high voltage power lines and cables. Contractors will comply with HSE and Arboricultural and Forestry Advisory Group guidance note 804.

#### 5. Tree Planting and Young Tree Maintenance:

5.1 From time to time trees have to be felled. However, these trees need to be replaced or the tree population will continue to decline. Replanting trees is essential to maintain and help the urban tree population grow.

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- 5.2 It is important to ensure that for every tree felled, at least one tree is planted in its place and is properly cared for. The size and scale of replacement planting should reflect both the trees removed and the situation.
- 5.3 It's the Council's aim to replant in the same area where a tree has been removed however, sometimes this may not be possible, either through lack of support from residents or due to the circumstances of the site for instance, nearby drains, powerlines, services or a general lack of space for a tree to thrive. In this instance, a tree will be planted as close to the site as possible on Council owned/controlled land in a suitable location.
- 5.4 Trees in urban areas are usually present either because a conscious decision was made to plant them or because they self-seeded in parks and gardens and were allowed to grow and mature.
- 5.5 A certain amount of natural regeneration can and does occur in areas such as designated nature conservation sites, but the possibilities for this kind of regeneration in a populated urban area are clearly limited. Either way, no previous planting strategy has been devised for Salisbury and new planting has been on a random basis.

#### **Objectives of Tree Planting:**



**Retention:** Ensuring the retention, wherever practicable or desirable, of trees on Council land.

**Enhancement:** To increase the tree cover and species diversity in those areas of the City that are lacking in trees

**Continuous Tree Cover:** To undertake the management of the existing stock ensuring that there is a continuous programme of tree replacement throughout the City, ensuring that there is a mixed range of age and species.

**Species Selection:** Planting, where appropriate, large indigenous or exotic species to create skyline features.

**Lowering pollution levels:** Selecting trees and hedging plants suitable for absorbing carbon dioxide and air pollutants across the city.

**Conservation:** Encourage nature conservation through tree planting so that across the City there is a measurable increase in the conditions suitable for wildlife to colonise areas where before it had limited foothold opportunities.

**Publicity and Promotion:** Increase the level of public awareness of the tree resource by encouraging public involvement in decision making and planting schemes.

**Sponsorship:** To encourage members of the public, businesses and other groups to sponsor trees via the introduction of a Tree Donation Scheme.

5.6 When devising planting schemes it will be the Council's policy to: -

- Replace mature trees lost through natural wastage (disease, senility etc.) and those that have out-grown their environment so that in these areas the existing tree populations do not decline
- Take into account any visual landscape factors so that the species chosen will, when mature, have a significant impact in enhancing the character of the area without compromising any existing views, sightlines etc.
- Allow for the planted tree to be the eventual successor to any existing trees that are either nearing maturity or in decline;
- Achieve a species mix so that in the event of a future disease affecting one particular species (as happened with Dutch Elm disease) no one area or park suffers from excessive loss due to a single species being the dominant tree.

#### Site Selection:

5.7 The 'right tree for the right place' will minimise conflict and maintenance in the future. For example, a cherry tree with a wide crown may not cause any problems in a small open space. However, if planted in a narrow grass verge it will cause obstruction and will require regular maintenance to remove low branches. Not only does an inappropriate tree have a less beneficial effect on the landscape, but it also leads to more complaints and costs more to maintain.

#### Maintenance of Young Trees:

- 5.8 Care and maintenance of young trees is vital. Care taken in the early stages can avoid expensive maintenance at a later date. It will also increase the number of trees that we can expect to survive to maturity.
- 5.9 When trees are first planted they are at their most vulnerable. They are more likely to die within their first 5 years than at any other time in their life. Research indicates that 75% of urban trees are destined to die through malpractice such as strimmer damage or strangulation by failure to remove tree ties.
- 5.10 Salisbury City Council will adopt a management regime to all young trees that ensures the best chance for their long term survival.
- 5.11 All new planted trees will be watered for the first two years after planting and young trees will be inspected annually during the first three years and maintenance work undertaken where appropriate. Maintenance will include:
  - Loosening of tree ties
  - Mulching
  - Removal of stakes and ties when the tree has become established

5.12 The cost of tree planting can be significantly reduced if local residents agree to implement some of the maintenance tasks described above. Often, trees planted at the request of nearby residents have the best chance of survival, as the resident will keep watch on the tree and either undertake remedial works or inform the Council of problems

#### 6 Management of Riverside Trees

Many of our Council owned/managed green spaces have waterways running through them, careful management of these natural habitat areas are crucial to help preserve and enhance biodiversity. The analysis and procedures for Council owned/managed trees set out within this document will also apply to trees growing by rivers however, the Council takes advice on the management of these waterway areas from the Environment Agency. As a general practise the Council will follow the guidance listed in the Environment Agency document: **A** guide for land owners on woody debris and trees near rivers <a href="https://lfcc.org.uk/downloads/category/18-environmental?download=169">https://lfcc.org.uk/downloads/category/18-environmental?download=169</a>

#### 6.1 Trees next to rivers are valuable because:

- Their root systems stabilise riverbanks helping to reduce and prevent erosion.
- Planting trees in the upper reaches of river catchments can help to alleviate flood risk downstream, by intercepting and slowing flood flows, and increasing infiltration.
- Overhanging branches that touch the water and underwater tree roots provide vital refuge and spawning substrate for fish, along with habitat for invertebrates.
- Overhanging branches provide perches for Kingfishers and yield insects that fall into the river, providing food for fish.
- Trees act as a barrier preventing fly hatch from being blown away from the river.
- Tree roots above ground and dense scrub provide Otter habitat.
- A mosaic of trees and open areas provide a mix of light and shade. The light areas encourage in-channel vegetation while the shady areas cool rivers. This is important for species such as native brown trout, and contribute to reducing the impacts of climate change.
- Trees and shrubs provide habitat for nesting birds, while mature trees with holes and crevices provide important roosting sites for bats and nesting sites for hole-nesting birds such as owls and woodpeckers.

#### 6.2 Woody material in the channel provides:

- A means of restoring the morphology of rivers, especially where overwidening or straightening has historically been applied.
- Restoration of the floodplain connectivity and help to encourage upstream flood storage (however, woody material can increase flood risk in critical locations if not secured or anchored to the bank, such as by causing blockages beneath bridges or culverts).
- Habitat for fish and invertebrates, especially where there is a lack of inchannel vegetation.
- Variation in flow and shape of the channel, creating and diversifying habitat for many species of plants, invertebrates and fish.
- Backwaters and pools that provide refuge for fish and invertebrates during drought.
- Slack water areas behind woody debris to prevent juvenile fish from being washed away downstream during flood events.
• Fast flows that clean spawning gravels and cause scour (erosion) of the river bed to help create riffles and pools.

#### 6.3 Good Practise:

- Retain mature trees and riverside scrub.
- Pollard or coppice rather than removing the entire tree.
- Retain the root balls
- Create mosaic of groups of trees and open areas along a course or the river. Seek advice from an expert about how to do this.
- Do not leave large gaps between groups of trees some bats species are reluctant to cross a gap larger than 10m. Ensure all planting proposals on the main river have consent form the Environment Agency.
- Retain or create an uneven age structure that will encourage greater biodiversity.
- Do not carry out tree shrub works between 1<sup>st</sup> March and 31<sup>st</sup> July, to avoid the bird nesting season.
- When working on mature trees, always survey for protected species such as bats and barn owls and check for otter holts (seek advice if unsure).
- Where possible, leave fallen trees in the river and secure if necessary.
- Always secure any woody material installed in the river, to prevent it drifting downstream and causing a flood risk.

#### 7 Ash Dieback

Ash Dieback is a highly destructive disease of Ash trees caused by the fungus of *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*.

It can kill young and coppiced trees quite quickly. Older trees can resist it for some time until long exposure, or another pest or pathogen, such as *Armillaria* (honey fungus) attacks them in their weekend state causing them to succumb.

Effected trees can be identified from blackening of the leaves which eventually spreads to branches and the main trunk of the tree. There is no known prevention or curative treatment.

*Fraxinus (Ash trees)* is one of our most versatile native species which are home to many insects and invertebrates who depend on them for habitat. With exception for felling for safety reasons it's advised to take a general presumption against felling living Ash trees whether infected or not. This is due to evidence that a small proportion of Ash trees will be able to tolerate Hymenoscyphus fraxineus. There is also the possibility that a proportion of Ash trees can become diseased, but then recover to good health. It's important to note, that not all Ash trees in poor condition are suffering from Hymenoscyphus

fraxineus, other reasons may be at cause such as drought, root damage or other diseases or pests.

#### 7.1 Removing felled Ash trees and arisings from site

There is no specific advice about removing felled trees or arisings from site. However, the guidance for Ash trees in parks is that arisings can be left on site, and if required, processed there through composting or burning where possible. However, if removing from site, best practice, would include transporting material in a covered vehicle to a site where it can be safely burnt or composted.

#### 7.2 Replanting

Replanting with Ash trees is not permitted due to the current restrictions on Ash plant movements. General advice is to restock from a variety of site suitable tree species, that are appropriate to the sensitivity of the local landscape and which will help replace the variety of ecosystem services that Ash had previously provided.

#### 7.3 The Council's approach to Ash dieback

Along with all Salisbury City Council trees, Ash trees are monitored and surveyed as detailed within this policy. If an Officer believes an Ash tree is suffering from *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus (Ash dieback)* they will monitor the situation and seek advice from our expert tree specialist along with up to date recommendations from the Forestry Commission on the Government website.

#### 7.4 Choosing to fell an Ash tree with Hymenoscyphus fraxineus

The decision to fell a tree with Ash dieback will be considered on a case by case basis, the Council will follow advice from our tree specialist and take into consideration location and risk levels to public safety. High risk areas such as trees close to property, pathways or highways will take priority over trees in the middle of a wooded area where risks are much lower. Where possible, trees will be left to support wildlife and biodiversity and continually be monitored and inspected by Officers.

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#### 8 Appendix One – Schedule of Areas Managed by Salisbury City Council

5. West wood open space – around Harlequins football ground

3. Churchill Industrial estate open space

6. Barnard's Folly- area in front of SCC Bemerton Centre

7. Portway sports ground

4. West wood Allotments

Bishopdown open Space
Churchill gardens

- 8. Hill top carries on from Bishopdown open space
- 9. Hudson's Field Rugby and Caravan Club area

10.St Francis Road crescent

11.Stratford Road – near cycle track off Portway

12. Primrose farm – adjacent to Fisherton Allotments - Boardwalk

- 13. Fisherton Farm Allotments 1,2 &3
- 14. Fisherton Recreational ground (where populars replaced)

15.Coldharbour allotments - next to Fisherton rec.

- 16.Ashley Road Open Space (in front of fire station)
- 17.Butts/Warwick Allotments next to athletics track

18. Victoria Park

19. Devizes Road Cemetery - both sides of track

20.Skew bridge

- 21. Middle street open space Harnham
- 22. Wiltshire Road Allotments Harnham
- 23. Parsonage Green open space Harnham
- 24. Warres Trust Allotments next to Parsonage Green open space Harnham
- 25. Queen Elizabeth Gardens
- 26.Lush House Car park
- 27. Chiselbury Grove Wood Land off of Radcliffe Road adjacent to Harnham Slope
- 28.Old Blandford Road open space runs parallel to the Blandford Road just up from Chiselbury
- 29. Meyrick Close off Andrews Way
- 30.New Bridge Road open Space
- 31. Maltings Island in front of Playhouse
- 32. Maltings play area plus grass
- 33.St Edmunds Arts Centre
- 34. Wyndham Open space
- 35.Bourne Hill Gardens
- 36.The Green Croft
- 37. Wain-a-Long Road open space off London Road Roundabout
- 38.Crematorium
- 39.London Road Cemetery
- 40.Bishop Down Sports Field
- 41. Tunnel Allotments
- 42.St Marks Open Space near Tunnel entrance
- 43.London Road Allotments
- 44.Milford Hollow
- 45.Mill Road Open Space on corner near Churchfields
- 46.Bemerton Folly
- 47.Harnham Slope
- 48.Lower Bremerton Recreational Space
- 49.St John's church yard Lower Bemerton plus small chapel area.
- 50.St Clements Church Yard
- 51.St Thomas's Church Yard
- 52.St Martins Church Yard

53.Riverside walk by Weatherspoon's 54.Hudson's Field

### 9 Appendix Two – Tree Inspection Matrix

Tree	Informal Inspection	Formal Inspection	Detailed
Risk Zone	Frequency	Frequency	Inspection
			Frequency
High			As required
	On going	2 years	
Medium			As required
	On going	4 years	
Low		6 years	As required
	On going		

**Informal observations** of trees contribute to wider management and tree safety. They are essentially those day-to-day observations of trees made by employees who have a good local knowledge of the trees and location and see them during the course of their working day.

#### May be undertaken by:

People with good local knowledge and familiarity with local trees who are not tree specialists, but rather those closely associated with a site, such as the parks team, who understands the way the site is used (areas most and least frequented) and the extent of the danger, should a tree be found that is clearly failing.

Reports of problems by staff or members of the public are a fundamental part of our risk management process.

**Formal inspection** of a tree is when a specific visit to a tree or group of trees is made with the sole purpose of performing an inspection that is not incidental to other activities. From Salisbury City Council's perspective the formal inspection process would assess the overall condition of the tree's It provides a useful, cost-effective means of inspecting our tree stock which is an important means of identifying when further action is needed, including tree surgery or further detailed inspection.

#### May be undertaken by:

People who have a good general knowledge of trees and the ability to recognise normal and abnormal appearance and growth for the locality. This includes an ability to recognise obviously visible signs of serious ill health or significant structural problems were tree failure, could result in serious harm. They also need to know when to request a detailed inspection. **Detailed inspection** of a tree should be applied for individual, high-value trees giving high-priority concern in well-used zones. The detailed inspection is normally prioritised according to the level of safety concern. Detailed inspections are therefore reserved for trees valued for their heritage, amenity or habitat and which are suspected of posing a high level of risk, as already identified through a previous formal or informal assessment.

#### May be undertaken by:

An appropriately competent person, experienced in the field of arboricultural investigation. The inspector must be suitably qualified and experienced and carry appropriate professional indemnity and public liability insurance.



# Salisbury City Council Environmental Policy

# Doc 73704

Policy	Version	Owner	Doc	PDF	Date	Review	Review
Number			No.	No.	Published	Due	Team
ENV1	1	ESM	73704		14 Oct 2019	14 Oct 2020	ESM

#### **Distribution**

Internal: All SCC Staff

External: Website/Councillors/Partners

# Salisbury City Council Environmental Policy

#### Introduction

Salisbury City Council is committed to minimising the environmental impacts of its operations.

In all activities, Salisbury City Council will seek innovative ways to mitigate our environmental footprint by setting objectives to reduce our environmental impact.

To achieve these objectives we have developed a series of policy statements and produced an Environmental Action Plan. The action plan is based on continuous environmental improvement via the establishing of demanding and measurable environmental performance targets, specifically relating to Waste, Energy, Water, Procurement, Transport/Travel and Biodiversity.

We aim to be a centre of excellence in environmental management within the parish council sector, and to promote environmental best practice.

The implementation of the Action Plan is monitored by the Environmental Working Group and regular reports given to Services Committee.

Salisbury City Council's Environmental Policy is supported by series of policies in the following areas:

- 1. General Environmental Management
- 2. Waste Management
- 3. Energy Management
- 4. Water Management
- 5. Sustainable Procurement
- 6. Transport/Travel
- 7. Biodiversity

#### 1. General Environmental Management Policy

Salisbury City Council is responsible for delivering numerous services across the city via directly employed in-house team (some 60 persons) and numerous contracted services. The very nature of delivering these services has an effect on the local environment.

Salisbury City Council is committed to reducing the environmental impact of its activities on the local environment by proactive environmental management across its land and property portfolio.

#### **Scope and Objectives**

The City Council aims to improve the environmental quality of the city by:

- 1. **Minimising** any adverse environmental impacts resulting from our own activities;
- 2. Encouraging others in the community to do likewise through their activities

Salisbury City Council will adopt the following:

- Keep its own activities under review, setting objectives, targets and responsibilities to ensure the aims of this policy are met
- **Operate** an environmental management system (**BS 8555**) which enables the council to set objectives and targets, monitor performance and make this information publicly available;
- Raise awareness amongst staff of the council's environmental policy and objectives;
- **Provide** information and encourage an open dialogue with the local community on environmental issues.

#### 2. Waste Management Policy

The Council's Policy is to establish systems to ensure compliance with the law and ensure that options to minimise both waste production and disposal are fully evaluated.

The Waste Management Policy sets out our targets identifying areas for improvement. It is designed to help achieve particular goals with a set of realistic objectives. The Council is aware of its responsibilities and obligations and encourages a positive recycling culture amongst its staff and the wider population.

**Waste Hierarchy -** the main principles of the City Councils Waste Management Policy Waste are based on the well-established Waste Hierarchy. This has become a cornerstone of sustainable waste management practices, setting out the order in which waste management measures should be prioritised based on environmental impact.



Our targets for inclusion in the Environmental Action Plan are:

- Measure accurately all waste going to landfill. Set targets to reduce this amount expressed as a percentage of overall landfill waste
- Produce waste recycling plan covering all SCC generated waste streams.
- Produce waste recycling plan covering all Salisbury City council generated waste streams. To also include **on the go recycling** for litter bins on city streets and in parks. Plus an individual plan for the Charter Market.

#### 3. Energy Management Policy

The Council's policy is to manage energy consumption in order to:

- Reduce emissions of CO2;
- Avoid unnecessary expenditure;

#### **Scope and Objectives**

The overarching objectives of this policy are environmental protection and cost reduction. It is recognised that these are not always compatible and that the Council may be constrained from certain actions by budgetary constraints.

Recognising those constraints, the Council will nonetheless adopt the following objectives:

- To purchase energy supplies from sustainable sources (where possible) at the most economic cost;
- To use energy as efficiently as possible;
- To monitor energy consumption;

In order to achieve these objectives, the Council has develop an action plan. This plan will be reviewed annually and amended as necessary in an Annual Report on Energy Management, which will be submitted to the Environmental Working Group.

Energy Control Measures included in the action plan are:

- To monitor energy consumption across the councils property portfolio;
- To purchase energy supplies from sustainable sources (where possible) at the most economic cost;
- Use energy as efficiently as possible
- To continue to raise awareness of energy management issues with all building users.
- Electrical generation via the installation of solar panels on suitable SCC buildings/properties with a payback period consistent with sound investment practice.

#### 4. Water Management Policy

Salisbury City Council is committed to responsible water management and acknowledges the importance of water as an essential resource for successfully meeting its operational objectives. The Council also realises the need to use this resource responsibly in a manner that is sustainable and complementary to its Environmental Management Policy.

The Council will improve water efficiency throughout all its premises, plant and equipment, wherever it is cost-effective to do so. The Council also recognises a duty to provide all building users with comfortable working conditions, whilst minimising the environmental impact of its operations.

#### **Scope and Objectives**

The overarching objectives of this policy are environmental protection and cost reduction. It is recognised that these are not always compatible and that the Council may be constrained from certain actions by budgetary constraints.

#### We Will:

- Establish base line consumption figures
- Identify and implement opportunities for improved water efficiency and target setting e.g. Install water saving devices on toilet cisterns and low flow shower heads
- Incorporate water efficiency measures into all new and refurbished facilities
- Promote awareness of the responsibility for water conservation to staff, and visitors by water saving tips.
- Consider the reuse of water for landscaping through rain water collection and the use of grey water where possible

#### 5. Sustainable Procurement Policy

Salisbury City Council recognises and is committed to carrying out its procurement function incorporating the principles of sustainable purchasing.

Purchasing decisions have a major socio-economic and environmental implication both locally and globally, now and for generations to come.

It will achieve this through:

- Assessment of environmental and corporate risks to the organisation with a commitment to continually improve sustainable performance related to the supply chain;
- Complying with all relevant environmental legislation;
- Educating suppliers about the Council sustainable objectives, which include preventing pollution, minimising waste, preserving natural resources and promoting resource efficiency by eliminating, reducing, reusing and recycling;
- Working with key suppliers to bring about changes and thereby spread sustainability improvements through the supply chain.
- Allowing budgets to reflect the need to sustainable purchasing.

#### We will:

- Reduce CO2 emissions arising from the transport of materials use local where possible
- Encourage suppliers to achieve environmental credentials such as environmental management systems ISO14001 or EMAS;
- Ensure that suppliers' environmental credentials are, as far as legally practicable, considered in the supplier's appraisal process.
- Favour products with recycled content or that are biodegradable;
- Train and raise awareness of staff on the Council policy and promoting best practice for sustainable purchasing.

#### 6. Transport/Travel Policy

Salisbury City Council recognises its responsibility to minimise the environmental impact of its operations where possible and to seek to improve its performance through implementation of its policy.

Salisbury City Council is committed to implementing a Transport Policy as part of the Environmental Policy to encourage and maintain sustainable commuting and business travel for staff and visitors in order to reduce further the environmental impact of transport related to council activities.

#### **Scope and Objectives**

- Reducing commuter journeys to council workplaces by staff and visitors;
- Reducing Business travel impact
- Reducing the usage /impact of SCC vehicles

#### We Will:

- To produce a Travel Plan to establish current modes of transport used by staff to travel to work and to promote sustainable alternatives
- Encourage staff travelling on SCC business to use public transport and/or low carbon emission transport.
- Promotion of the use of telephone conferencing and video conferencing to reduce commuter mileage.
- Promotion of home working to reduce business mileage plus investment in ICT Services to support working from home.
- Reducing the usage /impact of SCC vehicles via investigation/introduction of suitable alternatives such as electric vehicles
- To promote to staff the benefits of cycling to/at work. Where bicycles are used for SCC business allow for an individual to claim up to 12p per mile for business usage.
- Providing to those staff wishing to cycle to work with an option of purchasing a bicycle on an interest free loan of up to £1000.
- Liaising with and providing information about the main groups representing pedestrians, cyclists, motorcyclists, public transport providers, car share clubs and environmentally friendly car hire clubs.
- Liaise with Salisbury Air Quality Management Group to help improve air quality

#### 7. Biodiversity Policy

Salisbury City Council is the major landowner in the City. We recognise that we influence and are influenced by the variety of species and habitats that exist within our sites in and around the city. As a minimum we will ensure compliance with all biodiversity, environmental laws and regulations.

#### Scope and Objectives

The overarching objectives of this policy are to balance the needs of the animals, plants, birds and insects that call our sites home. We are committed to continually improving our biodiversity performance at our sites, whilst aiming to deliver our services in the most sustainable way.

We will:

- Ensure an overall improvement in the management of the wildlife within our landholding, particularly with regard to an increase in priority habitats and species and managing the spread of invasive species. Continued creation of wildflower/bee friendly planting across our estate.
- Work with South Wiltshire Biodiversity Group to conduct Habitat surveys of SCC main sites.
- Ensure compliance with all applicable environmental laws and regulations.
- Protect and enhance biodiversity during our activities with no net loss of 'priority' habitat.
- Provide a platform that will deliver opportunities for more people to enjoy the wildlife on our sites by increasing access/awareness.
- Review SCC use of pesticide policy in light of emerging evidence



### **The Action Priority Matrix**

The **Action Priority Matrix** (see figure 1, below) is how SCC will prioritise identified projects. This will enable us to choose activities intelligently, so we can spend more of our time on the high-value activities that keep the Environmental Action Plan moving forwards. Conversely we can also not action tasks that contribute little.

The matrix will be used to score proposed projects (between 0 and 10) based firstly on their **impact** and secondly on the **effort** needed to complete them.

The scores will then be used to plot the proposed activities in one of four quadrants on the matrix:

Projects fall tend to fall within one the four main categories:

- 1. **Quick wins** (High Impact, Low Effort) are the most attractive projects, because they give a good return for relatively little effort.
- 2. **Major projects** (High Impact, High Effort) give good returns, but are time-consuming. This means that one major project can "crowd out" many quick wins.
- 3. **Fills Ins** (Low Impact, Low Effort) these activities will only be actioned if time permits. They will be suspended if projects in categories 1 and 2 require actioning.
- 4. **Thankless Tasks** (Low Impact, High Effort) give little return, they are time consuming and provide little in the way of return.



## **Environmental Policy Action Plan**

The Environmental Policy Action Plan (EPAP) will be manged by the Environmental Working Group (ENWG) who will report to Services Committee.

Version 1 of the EPAP is shown overleaf – this is a living document and will be further developed over time.

	Environmental Policy Action Plan Version 1 dated 1 Oct 2019										
Item No.	Date Added	Recommendation	Detail	Status	Priority	Milestone <sup>2</sup>	Champion	Comments	Updated		
1. General Management											
GM1		Audit environmental impacts of SCC operation	Establish base line as to where we currently are. Keep our own activities under review, setting objectives, targets and responsibilities to ensure the aims of this policy are met.	Not Commenced		Completion of audit	Environmental Services Manager				
GM2		Adopt Environmental Management System (EMS) <b>BS 8555:2016</b>	Provides guidance on how to implement an environmental management system (EMS) in easily manageable phases	Not Commenced		Completion of each phase – note five phases in total	Environmental Services Manager				
GM3		Carbon Management plan	Establish a baseline regarding the council's current carbon production. Set reduction targets – implement a plan to achieve these reductions	Not Commenced		Carbon management plan produced and adopted	Environmental Services Manager				
GM4		Review (annually) Council Environmental Policy	Conduct an annual review of the SCC Environmental Policy to ensure objectives are being met.	Not Commenced		Annual Review	City Clerk				

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Priorities to be agreed using Priority Matrix by ENWG

<sup>2</sup> To be developed and agreed by ENWG

			Environr Versi	nental Po on 1 date	olicy A ed 1 Oc	ction Plar ct 2019	1		
Item No.	Date Added	Recommendation	Detail	Status	Priority	Milestone <sup>2</sup>	Champion	Comments	Updated
GM5		Investigate and introduce ISO 14001 Accreditation	Operate an environmental management system which enables the council to set objectives and targets, monitor performance and make this information publicly available.	Not Commenced		ISO 14001 accreditation achieved	Environmental Services Manager		
GM6		Raise Staff Awareness	Raise awareness amongst council staff regarding the environmental policy and objectives	Not Commenced			Human Resources Manager		
GM7		Dialogue with the community	Provide information and encourage an open dialogue with the local community on environmental issues. Modify grants scheme to support community environmental initiatives.	Not Commenced			Business and Communicatio ns Manager		
	1	2. Waste Man	agement		I				
WM1	WM1 Reduce Waste to Landfill Reduce Waste to Landfill Set targets to reduce this amount as a percentage of overall landfill waste			Not Commenced			Environmental Services Manager		
WM2		Increase recycling of SCC generated waste	Produce waste recycling plan covering all SCC waste	Not Commenced			Environmental Services		

	Environmental Policy Action Plan Version 1 dated 1 Oct 2019											
Item No.	Date Added	Recommendation	Detail	Status	Priority	Milestone <sup>2</sup>	Champion	Comments	Updated			
			streams.				Manager					
WM3		Increase recycling of city generated waste	Produce waste recycling plan covering all SCC waste streams. To include <b>on the</b> <b>go recycling</b> for city and parks litter bins Plus an individual plan for the Charter Market.	Not Commenced			Environmental Services Manager					
		3. Energy Mar	nagement									
EM1		Energy consumption	Monitor energy consumption across our property portfolio. Note linked with GM 2 Carbon Management Plan	Not Commenced			Facilities Manager					
EM2		Energy Supplies	Purchase energy supplies from sustainable resources and at the most economic cost.	Not Commenced			Facilities Manager					
EM3		Energy Usage	Use energy as efficiently as possible. Produce energy reduction plan e.g. introduction of water boilers, LED lighting etc.	Not Commenced			Facilities Manager					
		Raise awareness	I o continue to raise	Not			Human					

	Environmental Policy Action Plan Version 1 dated 1 Oct 2019										
Item No.	Date Added	Recommendation	Detail	Status	Priority	Milestone <sup>2</sup>	Champion	Comments	Updated		
EM4			awareness of energy management issues with all building users	Commenced			Resources Manger				
EM5		Electrical Generation	Installation of solar panels etc. on suitable SCC properties/buildings. Based on established pay back criteria.	Solar panels installed om roof of Guildhall			Facilities Manager				
	4. Water Management										
WM1		Establish Water Usage	Monitor and report on Council water consumption to establish base line consumption	Not Commenced			Facilities Manager				
WM2		Identify opportunities for reduced usage	Identify and implement opportunities for improved water efficiency and target setting e.g. water saving devices on toilet cisterns and low flow shower heads	Not Commenced			Facilities Manager				
WM3		Water efficient design	Incorporate water efficiency measures into all new and refurbished facilities through best practice in water efficient design	Not Commenced			Facilities Manager				
WM4		Promote Awareness	Promote awareness of the responsibility for water	Not Commenced			Human Resources				

	Environmental Policy Action Plan Version 1 dated 1 Oct 2019											
Item No.	Date Added	Recommendation	Detail	Status	Priority	Milestone <sup>2</sup>	Champion	Comments	Updated			
			conservation to staff, and visitors by water saving tips				Manager					
WM5		Grey Water	Consider the reuse of water for landscaping through rain water collection and the use of grey water where possible	Not Commenced			Parks Manager					
5. Sustainable Procurement Management												
SP1		Local purchasing where possible	Reducing CO2 emissions arising from the transport of materials – use local where possible	Not Commenced			City Clerk					
SP2		Suppliers are ISO14001 or EMAS Certified	Encouraging suppliers to achieve environmental credentials such as environmental management systems ISO14001 or EMAS;	Not Commenced			Finance Manager					
SP3		Consider suppliers environmental credentials are considered at point of purchase	Ensuring that suppliers' environmental credentials are, as far as legally practicable, considered in the supplier's appraisal process.	Not Commenced			Finance Manager					
SP4		Purchasing products that are recycled and or/ biodegradable	Favouring products with recycled content or that are biodegradable	Not Commenced			City Clerk					

			Environn Versi	nental Po on 1 date	olicy A ed 1 Oc	ction Plar t 2019	1		
ltem No.	Date Added	Recommendation	Detail	Status	Priority	Milestone <sup>2</sup>	Champion	Comments	Updated
SP5		Staff Training	Training and awareness of staff on the Council policy and promoting best practice for sustainable purchasing.	Not Commenced			Human Resources Manager		
		6. Transport/Trave	I Management						
TT1		Travel Plan	To produce a Travel Plan to establish current modes of transport used by staff to travel to work and to promote the most sustainable alternatives	Not Commenced			Environmental Services Manager		
TT2		Public Transport	Encourage staff travelling on SCC business to use public transport and/or low carbon emission transport where possible	Not formally Commenced			Human Resources Manager		
ттз		Telephone Conferencing	Promotion of the use of telephone conferencing and video conferencing to reduce business mileage	Not formally Commenced			Corporate Services Manager		
TT4		Home Working	Promotion of home working to reduce commuting mileage plus investment in ICT Services to support working from home.	Has commenced in a limited capacity			Human Resources Manager		

	Environmental Policy Action Plan Version 1 dated 1 Oct 2019											
ltem No.	Date Added	Recommendation	Detail	Status	Priority	Milestone <sup>2</sup>	Champion	Comments	Updated			
TT5		Vehicles	Reducing the usage /impact of SCC vehicles via investigation/introduction of suitable alternatives such as electric vehicles – subject to CAPAX and payback.	Not Commenced			Parks Manager					
TT6		Cycling Promotion	To promote to staff the benefits of cycling to/at work. Where bicycles are used for SCC business allow for an individual to claim up to 12p per mile for business usage.	Not formally Commenced			Human Resources Manager Finance Manager					
TT7		Cycling Scheme	Providing to those staff wishing to cycle to work with an option of purchasing a bicycle on an interest free loan of up to £1000	Not formally Commenced			Finance Manager					
TT8		Transport Information	Liaising with and providing information on the main groups representing pedestrians, cyclists, public transport providers, car share clubs and environmentally friendly car hire clubs.	Not Commenced			City Clerk					
ТТ9		Air Quality	Work with Salisbury Air Quality Management Group to help improve air quality	SCC do attend meetings of			City Clerk Environmental					

			Environr Versi	nental Po on 1 date	olicy A ed 1 Oc	ction Plar t 2019	1		
ltem No.	Date Added	Recommendation	Detail	Status	Priority	Milestone <sup>2</sup>	Champion	Comments	Updated
				the AQMG.			Services Manager		
		7. Biodiversity I	Management						
BM1		Improve Wildlife Management	Ensure an overall improvement in the management of the wildlife within our landholding, particularly with regard to an Increase in priority habitats and species and managing the spread of invasive species.	Work commenced by not formally recorded against this plan			Parks Manager		
BM2		Conduct Habitat Surveys	Work With South Wiltshire Biodiversity Group to conduct Habitat surveys of SCC main sites.	Not Commenced			Environmental Services Manager		
BM3		Statutory Compliance	Ensure Compliance with all applicable environmental laws and regulations.	Work commenced by not formally recorded against this plan			City Clerk		
BM4		Protection/improveme nt of Habitat	Protect and enhance biodiversity during our activities with no net loss of 'priority' habitat. Continued creation of	Work commenced by not formally recorded			Parks Manager		

	Environmental Policy Action Plan Version 1 dated 1 Oct 2019									
ltem No.	Date Added	Recommendation	Detail	Status	Priority	Milestone <sup>2</sup>	Champion	Comments	Updated	
			wildflower/bee friendly planting around our estate.	against this plan						
BM5		Increase access/awareness	Provide a platform that will deliver opportunities for more people to enjoy the wildlife on our sites by increasing access/awareness.	Not Commenced						
BM6		Use of pesticide	Review SCC use of pesticide policy in light of emerging evidence	Not Commenced			Parks Manager			

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APPENDIX E OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENHANCEMENT



Land Type	Tree planting palette	Shrub planting palette	Grassland enhancement palette	Habitat feature palette	Management palette
Highway Authority owned verge	No SCC planting				
Narrow verge	none	none	Maintained as short mown grass	Long grass Retained	Mown twice annually
			Maintained as long grass	Wild flowers able to set seed	Mown once annually
			Spring bulbs	Early flowers for pollinators	Mown less than once annually
Wide verge	Acer pseudoplatanus Alnus cordata Betula utilis	Acer campestre Berberis vulgaris	Maintained as short mown grass Maintained as long grass	Long grass Retained	Mown twice annually
	Jaquemontii Carpinus betulus	Carpinus betulus Cornus	Area divided with	Wild flowers able to set seed	annually
	Fagus sylvatica Dawyck Liquidambar styraciflua Quercus robur	sanguinea Corylus avellana Crataegus monogyna Euonymus	aifferent mowing regimes to improve biodiversity Spring bulbs	Hedgerow Tree and shrub pollen/ nectar for pollinators	Mown less than once annually Shrubs/ hedgerow
	Guercus petraea Tilia cordata 'Greenspire' Tilia x europaea	europaeus Fagus sylvatica Ilex		Nesting and foraging potential for birds,	trimmed
		aquifolium Ligustrum Vulgare		invertebrates etc. Potentially wider range of grassland	hedgerow allowed to grow for longer between pruning, more

		Osmnthus x burkwoodii Prunus spinosa Rosa canina Rhamnus frangula Rhamnus cathartica Sambucus nigra Sarcococca confusa Taxus baccata Viburnum x bodnantense Dawn Viburnum lantana Viburnum opulus Viburnum tinus		species if area divided with differing mowing regimes Early flowers for pollinators	naturalistic in habit
Small public open space	Betula pendula Betula utilis Euonymus europaeus Jaquemontii Prunus avium Prunus carasifera 'Pissardii' Pyrus calleryana Chanticleer Robinia pseudoacacia Bessoniana	Berberis vulgaris Fagus sylvatica Ilex crenata Ligustrum vulgare Mahonia aquifolium Ribes sanguineum Rosmarinus officinalis Miss Jessops Upright	Maintained as short mown grass Maintained as long grass Area divided with different mowing regimes to improve biodiversity Spring bulbs	Long grass Retained Wild flowers able to set seed Potentially wider range of grassland species if area divided with differing mowing regimes	Mown twice annually Mown once annually Mown less than once annually Shrubs/ hedgerow neatly trimmed Shrubs/ hedgerow more naturalistic

		Sarcococca confusa Taxus baccata Viburnum x bodnantense Dawn Viburnum tinus		Hedgerow Tree and shrub pollen/ nectar for pollinators Nesting and foraging potential for birds, invertebrates etc Early flowers for pollinators	
Large public open space	Acer campestre Acer pseudoplatanus Acer saccharinum Aesculus hippocastanum Aesculus indica Carpinus betulus Castanea sativa Fagus sylvatica Ginko biloba Juglans regia Liquidambar styraciflua Tilia cordata 'Greenspire' Tilia x europaea Quercus robur Quercus petraea Ulmus dodoens Ulmus New Horizon	Berberis vulgaris Carpinus betulus Fagus sylvatica Ligustrum vulgare Mahonia aquifolium Ribes sanguineum Rosa canina Sarcococca confusa Taxus baccata Viburnum x bodnantense Dawn Viburnum tinus	Maintained as short mown grass Maintained as long grass Area divided with different mowing regimes to improve biodiversity Spring bulbs	Long grass Retained Wild flowers able to set seed Potentially wider range of grassland species if area divided with differing mowing regimes Hedgerow Tree and shrub pollen/ nectar for pollinators Nesting and foraging potential for birds, invertebrates etc	Mown twice annually Mown once annually Mown less than once annually Shrubs/ hedgerow neatly trimmed Shrubs/ hedgerow more naturalistic

				Early flowers	
				for pollinators	
Allotments	Unsuitable due to	shading effects			
Buildings/gardens	Acer pseudoplatanus Amelanchier lamarckii Betula utilis Jaquemontii Corylus avellana Euonymus europaeus Liquidambar styraciflua Prunus carasifera 'Pissardii' Pyrus calleryana Chanticleer Robinia pseudoacacia Bessoniana	Berberis vulgaris Carpinus betulus Griselinia littoralis Ilex crenata Ligustrum vulgare Mahonia aquifolium Ribes sanguineum Rosmarinus officinalis Miss Jessops Upright Sarcococca confusa Taxus baccata Viburnum x bodnantense Dawn Viburnum tinus	Maintained as short mown grass Maintained as long grass Area divided with different mowing regimes to improve biodiversity Spring bulbs	Long grass Retained Wild flowers able to set seed Potentially wider range of grassland species if area divided with differing mowing regimes Hedgerow Tree and shrub pollen/ nectar for pollinators Nesting and foraging potential for birds, invertebrates etc Early flowers for pollinators	Mown twice annually once annually Mown less than once annually Shrubs/ hedgerow neatly trimmed Shrubs/ hedgerow more naturalistic
Street trees – residential	Betula utilis Jaquemontii	Carpinus betulus		Hedgerow/	Mown twice annually

	Liquidambar styraciflua Pyrus calleryana Chanticleer Robinia pseudoacacia Bessoniana	llex crenata Ligustrum vulgare Rosmarinus officinalis Miss Jessops Upright	Tree and shrub pollen/ nectar for pollinators Nesting and foraging potential for	Mown once annually Mown less than once annually Shrubs/ hedgerow
	Sorbus x arnoldiana Schouten Sorbus aucuparia Asplenifolia	Sarcococca confusa Taxus baccata Viburnum x bodnantense Dawn Viburnum tinus	birds, invertebrates etc	neatly trimmed Shrubs/ hedgerow more naturalistic
Street trees – car parks	Betula utilis Jaquemontii Liquidambar styraciflua Pyrus calleryana Chanticleer Robinia pseudoacacia Bessoniana Sorbus x arnoldiana Schouten Sorbus aucuparia Asplenifolia Tilia cordata Greenspire	Carpinus betulus Ilex crenata Ligustrum vulgare Rosmarinus officinalis Miss Jessops Upright Sarcococca confusa Taxus baccata Viburnum x bodnantense Dawn Viburnum tinus	Hedgerow/ Tree and shrub pollen/ nectar for pollinators Nesting and foraging potential for birds, invertebrates etc	Shrubs/ hedgerow neatly trimmed Shrubs/ hedgerow more naturalistic
Street trees – city centre	Platanus x hispanica Lime Pyrus calleryana Chanticleer	Carpinus betulus Ilex crenata Ligustrum vulgare Rosmarinus officinalis	Hedgerow/ Tree and shrub pollen/ nectar for pollinators Nesting and foraging	Shrubs/ hedgerow neatly trimmed Shrubs/ hedgerow

	Quercus palustris Sorbus x arnoldiana Schouten Sorbus aucuparia Asplenifolia Tilia cordata Greenspire Tilia x Europaea Pallida Ulmus dodoens	Miss Jessops Upright Sarcococca confusa Taxus baccata Viburnum x bodnantense Dawn Viburnum tinus		potential for birds, invertebrates etc	more naturalistic
Country Park – native	Acer campestre Betula pendula Carpinus betulus Corylus avellana Euonymus europaeus Fagus sylvatica Ilex aquifolium Juniperus communis Malus sylvestris Prunus avium Acer campestre Pinus sylvestris Pyrus communis Quercus robur Quercus petraea Salix pentandra Sorbus aria Sorbus aria	Acer campestre Berberis vulgaris <sup>1</sup> Carpinus betulus Corylus avellana Cornus sanguinea Corylus avellana Crataegus monogyna Euonymus europaeus Fagus sylvatica Ilex aquifolium Ligustrum vulgare Prunus spinosa Rosa canina	Maintained as short mown grass Maintained as long grass Area divided with different mowing regimes to improve biodiversity Spring bulbs	Long grass Retained Wild flowers able to set seed Hedgerow Tree and shrub pollen/ nectar for pollinators Nesting and foraging potential for birds, invertebrates etc Early flowers for pollinators	Mown twice annually Mown once annually Mown less than once annually Shrubs/ hedgerow neatly trimmed Shrubs/ hedgerow more naturalistic

<sup>1</sup> A non-native species with significant ecological value

	Taxus baccata Tilia x europaea	Rhamnus frangula Rhamnus cathartica Sambucus nigra Taxus baccata Viburnum lantana Viburnum opulus			
Formal Park – non native	Acer pseudoplatanus Calocedrus decurrens Castanea sativa Catalpa bignoides Cedrus atlantica Glauca Cedrus deodar Juglans regia Corylus colurna Liquidambar styraciflua Liriodendron tulipifera Pinus nigra austriaca Sequoiadendron giganticum Thuja plicata	Berberis vulgaris Ceanothus thyrsiflorus repens Escallonia Donard Seedling Griselinia littoralis Mahonia aquifolium Prunus laurocerasus Ribes sanguineum Rosmarinus officinalis Miss Jessops Upright Sarcococca confuse Viburnum x bodnantense Dawn Viburnum	Maintained as short mown grass Maintained as long grass Area divided with different mowing regimes to improve biodiversity Area divided with different mowing regimes to improve biodiversity Spring bulbs	Long grass Retained Wild flowers able to set seed Hedgerow Tree and shrub pollen/ nectar for pollinators Nesting and foraging potential for birds, invertebrates etc Early flowers for pollinators	Mown twice annually once annually once annually once annually Shrubs/ hedgerow neatly trimmed Shrubs/ hedgerow more naturalistic

Formal Park – native	Acer campestre Carpinus betulus Fagus sylvatica Pinus sylvestris Pyrus communis Prunus avium Sorbus aria Sorbus aria Sorbus torminalis Taxus baccata Tilia x europaea	Acer campestre Carpinus betulus Corylus avellana Euonymus europaeus Fagus sylvatica Ilex aquifolium Ligustrum vulgare Rosa canina Taxus baccata Viburnum lantana Viburnum opulus	Maintained as short mown grass Maintained as long grass Area divided with different mowing regimes to improve biodiversity Area divided with different mowing regimes to improve biodiversity Spring bulbs	Long grass Retained Wild flowers able to set seed Potentially wider range of grassland species if area divided with differing mowing regimes Hedgerow Tree and shrub pollen/ nectar for pollinators Nesting and foraging potential for birds, invertebrates etc Early flowers for pollinators	Mown twice annually Mown once annually Mown less once annually Shrubs/ hedgerow neatly trimmed Shrubs/ hedgerow nore naturalistic
River / stream corridor	Alnus glutinosa Betula pubescens Corylus avellana Populus nigra Betulifolia Populus tremula Prunus padus	Corylus avellana Frangula alnus Rosa canina Salix aurita Salix pentandra	Maintained as short mown grass Maintained as long grass Area divided with different mowing regimes to improve biodiversity	Long grass Retained Wild flowers able to set seed Potentially wider range of	Mown twice annually Mown once annually Mown less than once annually Shrubs/ hedgerow
Salix alba Salix caprea Salix cinerea Salix pentandra Salix viminalis	Salix purpurea Viburnum opulus	Area divided with different mowing regimes to improve biodiversity	grassland species if area divided with differing mowing regimes	neatly trimmed Shrubs/ hedgerow more naturalistic	
---	---	--	--	---	
White)		Spring bulbs	Hedgerow Tree and shrub pollen/ nectar for pollinators	Creating and maintaining dead wood. Logs/ decomposing wood retained on site	
			Nesting and foraging potential for birds, invertebrates etc Early flowers for pollinators	Further habitats constructed Signage provided	

**Recommended References** 

- 1. Woodland Trust, Woodland Creation Guide,
- 2. Woodland Trust, Tree Species Handbook A Technical Guide for Practitioners

#### Notes

Native trees to be UK and Ireland Sourced and Grown Assurance Scheme (UKISG) sourced

#### Cemetaries and Crematorium

Both Devizes Road Cemetery and London Road Cemetery have many fine and unusual tree specimens, the majority of which are mature in age. A small number of younger replacements have recently been planted to the front of the London Road Site.

The long term management at both Cemetaries here should aim to achieve a range of age of tree specimens as replacements are required, whilst maintaining the existing variety of specimens. Currently this would be a gradual process, dictated by the health and condition of existing trees.

The most appropriate trees may be direct replacements in many cases, with due consideration of suitability and adhering to the original design intent, whilst considering the current status of potential diseases etc. which may pose a risk to new planting. As a general rule, group planting of identical species may be more prone to loss should there be spread of disease. Isolated specimens may be replaced individually without leaving a large area bare, whereas an extensive group of a single species may risk the loss of a number of trees at once. For this reason, when large tree

groups require replacement the use of mixed species should be considered, or planting in smaller groups of one species.

One such area would the boundary planting of similar aged lime trees at the London Road Cemetery.

The Landscape of London Road Crematorium was Designed by Brenda Colvin, a designer of national significance. The Crematorium is included on Historic England's Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England. The emphasis in inclusion on the Register is to encourage protection of the landscape, rather than the planting, or botanic interest.

Any tree planting or replacement on this site must adhere to the initial design intent, whilst including the practical considerations above. Tree planting here includes groups of single species, creating much of the impact in the final design. There are large groups of beech and yew in particular and should disease become an issue, adjustment to originally proposed tree species may be considered.



APPENDIX F CONSULTATION OUTPUTS



#### Responses from Members of the Public to Online and In Person Engagement Events



Move around and explore the board with your mouse. You can zoom in and out (bottom right of screen) and add information using the left hand menu e.g. sticky, pen, connection line

#### Map with What3Word You can use the What3 Words app to location of trees as yo Salisbury's streets. Take a photo and add is with the what3 words location here!

#### Salisbury City Council Tree and Ecosystem Service Strategy

Your Council is in the process of developing a strategy for the trees on the land it owns and manages, and also exploring the best ways it can use these areas to maximise how they support biodiversity, pollination, wellness, heritage and the landscape of the city (amongst other things).

As part of this it would like your help to identify those trees which are particularly special to you, where they are, and the stories behind them.

Please locate and describe your important trees on the map with an arrow and sticky note. Why are they important to you? You can even upload a photo if you have one.



PLEASE ZOOM IN AND LOCATE YOUR IMPORTANT TREES ON THE MAP, ADD A NOTE AND ARROW AND TELL US WHY THEY ARE SPECIAL TO YOU

## CONSULTATION EXTENDED UNTIL THE END OF DECEMBER -EXHIBITION IN THE CENTRAL LIBRARY 22/11/22

Salisbury's Trees - Thousands of them! Witnesses to history.....vital for our future. What do they mean to you?



The online consultation was viewed numerous times, but only resulted in two specific tree highlights being posted. The northern most comment was "My father planted all the trees along the boundary of Greencroft. My father has passed away now but he would often talk about the trees and planting them. The southernmost comment was "Cherry Trees at Harnham Mill"

The in-person consultation was constructive with over 30 people stopping to discuss the Tree Strategy and to provide some comments and observations. Comments provided are replicated below.

Value small discrete areas of green space – oasis of calm e.g. with benches. Accessible to people with mobility challenges and people living nearby. Maintain or increase the number of these

Green spaces in the central city of critical – breathing spaces. Adding to the sense of community and place. Add more habitat features

The trees in the city are very much appreciated

Please add more street trees

Trees are important for our air quality – even smaller trees. Can we create an urban forest – connecting via soil, roots, habitats. Providing cooling and better biodiversity

The best-looking cities are the ones with nature trees. They soften the look and adds to character. Makes it feel more welcoming when there are more trees

Trees are important for our air quality – even smaller trees. Can we create an urban forest – connecting via soil, roots, habitats. Providing cooling and better biodiversity

More leafy walking areas within 1 mile of the central business district

Provide a walking route map to show where to go to find and enjoy trees and woodland

We need to be able to walk out of our front door to get to large areas of woodland and trees, not have to drive to them

Create a tree lined avenue across the market place to help older people get from one side to the other in very hot weather

Increase the visibility of walking routes with tree canopy cover

Surrounding farmland can be quite barren – encourage regenerative farming

Create tree routes – a greenway, walking though areas with out trees on hot days makes it difficult to get to where you want to get to. Produce route maps for this.

Amazing to see and hear bees in Wyndham Park – vertical bee tree!

Salisbury Area Greenspace Partnership Response to SCC Tree Survey by Johns Associates See accompanying plan for details



#### Important Groups of Trees

Mix of very significant trees in the publicly accessible spaces of the Cathedral Close as well as in the Close private gardens. Also, in the grounds of the two schools - the Cathedral School & Bishop

Wordsworth School. Includes group of 300 year old London Planes in the Bishops Palace grounds & one in the frontage of Leaden Hall. Also, the two Deodar Cedars in the Cathedral Cloister Garth.

1.1 Market Square – 4 mature London Planes + more recent avenue planting; Guildhall Square - Limes

1.2 Churchyards – eg. St Martins – Lime avenue, Stratford-sub-Castle – Lime avenue

1.3 Former churchyards – St Edmunds Art Centre, St Clements, St Johns at Lower Bemerton

1.4 Victorian Cemeteries – London Road & Devizes Road – mix of species including cedar

1.5 Crematorium Garden of Remembrance – Grade 2 Listed Landscape (together with the Crematorium building) designed by landscape architect Brenda Colvin design in mid-1950's. Mix of tree species including maturing Yew & Beech. White helleborines which associate with maturing Beech have been found on site.

1.6 Bourne Hill House Gardens, Grade 2 Listed Landscape (& house) & part Scheduled Monument (last remaining part of the city ramparts). New tree planting has been somewhat random in some areas jeopardising the open spaces within the site

1.7 Wyndham Park – historically part of Bourne Hill House Gardens

1.8 The Greencroft – Lime avenue & boundary trees

1.9 Victoria Park – constructed 1887 for the then Queen's Jubilee. Period features such as the pavilion & bandstand have been removed. Interesting variety of established trees but new tree planting has been rather random & will in time jeopardise some areas of open space.

1.10 Queen Elizabeth Gardens & Churchill Gardens both designed by landscape architect Brenda Colvin – interesting collection of ornamental & native species trees & well-designed spaces.

1.11 Tree groups at Harnham Rec, Fisherton Rec – Black Poplars (rare spp.), Bemerton Rec, Hudsons Field

1.12 Trees in Newbridge Road green space – fringed with miscellaneous cherries in an area which could take larger structural trees.

1.13 Tree planting associated with the internationally important chalk river system of the River Avon & its tributaries (all SAC's & SSSI's). For example, Middle Street Meadow County Wildlife Site & nearby Nadder Island; Churchfields Open Space – mix of ornamental trees which provide an important screen for Churchfield industrial estate from views from the historic watermeadows & Salisbury conservation area & which provide an outstanding landscape setting for the cathedral; Avon Valley LNR – to the east of the river is an area of Alder/Willow wet woodland. Also, on this side of the river in the area known as 'The Butts' is an extensive area of regenerating native trees & scrub on land which was formerly a city rubbish tip.

1.14 Old Sarum – groups of Yew & single Yews, & a group of Beech. English Heritage have significantly reduced the number of trees & amounts of scrub over time in order to preserve the archaeology & integrity of the chalk banks. EH are perhaps being a bit purist – the mature trees are an attractive amenity feature & important for wildlife. The scrub & small trees helped to screen the parked cars from higher viewpoints to the south.

1.15 Trees lining the east side of the Devizes Road approach into Salisbury. Have an important screening effect for views from Old Sarum.

1.16 Trees around former Old Manor Hospital site on both sides of the Wilton Road & part of Salisbury Conservation area

1.17 Trees around Montgomery Gardens area off of Wilton Road

1.18 The Avenue Trees at Wilton (missing from plan) sadly depleted by Wilton Hill housing development.

1.19 Conifer tree belts at the Fugglestone Red housing estate which is under construction.

## 2.0 Important Woodland

2.1 Bemerton Folly & Barnards Folly Woodland & LNR important locally but under pressure; planted in early 1900's. Problems of fly tipping & misuse.

2.2 Harnham Slope, a woodland County Wildlife Site, the Chalkpit, Harnham Folly, The Cliff (a former Victorian house & grounds) & Old Blandford Road Open Space. The woodland provides an important backdrop to views from the Cathedral Close. There are also important views to the city & the wider landscape from Bishops Walk along top of the slope on the north side. Friends of Harnham Slope in conjunction with SCC have managed the viewpoints to the cathedral at key points at an oblique angle in order to maintain the screening of housing development at Bishops Drive & Harnwood Road. It is important for wildlife & ecosystem service delivery. There are also important walking & cycling routes through the woodland. Loss of Ash is now a problem.

2.3 The Cliff is the remnants of a landscaped garden with important viewpoints to the cathedral which have become overgrown. Is thought to be the view painted by Constable – painting in The Louvre, Paris.

2.4 The Chalkpit is a SSSI for its geological interest & natural regeneration of scrub is occurring.
2.5 Harnham Folly is an important remnant of TPO woodland for wildlife & landscape setting at the top of Harnham Hill, a substantial part having been developed for housing. This remnant includes a Thuja plantation & very over mature beech.

2.6 Old Blandford Road Open Space, formerly a chalk pit which was lined & used as a rubbish tip now has maturing trees such as Hornbeam, Beech & Sycamore. Cardamine pratense can now be found in the areas of spring bulb planting particularly in a damp season due to impeded drainage.

2.7 Crematorium Garden of Remembrance – see above

#### 2.8 Woodland at Cowslip Farm

2.9 Emerging woodland at Quidhampton Quarry.

2.10 Emerging woodland at the Engine Shed site on north side of Churchfields Road.

#### 3.0 Landmark Trees

3.1 Hill-top Beech around the city which were probably planted in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century - Harnham Folly & Harnham Hill area, Milford Hill area, St Marks Church area/Leehurst Swan School.

3.2 Commemorative Beech belts on the south side of the city marking the late Queen's coronation in 1953. White helleborines which associate with Beech are present in reasonable numbers in parts of the tree belt adjacent to the Bournemouth Road & are present in good numbers under the Beech in the Rowbarrow tree belt.

3.3 Until recently, Lombardy Poplars acted as markers of the River Avon on a north of city centre by Waitrose when viewed from Old Sarum & other viewpoints on the high ground around the city. Have been replaced with fastigiate Oak but now need reinforcement planting of the same species. Other Lombardy Poplars on Fisherton Recreation Ground have been removed as part of the Flood Relief scheme but the EA appear reluctant to replace them. Lombardy Poplars also marked the location of the Old Mill at Harnham but the group is now reduced to only two trees. Lombardy Poplars are linked with John Constable who regularly visited & stayed in Salisbury (at Leaden Hall) & feature in some of his local landscapes. These must have been some of the first introductions into this country in the early nineteenth century although not now the original trees.

3.4 Trees around the inner ring road & particularly within the roundabouts (see red stars on accompanying plan)– Pinus nigra are a feature of the Southampton Road/College roundabout & immediate area, & some have been lost & not replaced eg. on the College corner & in the WC owned Friary Housing site; Sophora japonica & Catalpa are a feature at St Marks roundabout; Alders & Maples feature at the Castle Street roundabout & Ailanthus altissima & Catalpa bignonioides at St Pauls roundabout. Greenspace adjacent to the Exeter Street roundabout on the west side was predominantly Grey Poplar & Swamp Cypress. Has been opened up & replanted but with 2 Black Poplar & a Beech rather than creating a grove of Swamp Cypress which would have linked with existing plantings across the road in the Newbridge Road greenspace.

### 4.0 Street Trees

See yellow stars on accompanying plan. Not a large number overall. Examples include:

4.1 Bouverie Avenue (first section from roundabout) random mix of inappropriate species with spreading canopies which get damaged by passing traffic); mature Limes in next section, some TPO's causing damage to paving but create a great street scene & important hill top tree cover; Bouverie Avenue South is a private road where Limes are regularly pollarded

4.2 Kelsey Hill – trees historically planted in the road – replacements not favoured by WC Highways

4.4 Newbridge Road – see above

+ Various housing estates in the city

#### 5.0 General Comments

Lime Kiln Down – see 5.0 on accompanying plan & includes both small triangles of land at the western end. All trees on the site are owned/maintained by SCC. The main tree belt of Beech, Norway Maple & Pine is along the northern boundary with hedgerow trees along southern boundary including Walnut, Beech & residual Elm. Trees within the site are native scrub eg. Hawthorn, Blackthorn, Purging Buckthorn, Dogwood.

Lack of management plans for most of SCC green spaces; somewhat random tree planting without due consideration of the impact on the design & quality of the space & its useability; odd choices of species – not necessarily right tree in right place; undue focus on short term species such as flowering cherries rather than long term structural species which are important for carbon capture, mitigating other climate change impacts, supporting biodiversity & overall community resilience.

Opportunities with future planting: street trees on main approaches to city whilst respecting long views to cathedral especially along river valleys. For example, Wilton Road, Castle Road, London Road, Southampton Road, Newbridge Road – avenue planting, Bishopdown Road & in St Marks greenspace.

Species selection – SAGP support general emphasis on use of native planting particularly in semi-natural green spaces & for example, along river valleys & in riverside locations. Exotics have a useful impact & provide added interest, & there is now a tradition for using them in more formal & urban situations thanks in part at least to Brenda Colvin who used them to great effect in the spaces she designed. Selected forms & cultivars will also be valuable in the built environment where space is at a premium. Species mixes to also include evergreen elements where appropriate eg where poor air quality is a particular issue. Please note that the whole of the city centre within the inner ring road is a designated Air Quality Management Area with extensions around the St Marks & St Pauls areas + along Wilton Road.

There may be opportunities to encouraging the trialling of disease resistant elms for example, in the Close where historically elms dominated the planting & elsewhere

Brenda Colvin has had an important influence in the city's planting which has largely gone unrecognised. Her designs for sites in Salisbury are held in the LI archive held at MERL, Reading University

Whilst Salisbury appears to have a reasonable tree cover, we have been aware of an increasing loss of mature trees in city centre & the ineffectiveness of TPO's & conservation area status to protect such trees. Salisbury Conservation Area Appraisal & Management Plan 2014 identified important trees & the need for a detailed tree survey, but this was never carried out by WC. Is good that it is happening now!

SAGP has concerns about threats to existing protected trees from development, as for example at Rowbarrow, where planning approval has recently been granted by WC for housing too close to the commemorative Beech tree belt. SAGP would also like to see SCC considering locating tree planting within areas of tall grass & spring bulbs at some sites.

The Salisbury Neighbourhood Development Plan (SNDP) refers to street tree planting for carbon capture, & to trees in relation to design of the built environment as well as part of the city's multifunctional green & blue infrastructure. The SNDP Design Guide also refers to trees & tree planting & species selection. These documents are still in draft & it would be helpful if they could be synchronised with the emerging Salisbury Tree Strategy.

Nicola Lipscombe Dip TP CMLI & Les Lipscombe NDH Dip LD CMLI ret'd on behalf of Salisbury Area Greenspace Partnership 27 November 2022



# APPENDIX G ADVICE NOTES



#### Pesticide, Herbicide and Fertiliser

NB: No pesticides, herbicides, or fertilisers to be used in the ongoing management and maintenance of Sites unless otherwise approved by the (Suitably Qualified Ecologist (SQE) / Client Representative (CR). Salisbury City Council decided to stop using the herbicide Glyphosate in 2021.

Where the use of pesticide/herbicide is deemed necessary for the removal of injurious or invasive species they are only to be used with prior agreement of the SQE/CR. Any pesticides/herbicides to be applied by appropriately certified contractors. If herbicide controls are to be used then spot/targeted treatments are the preferred method.

Detailed records of any such applications must be kept in accordance with relevant legislation. These records shall be available for viewing during normal working/office hours by any person wishing to see them.

In situations where plants require nutrients to ensure survival of the plant then biological and sustainable methods are preferred such as use of peat-free compost or mycorrhizal fungi.

#### Weed Control

Weed control is to be kept to a minimum, and be restricted to planting stations, trackways, hard standing areas, and those areas immediately adjacent to them unless otherwise specified. In all other areas, weed control is to be restricted to the control of injurious and invasive species and highly competitive weeds, unless otherwise instructed. When weeding, ensure that the methods used cause the minimum of damage to adjacent plants/vegetation, including trees and grass, as well as to animal species. Preferred method of removal of all encroaching scattered scrub/weeds is by mechanical/biological methods or hand pulling weeds as required.

#### Hand Weeding

Remove all weeds, including roots, by hand using hoes, trowels or forks, taking care to remove not more than a minimum quantity of soil, causing minimum disturbance to neighbouring plants and leaving the area in a neat, raked, clean condition.

#### Weed Cutting by Hand or Machine

Cut down completely and cleanly all undesirable grass, brambles, herbaceous growth, etc. to a maximum height of 75mm.

#### Weeding Around Tree and Plant Stems

Do not allow nylon filament rotary cutters or other mechanical tools closer than 100 mm to the stem of any tree or shrub to be retained. Complete operations close to stems using hand tools.

#### Herbicide Application

To be carried out only as a last resort to control invasive weed species and following approval of the SQE/CR. Application rate as per manufacturer's instructions. Salisbury City Council decided to stop using the herbicide Glyphosate in 2021.

If herbicide controls are to be used then spot/targeted treatments are the preferred method. Spray or spot-treat individual plants when the plant is in its active phase. Spot-treat new plants as they appear and re-treat in August/September as necessary. Application to be carried out as per manufacturers' recommendations. Apply herbicide in calm and dry weather conditions and at the appropriate time of the year, ensuring no rain is forecast for 2-3 days following treatment.

NB: General systemic weed killers will kill/ damage all plant matter that it touches. Care must be taken to cover any adjacent plant material with polythene or similar to protect it from spray drift.

#### Verge Maintenance

Verges can provide important habitat for insects and wildlife. To enhance the use of verges for grassland habitat reduce verge cuts to twice annually, or where possible once a year in September to help protect wildflowers. Cutting should be avoided during the main flowering season (early May-late August), except for where safety maybe compromised.

Perform a safety cut in spring (May-July). Mow areas of long grass that affect visibility of road users and pedestrians along visibility splays, towards approaches of junctions, tight bends, areas of high pedestrian traffic including school and pedestrian crossings, signage, street furniture, clear routes for pedestrian, cyclist and horse use.

A serviceability cut to be carried out in September on all verge areas, cutting verges by 1m width to reduce verge encroachment where necessary.

Additional cuts to be carried out where inspections identify growth as a potential hazard.

#### Wildflower Grassland

Most of the wildflower grassland areas will be managed as a summer-flowering grassland and typically mown twice annually when weather is dry, once in the early season in March and again once the seed has set in late summer from the end of August (if areas must be mown earlier then no earlier than mid July-see below). These areas will be cut to c.50mm in the late summer cut and dried on Site, turning it to assist drying and dispersing seeds over 3-5 days before removing arisings from Site. A further cut in late autumn may should be avoided if at all possible as it would be detrimental to butterflies.

Where possible, continuity of flowering plants could be provided by mowing a single area in two parts. For example a mid July cut may be the least damaging to butterflies, but by mowing half an area in June and the remainder later in July, a supply of nectar can be maintained. The principal of managing one area with slightly differing mowing regimes can be applied to benefit invertebrates where resources allow and may result in a richer mix of plant species.

#### Wildflower Grassland Margins

Top the grass in early March and then a later cut in dry weather from the end of August, when native flora has set seed. Cut again in late September to early October to lower soil fertility and increase chances of wildflower establishment.

The cutting of wildflower grassland areas within 300mm of tree trunks is to be undertaken by hand.

Mown grass paths and margins to gravel paths where shown are to be cut to a height of c.75mm with arisings removed to maintain a neat and tidy appearance.

Remove/hand pull non-native scrub and noxious weeds where necessary.

Any flushes of annual weeds will be controlled by mechanical topping.

Do not apply herbicide other than to spot treat problem weed species if required.

Do not apply fertiliser.

Remove all arisings from Site or deposit in specified location to compost for reptile/invertebrate habitat.

Overseed if required with local seed-mix or similar approved in spring (February-March) including a 1g per m2 of yellow rattle Rhinanthus minor to reduce the prevalence of dominant grasses and to facilitate the colonisation of a diverse herb community. The sowing rate is subject to agreement with the SQE; Seed dispersal to be by hand/pedestrian broadcaster.

#### Weed Control

Maintain a 500mm weed-free area around the base of plants by hand weeding and light hoeing until plants have fully established. Fork over as necessary to keep soil loose, with gentle cambers and no hollows.

Removal of aggressive weed species that have invaded and are suppressing intended species:

Use hand methods to remove roots of thistle, docks & other undesirable weeds. If a particular undesirable weed starts to dominate spot treat grass areas with an appropriate herbicide (Salisbury City Council has stopped using Glyphosapte). Apply herbicide in calm weather conditions and at the appropriate time of the year.

#### **Regular Grass Mown Areas**

Regularly mown areas of grass are required for access and safety reasons including: access paths, furniture, signage and recreation spaces. Regular mowing to commence with one cut in late March, then twice a month every month until Mid October.

#### Hedge Management

#### General maintenance

Hedgerows to be managed to a height and depth appropriate to the setting (see area specific information) in the interests of visual mitigation and ecological enhancement.

- Inspect, adjust and remove any guards / shelters as needed and replace/re-set as required.
- Replace dead, dying or damaged trees as agreed with the SQLA/CR for the first 5 years.
- Replacement plants will be of the same species and specification as any failed plants.

#### Cutting

Pruning/trimming is to be carried out to the highest horticultural standards using secateurs, approved mechanical hedge cutters and hand saws. Trimming and shaping will be conducted according to species, variety, season, state of growth and visual effect.

For deciduous, informal hedgerows pruning/trimming to be undertaken once a year in January-February before bud break. For more formal aesthetic hedgerows cut again in late August to September. Evergreen and formal hedgerows e.g. yew and box to be trimmed late August to September before first frosts.

Hedgerows adjacent to roadsides, footpaths and highways drainage features may require more regular cutting for safety and functional purposes.

For any newly planted informal hedgerow, intervention during the first 5 years will be limited to targeted thinning/formative pruning. No box cutting to front edges. This will allow the shape and habit of the hedge species to develop. However, some localised lateral cutting may be required to prevent encroachment onto adjoining footpaths or other areas in the interim.

Any works to hedgerows will ideally take place outside the bird nesting season (March – Early September) and are best planned during the winter months. If works are to be undertaken for health and safety reasons then the area should be inspected for nesting birds by a suitably qualified Ecologist. If nesting birds are present then works within 5m radius will need to be delayed until the chicks have left the nest.

#### Pruning

An annual assessment of the need for selective/formative pruning to remove any dead branches will be made at the end of each growing season with work carried out in the following winter or spring depending on species and undertaken to promote healthy new growth. Inspections and assessment are to be carried out by a suitably qualified arborist.

Dead foliage and branches are to be removed by cutting back to an outward facing bud.

Suckers are to be removed by cutting back to their source on the affected plant.

#### Arisings

To be distributed evenly as a mulch following prior discussions with SQLA/CR. Care to be taken to check for hedgehogs/ reptiles/amphibians etc. before leaf removal.

Establishment of new/replacement planting

Replace defective planting at the earliest opportunity, with any defective planting replaced at the end of the first year (or before).

Fertiliser applications (if required) to planting pits to be approved by SQLA/CR prior to application.

Planting time and fertiliser application to be approved by SQLA/CR.

#### Weed Control

Individual planting stations (c.500mm dia.) or hedge lines to be kept weed-free for at least the first 3 years or until the canopy closes. Selective weed control to be undertaken beyond this period as required.

The development of an herbaceous layer other than pernicious weeds and/or weed species such ragwort, dock and thistles will be encouraged in the interests of biodiversity.

#### **Risk Management**

All work is to be undertaken by suitably qualified operatives who are appropriately trained and hold the relevant certificates of competence for the operations they carry out.

#### Watering

During the first twelve months of any replacement planting, plants are well watered and well firmed in, if subject to heave or wind rock.

#### Existing Trees and Woodlands

Regular inspection of existing trees and hedgerows (every year) for risk management. Prune/trim as required with consideration for bats and birds.

These points are to be observed when undertaking any work to existing trees/vegetation on Sites:

- Bird nesting season: no cutting or clearance work is to be carried out if it would impact on nesting birds;
- Identify any opportunities for creating additional deadwood/log pile habitats or retaining standing deadwood if possible. Deadwood could be retained in undisturbed areas to create hibernacula to enhance refugia for small mammals, reptiles and amphibians. See below for specific site opportunities.
- Management to be phased over time to maintain/create a varied age structure where possible.

Any cavities discovered within existing trees will require inspection by a SQE/CR prior to any works, for the potential to accommodate roosting bats. This will include potential roosting features such as lifted bark, cracks, tears, holes in the tree/bark/branches. Following this, and where approved by the ecologist, clear away rubbish, and rotten wood. Probe the cavity to find the extent of any decay, report to the SQE/CR and await instructions. Unless instructed, do not drain water-filled cavities, or remove wood from inside cavities.

#### Tree Felling

Removal of individual decaying trees within existing wooded areas can open up the canopy letting light into the understorey to encourage new vegetation to establish. Any removed trees are to be section-felled and trunks cut to be left in wooded areas to create log piles, bug hotels and other potential habitat for existing wildlife.

#### Arisings

To be distributed evenly as a mulch in tree planting areas following prior discussions with SQLA/CR. Care to be taken to check for hedgehogs/reptiles/amphibians etc. before leaf removal.

#### **Risk Management**

Inspections and assessment are to be carried out by a suitably qualified arborist appointed by CR. All works to be undertaken by suitably qualified operatives who are appropriately trained and hold the relevant certificates of competence for the operations they carry out.

#### **Remedial Works**

The CR will prioritise works arising from the tree inspection and recommendations of the tree survey. Specialist tree work will be carried out by an approved tree surgeon/contractor.

#### Ash Dieback

With the current prevalence of ash dieback across the UK and within the local area it is important to minimize its impact by slowing the spread of the disease.

Notices to be erected where there is a presence of ash dieback to spread public awareness to clean shoes, wheels etc. before leaving or entering sites to reduce spread of contamination.

Remove leaf litter and debris from infected trees from site and dispose of through correct methods that avoid further contamination.

With the exception of public safety felling of living ash trees should be avoided as there is good evidence a small proportion of the trees will tolerate ash dieback, and some will recover to good health. If this is not possible, ash trees can be felled and left *in situ* as fallen deadwood habitat, and they can also be felled high as 'monoliths' to 3-5m with bat crevice features created using chainsaws.

Under circumstances where ash trees are to be replaced chose trees of a close relative. Good contenders include the disease resistant elms (e.g. 'Wingham' and 'Resista' varieties), aspen and sycamore.

#### Specimen trees and tree groupings

#### Pruning

An assessment of the need for selective pruning to remove any dead branches will be made at the end of each tree monitoring survey, which are carried out at 2, 4 or 6 year intervals depending on the risk rating of the location.

Pruning will be limited to the minimum necessary to remove dead wood or diseased and dying branches. Pruning is to be carried out to the highest horticultural standards using mechanical equipment, secateurs, loppers and hand saws.

Dead foliage and branches are to be removed by cutting back to an outward facing bud. Suckers are to be removed by cutting back to their source on the affected plant.

#### Crown pruning and lifting

Typically, Salisbury City Council only carry out tree work on dead, diseased, dangerous or dying trees. Should any additional crown pruning and lifting be authorised, the Contractor shall remove dead branches and reduce selected side branches by one-third, in each case cutting back to live wood to preserve a well-balanced head. All cuts over 75mm diameter and bruises and scars on the bark, the injured cambium shall be traced back to living tissue and removed. Wounds shall be smoothed so as not to retain water and the treated area shall be coated with an approved compound in accordance with BS 3998.

#### New tree planting

The Contractor shall ensure throughout the management plan period that the following operations are undertaken:

Firming in of all trees and stakes following frost or strong winds.

Where necessary replacement of all broken ties and correctly positioning/tensioning of other ties.

Where necessary replacement of broken stakes and straightening of any other stakes.

Where necessary removal of ties and stakes to established trees.

#### Weeding

A 500mm base of trees to be kept weed-free using hand weeding or light hoeing methods. Any mulched areas (if included) are to be topped up on an annual basis as required. This will obviate the need for mowing machinery to be used around the base of the trees and thus protect them from mower damage.

#### Risk management

Inspections and assessment are to be carried out by a suitably qualified arborist appointed by the CR. All works to be undertaken by suitably qualified operatives who are appropriately trained and hold the relevant certificates of competence for the operations they carry out.

#### Footpaths

Use of herbicide should be avoided and removal of any adjacent vegetation, where necessary, to be completed by hand. Habitat edges tend to be the most diverse so damaging operations should be avoided. Where vegetation adjacent to paths requires maintenance, scalloping the edges of glades and undergrowth creates more habitat diversity rather than trimming in straight lines.

#### **Highway verges**

Roadside verges can form valuable ecological corridors which can connect natural habitats to create bee highways, habitat and food for wildlife as well as seasonal interest.

Wildflowers need to complete their full lifecycle through to setting seed, providing flowers for pollinators and seeds for the seedbank and wildlife.

Grass mowing can be reduced to two cuts a year, allowing the wild flowers and grasses to mature and set seed. This provides increased seed for foragers in addition to the seed bank.

By dividing a verge into two or more areas, mown at different times, more diversity of habitat can be provided for invertebrates. The two areas may also develop differing wildflowers and grasses as a result of the different mowing times.

Arisings should be removed from site to maintain low nutrient soil.

#### Small amenity sites

Allowing grasses to grow to seed where possible creates seasonal interest as grass seed heads and wildflowers can grow to their full height and add texture and movement to a public space. Visitors may enjoy the space more, and become more engaged in their natural environment.

Seedheads can not only look good but also provide valuable winter food and attract many more birds such as goldfinch to the site. Hummocky grasses create overwintering space for invertebrates such as moths, which in turn provide food for birds and bats.

Even small sites may offer opportunities for nest boxes, log piles and bug boxes to be installed.

#### Hedgerows: Hedgerow strengthening

Hedgerows provide shelter, food and nesting sites for birds, mammals and invertebrates. They provide flowers for pollinators, fruit, nuts and insects as food for wildlife. Hedgerows are also important wildlife corridors and provide protection to a wide range of species.

Taller and thicker hedgerows provide better value for wildlife. Cutting hedges every two years, instead of annually, results in increased food availability for wildlife and encourages more pollinators. Any gaps can be filled with native species, providing an opportunity to increase the diversity of hedge planting. Taller and wider hedges provide more shelter and nesting sites. The reduction of disturbance by reducing the frequency of maintenance activities is also an advantage to wildlife.

Slower growing species such as hawthorn hedges may be cut every three years.

#### Trees: Woodland edge/glade management

Glades provide the best biodiverse habitat when they are sunny and provide a diverse mix of species at the woodland edge, which adds variety to the main woodland tree species. They should be wide enough for the south facing woodland edge to be sunny, and contain a mix of species providing a variety of structure, ideally with trees of different ages. A mix of both coppiced and single stemmed trees, scrubby vegetation and other microhabitats such as leaf litter can all increase the diversity of the habitat. Creating uneven edges will create more diversity than straight margins.

Glades and rides are good feeding corridors for some species of bat and dragonfly, and protected sunny spots on the edge of scrub are valuable to reptiles.

When maintenance is necessary the cuttings can be used to create 'dead hedges' around glade edges. These provide more shelter for invertebrates and small vertebrates. Scrubby growth should be cut by a third every three years to maintain sufficient cover whilst preventing species like brambles from taking over. Long grass can also be maintained on a three year cycle, creating a carpet of vegetation suitable for reptiles and insects such as the carder bee which like to nest in the vegetation (unlike bumble bees that burrow into the soil). One reason carder bees are often scarce is that grasslands are cut too often.

Cutting machinery can compact vegetation and soils in marginal areas and may crush wildlife, so the use of a strimmer is best for sensitive sites. The aim is to create diversity of habitat to encourage the widest possible range of wildlife from burrowing animals, to amphibians, reptiles and anthills which may not usually be seen as beneficial.

#### Woodland management

Coppicing can help to create a mosaic of habitats particularly when done in rotation eg every three years. Hazel can be coppiced by cutting growth back to close to ground level with an angled cut. This allows sunlight to flood the ground and allows other species to naturally regenerate. Dormant seeds stored in the seedbank from plants such as primroses, bugle and violet are then able to grow.

Thinning may be necessary if more space is needed for some trees to grow. Usually, a few trees are thinned at once and further thinning may take place every five or ten years.

If ash dieback is evident, trees need to be made safe as they can become structurally fragile. When tree maintenance is required, resulting dead wood can be left to decompose or used to create a hibernaculum, beetle pyramid or log piles to create a range of microclimates.

#### Existing pond management

Optimal plant cover in summer is 60-85%.

Pond plants can often grow quickly and any which become dominant and overgrown can be gently removed in autumn and left to rest on the pond edge to allow invertebrates to return to the pond before plant material is composted. Should algae overgrowth (over 5% of the pond area) be problematic due to excess nutrients then barley straw in netted bags can be used to remove the unwanted nutrients.

Tree cover may be problematic if over 50% of the edge is overshadowed or over 20% of the southern side.

Most pond species occur in the shallower water and emergent plants are especially valuable for dragonflies. Smaller vertebrates such as newts and frogs can be encouraged by providing a hibernaculum nearby. Protection for beetles and other invertebrates could be created with log piles and bug hotels in the area.

#### Existing stream management

Streams form important wildlife corridors of high biodiversity. To maximise wildlife value, invasive species that have become dominant and threaten to narrow the stream should be carefully controlled. As a guide 1/3 of the channel should be kept open in spring-summer and 1/2 in the autumn-winter. Submerged weed may be controlled by removal in summer and bank vegetation in September to avoid erosion caused by later maintenance. Any arisings from cutting should be removed.

Streams are important habitats for kingfishers and providing suitable perches would be beneficial.

#### Revitalise wildlife areas

Opportunities to improve existing wildlife areas may include the provision of new structures such as hibernacula, log piles, bird boxes and increasing the existing variety of planting, or maintenance, to maximise the contrast within habitats. A variety of texture in planting, height and edge treatments will all help add value to the natural habitat and enhance the diversity of wildlife supported.

There may also be an opportunity to engage the public by use of signage to inform of any changes to maintenance regime and the resulting benefits to wildlife, biodiversity and climate. Takeaway facts and ideas for visitors to try at home could improve their engagement with the natural world and spread the benefits to wildlife far beyond the site itself.