

# SALISBURY CITY COUNCIL

## Tree and Ecosystem Strategy: Volume 2 – Appendices C to E



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## DOCUMENT CONTROL

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Salisbury City Council

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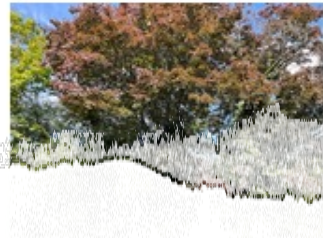
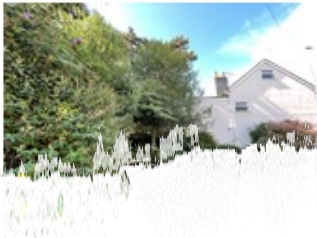
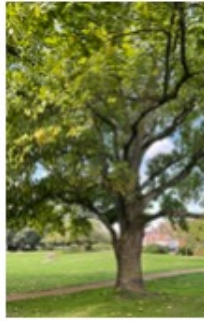
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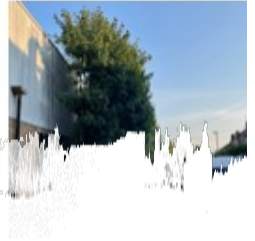
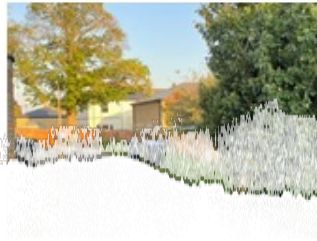
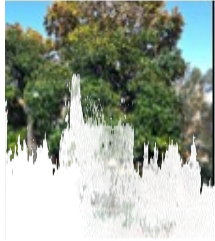
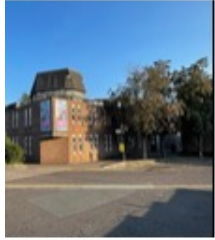


## APPENDIX C PHOTO GAZETEER OF TREES AT SMALLER SITES

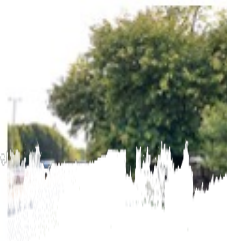
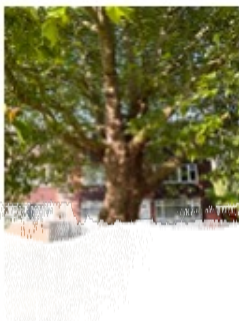




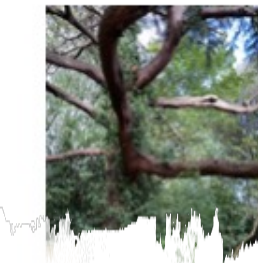
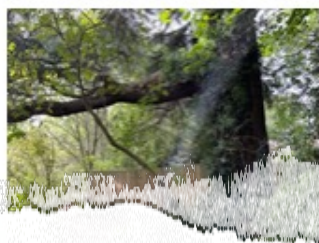
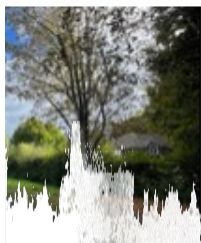
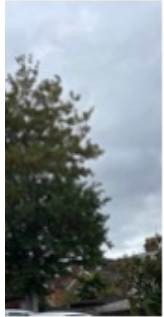




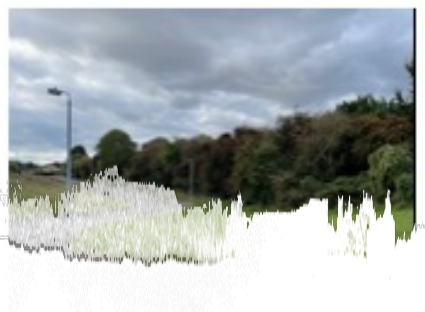
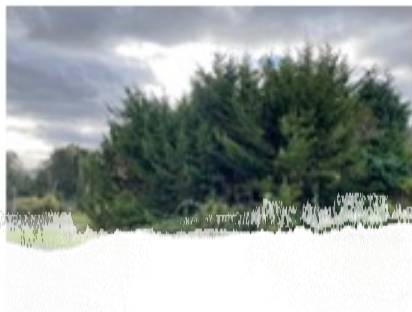
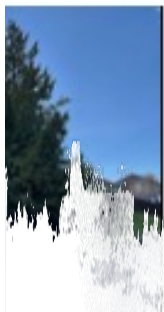
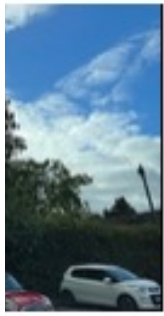




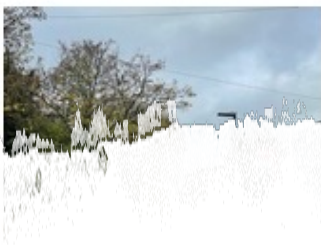
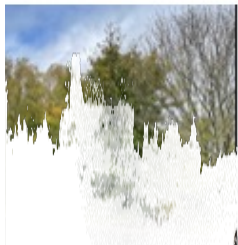
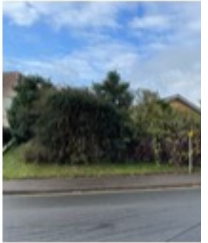
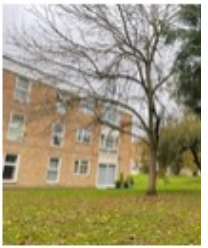




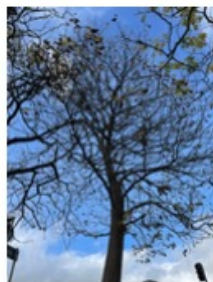




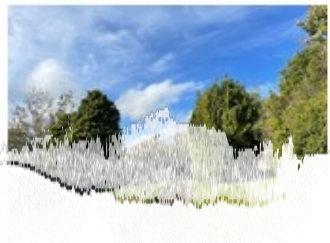
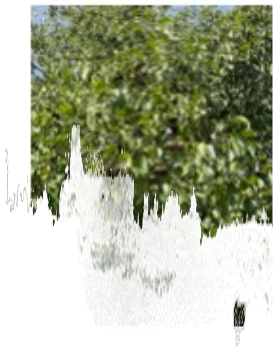




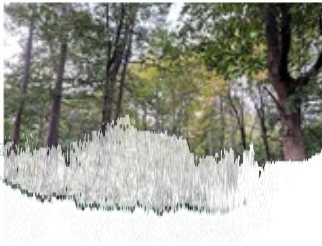
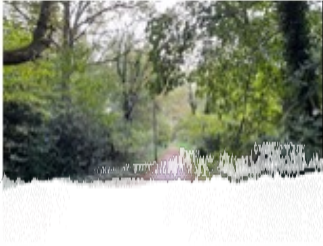








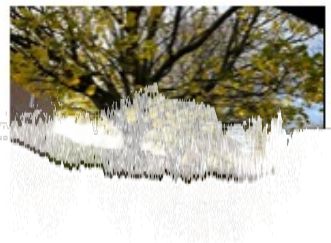
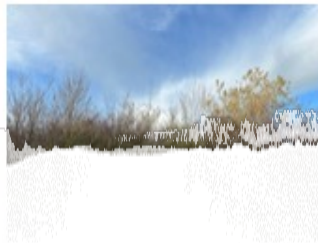
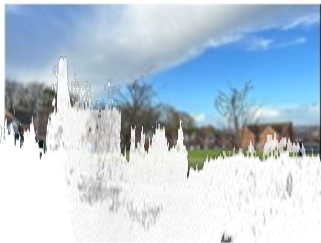
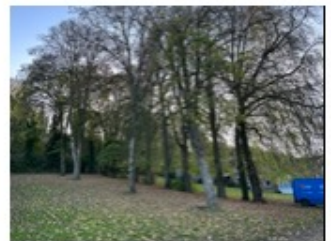
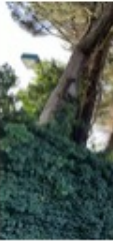
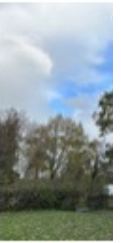




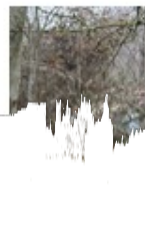




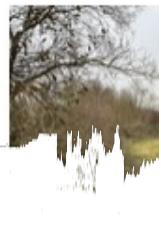
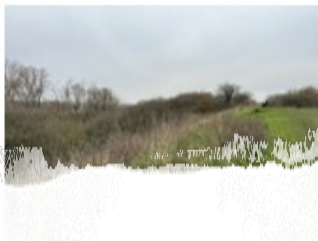




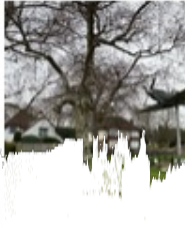
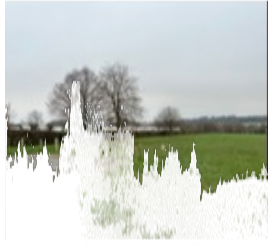
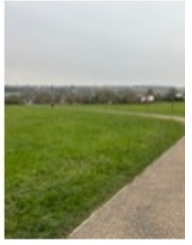
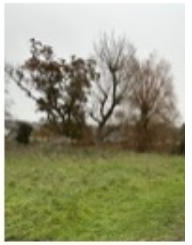












## APPENDIX D SUGGESTIONS FOR TREE POLICY UPDATES





# Tree Policy

Policy Number	Version	Author	Doc No.	PDF No.	Date Published	Review Due	Review 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

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## **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 [www.nts.org.uk](http://www.nts.org.uk) 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 be 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.

**Fig one**

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

## 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
<b>Urgent</b>	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.
<b>High</b>	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.
<b>Mod/High</b>	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.
<b>Moderate</b>	Within 12 months	Non-essential maintenance work including cyclical pruning, cultural pruning and pollarding work.

<b>Mod/Low</b>	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.
<b>Low</b>	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.

## 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.

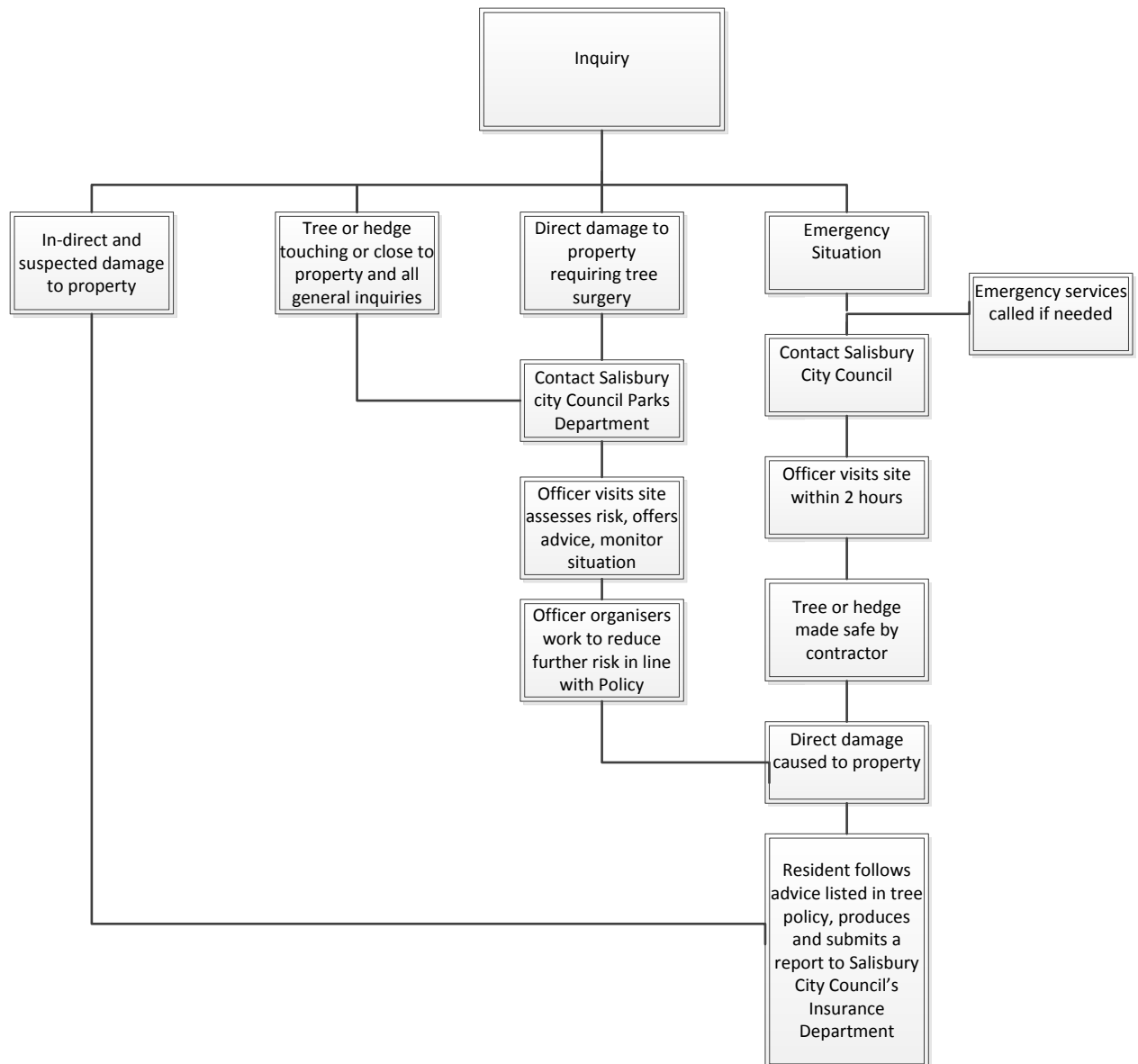
**Submissions to the Council should include:**

- 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.
- 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***  
<https://lfcc.org.uk/downloads/category/18-environmental?download=169>

### **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 over-widening 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 in-channel 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 weakened state causing them to succumb.

Effectuated 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.



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



1. Bishopdown open Space
2. Churchill gardens
3. Churchill Industrial estate open space
4. West wood Allotments
5. West wood open space – around Harlequins football ground
6. Barnard`s Folly- area in front of SCC Bemerton Centre
7. Portway sports ground
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 Bemerton 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 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

<p><b>Informal observations</b> 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.</p> <p><b>May be undertaken by:</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>Reports of problems by staff or members of the public are a fundamental part of our risk management process.</p>	<p><b>Formal inspection</b> 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.</p> <p><b>May be undertaken by:</b></p> <p>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.</p>	<p><b>Detailed inspection</b> 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.</p> <p><b>May be undertaken by:</b></p> <p>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.</p>
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# Salisbury City Council Environmental Policy

Doc 73704

Policy Number	Version	Owner	Doc No.	PDF No.	Date Published	Review Due	Review 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:

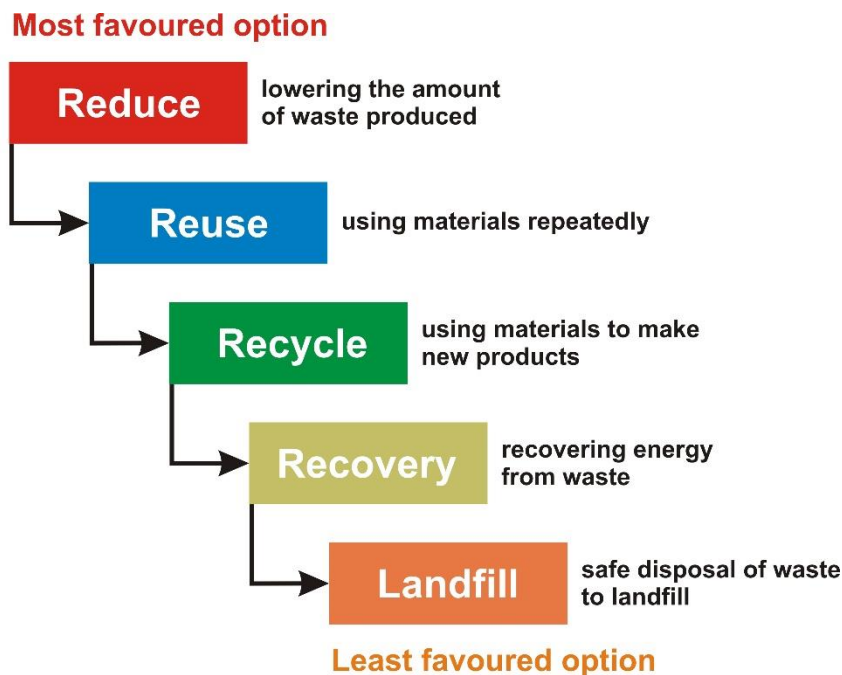
- **Keep its own activities** under review, setting objectives, targets and responsibilities to ensure the aims of this policy are met
- **Operate** an environmental management system (**BS 8555**) which enables the council to set objectives and targets, monitor performance and make this information 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 CO<sub>2</sub>;
- 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

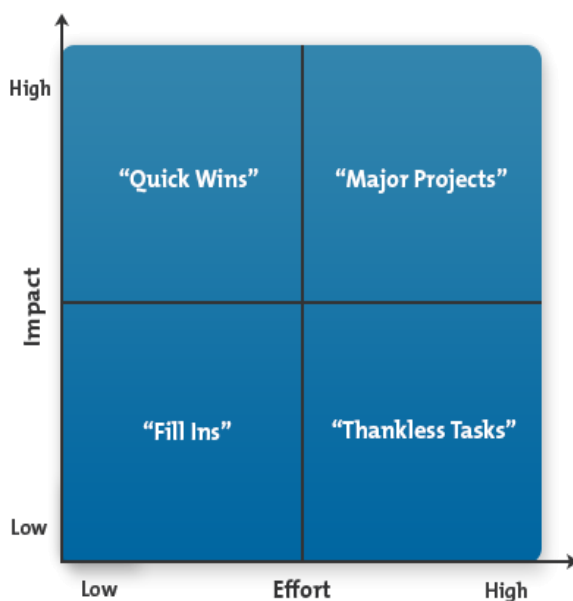
The **Action Priority Matrix** (see figure 1, below) is how SCC will prioritise identified projects. This will enable us to choose activities intelligently, so we can spend more of our time on the high-value activities that keep the Environmental Action Plan moving forwards. Conversely we can also not 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 managed 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 <sup>1</sup>	Milestone <sup>2</sup>	Champion	Comments	Updated
<b>1. General Management</b>									
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>1</sup> Priorities to be agreed using Priority Matrix by ENWG

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



## Environmental Policy Action Plan

Version 1 dated 1 Oct 2019

Item No.	Date Added	Recommendation	Detail	Status	Priority <sup>1</sup>	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 Communications Manager		
<b>2. Waste Management</b>									
WM1		Reduce Waste to Landfill	Measure accurately all waste going 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 <sub>1</sub>	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 go recycling</b> for city and parks litter bins Plus an individual plan for the Charter Market.	Not Commenced			Environmental Services Manager		
<b>3. Energy Management</b>									
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	To continue to raise	Not			Human		

## Environmental Policy Action Plan

Version 1 dated 1 Oct 2019

Item No.	Date Added	Recommendation	Detail	Status	Priority <sup>1</sup>	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		
<b>4. Water Management</b>									
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 <sub>1</sub>	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		
<b>5. Sustainable Procurement Management</b>									
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		



## Environmental Policy Action Plan

Version 1 dated 1 Oct 2019

Item No.	Date Added	Recommendation	Detail	Status	Priority <sub>1</sub>	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		
<b>6. Transport/Travel Management</b>									
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		
TT3		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

Item No.	Date Added	Recommendation	Detail	Status	Priority <sub>1</sub>	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		
TT9		Air Quality	Work with Salisbury Air Quality Management Group to help improve air quality	SCC do attend meetings of			City Clerk  Environmental		

## Environmental Policy Action Plan

Version 1 dated 1 Oct 2019

Item No.	Date Added	Recommendation	Detail	Status	Priority <sub>1</sub>	Milestone <sup>2</sup>	Champion	Comments	Updated
				the AQMG.			Services Manager		
<b>7. Biodiversity Management</b>									
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/improvement 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

Item No.	Date Added	Recommendation	Detail	Status	Priority <sup>1</sup>	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		







## APPENDIX E OPPORTUNITIES FOR TREE PLANTING



Land Type	Example Locations - <i>site specific feasibility needed</i>	Tree planting palette	Shrub planting palette	Grassland enhancement palette	Habitat feature palette	Management palette
Highway Authority owned verge	N/A	No SCC planting				
Narrow verge	R19, R54, R55, R53, R56, R57, R94, Zone 3, H, G, F, A, R77, H, R81,	none	none	Maintained as short mown grass  Maintained as long grass  Spring bulbs	Long grass Retained  Wild flowers able to set seed  Early flowers for pollinators	Mown twice annually  Mown once annually  Mown less than once annually
Wide verge	R19, 56, 180,	Acer pseudoplatanus Alnus cordata Betula utilis Jaquemontii Carpinus betulus Fagus sylvatica Dawyck Liquidambar styraciflua Quercus robur Quercus petraea Tilia cordata 'Greenspire' Tilia x europaea	Acer campestre Berberis vulgaris Carpinus betulus Cornus sanguinea Corylus avellana Crataegus monogyna Euonymus europaeus Fagus sylvatica Ilex aquifolium Ligustrum Vulgare 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	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.  Potentially wider range of grassland species if area divided with differing mowing regimes  Early flowers for pollinators	Mown twice annually  Mown once annually  Mown less than once annually  Shrubs/ hedgerow neatly trimmed  Shrubs/ hedgerow allowed to grow for longer between pruning, more naturalistic in habit

Land Type	Example Locations - <i>site specific feasibility needed</i>	Tree planting palette	Shrub planting palette	Grassland enhancement palette	Habitat feature palette	Management palette
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 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 Mown once annually Mown less than once annually Shrubs/ hedgerow neatly trimmed Shrubs/ hedgerow more naturalistic
Large public open space		Acer campestre Acer pseudoplatanus Acer saccharinum Aesculus hippocastanum Aesculus indica Carpinus betulus Castanea sativa Fagus sylvatica Ginkgo 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 eEarly flowers for pollinators	Mown twice annually Mown once annually Mown less than once annually Shrubs/ hedgerow neatly trimmed Shrubs/ hedgerow more naturalistic

Land Type	Example Locations - <i>site specific feasibility needed</i>	Tree planting palette	Shrub planting palette	Grassland enhancement palette	Habitat feature palette	Management palette
Allotments	N/A	Unsuitable due to shading effects				
Buildings/gardens	2, 78, 13, 14, 57, 82, 24, 6, 71, 69, 70, 1, 7, 34, 8, 66, 29, 30, 31, 5, 33, 32, 67, 72,81, 68	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 Mown once annually Mown less than once annually Shrubs/ hedgerow neatly trimmed Shrubs/ hedgerow more naturalistic  Urban planters where hard standing or limited space.
Street trees – residential	R19, R54, R55, R53, R56, R57, R94, Zone 3, H, G, F, A, R77, H, R81, 2, 78, 13, 14, 57, 82, 24, 6, 71, 69, 70, 1, 7, 34, 8, 66, 29, 30, 31, 5, 33, 32, 67, 72,81, 68	Betula utilis Jaquemontii Liquidambar styraciflua Pyrus calleryana Chanticleer Robinia pseudoacacia Bessoniana Sorbus x arnoldiana Schouten Sorbus aucuparia Asplenifolia	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	Mown twice annually Mown once annually Mown less than once annually Shrubs/ hedgerow neatly trimmed Shrubs/ hedgerow more naturalistic
Street trees – car parks		Betula utilis Jaquemontii Liquidambar styraciflua	Carpinus betulus Ilex crenata Ligustrum vulgare		Hedgerow/ Tree and shrub pollen/ nectar for pollinators	Shrubs/ hedgerow neatly trimmed



Land Type	Example Locations - <i>site specific feasibility needed</i>	Tree planting palette	Shrub planting palette	Grassland enhancement palette	Habitat feature palette	Management palette
		Pyrus calleryana Chanticleer Robinia pseudoacacia Bessoniana Sorbus x arnoldiana Schouten Sorbus aucuparia Asplenifolia Tilia cordata Greenspire	Rosmarinus officinalis Miss Jessops Upright Sarcococca confusa Taxus baccata Viburnum x bodnantense Dawn Viburnum tinus		Nesting and foraging potential for birds, invertebrates etc	Shrubs/ hedgerow more naturalistic
Street trees – city centre		Platanus x hispanica Lime Pyrus calleryana Chanticleer Quercus palustris Sorbus x arnoldiana Schouten Sorbus aucuparia Asplenifolia Tilia cordata Greenspire Tilia x Europaea Pallida Ulmus dodoens	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
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 torminalis Taxus baccata Tilia x europaea	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	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

Land Type	Example Locations - <i>site specific feasibility needed</i>	Tree planting palette	Shrub planting palette	Grassland enhancement palette	Habitat feature palette	Management palette
			Rosa canina Rhamnus frangula Rhamnus cathartica Sambucus nigra Taxus baccata Viburnum lantana Viburnum opulus			
Formal Park – non native	10, 11, 23, 53, 59, 9,50,19, 21, 36, 25, 26, 48, 47, 44, 39, 68,40	Acer pseudoplatanus Calocedrus decurrens Castanea sativa Catalpa bignoides Cedrus atlantica Cedrus atlantica Glaucia Cedrus deodar Juglans regia Corylus colurna Liquidambar styraciflua Liriodendron tulipifera Pinus nigra austriaca Sequoiadendron giganteum 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 tinus	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 Mown once annually Mown less than once annually Shrubs/ hedgerow neatly trimmed Shrubs/ hedgerow more naturalistic
Formal Park – native	10, 11, 23, 53, 59, 9,50,19, 21, 36, 25, 26, 48, 47, 44, 39, 68,40	Acer campestre Carpinus betulus  Fagus sylvatica Pinus sylvestris Pyrus communis Prunus avium 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	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	Long grass Retained  Wild flowers able to set seed  Potentially wider range of grassland species if area divided with differing mowing regimes  Hedgerow	Mown twice annually Mown once annually Mown less than once annually Shrubs/ hedgerow neatly trimmed Shrubs/ hedgerow more naturalistic

Land Type	Example Locations - <i>site specific feasibility needed</i>	Tree planting palette	Shrub planting palette	Grassland enhancement palette	Habitat feature palette	Management palette
			Viburnum lantana Viburnum opulus	improve biodiversity  Spring bulbs	Tree and shrub pollen/ nectar for pollinators  Nesting and foraging potential for birds, invertebrates etc  Early flowers for pollinators	
River / stream corridor		Alnus glutinosa Betula pubescens Corylus avellana Populus nigra Betulifolia Populus tremula Prunus padus Salix alba Salix caprea Salix cinerea Salix pentandra Salix viminalis White)	Corylus avellana Frangula alnus Rosa canina Salix aurita Salix pentandra Salix purpurea 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 than once annually Shrubs/ hedgerow neatly trimmed Shrubs/ hedgerow more naturalistic Creating and maintaining dead wood. Logs/ decomposing wood retained on site 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 be the boundary planting of similar aged lime trees at the London Road Cemetery.

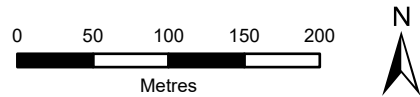
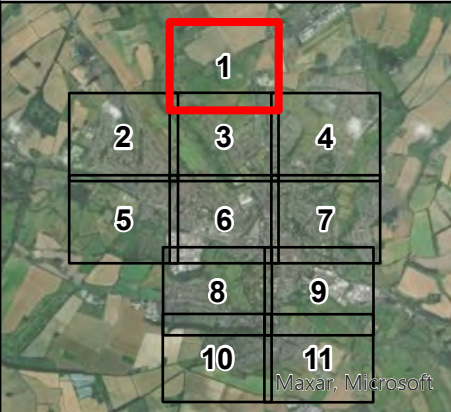
The Landscape of London Road Crematorium was Designed by Brenda Colvin, a designer of national significance. The Crematorium is included on Historic England's Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England. The emphasis in inclusion on the Register is to encourage protection of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





- Salisbury City Council Original Land
- Salisbury City Council Transferred Land
- JA Survey Boundaries
- SCCTP Trees
  - Surveyed Group
  - Surveyed Individual
  - Other SCC Owned Trees
  - Bawden Surveyed Trees
  - Other Bawden Trees
  - Trees now Removed



**CLIENT** Salisbury City Council

**PROJECT** J00911 Salisbury Tree Strategy

**TITLE** Tree Survey Overview


**SCALE @ A3** 1:5,000 **CREATED BY** RK **CHECKED BY** MJ

**REFERENCE** J00911-002 **REVISION** **DATE ISSUED** 24/05/2023

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Salisbury City Council Transferred Land

JA Survey Boundaries

SCCTP Trees

Surveyed Group

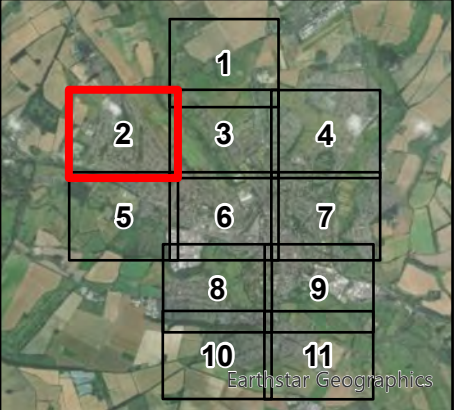
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Other SCC Owned Trees

Bawden Surveyed Trees

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Trees now Removed



Earthstar Geographics

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CLIENT

Salisbury City Council

PROJECT

J00911 Salisbury Tree Strategy

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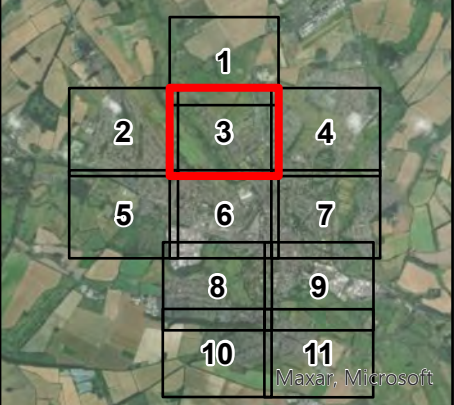
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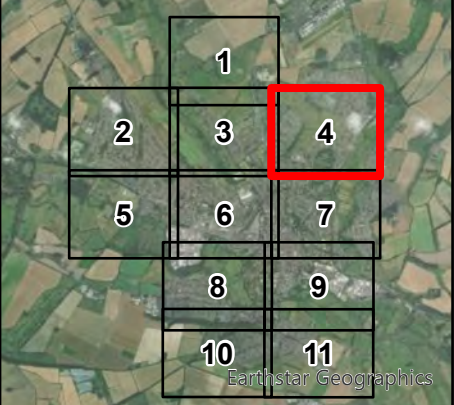
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Earthstar Geographics

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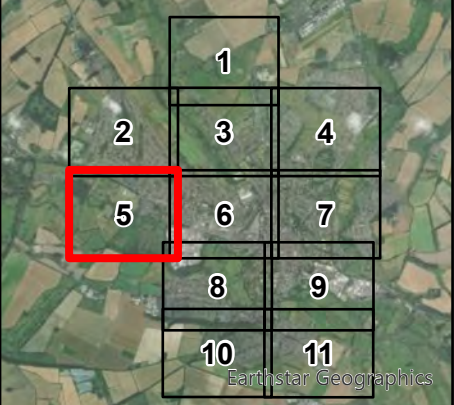
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Other Bawden Trees

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Earthstar Geographics

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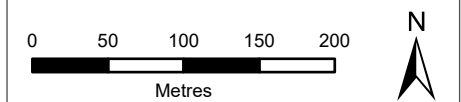
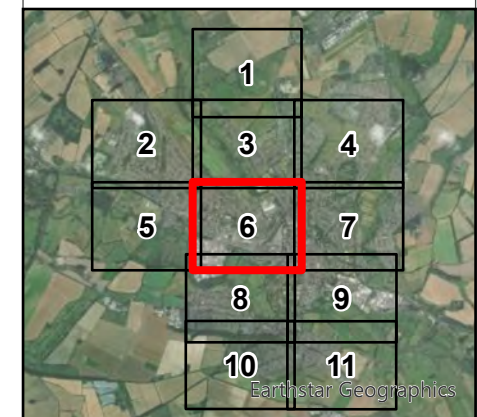
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Other Bawden Trees

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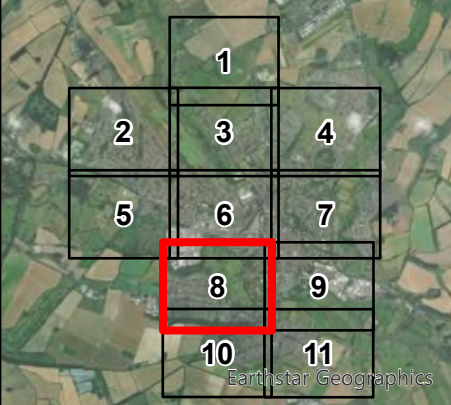
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 Surveyed Group

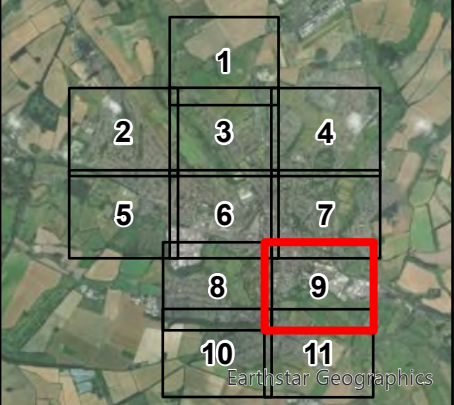
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Earthstar Geographics

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Salisbury City Council Transferred Land

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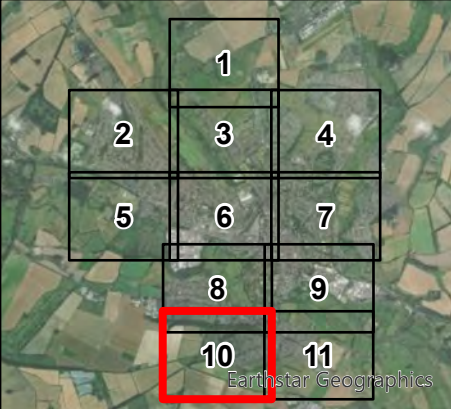
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Earthstar Geographics

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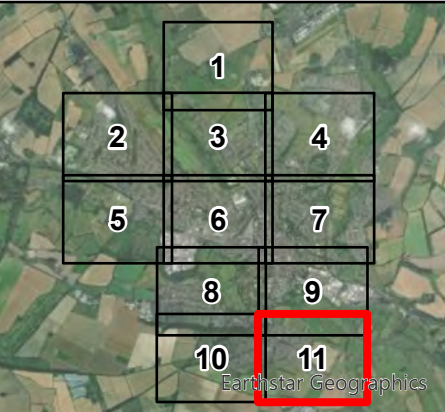
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**PROJECT** J00911 Salisbury Tree Strategy

**TITLE** Tree Survey Overview

**SCALE @ A3** 1:5,000 **CREATED BY** RK **CHECKED BY** MJ

**REFERENCE** J00911-002 **REVISION** **DATE ISSUED** 24/05/2023

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# APPENDIX F CONSULTATION OUTPUTS





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

### Guide to use

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 What3Words

You can use the What 3 Words app to locate trees as you walk through Salisbury's streets. Take a photo and add it with the what 3 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.

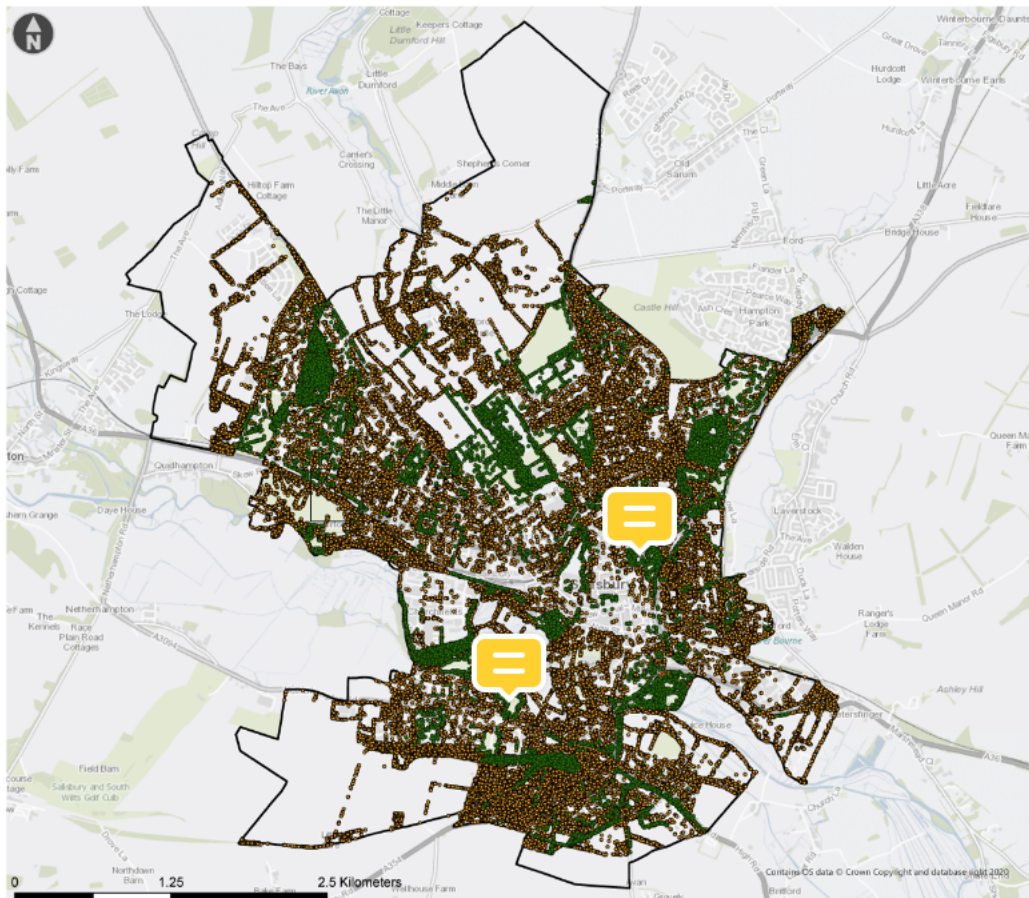


For more information please email [info@salisburycitycouncil.gov.uk](mailto:info@salisburycitycouncil.gov.uk) with 'Important Trees' in the email heading

**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?



- Salisbury Parish Boundary
- All trees owned or maintained by SCC
- All other trees within SCC Parish @Blueskies

CLIENT Salisbury City Council

PROJECT Salisbury City Council: Tree and Ecosystem Service Strategy

TITLE Salisbury City Council Press Release

SCALE @ A3	CREATED BY CA	CHECKED BY MJ
1:25,000	ISSUE/REVISION	DATE
REFERENCE J05911 PR		27/02/2022

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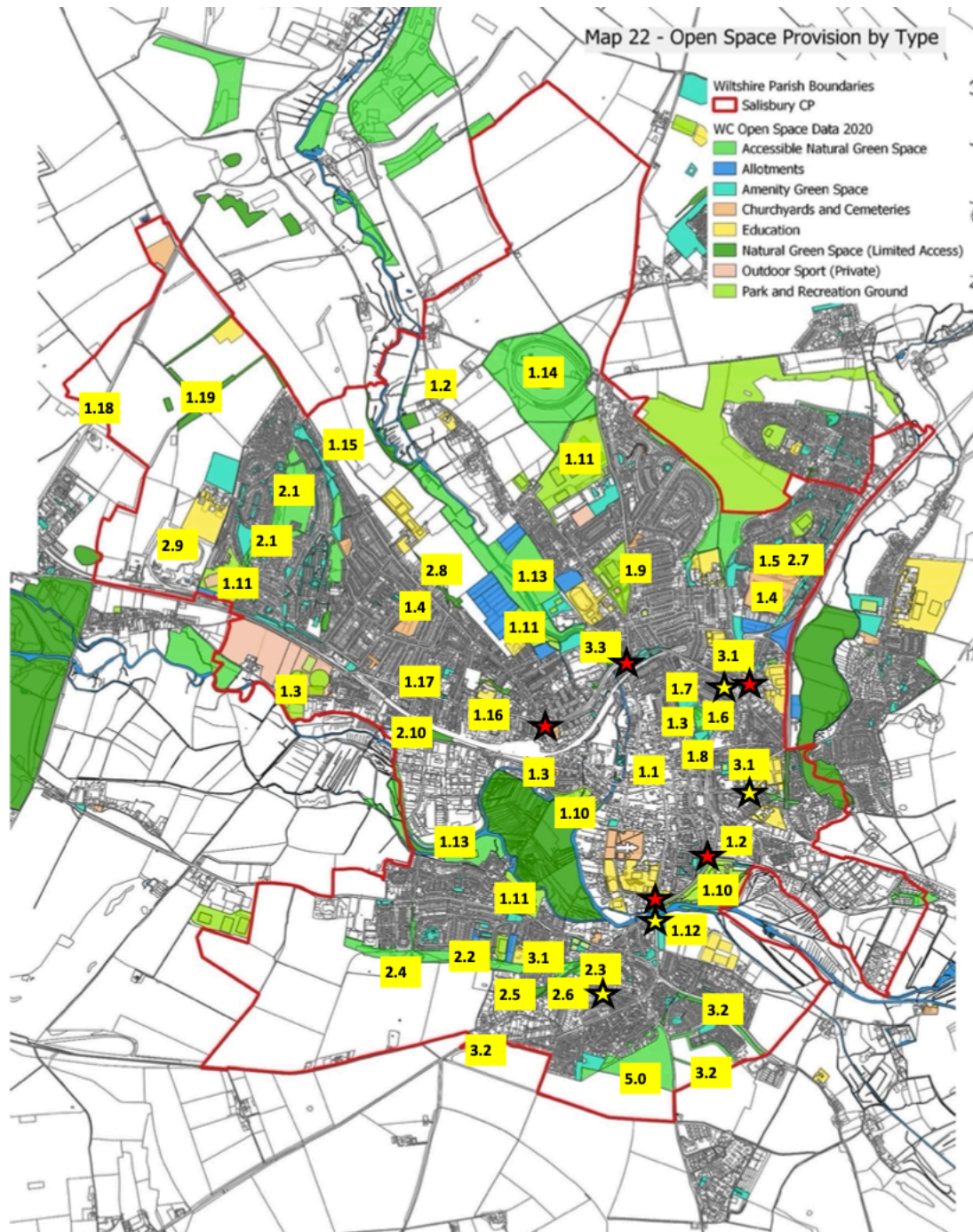
The online consultation was viewed numerous times, but only resulted in two specific tree highlights being posted. The northern most comment was "My father planted all the trees along the boundary of Greencroft. My father has passed away now but he would often talk about the trees and planting them.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

<i>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</i>
<i>Green spaces in the central city of critical – breathing spaces. Adding to the sense of community and place. Add more habitat features</i>
<i>The trees in the city are very much appreciated</i>
<i>Please add more street trees</i>
<i>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</i>
<i>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</i>
<i>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</i>
<i>More leafy walking areas within 1 mile of the central business district</i>
<i>Provide a walking route map to show where to go to find and enjoy trees and woodland</i>
<i>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</i>
<i>Create a tree lined avenue across the market place to help older people get from one side to the other in very hot weather</i>
<i>Increase the visibility of walking routes with tree canopy cover</i>
<i>Surrounding farmland can be quite barren – encourage regenerative farming</i>
<i>Create tree routes – a greenway, walking through areas with out trees on hot days makes it difficult to get to where you want to get to. Produce route maps for this.</i>
<i>Amazing to see and hear bees in Wyndham Park – vertical bee tree!</i>



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



**Salisbury Area Greenspace Partnership**

**Response to Johns Associates Tree Survey for Salisbury City Council**

Numbers & stars relate to text in accompanying document



28 Nov 2022

## **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 fastigate 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

4.3 St Marks Road

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 m<sup>2</sup> 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 Glyphosate). 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 as 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 choose 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.