



Canterbury District Tree, Woodland and Hedgerow Strategy 2024 - 2040

Final
February 2024

Foreword

This strategy is to protect and enhance the trees, woodlands and hedgerows across the district. It is based on what we know now - but will evolve and improve over time. For this reason, although the ambition for the strategy is long-term to 2040, it will be reviewed every five years to capture new learning, other targets and the outputs of our action plan. A rolling project action plan will also be produced every five years to ensure that momentum for delivery of the strategy does not falter.

The strategy links to the new Local Plan, reflecting Government policy and its setting of national targets. It also connects with the recent ecological declaration made by council in July 2023, the draft Canterbury Biodiversity Plan: A Nature Recovery Strategy, as well as the Kent Local Nature Recovery strategy that aims to connect natural habitats and aligns with Lawton's Nature Principles: bigger, better, more joined up.

A key driver for this strategy is the restoration of woodland biodiversity across the district. Anyone living in and travelling around Canterbury district will be aware that the district benefits from many large areas of woodlands, which are already delivering important benefits for wildlife and people. Three of the five core principles focus on the protection and restoration of biodiversity. The other two core principles focus on wider public benefits such as storing carbon and other green services that trees provide such as shading, flood attenuation and cooling.

In writing this strategy we have spoken to several key players, including the Kent Wildlife Trust, RSPB and the Woodland Trust to learn more about their objectives and plans in Canterbury district. This learning is embedded in the strategy, its ambitions and reflects the truism that the strategy and its ambitions will not be delivered by one organisation, in one area, in one year and from one funding source. It will be a diverse and collective effort from a range of players with actions being coordinated and communicated via this strategy and its ongoing monitoring.

Trees play a vital role in our physical and mental wellbeing. They contribute to our quality of life across the district and ultimately to the survival of this planet as we know it. We recognise the huge part that local people and viable voluntary groups can play in bringing our vision to life. This strategy is not just for councils. It is for us all.



Councillor Mel Dawkins

Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Biodiversity

Contents

Part 1 – About this Strategy 1

Why does Canterbury District Need a Tree, Woodland and Hedgerow Strategy?1

National and Local Strategies and Policy.....2

Canterbury City Council Policies and Strategies3

Core Principles5

The Value of Trees6

Part 2 – About Canterbury District’s Trees, Woodlands and Hedgerows 8

Canterbury District’s Trees8

Canterbury District’s Woodlands..... 16

Trees, Hedgerows and Woodlands in the Landscape 22

Part 3 – The Future – Delivering Core Principles..28

Delivering Principle 1:Protecting Existing Trees and Woodland ... 28

Delivering Principle 2: Expanding Trees, Woodlands and Hedgerows 32

Increasing Trees 32

Delivering Principle 3: Capturing More Carbon 42

Delivering Principle 4: Enabling Nature Recovery..... 44

Delivering Principle 5: Involving and Benefitting Everyone..... 46

Part 4 – Action Plan..... 50

Funding Sources 50

Delivery 51

Actions 52



Photo credits

Front cover – Fernando García Redondo, under Creative Commons
 This page, Playing with Leaves – Scott Webb, Unsplash
 Page iii Westgate Gardens - Fernando García Redondo, under Creative Commons;
 p5 Autumn Tree - Jack Skinner, Unsplash; p7 Canterbury Woodland with Bluebells - Zoltan Tasi, Unsplash; p14 photos of ancient and veteran trees from Woodland Trust; p15 Baobab Plane – Bowtie DSF, under Creative Commons; p27 view over Canterbury – James Upton, Unsplash; p38 The Blean – Miles Banbery, under Creative Commons; p41 Canterbury Cathedral - Fernando García Redondo, under Creative Commons; p48 Memorial Park, Herne Bay, Canterbury City Council; p49 Sculpture in Thornden Wood – Katie Gerrard, Unsplash; p51 Leaves – Markus Spiske, Unsplash.

Plans in this document contain Natural England, Environment Agency, Friends of the Earth, Canterbury City Council and Ordnance Survey open source data. Plans should not be reproduced without prior permission.

Produced by Sharon Bayne BSc MSc LLM MCIEEM CEnv (Blackwood Bayne Ltd www.blackwoodbayne.co.uk) and Canterbury City Council (2024).

Our Vision, by 2040 ...

Starting from a position of strength, by 2040 Canterbury district will have made a strong start in protecting and maintaining its existing precious trees, woodlands and hedgerows and will have expanded cover of trees in both urban and rural areas. Through doing this it will have increased the benefits of trees to people, to wildlife and the wider environment.

Trees, woodlands and hedgerows will be contributing significantly to the recovery of nature across the district. The wider Blean complex will be a showcase for South East England for innovative rewilding and restoration of ecological functioning woodland. Partners, planners and landowners will be working together to maximise the landscape and biodiversity benefits of woodland at this unique scale. Indicator species such as Heath Fritillary, Nightingale, Dormouse and Lady Orchid will have a stronghold across numerous healthy, connected woodland sites and introduced species such as Bison and Beaver will have demonstrated their role in naturalising our woodlands for the future. Elsewhere, woodlands will have been expanded and will be better connected bringing benefits for wildlife, water quality and people in all parts of the district.

The expansion of tree cover will have brought other benefits. New trees will be increasing the amount of carbon being sequestered to combat climate change. Residents and wildlife of new developments will benefit from trees planted along streets, within open spaces, in parks and in schools, which will mature over centuries to come.

Communities, landowners, councils, businesses and individuals across Canterbury district will have played their part in delivering an increase in trees and in caring for the trees, woodlands and hedgerows we already have, working together for the benefit of the whole district. People will understand more about the district's outstanding trees, woodlands and hedgerows and what is needed at a local level. People will be volunteering in a range of ways, including as Tree Wardens who will volunteer their time to record, safeguard and manage trees, hedgerows and woodlands across the district. Through the efforts of everyone, we will know more about our trees, woodlands and hedgerows, what is needed to protect them and how and where we can expand tree cover.

By 2040 we will have achieved significant improvements and we will be embarking on the second Canterbury tree and woodland strategy, with even more ambitious targets.



Westgate Gardens

Part 1 – About this Strategy

Why does Canterbury District Need a Tree, Woodland and Hedgerow Strategy?

This strategy assesses the resource of trees, woodlands and hedgerows across the whole of Canterbury district. It sets out the direction of travel for the district and sets priorities and actions.

Canterbury district is starting from a position of strength. Overall there are more trees and woodlands across the district than in many parts of Kent, but this is not evenly spread across the area. This strategy sets out the ambition to protect the trees the district already has and to increase trees, woodlands and hedgerows in all parts of the district.

We know that many more trees are needed to contribute to targets to capture carbon to help society as a whole to limit the damaging effects of climate change, as well as to support biodiversity. This strategy will plan where these trees might go and how they could be delivered. Future evidence coming from both Kent and Canterbury's Local Nature Recovery Strategy will support the planned expansion of woodlands further and other planning-led initiatives, such as Biodiversity Net Gain, will assist delivery.

Trees are, quite clearly, very long-lived and take a long time to establish and deliver meaningful benefits such as carbon capture. Action needs to be taken now to set a course for more trees in the future. Not everything is known at present, but that is not a reason to delay beginning. It is important to keep gathering more understanding about where new trees can be established, how to protect existing trees from the range of threats which face them and to bring more communities, landowners, businesses and other partners into delivering the ambition.

Delivering this strategy will be long-term; but ambitious actions need to start now.

This strategy starts a shared conversation about trees, woodlands and hedgerows and our ambitions for the future.

This strategy, although produced by Canterbury City Council, is for everyone who lives and works in the district. Delivering the strategy will need action from local government, individuals, communities, developers, landowners and business.

The strategy will support a range of functions of Canterbury City Council, cutting across many areas: as part of the Local Plan evidence base, managing the council's own open spaces, development control, health, housing, active travel, green infrastructure, climate change and others.

National and Local Strategies and Policy

This strategy links to a wide range of national, county and local strategies. The key strategies and policies are listed below, although others are also relevant.

- National
- Kent
- Canterbury City Council

England Trees Action Plan 2021 - 2024	Tree Health Resilience Strategy 2018	25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment 2018	Environment Act 2021	National Planning Policy Framework 2021
Agriculture Act 2020	Kent Biodiversity Strategy 2020 - 2045	Kent Environment Strategy 2016	Kent Downs National Landscape Management Plan 2021 - 2026	Kent County Council Tree Establishment Strategy 2022 - 2032
Kent's Plan Bee (Pollinator Action Plan)	Canterbury City Council Corporate Plan	Climate Change Action Plan	Green Infrastructure Strategy 2018	Landscape Character Assessment and Biodiversity Appraisal 2020
Canterbury Local Plan	Tree Management Policy 2017	Canterbury Pollinator Action Plan 2024	Riverside Strategy	Canterbury Biodiversity Plan - Nature Recovery Strategy 2024

Canterbury City Council Policies and Strategies

Canterbury City Local Plan and Development

Canterbury City Council's adopted Local Plan (2017)¹ recognises trees, woodland and hedgerows as an essential component in the natural environment of both towns and the countryside, as an indispensable element of sustainable development. The Plan sets out that the City Council will:

- Protect and enhance the value and character of woodland and hedgerows, promoting appropriate woodland and hedgerow planting in association with development and to restore degraded landscapes
- Realise the economic, environmental and social benefits that woodland management and tree planting can provide
- Promote high standards of management of existing woodlands and seek new markets for woodland produce
- Manage woodland in light of the impact of climate change

Ancient woodland and ancient and veterans trees are 'irreplaceable habitat' under the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).² Development which results in the loss or deterioration of these habitat and trees should be refused unless there are exceptional reasons and there is a suitable compensation strategy.

The NPPF also states that planning policies and decisions should ensure that new streets are tree-lined³ and that opportunities are taken to incorporate trees elsewhere in development, such as in parks and orchards. Existing trees should be retained and adequate provision made for the long-term maintenance of newly planted trees.

Policy LB10 of the current adopted Local Plan covers trees, hedgerows and woodland and is currently the main relevant policy in Canterbury district's adopted Local Plan. The protection and provision of trees and woodland is also included in other policies, for example in recognising the value of trees, woodlands and hedges in historic settings and as part of biodiversity networks.

The Plan sets out that new development should seek to retain important trees, hedgerows and landscape features and the loss of these will be resisted by the local planning authority. All trees on development sites should be surveyed prior to design work beginning. Trees should be protected during development in line with British Standard 5837:2012.

Canterbury City Council is developing a new Local Plan. In the new Plan, which is not adopted at the time of this strategy, consideration is being given to all development over 300 homes being required to provide 20% tree cover across the site. The new Plan also seeks to improve green and blue infrastructure, retention of trees and hedgerows and protection of The Blean complex.

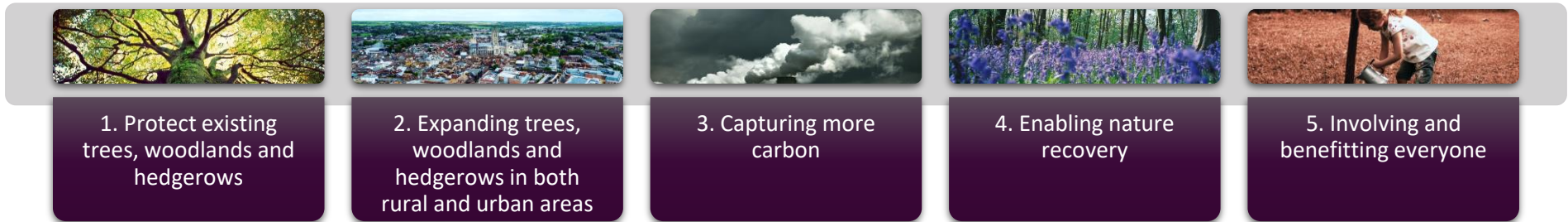
Canterbury City Council Strategies

The following Canterbury City Council strategies each play a role in protected and increasing trees, woodlands and hedgerows. The council will seek opportunities to integrate tree provision and nature-based solutions in these and other council strategies.

<p>Corporate Plan</p>	<p>Climate Change Action Plan</p>	<p>Green Infrastructure Strategy</p>
<p>The Corporate Plan sets out the vision, aims and objectives for the whole of Canterbury City Council. Theme 1 of the (draft) Corporate Plan (2024) is 'Protecting our district for future generations'. This theme brings together many actions for thriving nature, clean water, tackling climate change and protecting the coast.</p>	<p>This plan sets out why the council needs to act in relation to climate change and the actions which the council will take. This includes net zero from the council's operations, working with stakeholders and residents and making the district more resilient to extreme weather. The current plan will be updated in 2024.</p>	<p>The 2018 Green Infrastructure Strategy provides an overview of Canterbury district's green and blue infrastructure strategic network and sets out the district's needs and challenges. It sets out strategic priorities and details objectives for Whitstable, Herne Bay, the City of Canterbury and rural areas. It provides evidence for the Local Plan.</p>
<p>Local Plan</p>	<p>Tree Management Policy</p>	<p>Canterbury Pollinator Action Plan</p>
<p>The adopted Local Plan protects trees, hedgerows and woodland. A new Local Plan is being developed which proposes that all development over 300 homes is required to provide 20% tree cover. The new Plan seeks to improve green and blue infrastructure, retain trees and hedgerows and protect The Blean. Biodiversity net gain will apply to development in line with national policy.</p>	<p>Canterbury City Council's Tree Management Policy sets out the principles for the maintenance of Canterbury City Council's own tree population. The core principles are to ensure the health and safety of council-owned trees, to promote habitat for wildlife, to recognise amenity value and to reduce waste through utilising timber for fuel.</p>	<p>The Canterbury Pollinator Action Plan sets out the importance of pollinators across the district and details key pollinator habitats and species. The plans details 20 pollinator related actions which are aligned to the 5 key objectives. The plan will be reviewed annually with stakeholders.</p>
<p>Landscape Character and Biodiversity Appraisal</p>	<p>Canterbury Riverside Strategy</p>	<p>Canterbury Biodiversity Plan - Nature Recovery Strategy (2024)</p>
<p>The Canterbury District Landscape Character Assessment and Biodiversity Appraisal provides a robust evidence base to underpin the Local Plan and to assist in the local planning process. It also provides biodiversity and landscape evidence to underpin many other council strategies.</p>	<p>The Canterbury Riverside Strategy was updated in 2023 to reflect current needs and challenges. It sets out a vision for the River Stour, as a clean, accessible and biodiversity-rich river corridor, which is attractive to visitors and supports business.</p>	<p>Canterbury City Council declared a Biodiversity Emergency on 19 October 2023, having previously declared a Climate Emergency in July 2019. A Nature Recovery Strategy will be produced for the district in response. It will provide further evidence to support other CCC strategies, including green and blue infrastructure and the Local Plan.</p>

Core Principles

The following five core principles form the framework for organising information and actions.



1. Protecting existing trees, woodlands and hedgerows

It is important to first protect existing trees, woodlands and hedgerows wherever this is possible. This strategy will seek and promote net gain – in woodland cover, in canopy cover and in the length of hedgerows. Canterbury City Council will, at a minimum, replace any of the trees it owns which are lost and will encourage other landowners to do the same.

2. Expanding trees, woodlands and hedgerows in both rural and urban areas

This strategy aims for more trees – lots more trees – across the whole of Canterbury district. In the City of Canterbury, in Herne Bay in Whitstable, in villages and in rural areas. Trees should only be planted where there are robust measures in place to ensure survivability.

3. Capturing more carbon

Trees in all their forms store carbon. Playing our part in Canterbury district will help society as a whole to limit the damaging effects of climate change. Capturing carbon is one of the reasons the district needs more trees, but the expansion of trees will bring other benefits as well.

4. Enabling nature recovery

Expansion of trees and woodland should aim to help nature to recover, through expanding and connecting wildlife habitats, strengthening the landscape and protecting ancient woodland, protecting the special species and habitats and wildlife which rely on trees, woodlands and hedgerows and supporting pollinator species. Key to this principle is inputting woodland expansion into the development of the Canterbury Local Nature Recovery Strategy. We recognise the value of allowing trees to establish naturally, especially in areas close to ancient woodland.

5. Involving and benefitting everyone

This strategy has been produced by Canterbury City Council but it is on behalf and for everyone living and working in Canterbury. The strategy will need to be taken forward by all sectors of the community in partnership if it is to be a success. Voluntary Tree Wardens will continue to be key to delivering this principle and they will be supported in this role.

The Value of Trees

Trees, woodlands and hedgerows provide huge benefits for people, nature, climate and the economy.

Trees, woodlands and hedgerows are essential to the recovery of nature. They are a core part of natural networks, providing important habitats themselves and connecting to other wildlife habitats.

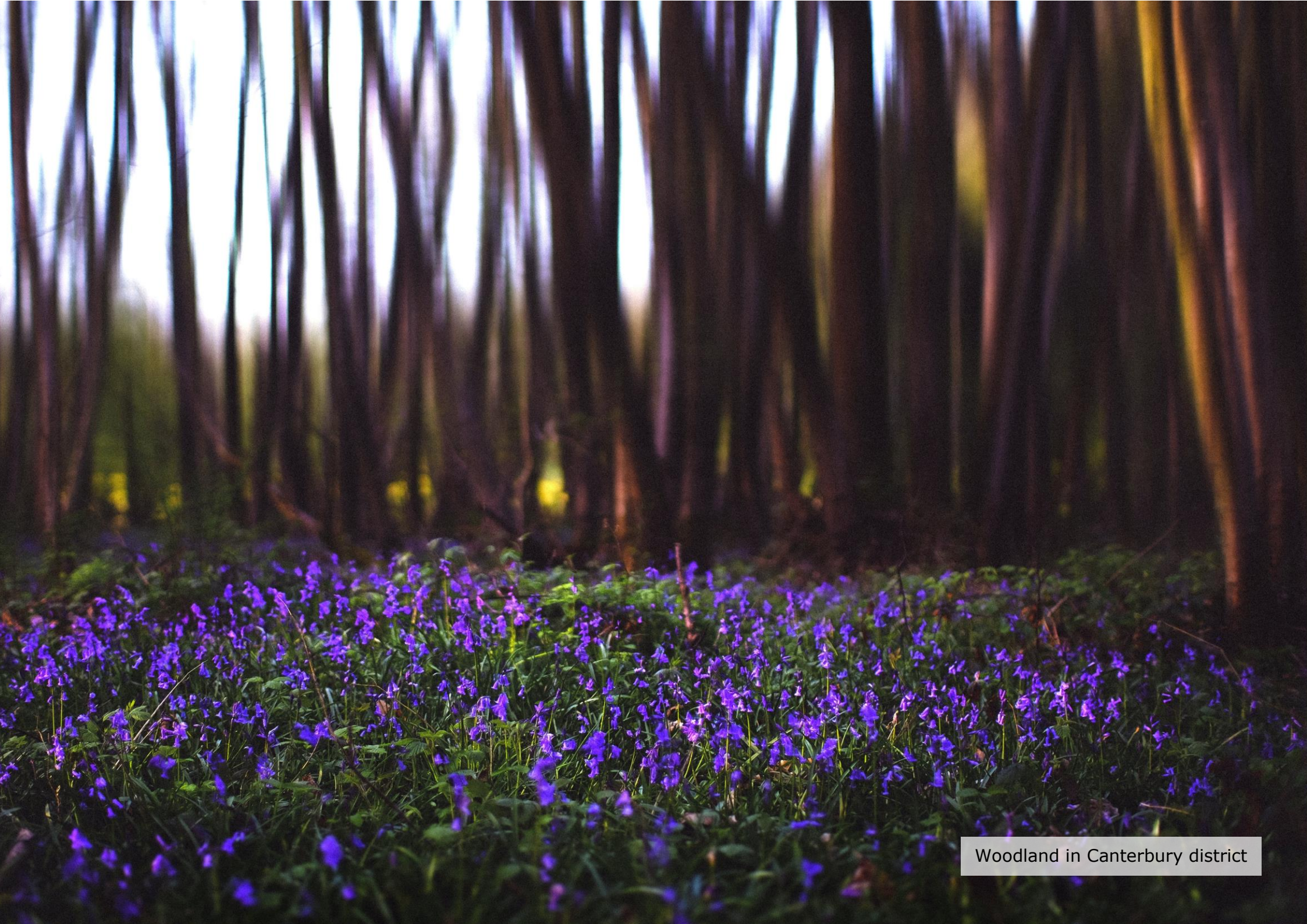
Trees also have wider environmental benefits as well as sequestering carbon which provides mitigation for climate change. Trees can improve air quality, filtering fine particles and helping to mix the air. They can provide storm water attenuation and intercept flood water at source.

Trees breathe life into urban areas, adding to the quality of life. Street trees and trees in urban areas make towns more attractive and better places to live and bring wildlife into towns. They provide shade and urban cooling, which will be particularly important in a changing climate.

Trees, woodlands and hedgerows also provide economic benefits. They produce timber, a range of wood products and fuel. They provide fruit and food.

Trees, woodlands and hedgerows are vital aspects of landscape character as well as providing landscape screening. Some trees are themselves heritage features – our veteran and ancient trees which are in some cases centuries old.





Woodland in Canterbury district

Part 2 – About Canterbury District’s Trees, Woodlands and Hedgerows

Canterbury District’s Trees

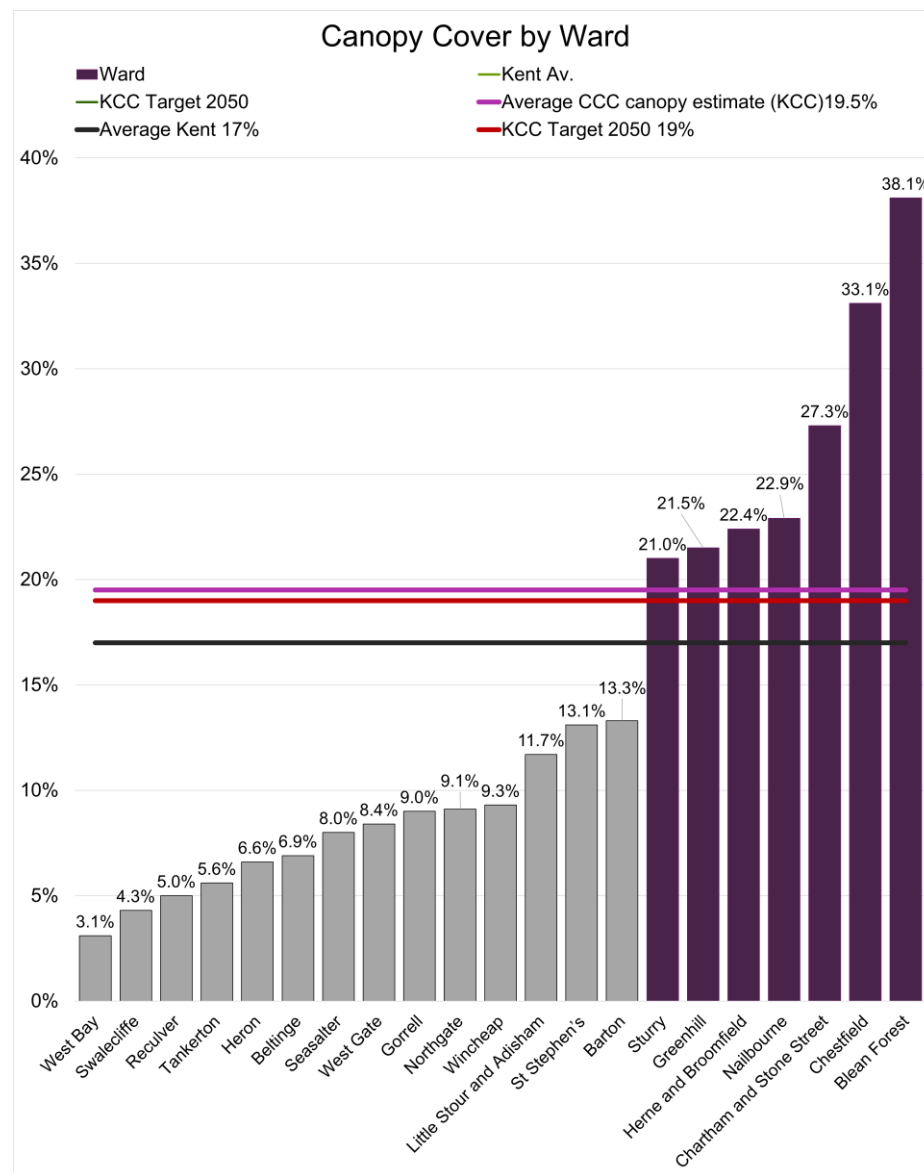
Canterbury District’s Tree Canopy

Canopy cover is the area covered by a tree or shrub when viewed from above. The canopy is comprised of all trees – in woodlands, street trees, trees in parks or private gardens.

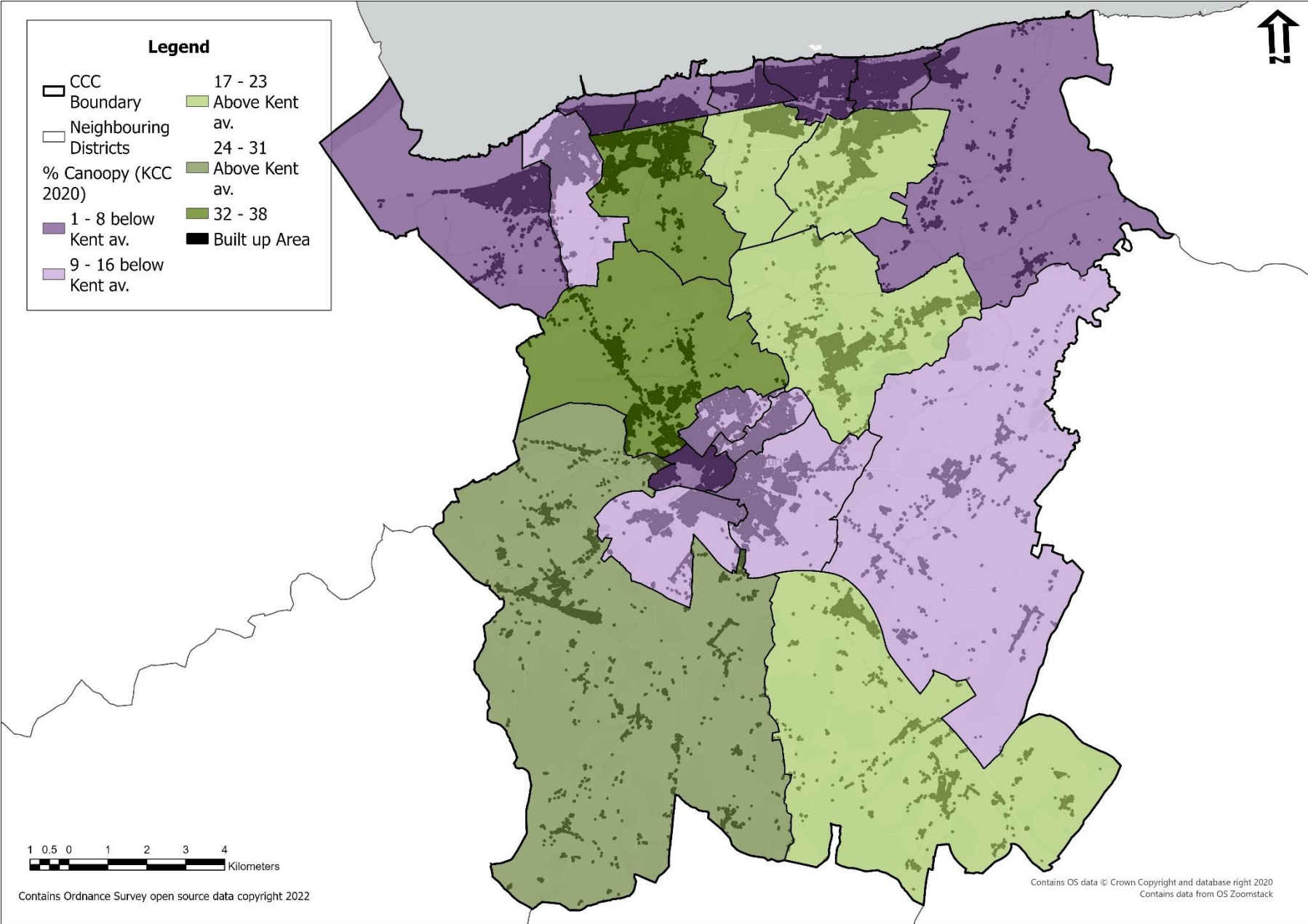
As part of the Kent Environment Strategy, Kent County Council (KCC) estimated tree canopy cover for all districts and wards in Kent.⁴ This estimated the canopy cover for Kent and Medway at 17%, with the average for Canterbury district estimated at 19.5%.

Kent County Council’s Tree Establishment Strategy 2022-2032 sets the ambition for Kent to have an average tree canopy cover of 19% by 2050. Overall, therefore, the district exceeds both Kent’s average level of canopy cover and the target for 2050. However, this hides variation across the district. Most wards (14 out of 21) have lower than the Kent average of canopy cover, see Plan 1 and Chart 1.

Chart 1: Estimated Canopy Cover by Ward (KCC 2020)



Plan 1: Percentage Canopy Cover by Ward (Estimate KCC 2020) showing Urban Areas



The large blocks of woodland of The Blean and in the west and south west of the district raise the level of canopy cover for the district as a whole to above the Kent average. Blean Forest Ward has the highest canopy cover at 38.1%. However, in urban areas, along the coastal plain, in urban City of Canterbury and along the eastern side of the district tree canopy cover is lower than the Kent average with the lowest, West Bay Ward, at only 3.1%.

Response to this Evidence

There are historic and landscape reasons for the large difference in canopy across the district. Some of the wards are also urban with a dense fabric of buildings, roads and other structure. It is not appropriate or possible to achieve a standard level of canopy cover across the whole district and therefore a target for the district has not been set. More appropriate local targets will be set through the following actions.

Actions

1. To increase canopy cover in all wards from the 2020 assessment baseline.
2. To carry out further assessments in the 14 wards which fall below the Canterbury and Kent averages to determine what increase in canopy could be achievable, given constraints of urban areas, land use and other factors. Ward Action Plans will be produced with the help of stakeholders and communities to identify priorities and targets for each ward area and will identify areas for expanding trees.

Canterbury City Council Trees

Canterbury City Council's computer-based tree management system has information on 5,890 individual trees which are in the ownership of the council. These trees are in parks, play areas, recreational areas and amenity sites. There are many other trees that are not included in this figure, such as the large number of trees in woodlands such as Larkey Valley Wood and Curtis Park woodland.

Canterbury City Council's Tree Policy sets out how it will manage the tree stock on the land it owns, including amenity, greens, parks, open spaces and woodlands.⁵ The council's core principles in managing their own tree stock are to:

- Ensure the health and safety of council-owned trees so that they do not pose a risk to people or property
- Promote the natural habitat for wildlife
- Recognise the tree stock as an amenity that enhances the local area
- Reduce waste by utilising timber, firewood and woodchip for wood fuel

All council-owned trees which are recorded within the management system are inspected for health and safety every two years. This identifies trees which pose a risk to people or property and other issues which need to be addressed. However, trees which are not in the system are currently not inspected.

The council aims to protect and preserve its tree stock. However, around 100 trees need to be removed each year.⁶

Pruning is not carried out unless there are health and safety reasons, it benefits the tree, prevents damage or there is a legal need. The council will not normally 'lop or top' as the severe cutting back of large limbs is now considered bad arboricultural practice resulting in a disfigured tree which is more susceptible to disease and decay. The council will also not carry out works which break wildlife law, for example removing trees which are known to be bird roosting places. Works will also not normally be carried out to address:

- Pollen, leaves, fruits and seeds falling from the tree
- Loss of view or loss of light
- Interference with television or radio reception
- Insects such as aphids causing sticky residue on cars and driveways (honeydew)
- Algae or moss on surfaces
- Drain blockage
- Height – council-owned trees are left to reach their natural size and shape
- A reduction or increase of moisture to gardens
- Reduced security due to concealment
- Branches overhanging adjacent property

Ash dieback (see page 31) is a disease which is spreading across east Kent. The council has information on Ash trees in 105 council owned sites, totalling 426 trees. These trees are inspected for health and disease. However, individual Ash trees that are not in the tree management system are

not currently surveyed for Ash dieback. Kent Wildlife Trust, which manages Larkey Valley Woods on behalf of the council, carried out an Ash dieback survey and has set out management actions for diseased trees that are growing close to the main path network.

Response to this Evidence

Canterbury City Council has a responsibility to manage its own trees, woodlands and hedgerows to a high standard, to ensure their survival and health and to set an example, as the organisation developing this strategy and setting the ambition for the district, to other landowners and partners.

Actions

3. Ensure that all trees on council-owned land are included in a tree management system.
4. Carry out further high level analysis of the profile of species and age of the trees to enable long-term management and health of tree stock owned by the council.
5. At a minimum, replace every tree which needs to be felled. This may not be possible in the same location, but the council will seek to replace the tree as close as possible to the felled tree.
6. Monitor and annually publish information on tree removal, tree works and the reasons for these actions, and tree planting and replacement.
7. Ensure that woodlands in the ownership of the council have an up to date management plan, which is being implemented, to secure the wildlife value, health and longevity of the woodland.

Street Trees

Kent County Council (KCC) owns and manages street trees and trees within the maintainable highway boundary. These trees are therefore not in the stewardship of Canterbury City Council. Nonetheless, they form an important component of the canopy and the street scene. Data provided⁷ indicates that KCC owns 22,689 trees in the district (Table 1), nearly four times as many as the individual trees Canterbury City Council owns.

Table 1: Street and Highway Trees - Kent County Council

Ward	Number of highway trees	Ward	Number of highway trees
Barham Downs	359	North Nailbourne	43
Barton	367	Northgate	206
Blean Forest	70	Reculver	660
Chartham & Stone Street	633	Seasalter	105
Chestfield & Swalecliffe	2960	St. Stephens	344
Gorrell	1807	Sturry North	106
Greenhill & Eddington	337	Sturry South	41
Harbledown	561	Tankerton	116
Harbour	53	West Bay	104
Herne & Broomfield	10946	Westgate	435
Heron	266	Wincheap	82
Little Stour	38	Unknown	28
Marshside	2022		

KCC replaces trees which are subject to Tree Preservation Orders or are within a Conservation Area. There is no specific policy for replacing trees which are not protected, but KCC follows a planting rationale. Funding to plant trees on the highway comes from a variety of sources, including a tree maintenance budget, external bids and grants and funding from third parties. Between 2020-2022, 148 trees were removed and 298 trees were planted.

Response to this Evidence

Street trees and trees within the highway are important to the street scene. They contribute to the quality of urban areas and help towns adapt to climate change impacts, such as through providing shading and mitigating against air pollution. It is important that these trees are managed following best practice and replaced. Ideally the stock of these trees would be increased.

Actions

8. Work with KCC to develop a tree replacement policy to ensure that street and highway trees are replaced, as close to the removed tree as possible, and at least one tree planted for every tree removed. This is to include trees which are not under a TPO or within a Conservation Area, as these are currently not routinely replaced.
9. Work with KCC to include annual reporting of tree stock, species and age class, works carried out, removal and planting of street trees in the annual report produced by Canterbury City Council (see action 6).
10. Work with KCC and developers to deliver more street trees in development, as set out in the NPPF.

Ancient, Veteran and Notable Trees

These are the oldest and most important single trees. Many have been living for centuries and are part of the heritage of an area and its communities. These veteran trees are often full of holes, hollows and dead wood and support plants, animals and fungi, some of which themselves are rare.

Ancient trees - are trees which have reached a great age compared with others of the same species. They have three key features - a low, fat and squat shape because the crown has reduced, a wide trunk compared and hollowing of the trunk. They are gnarled and knobbly, bent and hollow, with limbs missing.

Veteran trees - Unlike an ancient tree, a veteran tree can be any age, but it shows ancient characteristics such as those above. These may not just be due to age, but could result from natural damage, management, or the tree's environment. Ancient trees are all veterans, but not all veterans are ancient.

Notable trees - A, usually mature, tree which significant to the local area taking into account its size, species and character.

In 2022, the Woodland Trust Ancient Tree Inventory recorded 231 ancient, veteran or notable trees in Canterbury district,⁸ see Plan 2. There are 40 ancient trees, with 37 of these being Trees of National Special Interest.

There are 100 veteran trees and a further 91 notable trees. More trees are being found and surveyed by volunteers. There are ancient Yew trees of national significance in several churchyards – at All Saint's Church in Petham, five at St Bartholomew's Church in Waltham, at St Nicholas's Church in Thanington and at St Peter and St Paul's in Upper Hardres. In Patricxbourne there are 33 Lime trees, including 26 ancient Limes which are Trees of National Special Interest, forming an avenue.

Within Howletts Zoo, the 'Howletts Chestnut' is a veteran Sweet Chestnut tree of unusual shape with a girth of over 10m and huge spreading branches. It was shortlisted for the Woodland Trust Tree of the Year Award.

There are also several veteran and notable trees across the City of Canterbury. Within King's School in the City of Canterbury is an ancient Black Mulberry. Westgate Gardens is home to several ancient trees, including one of the City's remarkable 'Baobab Planes'. There are others in Canterbury Cathedral's grounds and at St Gregory's Church, with others being discovered. At least three were planted in the early 1800s, by local Victorian botanist and landscape designer William Masters. The Westgate Baobab Plane has been recognised as being of such merit that, alongside 69 other trees across the country, has been awarded the status of a Queen's Platinum Jubilee Tree.

Plan 2: Ancient, Veteran and Notable Trees



Whilst some of the ancient, veteran and notable trees are protected through being within a Conservation Area or covered by a Tree Preservation Area, not all of them have such protection. They can be vulnerable to a range of threats, including inappropriate tree surgery, fire or vandalism.

Response to this Evidence

Ancient, veteran and notable trees are an important part of our cultural heritage and are irreplaceable. It is important to protect these trees, raise awareness of them and to find others which have not yet been recorded.

Actions

11. Work towards protecting all ancient, veteran and notable trees through Tree Preservation Orders, with support from Tree Wardens and parish councils.
12. Work with Tree Wardens, parish councils and other interested and viable groups⁹ to survey local areas to record ancient, veteran and notable trees.

Tree Wardens¹⁰ plant, protect and promote their local trees. Tree Wardens are organised into local groups. Each group decides what they would like to focus on. Some of the projects Tree Warden groups have done include:

- Arranging local tree planting days
- Pruning, watering and giving aftercare to planted trees
- Planting and caring for our precious street trees
- Rejuvenating local woodlands
- Raising funds
- Going into schools to talk to young people



One of Canterbury City's Baobab Plane trees

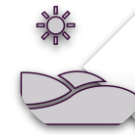
Canterbury District's Woodlands

The Kent Habitat Survey¹¹ recorded that 15.6% of the district land area is woodland; higher than the government's target¹² of 12%.¹³

To gain the most comprehensive overview of the woodland in Canterbury district, Plan 3 shows woodland included in the National Forest Inventory,¹⁴ deciduous woodland priority habitat¹⁵ and ancient woodland.¹⁶ It also includes areas mapped as woodland by the Ordnance Survey.

This plan clearly shows the large blocks of connected woodland of The Blean, which stretches across the entire area between Whitstable and Herne Bay and City of Canterbury and eastwards into neighbouring Swale District. Similarly, to the south east of Canterbury City are many woodlands which connect across the landscape in the Kent Downs National Landscape. These link to The Blean complex of woodlands at Chilham and through to Petham and Bishopsbourne. To the east of the City of Canterbury lies a network of woodlands along the Stour Valley. These extend into City of Canterbury itself through Chequers Wood and Old Park Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

Canterbury district has some of Kent's largest and most connected blocks of woodland, making them outstanding for their importance for wildlife. The district has more than its share of many woodland priority habitats, including all of Kent's internationally protected oak-hornbeam woodland.



Canterbury district covers 8.7% of Kent.



The district has 11.9% of Kent's broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland.



The district has 16.4% of Kent's wet woodland.



The district has 100% of Kent's internationally protected oak-hornbeam woodland.



The district has 64.5% of Kent's lowland mixed deciduous priority habitat.



27.7% of the district's broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland is in a Site of Special Scientific Interest, compared to 13.4% for Kent as a whole.



48.7% of the district's broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland is in a Local Wildlife Site, compared to 36% for Kent as a whole.

East Blean Woods: Managed by Kent Wildlife Trust, East Blean Wood National Nature Reserve is ancient semi-natural woodland. Bluebells and Heather grow in acidic areas, with orchids and other species in alkaline areas. The wood has been managed in the past and after the coppice is cut much of the ground is colonised by Common Cow-wheat, the food plant of the caterpillar of the rare Heath Fritillary butterfly.

West Blean and Thornden Woods: West Blean and Thornden Woods SSSI form a vital link for nature and visitors between East Blean Wood National Nature Reserve and other important woodland to the west. The reserve, managed by Kent Wildlife Trust, covers about 490 hectares. The wood supports a variety of species including the rare Heath Fritillary and White Admiral butterflies, Bluebells, Wood Anemones, Long-eared Owls, the Yellow Necked Wood Mouse and the Dormouse.

Clowes Wood: This mostly conifer wood is managed by the Forestry Commission and is a great place to hear Nightjar.

Victory Wood: Purchased by the Woodland Trust in 2004 as a flagship wood celebrating the bicentennial of the battle of Trafalgar. There has been extensive replanting of the once arable land.

Bigbury Camp: This Kent Wildlife Trust Reserve is an important historical site, an iron age hill fort and a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

South Blean Woods: The most south-westerly part of The Blean complex and, although separated by the A2, an important part of the continuous woodland. This Kent Wildlife Trust reserve covers 320 hectares of varying

topography and soils, which produces a greater variety of habitats than the other woodlands in The Blean. This benefits plants as Bluebell, Wood Anemone, Heather, sedges and sphagnum mosses. Birds include Nightjar, Nightingale, Lesser-spotted Woodpecker and Buzzard.

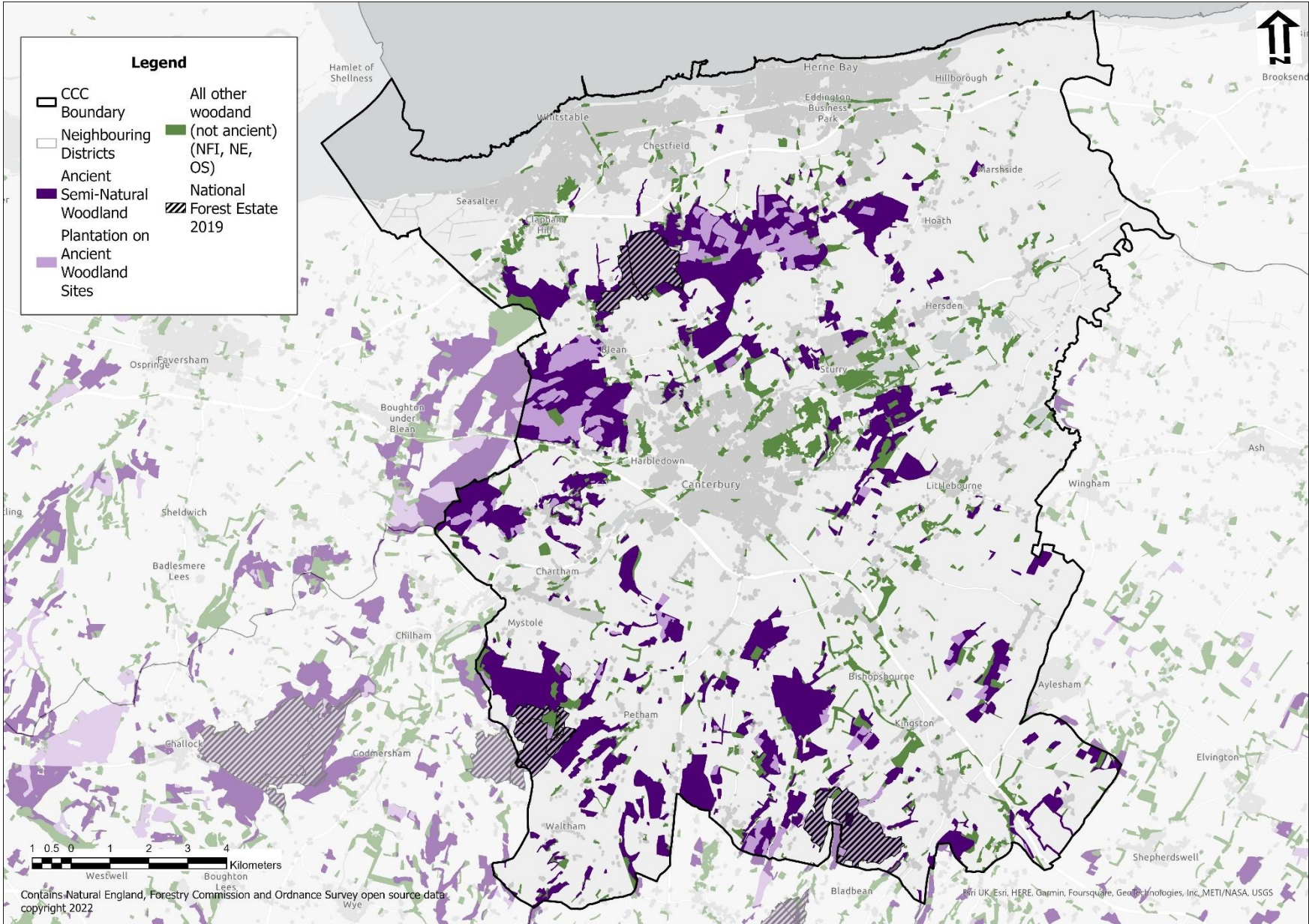
Eggring and Denge Woods: Owned by the Forestry Commission, with part of Denge Wood owned by the Woodland Trust. Parts are ancient semi-natural woodland and Pennypot Wood is home to many invertebrates, including the rare Duke of Burgundy butterfly. The Woodland Trust also owns Earley Wood further to the east.

Yockletts Bank: This Kent Wildlife Trust reserve and SSSI is an ancient Hornbeam coppice, with Beech and Hazel and important ground flora, including many rare orchids.

Covert Wood and Lynsore Bottom: The landscape around Upper Hardres and Bishopsbourne is very wooded. Covert Wood is the most northern of several Forestry Commission woodlands which extend into Folkestone and Hythe District. Lynsore Bottom SSSI is a traditional coppice with standards, containing a variety of tree species. Many of the woodlands in the surrounding area are LWS's.

Trenley Park, Chequers Wood and Old Park: These woodlands lie to the east of the City of Canterbury and include areas of ancient woodland. Chequers Wood and Old Park SSSI has a mosaic of habitats, including Alder woodland. Trenley Park is a LWS and ancient woodland. These woodlands provide an important habitat link into the City of Canterbury and support many important breeding bird populations including Nightingale and Turtle Dove.

Plan 3: Ancient Semi-natural Woodland, Plantation on Ancient Woodland, National Forest Estate, all other Woodland



Ancient Woodland

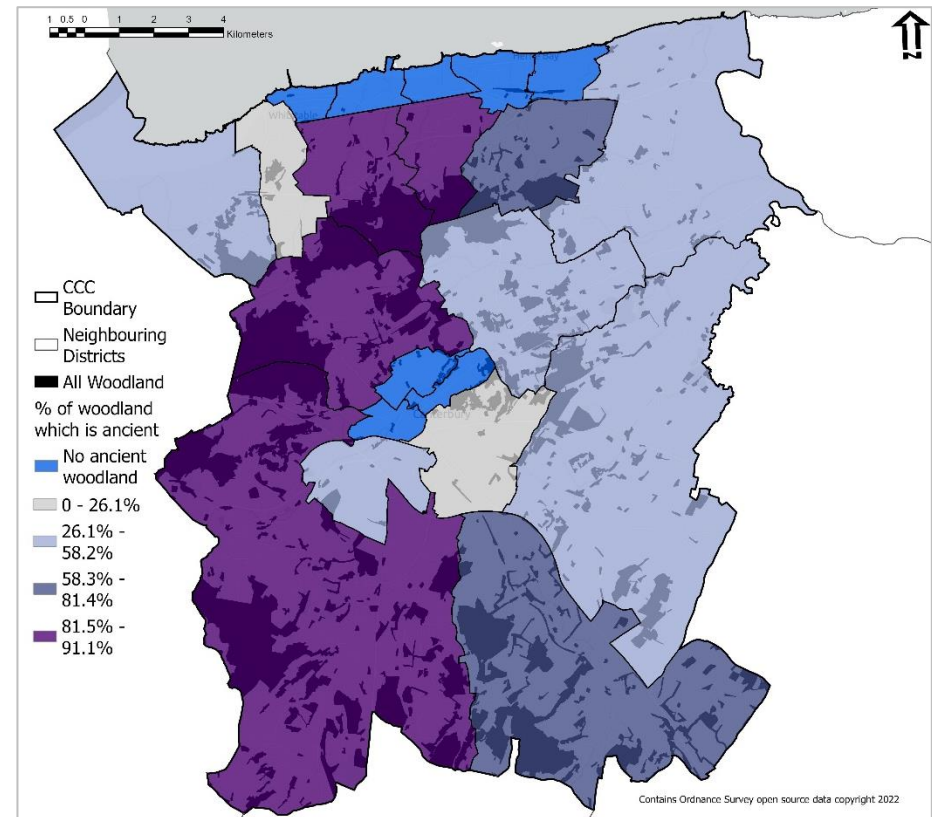
Around three-quarters of woodlands in Canterbury district are ancient woodlands (76%). Generally this woodland, mapped by Natural England, does not include woodlands smaller than 2 hectares; however in Canterbury district a review of ancient woodland in the district found and mapped smaller sites.¹⁷

Ancient woods are areas of woodland that have persisted since 1600. They are relatively undisturbed by human development. As a result, they are unique and complex communities of plants, fungi, insects and other microorganisms.

Ancient semi-natural woods have developed naturally. Many have been managed for timber and other industries over the centuries. Plantations on ancient woodland sites (PAWS) are ancient woods that have been felled and replanted with non-native species. Typically these are conifers but can also be with broadleaved trees such as Sweet Chestnut, which is prolific in Kent. Although damaged, they still have the complex soil of ancient woodland and may contain remnants of the specialist species which occurred before. In Canterbury district, 71% of ancient woodland is ancient semi-natural woodland and 29% is plantation on ancient woodland sites, see Plan 3. Some ancient woodland plantation sites are owned by the Forestry Commission.

The variation in the distribution of ancient woodland is shown graphically by plotting the percentage of woodland which is ancient by ward, see Plan 4. In some areas over 90% of woodland is ancient. Conversely, some wards do not have any ancient woodland at all – along the north coast and in the City of Canterbury.

Plan 4: Percentage of Woodland which is Ancient by Ward



Woodland Management

Managed woodlands can support a greater variety of wildlife than those which are unmanaged, particularly where management such as coppicing has stopped. Managing a woodland, if carried out appropriately, can create a range of habitats and structural diversity. Conversely, lack of management can have a significant detrimental effect on the biodiversity of woodlands.

There have been several government grant schemes available from the late 1980's to manage or plant woodlands. A review of these shows that several areas of woodland in Canterbury district have, at some point, been in receipt of a grant and therefore are likely to have been managed. Large areas of The Blean have been under grant schemes in subsequent tranches, along with larger woodlands in the Kent Downs National Landscape. This would suggest longer-term management activity in these woodlands. Areas of National Forest are managed by the Forestry Commission under management plans.¹⁸

Outside of these areas there are significant areas which have not been in receipt of a management grant. This includes many of the smaller woodlands. Smaller and isolated woodlands, especially if owned by several different landowners, are less economically beneficial to manage, as they offer fewer 'economies of scale'. It also includes some larger extents of woodlands, for example to the east of the City of Canterbury. It should be noted that the lack of grant funding does not conclusively mean the woodlands are not

being managed, as they may be under management but not in receipt of a grant.

Access to Woodlands

Access to woodland is beneficial – for health, exercise and mental health.

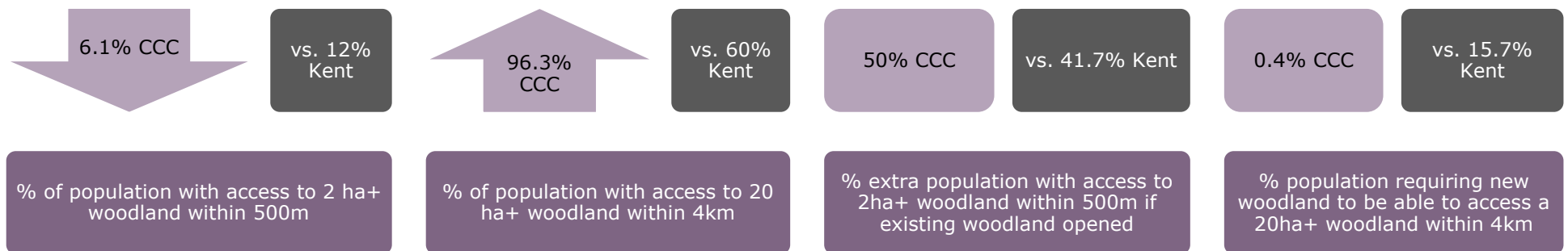
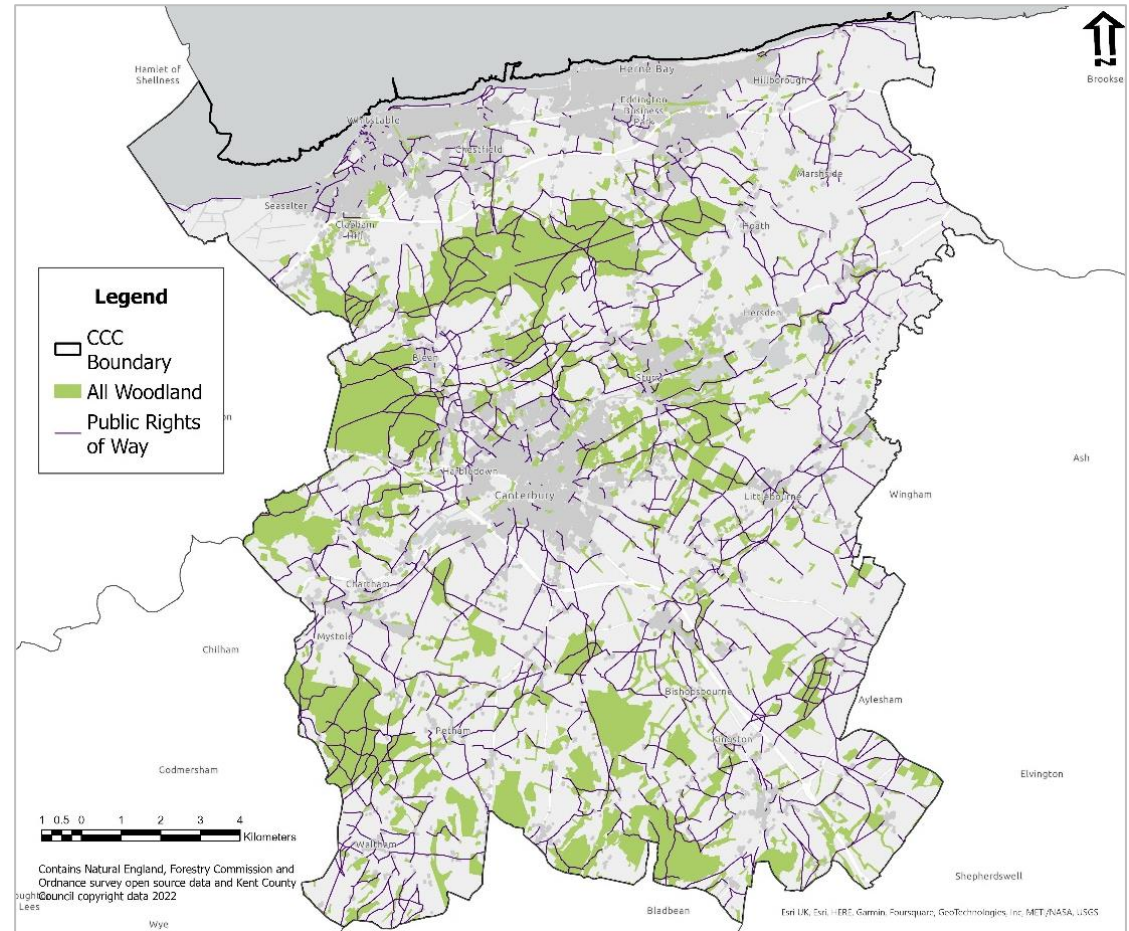
The Woodland Trust has analysed how much accessible woodland people have close to their homes.¹⁹ The Trust's 'Access Standard' ambition is that no person should live more than 500m from an accessible woodland of at least 2 hectares, and that no one should live more than 4km from an accessible woodland of at least 20 hectares.

The results for Canterbury district are shown in the figure on the next page. These reflect the uneven distribution of woodland in Canterbury. Only 6% of the district's population have access to woodland within 500m. However 96% of people have access to a larger woodland further away from home (compared to an average of 60% across Kent). This is due to very large areas of woodland close to the district's urban areas, e.g. The Blean. 50% more of the population would have access to a woodland within 500m if existing woodland were opened for access.

The Woodland Trust data does not include woodlands which are only accessible through public rights of way. These routes are important and pass through many of the district’s woodlands. There are also several promoted routes, including ‘The Big Bleau’, a 25 mile walk around The Bleau woodlands.²⁰

Plan 5: (top right) Public Rights of Way and Woodland

Figure 1: (bottom) Summary of Woodland Trust Data



Response to this Evidence

There is an outstanding resource of woodland in Canterbury district, which is important both within Kent and southern England. There are large areas of ancient woodland which is irreplaceable.

In some areas – in particular The Blean and the Kent Downs National Landscape – there are valuable areas of large and well-connected woodland which is being positively, and innovatively, managed for wildlife and to increase resilience. However, in other areas there is less woodland, smaller and isolated woodland and small woodlands which are not under positive management.

There are opportunities to expand woodland in all areas, but particularly where this increases the size and connectivity of existing woodlands. The biodiversity and resilience of woodlands can also be improved through appropriate management.

Actions

13. Prioritise protection of woodland and seek net gain of this habitat.
14. Expand woodland cover across the district. Prioritise areas based on benefits to existing habitats, connecting and expanding small and fragmented woodlands and delivering multiple benefits (e.g. access or improvement to water environment). Highlight potential areas through Ward Action Plans.

15. Support appropriate management of woodland to benefit biodiversity and improve resilience. Lead by example for woodlands owned by Canterbury City Council (for example Larkey Valley Woods).
16. Encourage and expand access to woodland across the district. Identify areas where access to woodland can be improved in the Ward Action Plans.
17. Encourage the conversion of conifer plantation to broadleaved woodland on Planted Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS) to decrease the figure to being less than 20%, in line with Forestry Commission targets.²¹

Trees, Hedgerows and Woodlands in the Landscape

Landscape Character

Trees, woodlands and hedgerows are important aspects of the landscape character of Canterbury district. The size, frequency in the landscape and type of woodland, the hedgerows, hedgerow trees, parklands, single trees and other arboreal features, as well as the open landscapes which largely lack trees, help to form the structure of the district's landscape. Ensuring that new tree planting fits with landscape character is an important element of the 'right tree, right place, right reason' principle (see page 33).

The landscape character assessment for Canterbury district²² outside of the Kent Downs National Landscape describes nine landscape character types. There are two further

landscape character areas within the Kent Downs National Landscape.²³ The type, amount and characteristics of the tree and woodland features of these character types varies considerably, summarised in Plan 7.

In the marshland and coastal areas of the north of the district, the landscape has limited trees or woodlands. The Blean forms a continuous block, with a more mixed farmland with scattered smaller woodlands to the north and south.

In the River Stour valley is a rich mix of trees and woodlands, including priority habitat wet woodlands, larger blocks of woodland to the east of the City of Canterbury, smaller woodlands and some ancient woodlands.

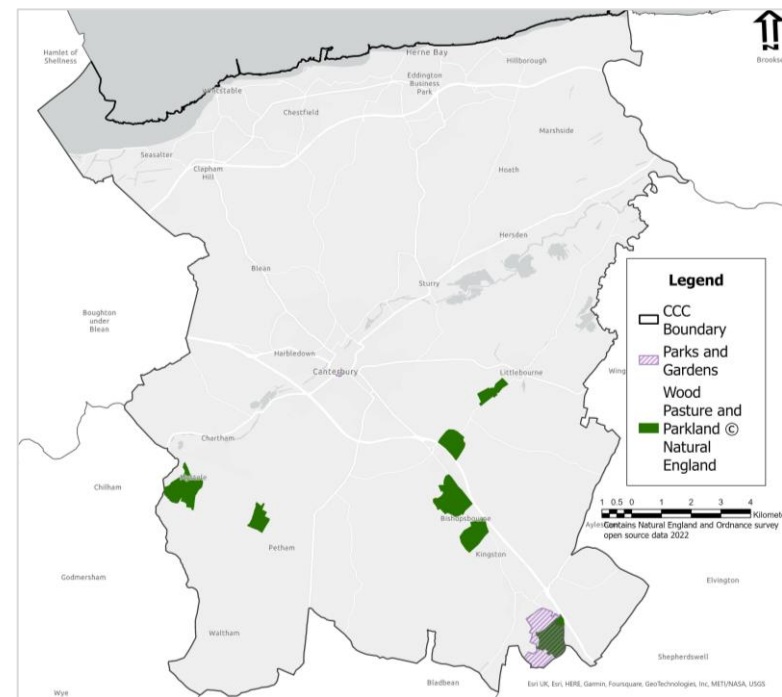
To the south of the City of Canterbury, within the Kent Downs National Landscape, is a landscape with a mix of ancient woodlands, extensive coppice and conifer woodlands, ridge-top woodlands, shaws and hedgerows. This area retains much of its special character. Within the downlands outside of the National Landscape, there has been more agricultural intensification and, although characteristic woodland blocks remain, there has been greater removal of hedgerows and trees.

In many places the woodlands across the landscape are located far apart and are disconnected. Where hedgerows and shaws have degraded this severs connections between woodlands even further. There are priority actions to reconnect woodlands across the landscape for many of the character areas.

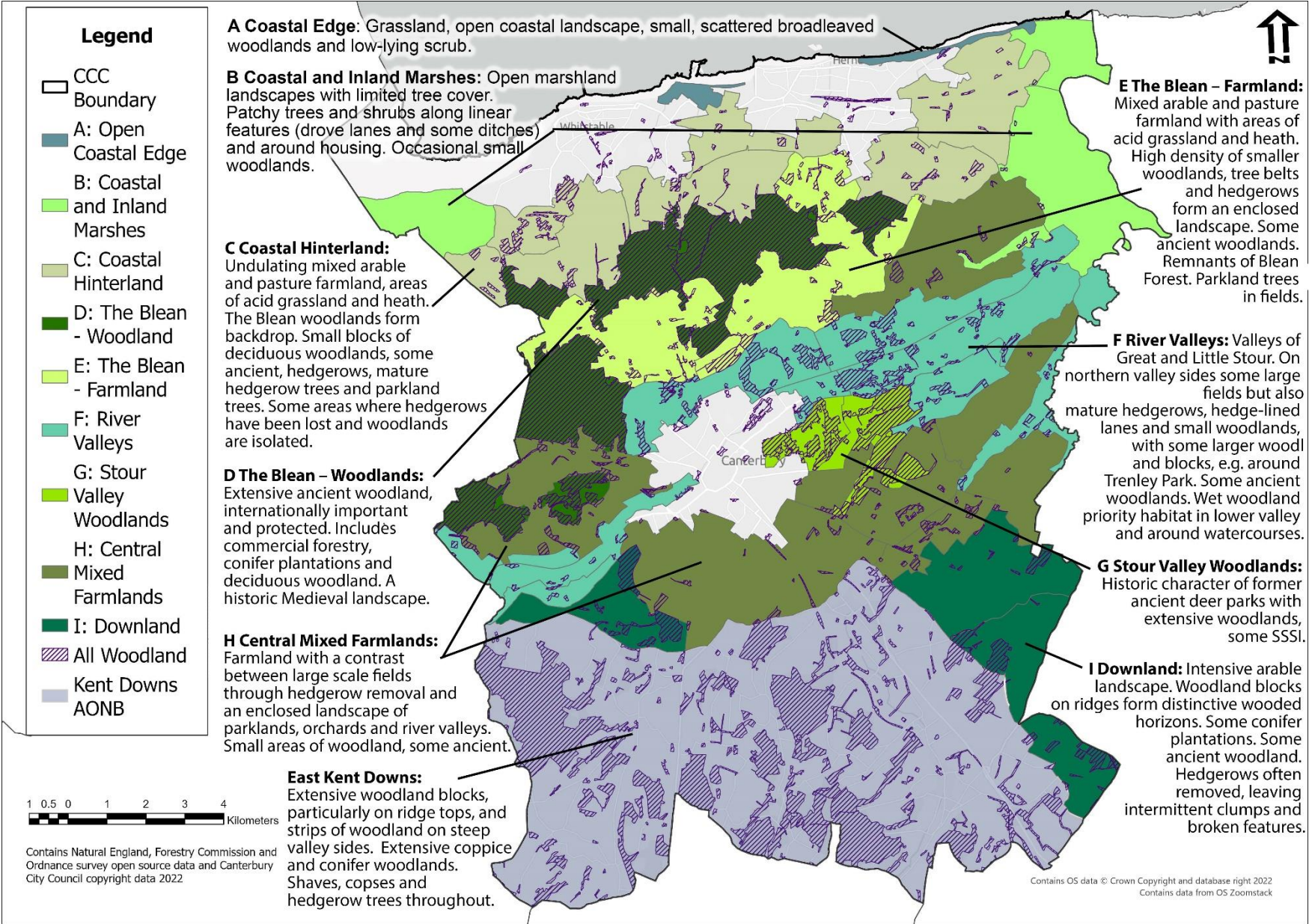
Wood Pasture and Parkland

Wood pasture and parkland is land that has been managed through grazing, with scattered trees across the landscape. They are an important part of cultural and landscape heritage and often have high biodiversity value. Trees are often pollarded – cut around 2.5 metres from the ground – to prevent grazing animals from eating regrowing wood. These are often ancient trees, although the area as a whole may not be listed as ancient woodland (see Plan 6).

Plan 6: Wood Pasture and Parkland



Plan 7: Tree and Woodlands as Components of Landscape Character



Hedgerows

Hedgerows are important landscape and heritage features, habitats in their own right and essential connecting habitats across the landscape.

Hedgerows in the district take diverse forms. In some areas the strong historic pattern of enclosure remains, with species-rich hedgerows in particular invaluable for wildlife. In several areas there are distinctive high hedges and shelterbelts, traditionally grown to protect fruit growing. Hedges are also important in urban areas, forming corridors and habitats and linking green areas in the urban fabric.

Hedgerow trees are an important element of hedgerows in some areas, adding to landscape character and wildlife value. However, these trees are being lost through old age, development, pests and diseases and lack of replacement.

Although in some areas the landscape is crossed by mature and healthy hedges, hedgerows have declined in many areas of the district. Arable intensification, grubbing up, insensitive management or lack of management have all lead to a decline in hedgerows. Diseases such as Dutch Elm disease have hastened their decline in some areas, and Ash dieback will have an increasingly detrimental effect on hedgerows and hedgerow trees, with the potential to significantly alter the landscape.

Canterbury's landscape character assessment highlights where hedges are in good or poor condition and details

actions to restore and maintain them (Plan 8). There remain strong networks of good condition hedges in some areas, for example near The Blean (shown in green). However, hedgerows have become significantly degraded in the areas between Whitstable and Herne Bay, to the east of the City of Canterbury and on the downland to the south of the City of Canterbury, outside of the National Landscape, shown in darker purple. The character assessment also includes actions to maintain and improve hedgerows across most other parts of the district, including in the Kent Downs National Landscape, outside of the most degraded areas.

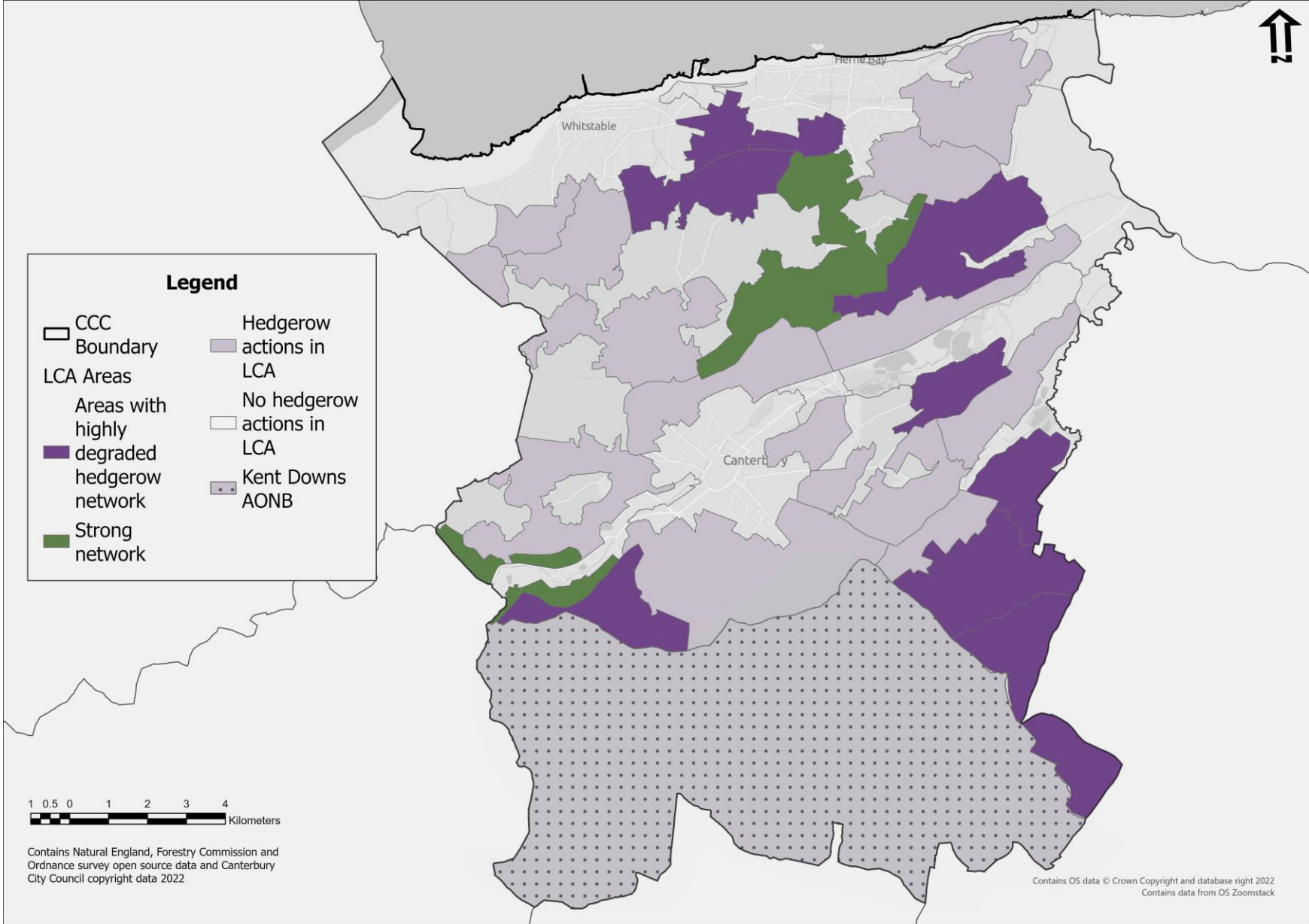
Response to this Evidence

Canterbury has a varied range of landscapes in which trees play an important part. This includes woodlands, single trees, ancient parkland and hedgerows making up the fabric of the landscape. Actions in this strategy should strengthen, respect and restore landscape character.

Actions

18. Ensure tree expansion is in keeping with, enhances and restores landscape character. Large-scale expansion should be in areas where this is in keeping with the landscape, for example in The Blean and Kent Downs National Landscape.
19. Increase hedgerows across the district, and particularly where these are degraded, for example in the Whitstable and Herne Bay landscapes and the south and east of the City of Canterbury. Work with parishes, tree wardens, Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership and landowners.

Plan 8: Hedgerow Areas - Landscape Character Assessment





View over Canterbury City

Part 3 – The Future – Delivering Core Principles

Delivering Principle 1: Protecting Existing Trees and Woodland

Protecting Existing Trees

A Tree Preservation Order (TPO) is a legal order to prevent harm being done to trees. It makes it a criminal offence to cut down, top, lop, uproot, wilfully damage or destroy protected trees without prior written consent from the local authority. It also creates a duty to replant a tree removed without consent. Orders can apply to individual trees, groups, an area or a whole woodland.

TPOs can be made where it is “*expedient in the interest of amenity to make provision for the preservation of trees or woodlands in their area*”.²⁴ The law doesn’t define ‘amenity’, but it is taken to mean that removal would have a significant negative impact on the local environment and its enjoyment by the public, considering the tree’s size, form, rarity and the character of the area. Nature conservation and climate change can add weight to this, but on their own would not warrant making a TPO.

The term ‘expedient’ takes into account areas that are vulnerable or at risk such as from development pressure and

changes in land ownership. This is where vigilance and close contact with local councillors is critical. There are 1,575 TPO’s in the district at the time of this report.

Conservation Areas exist to protect special architectural and historic interest, but they also provide some protection to the trees within them. In a Conservation Area any work to or felling of trees over 7.5cm diameter (measured at 1.5m from the ground) has to be notified to the local authority. Work can only take place after six weeks, giving the local authority time to make a TPO if needed. Trees in Conservation Areas do have a measure of protection but where a tree makes a special contribution to the amenity of any location it is prudent to seek a Tree Preservation Order as an extra safeguarding measure. There are 97 Conservation Areas in the district.

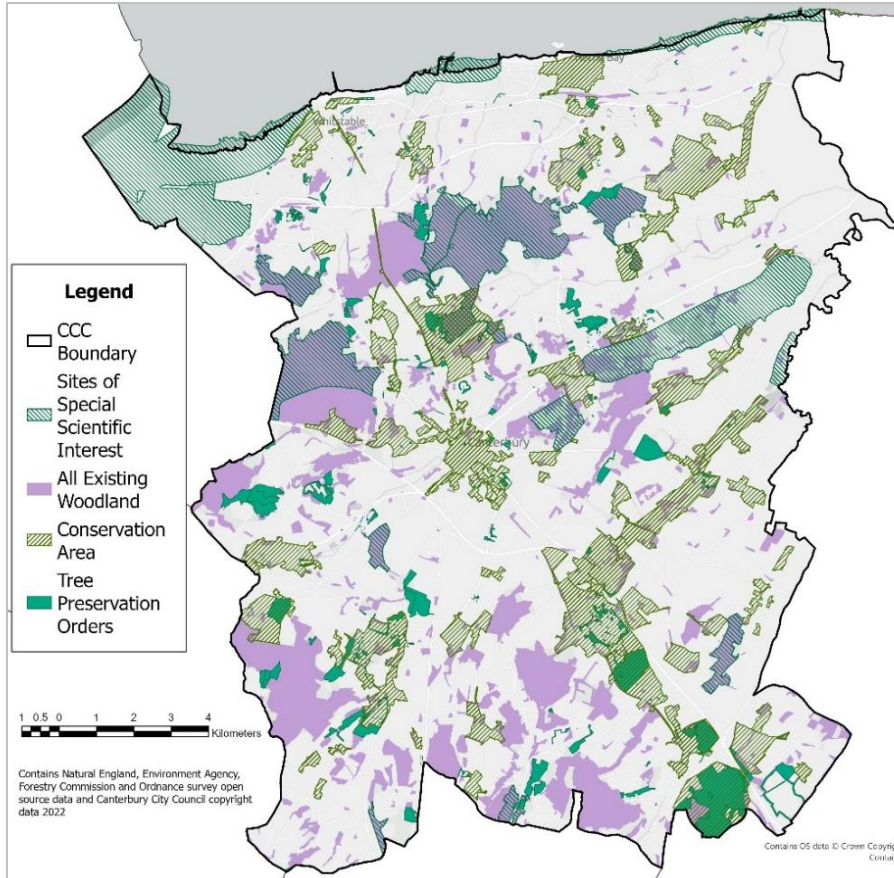
Sites of Special Scientific Interest also offer some protection. Although tree felling is not prohibited, works within SSSIs must have the consent of Natural England.

A summary of these protections is shown in Plan 9.

A felling licence, issued by the Forestry Commission, is also often needed if growing trees are to be felled, and if more than 5 cubic metres are to be felled in any calendar year.²⁵

Canterbury City Council’s Tree Policy helps to protect tree stock on council-owned land.

Plan 9: Conservation Areas, TPOs and SSSIs



Protecting from Impacts of Pests and Diseases

There are a range of threats to trees, woodlands and hedgerows in Canterbury district.

Trees in the South East are likely to be amongst those subjected to the greatest change through climate change; being the area with one of the greatest rises in average temperature. Summer drought and wetter winters will put some species under stress. The number and range of pests and diseases will also increase as the climate changes, with Kent likely to be on the frontline and affected before the rest of the UK.²⁶ Trees which are already under stress will become more vulnerable.

Increasing the genetic diversity of species and reducing the number of cultivar species can help to increase resilience. For urban tree stock, the Forestry Commission recommends a 10:20:30 principle to avoid monocultures and to improve diversity. There should not be more than 10% of a particular species, 20% of any one genus, or 30% of any family.²⁷

Ash dieback (next page) is a significant threat to many species of Ash. others which could become a problem in the future. These include Horse Chestnut Leaf Miner, Ash dieback, acute Oak decline, Sweet Chestnut blight and the Oak Processionary Moth.²⁸

Ash Dieback

Ash dieback²⁹ is the most significant tree disease to affect the UK since Dutch Elm disease. It will lead to the decline and possible death of the majority of native Ash trees in Britain. The first official UK record was in 2012, but evidence now suggests it arrived earlier, and it has been established in east Kent for many years, with some areas badly affected.

The fungus causes a range of symptoms and will eventually lead to death of the tree. The fungus spreads more readily in woodland settings where trees are in close proximity. Whilst some trees may have some tolerance to the disease, research suggests mortality of between 70-85% in a woodland setting.³⁰ The rate of decline depends on the genetics of particular trees and external factors such as soil and moisture levels and how much stress the tree is in already.

There is currently no cure for Ash dieback, and no clear method for stopping its spread. The recommended aims of management are therefore to slow the spread, minimise the impact of the disease, and preserve as many tolerant Ash trees as possible.

As mature trees are weakened, dead wood in the crown increases and trees die, public safety becomes an area which needs to be addressed. Trees in areas where there is public access need to be monitored for risks to public safety.

Protecting through Improving Climate Change Resilience

Although there is uncertainty around how climate change will affect trees, woodlands and hedgerows, some very likely impacts are predicted which will have significant effect on both biodiversity and landscape, including:

- The current range of broadleaf species in woodland may not remain suitable for forestry in South East England by the end of the century
- Tree pests and diseases are likely to increase and may be a greater threat to trees and woodland than the change in climate
- Initial impacts are likely to be declining tree health and difficulty in establishing trees. Later impacts may include death of mature trees
- Even where the composition of woodland trees is unchanged, the structure and composition of the ground flora may be greatly changed
- There may be serious impacts on drought-sensitive species on shallow and free-draining soils in southern England
- Higher frequency of winter gales will increase damage to trees and disruption and costs of clearing trees

The suitability of species under future climates should be taken into account when deciding which trees to plant. New planting should also contain a diversity of species, appropriate to the setting, to minimise catastrophic failure of

all trees through climate change impacts or pests and diseases.

The Forestry Commission's advice for native and ancient woodlands includes:

- Woods that are either ancient, native, or which have retained key features of ancient woodland, should be managed to conserve important biodiversity and heritage
- The genetic variability of new and regenerated woodlands should be enhanced by including local provenance and others from up to five degrees south
- Opportunities should be taken to diversify the species mix within woodlands
- The character of the landscape should be retained through a proactive, anticipatory approach to adaptation, to provide the best opportunity to establish healthy woodlands
- Coppice / coppice with standards should be implemented more extensively to manage existing woodlands
- Broadleaved species new to English forests should be considered in new planting, particularly in the South East, for example more Sweet Chestnut and other broadleaved species from the near continent can be used to take advantage of the changing climate

Response to this Evidence

Trees, woodlands and hedgerows face a range of threats. This can be through wilful damage or removal or unintentional decline in health through poor management. A range of pests and diseases already pose a threat to several trees species, including a growing and significant impact from Ash dieback. The number of pests and diseases is likely to increase with climate change. Climate change will also create more challenging conditions for trees, with more gales, droughts and floods placing them under more stress.

Actions

20. Ensure that Canterbury City Council exercises its powers in regard to making Tree Preservation Orders and acting on breaches against TPOs.
21. Canterbury City Council will provide information to the public on the sensitive management of trees in order to prolong their life, on the online knowledge hub.
22. Canterbury City Council will draw up an Ash dieback plan for CCC owned trees, woodlands and hedgerows.
23. Canterbury City Council will help local communities assess the potential impact and appropriate actions in regard to Ash dieback through the provision of information on the online knowledge hub.
24. Increase awareness of the need for biosecurity measures when sourcing tree stock for planting and the choice of appropriate species to support longevity in a changing climate.

Delivering Principle 2: Expanding Trees, Woodlands and Hedgerows

Increasing Trees

There are many positive reasons to expand trees, woodland and hedgerows. Trees can help to mitigate climate change through storing carbon, as well as helping to adapt to its effects through providing shading and preventing flooding. Trees, woodlands and hedgerows can increase biodiversity and link habitats. Trees can also purify the air, soil and water. They provide products in the form of food, fuel, timber and other wood products, which also provides economic benefits. Access to trees, woodlands and hedgerows, or even just a view of them, has also been shown to improve health and mental wellbeing.

-  Store carbon
-  Support biodiversity
-  Clean the air, soil and water
-  Provide cooling and shade
-  Provide food, fuel and wood
-  Increase health and mental wellbeing
-  Prevent flooding

The reasons for expanding tree cover need to be carefully considered as this will determine the location, species and type of planting – single trees, hedgerows or woodlands.

Canterbury City Council intends to expand tree cover across the district. One of the primary drivers of this is to provide carbon sequestration to provide mitigation for climate change. However, the council also wants to maximise additional benefits, for example for biodiversity, people and water management, when choosing the location, species and type of tree cover to increase and to avoid negative impacts.

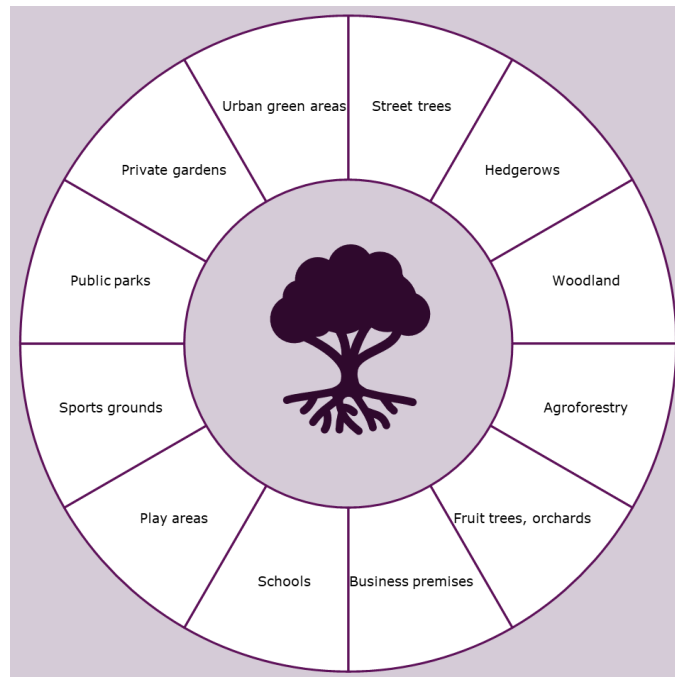
How to Expand Tree Cover

There are many ways, forms and places in which to expand tree cover.

Planting Trees

Tree planting is perhaps the most obvious way to expand tree cover. Whether it is a woodland, hedgerow, street tree, tree in a park, playground or schoolground – each scenario may demand a difference and a careful choice of the species of tree, the provenance and the size of the tree stock used. This can be summarised into the principle of ‘right tree, right place, right reason’.

Planted trees also often require some sort of protection and will need regular maintenance.



Canterbury City Council's Tree Policy sets out principles for the selection of suitable tree species:

- Choose a variety of species including both native and exotic species (look to the local area to see what already grows well)
- Consider broadleaved and deciduous species
- Look for species that provide abundant flowers and fruits
- Ensure species are suitable for local soil conditions (clay soils in the north of Canterbury and chalky soils in the south of Canterbury)
- Consider the impact of warmer drier summers and wetter warmer winters on tree health

Right Tree, Right Place, Right Reason

The following should be considered when making decisions on planting trees:

- ✓ Where a tree is planted in relation to its surroundings and proximity to existing features - including the highway, properties, other structures and trees
- ✓ The mature size and shape of the tree and whether it will be appropriate for the space and outlook. This does not necessarily mean that only trees which are small at maturity should be planted, as larger-growing trees add greatly to canopy cover, biodiversity and improving the street scene – but they must be planted in spaces which are large enough to accommodate their height and spread
- ✓ Ensuring that there is a diversity of species to provide resilience against the impacts of climate change and pests and diseases. Consider the suitability of the tree in a future changed climate and whether the tree will thrive in future climatic conditions
- ✓ When creating new woodland, single trees and hedgerows, reflect local species mixes and landscape character, taking into account future climatic conditions
- ✓ Consider the size of the tree stock at the time it is planted to reduce maintenance requirements and improve establishment rates
- ✓ Consider the resources required for the long term management of the trees
- ✓ Follow relevant British Standards in tree planting and aftercare³¹ and the UK and Ireland Sourced and Grown Standard (UKISG) for sourcing trees³²

Natural Regeneration

Allowing woodland to expand naturally is an alternative to tree planting and can be an effective and efficient way to increase tree cover. Given the right conditions, trees and shrubs often spread through seeds or suckers, and seeds can also disperse fairly long distances. There are advantages to encouraging the natural spread of trees and shrubs:

- There is wide genetic diversity amongst the UK's native tree and shrub species. Naturally regenerated trees are adapted to local environmental conditions and often survive better than planted trees. This may also make them more resilient to a changing climate and pests and diseases
- Natural regeneration may create a more natural landscape and mix of species which is better for wildlife
- Naturally regenerating trees have more beneficial root fungi – important for soil nutrient and water uptake and for sharing resources between trees. They grow stronger tap roots through being in the same place all their lives and are hardier from not being transplanted and transported
- There is not enough tree stock available in the UK to meet the ambitious targets being set across the country. Importing tree stock from overseas carries the risk of introducing pests and diseases
- Natural regeneration can be cheaper and involve fewer plastic tree guards and other protection, making it more environmentally sustainable

Trees and shrubs will often colonise land where management such as ploughing, mowing or grazing not login takes place. Being close to a seed source and trees helps the process and therefore areas next to existing woodlands are ideal locations for supporting natural regeneration.

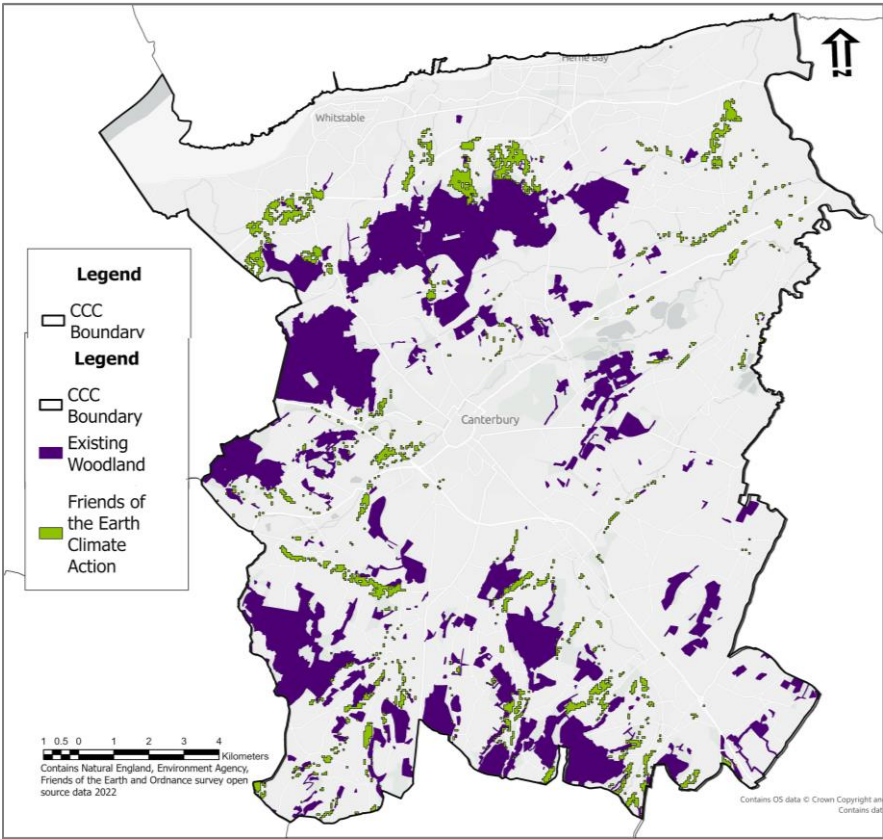
Potential Areas to Extend Tree Cover

Analysis of data can help to identify where it might be appropriate to plant or encourage the regeneration of new trees at a larger scale. There are several sources of data which can be helpful. All of these can only provide a broad indication of the areas which might be appropriate and further investigation, engagement with landowners and land managers, local assessment and evaluation is needed to identify suitable tree planting areas.

Friends of the Earth has used national datasets to assess the potential increase in woodland cover to increase climate change mitigation.³³ This analysis excludes higher quality agricultural land (includes only grades 3 and 4 land) and land which is arable or temporary pasture. It excludes priority habitats and areas protected for biodiversity.

This analysis assesses the opportunity for an increase in woodland of 2.8% overall in the district. Of this, 52.5% could be delivered through rewilding schemes.³⁴ The areas highlighted through this process are shown in Plan 10.

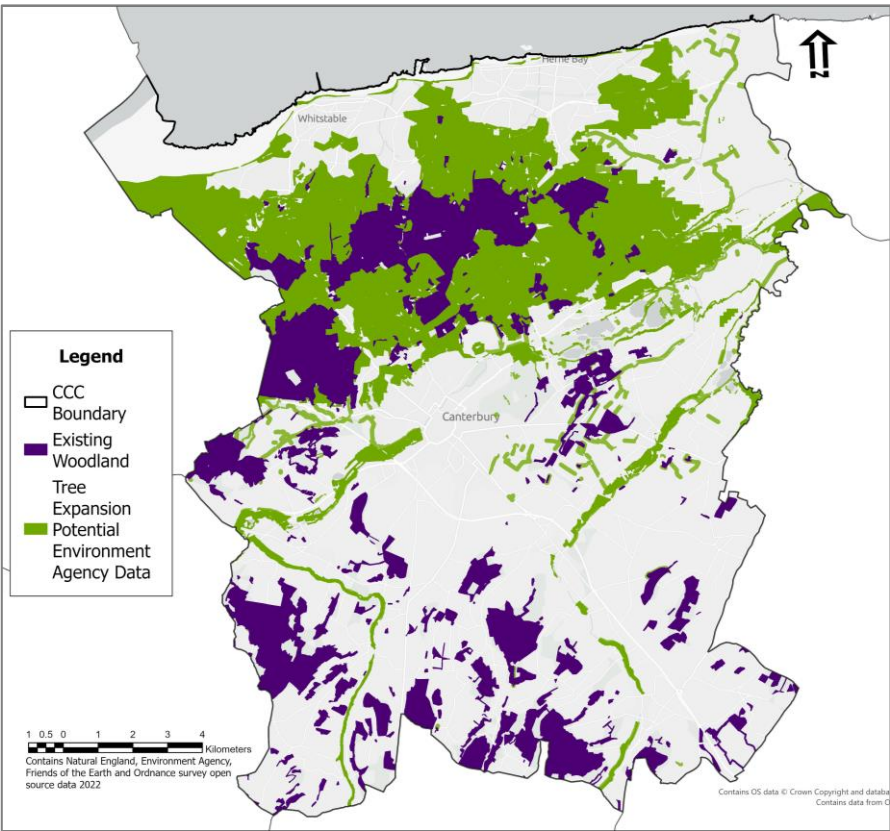
Plan 10: Friends of the Earth – Possible Tree Expansion Areas



The Environment Agency (EA) has also analysed where trees may help to reduce flood risk through the Working with Natural Processes project. This information shows where tree planting in the wider catchment could help to intercept, slow, store and filter water. Extensive potential areas are highlighted in Canterbury district (Plan 11). Further analysis is needed as not all of these areas are suitable for trees; for

example, some areas would replace existing valuable habitats.

Plan 11: Working With Natural Processes (Environment Agency)



Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (BOAs) also show where habitats might be most effectively connected. These will be updated through the forthcoming Kent Local Nature Strategy and, when published, should be used to help identify potential areas for trees.

Plan 12 shows this information combined to highlight areas where multiple benefits could potentially be gained from increasing tree cover. In these areas larger-scale tree expansion projects may be possible. All of these areas are within Biodiversity Opportunity Areas. These should be considered priority 'areas of search' for larger-scale projects. However, there will be merit in planting trees, woodlands and hedgerows outside of these areas, and expanding trees in other areas should not be discounted.

Historical research could also reveal areas which were once woodland but which have been cleared. These could also be potential areas to restore woodland.

A: Area to the North of the Blean Woodlands

This area is on the northern side of The Blean woodland between the existing woodland and the towns of Whitstable and Herne Bay, including the Green Gap between the towns. This is an area where there are potentially multiple benefits from tree expansion. The EA also highlights this as an area where, potentially, more tree cover could support the water environment. The woodlands of The Blean could be expanded to form an even larger continuous block of woodland. There are numerous small and fragmented woodlands in this area, including some isolated and small remaining ancient woodlands. Canterbury district green infrastructure strategy³⁵ highlights that the short streams flowing north through Whitstable and Herne Bay may benefit from upstream planting. This is also an area where the landscape is under pressure from urban encroachment and roads and where hedgerows are degraded and of poor

quality. The development planned in this area should seek ways to improve the landscape and expand tree cover.

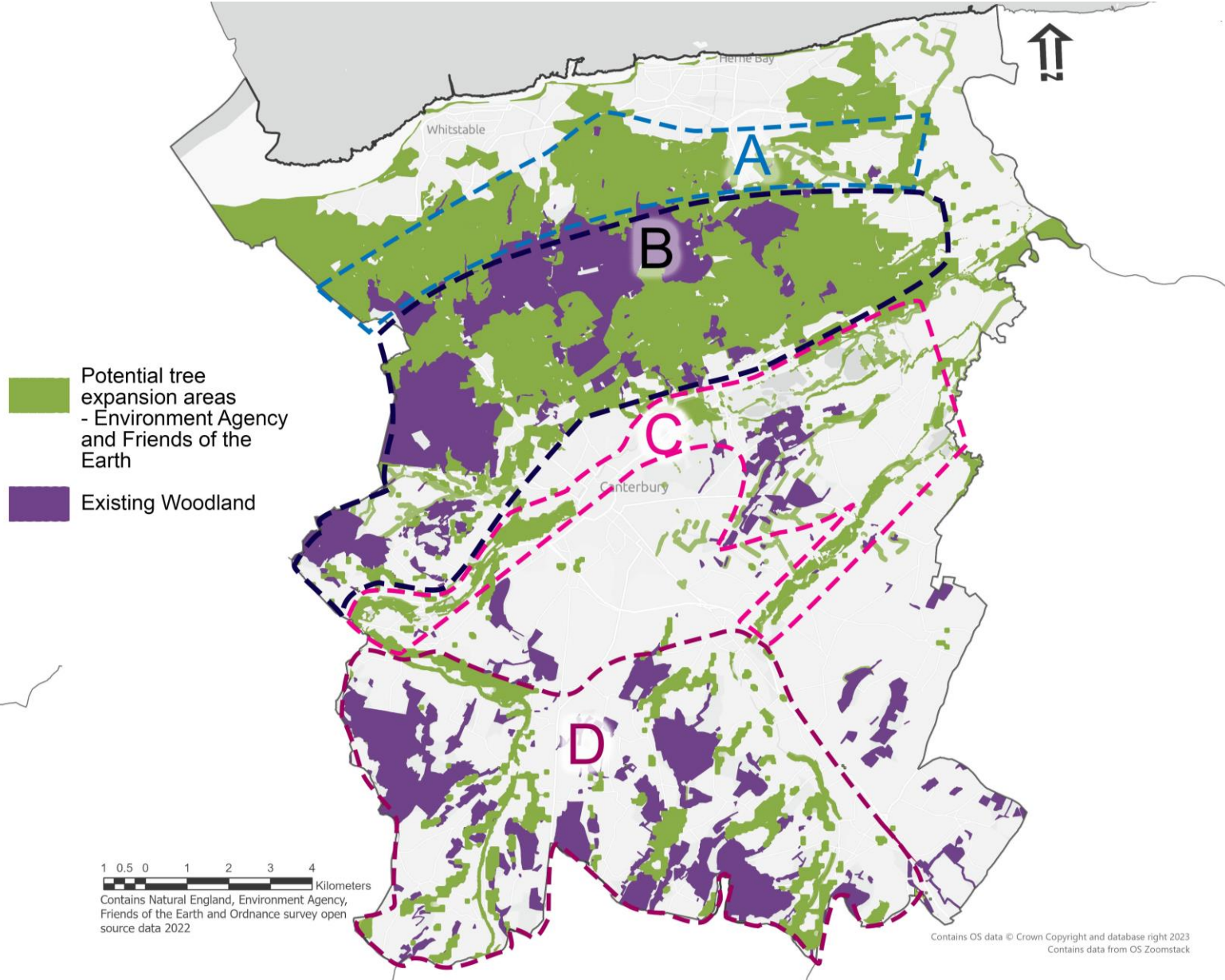
B: Within and South of The Blean Woodlands

This area lies within and to the south of The Blean complex. The area encompasses the areas between the existing woodlands and stretches to the south to the outskirts of Canterbury and south of the A2 around Chartham Hatch. There are opportunities to expand woodlands in this area to create larger and better connected blocks of woodland. There are large extents of ancient woodland, but also some smaller, disconnected woodlands, some of which are ancient. The northern edge of Canterbury extends into this area forming an interface area with the landscape to the north. To the east of this area the hedgerow network is degraded.

C: River Valleys

This opportunity area highlights potential for some expansion of tree cover along the course of the Great Stour River through the City of Canterbury and of the Little Stour / Nailbourne from Bridge, through Patricbourne, Bekesbourne, Littlebourne and Wickhambreaux. The areas near to rivers and streams are highlighted through Environment Agency mapping, potentially for biodiversity and flood risk management. There may be opportunities here for creation of wet woodland, in smaller areas, which is a scarcer habitat targeted in the Kent Biodiversity Strategy. It also includes the block of woodland to the east of the City of Canterbury, where there may be opportunities to connect and expand woodland habitat.

Plan 12: Potential Larger-scale Tree Expansion Areas



1 0.5 0 1 2 3 4
Kilometers
Contains Natural England, Environment Agency,
Friends of the Earth and Ordnance survey open
source data 2022

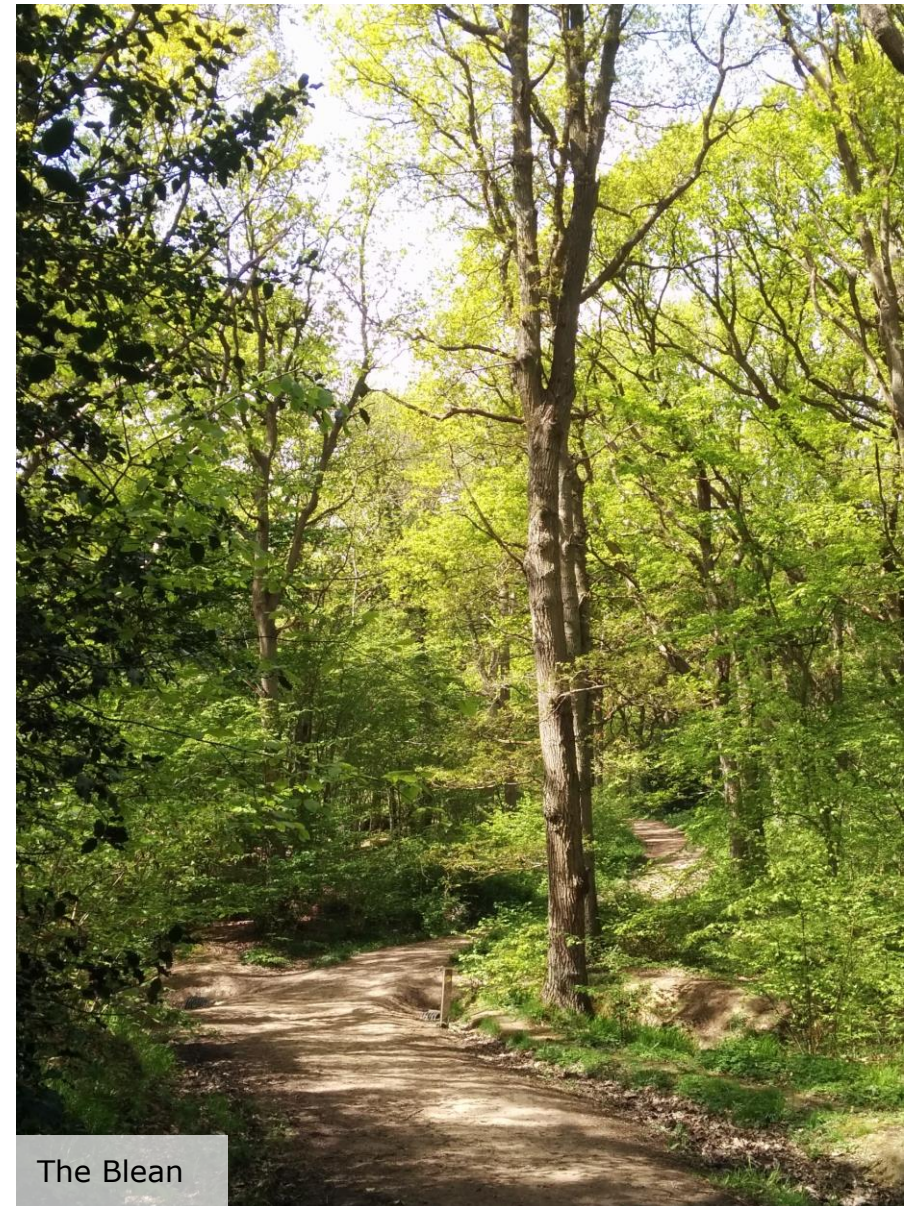
Contains OS data © Crown Copyright and database right 2023
Contains data from OS Zoomstack

D: Kent Downs

This area lies within the Kent Downs National Landscape. There are already extensive blocks of woodland across this area, with possibilities to link and expand these. It is important that any expansion is in keeping with the protected landscape of the National Landscape and does not take place on other important habitats, such as chalk grassland.

The opportunity areas described previously cover a large area of the district and offer the greatest potential for larger-scale tree expansion projects which provide multiple benefits. This does not, however, exclude tree expansion in other areas.

There is potential to increase trees in the urban areas of Whitstable, Herne Bay and the City of Canterbury, along with the many other villages and settlements of the district. Here, opportunities will need to be sought within the urban fabric; within parks, on amenity land, in civic spaces and next to roads. While the quantity of trees may not be as great, the benefits of trees to people, amenity and wildlife will be significant.



The Blean

Planning for More Trees

All projects to expand trees need to be carefully planned. Canterbury City Council will provide more information on how this can be done. When increasing trees it is important to apply 'Right Tree, Right Place, Right Reason' (see page 33).

When not to Expand Tree Cover

There are constraints to where trees can be increased. It is important not to plant or allow trees to expand on other important biodiversity habitats, for example chalk grassland. It is also important to fit with the landscape and the scale and form of existing trees, woodlands and hedgerows. There may be heritage features which also must not be damaged.

Caring for New Trees

It is essential to care for planted trees every year for the first five years. Many newly planted trees fail due to a lack of proper aftercare.

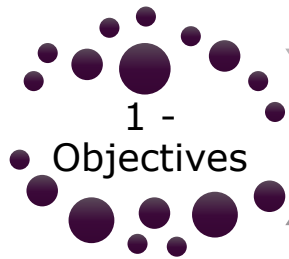
Weed control is needed and can be the cause of the failure of many newly planted trees. Grasses and other fast-growing plants compete with young trees for moisture, nutrients, space and light. It is important to keep an area of about a square metre clear of weeds through weeding or mulching.

Watering may be needed if there is a long dry spell. If larger tree stock has been planted, this is more likely to need watering as the root ball will be smaller compared to the top growth of the tree.

In the first few weeks check that no roots have become exposed. If using protective guards, regularly check these are in place until they are no longer needed, several years after the tree has been planted. If stakes have been used, check these are secure and not rubbing the bark.

Some trees may require pruning in the first few years, to shape the tree, remove damaged branches and to prevent crossed branches from rubbing.

The Tree Council provides useful information on tree care.³⁶



1 - Objectives

- What do you want to achieve?
- Is the scheme to benefit people, wildlife, the economy or all three?
- How large is the planting to be (e.g. if more than 5 hectares an Environmental Impact Assessment or other permissions might be needed)?
- Is the new area going to be accessible to people?



2 - Follow key principles and plan

- Take account of the landscape.
- Work with nature.
- Address climate and flooding.
- Respect the past and heritage.
- Think about people - their opportunities to work, visit and enjoy.
- Look for funding sources.
- Check strategies and information to make sure your project fits with local priorities and is based on sound principles.



3 - Choose and check your site

- Check for potential environmental and heritage sensitivities.
- Make sure your site fits with the landscape, farming and other use of the land.
- Check for any services or other constraints.



4 - Choose the right trees

- Choose the right species which will thrive, add to biodiversity, will be resilient to climate change and fit with the landscape.
- Consider natural regeneration and rewilding as preferable options to tree planting.
- If planting, carefully consider provenance and biosecurity of stock and seeds.
- If using tree protection, consider environmental impact.
- Make sure to include species which support pollinators



5 - Carry out your scheme

- Involve as many people as possible.
- If planting, carry out between November and February.
- Celebrate!



6 - Look after your trees

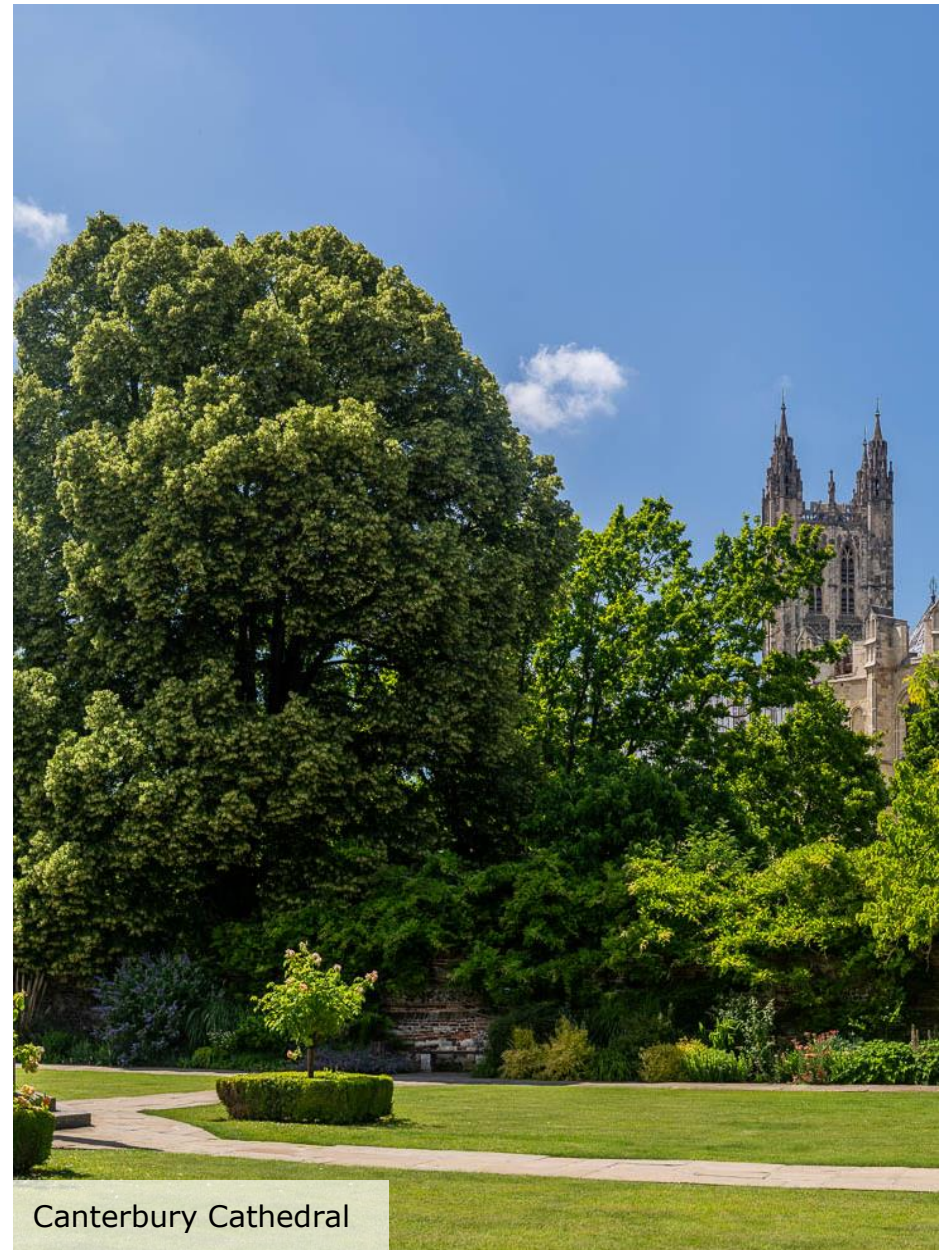
- Monitor your trees regularly and at least once a year for the first five years.
- Make sure trees are kept weed-free in an area 1m square around the base.
- Check guards and stakes.
- Replace any failed trees.
- Water - but only if absolutely necessary.

Response to this Evidence

Expanding trees, woodlands and hedgerows can bring significant benefits to people and the environment. Existing analysis helps to show us the possible areas where tree expansion would bring the greatest range and impact of benefits in the district and where larger-scale woodland planting might be possible. This analysis needs to be further refined, also taking into account the forthcoming Canterbury and Kent Local Nature Recovery Strategies and analysis to be carried out by Kent County Council as part of their tree expansion proposals.

Actions

25. Carry out further work to progress larger-scale woodland expansion projects, identifying potential areas in conjunction with landowners and communities and determining what type, scale and species are appropriate. Refine approach when Local Nature Recovery Strategy and KCC evidence is published. Feed into Ward Action Plans.
26. Canterbury City Council will produce an online guide to designing and implementing tree planting schemes to support anyone wishing to plant more trees.
27. Canterbury City Council will identify potential areas of search for tree expansion and will feed this information into the Local Plan.
28. Canterbury City Council will seek grants to increase tree planting in the district.
29. Canterbury City Council will seek opportunities to increase trees on its own land, for example in parks and other green spaces and will encourage parish councils to do the same.



Canterbury Cathedral

Delivering Principle 3: Capturing More Carbon

Woodlands have the largest carbon sequestration rates of semi-natural habitats. Native broadleaved woodlands are carbon sinks which continue to store carbon over the centuries of their lives. However, the rate of carbon sequestration varies greatly with tree species and age and is strongly influenced by soils and climate. Sequestration rates also decline over time, but old woodlands are substantial and important carbon stores. Soil type and depth also affects the amount of carbon which a woodland will store.

Woodland management is not essential to maintain carbon sequestration. However, if a woodland is used for timber production this can still provide climate change mitigation if wood products store carbon for the long-term or replace more fossil fuel intensive materials and fuels. Management can also have benefits for biodiversity. Non-native species of tree also have carbon sequestration benefits but generally support lower levels of biodiversity.

Hedgerows, orchards and other trees outside woodland can also sequester and store carbon, albeit at lower amounts, as well as providing other benefits.

Different species also store different amounts of carbon and this varies depending on local conditions and soils. The trees which store the most carbon, for example Sycamore or conifers, may not be those which enhance biodiversity and

local landscape character and therefore a balance needs to be struck.

Table 2: Summary of Carbon Storage Values for Woodland Habitats³⁷

Habitat	Soil carbon (t C/ha)	Vegetation Carbon (t C/ha)	Soil and Vegetation Carbon (t C/ha)
100 year old mixed native broadleaved deciduous woodland	55 - 151	203	258 - 354 (depending on soil depth)
30 year old mixed native broadleaved deciduous woodland	55 - 151	114	169 - 255 (depending on soil depth)
Un-managed hedgerow	98.7	45.8	144.5
Traditional orchards	73.75	21.4	95.15

Canterbury City Council’s Climate Change Action Plan³⁸ sets out the ambition for the council to be net zero by 2030. Canterbury City Council includes a broader scope of emissions than in comparable local authority plans and includes all the products that the council buys and sells. The Climate Change Action Plan sets out that the biggest reductions in CO2 emissions are being sought from energy efficiency in buildings and decarbonising vehicles. The Climate Change Action Plan will be updated in 2024.

There is also potential for utilising carbon sequestration from trees, woodlands and hedgerows to help to meet the Council's climate change targets. Canterbury City Council needs to investigate further the potential contribution of tree expansion on its own land.

Taken over the whole district, there is potential for large amounts of carbon to be sequestered. The draft Local Plan includes a policy to support carbon sequestration. Proposals which can provide carbon sequestration, including schemes for tree planting, will generally be supported and will be expected to maximise opportunities for co-benefits such as for biodiversity and public access to open space.

There may also be the potential, through properly accredited routes, to sell units of carbon captured through sequestration, which could provide funding and compensation for landowners to take forward tree expansion projects.³⁹ This may also help businesses to work towards carbon neutrality through providing accredited units. There is potential for businesses within the district to invest in such schemes.

Adapting to Climate Change

Trees also have important roles to play in adapting to climate change. They provide shade and cooling which will become more important as summer temperatures increase. They can also provide nature-based solutions to help alleviate flooding through slowing the flow of water through the catchment.

Response to this Evidence

There is potential for sequestering carbon through woodlands, trees and hedges of all kinds. However, this is a complex area and rates of sequestration vary. It is important for Canterbury City Council and others carrying out tree planting and tree expansion project to understand how much carbon is being sequestered through projects.

Actions

30. Support the development and implementation of carbon sequestration policies and actions relating to both CCC open space assets and with private landowners and managers / farmers.
31. Investigate a range of tools to calculate the potential carbon sequestration of tree expansion and tree planting projects.
32. Ensure data (including Canenco / Contracts) on all tree expansion / planting projects are collated to provide an overall picture and to monitor progress.
33. Work with universities and conservation bodies (Kent Wildlife Trust) to calculate and set targets for deliverable carbon sequestration through woodland expansion in the district.
34. Work with universities and conservation bodies (Kent Wildlife Trust) to investigate tools to value and sell carbon units for tree planting and tree expansion projects in order to fund tree planting / expansion. Promote investment in tree planting by businesses, preferably local, as part of their ambitions towards carbon neutrality.

Delivering Principle 4: Enabling Nature Recovery

Biodiversity is facing unprecedented pressures and the State of Nature in Kent Report 2021,⁴⁰ whilst reporting some success stories, is showing worrying trends. There is insufficient evidence to accurately report on the state of Kent's woodlands, which means the picture of their health is unclear. What is apparent, however, is that some woodland specialist bird species are being affected in Kent, mirroring the national picture, including Willow Tit, Wood Warbler and Redstart. The State of Nature in Kent summarises a range of pressures on woodland:

- Pests and diseases
- Climate change and extremes of weather
- Deer grazing
- Lack of sustainable management
- Wood lotting – selling off large woodlands into smaller plots, which is potentially increasing
- Invasive species
- High recreational uses and anti-social behaviour
- Removal of trees, woodlands and hedgerows

The woodlands of Canterbury district are outstanding for their wildlife value; not just for the district but within Kent and wider South East England. Many woodlands are protected and under the careful stewardship of conservation charities and are a sanctuary for woodland biodiversity. They are a stronghold for woodland butterflies, such as the

Heath Fritillary, which is holding steady in Kent against the trend of a national decline. However, more needs to be done for biodiversity across the whole district.

To restore nature and functioning ecological networks, nature needs to be supported at a large scale across the landscape, through:⁴¹

- Improving the quality of current sites by better habitat management
- Increasing the size of current wildlife sites
- Enhancing connections between, or join up, sites, either through physical corridors or through 'stepping stones'
- Creating new sites
- Reducing the pressures on wildlife by improving the wider environment, including through buffering⁴² wildlife sites

Pollinators

Pollinators are essential to our environment, our food production and our lives. They carry the reproductive pollen grains from flower to flower, enabling fertilisation for seeds, nuts and fruit to be produced. Trees are a valuable source of pollen and can support pollinator species, as well as providing hibernation areas in bark and holes.

The actions to protect and increase trees, woodlands and hedgerows in this strategy have the potential to increase benefits for wildlife and help to restore strong, functioning ecological networks. However, tree expansion and planting needs to be carefully planned, taking into account location,

species, biosecurity and the range of other factors detailed in this strategy. Biodiversity Opportunity Areas, the forthcoming Canterbury and Kent Local Nature Recovery Strategies and the areas highlighted in the section 'Delivering Principle 2: Expanding Trees and Woodland' all provide areas of search for increasing trees. Natural regeneration can often be the best option and should be evaluated in all cases.

The Blean

The Blean woodland is one of South East England's largest and most joined-up areas of woodland. It is of exceptional importance for biodiversity and is highly protected. Land is owned and managed by several conservation charities.

It is home to several woodland specialists. The Heath Fritillary, for example, is one of Britain's most threatened butterfly species, having declined by 73% between 1984 and 2004. The Blean has an important population of the butterfly, containing approximately 60% of all the UK's colonies. Management which creates glades and rides is important, and the butterfly was locally known as 'Woodman's Follower' as it followed the traditional coppice cycle.

Recently, an ambitious and ground-breaking rewilding project has begun in The Blean. Kent Wildlife Trust and Wildwood Trust have now welcomed European Bison to Blean Woods. These powerful ecosystem engineers will help restore an abundance of wildlife to this area.⁴³

Response to this Evidence

The ambitions and actions in this strategy have the potential to help support biodiversity, which is under severe threat. The district is a stronghold for woodland biodiversity in particular and is showcasing new and innovative approaches. The actions in the strategy must be taken as a whole and the range of threats facing trees, woodlands and hedgerows addressed.

Actions

35. Provide information on natural regeneration on the online knowledge hub to for those wishing to develop this as an option for tree expansion, and as the preferred option of Canterbury City Council, where it can be achieved.
36. Restore and increase hedges as corridors to link rural and urban landscapes.
37. Provide information on protected and important natural sites, appropriate species, woodland creation as well as landscape character, as part of online information for those wishing to expand trees, woodlands and hedgerows.

Delivering Principle 5: Involving and Benefitting Everyone

Trees, Woodlands and Hedgerows for Everyone - Everywhere

The aim, through the delivery of this strategy, is for everyone to benefit from more trees and woodland, wherever they live in the district.

The strategy aims for more trees in all areas; rural and urban. Delivering this strategy will also mean everyone across the district playing their part.

How more trees will be achieved will vary across the district. In urban areas, especially where the fabric of the town is very dense, opportunities for tree planting will be more limited. Here, Canterbury City Council can play its part in ensuring the longevity of existing trees and through planting more trees in parks, on amenity land, in civic spaces, around sports facilities and play area.



Canterbury City Council

- Carry out research and provide evidence
- Protect and increase trees through council functions and the Local Plan
- Increase trees and woodland on its own estate
- Lead through demonstrating best practice
- Provide information and support for community action
- Lead the development and implementation of this strategy



Parish Councils

- Tree planting, new woodlands
- Surveying and finding ancient and veteran trees
- Working with landowners
- Developing Ward and Parish Tree Plans
- Supporting Tree Wardens
- Commenting on planning applications



Landowners and land managers

- Providing land for more trees
- Trading carbon credits
- Gaining funding
- Managing existing woodlands sustainably
- Protecting ancient and veteran trees
- Planting pollinator species



Schools

- Trees in school grounds
- Developing Forest Schools and using trees and woodlands for learning
- Seed gathering and growing
- Raising awareness of trees, woodlands and hedgerows



Business

- Sponsoring local tree planting projects
- Planting in business premises
- Staff volunteering
- Buying carbon credits to fund tree planting schemes
- Sourcing sustainable timber and wood products



Individuals and Communities

- Volunteer for tree planting
- Existing community groups develop tree planting projects
- Learn more about trees, woodlands and hedgerows
- Become a Tree Warden
- Help to draw up tree planting plans for your area
- Make sustainable purchasing choices
- Set up community groups

Everyone Can Get Involved

- Communities can work together to develop local tree planting and expansion schemes, which also aim to increase biodiversity, pollinator species and access to nature
- Set up a local tree action group
- Landowners – large and small, public and private – put forward land for tree expansion
- Individuals can plant trees in their gardens
- Carry out a parish hedgerow survey and develop a restoration plan
- Businesses can enhance their premises through planting trees, enable their staff to volunteer for tree planting projects or sponsor local schemes
- As an individual - become a Tree Warden and learn about trees, care for them and lead local tree projects
- As a parish, support and increase Tree Wardens
- Seek out veteran and ancient trees and log them onto the Ancient Tree Inventory⁴⁴
- Make tree-friendly purchasing choices – choosing sustainable and accredited sources
- Schools can plant trees, teach about trees and learn through Forest Schools
- Learn more about trees, woodlands and hedgerows, what is special about your area and the wildlife they can support

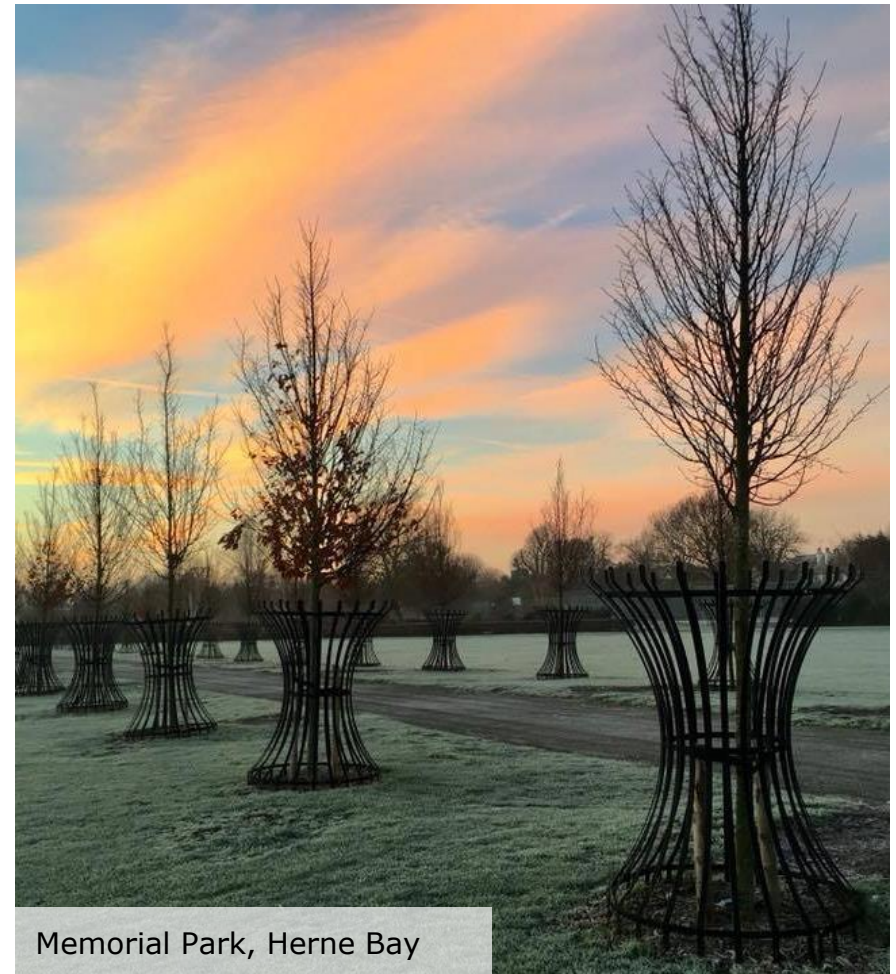
Response to this Evidence

This strategy envisages healthy, and more, trees everywhere in the district. In rural and urban areas, trees, woodlands and hedgerows will benefit everyone. Delivering this strategy will require action from many people and organisations. Canterbury City Council can take the lead and provide information, assistance and the overall direction, but implementation will need actions by many.

Actions

38. Increase knowledge and awareness of trees amongst children and support their active involvement in this strategy. Encourage Forest Schools. Carry out community-based projects with children, including tree planting.
39. Encourage participation and update on schemes through which businesses can buy carbon credits to fund tree planting schemes.
40. Create an online knowledge hub, to be expanded over time, providing a breadth and depth of information, and signposting to other sources of information, around tree and woodland care and management, ancient trees, TPOs, tree planting, species, climate change and sequestration, funding sources, education and other topics as appropriate.
41. Assess tree planting opportunities on all Canterbury City Council landing including play areas, parks, pitches and amenity green spaces.
42. Develop Ward Actions Plans in partnership with local people, communities and parish councils.

43. Raise awareness and 'buy-in' to this strategy across all sectors of the community and business.
44. Continue to strengthen the evidence base behind this strategy, revise and review.
45. Celebrate National Tree Week as a focus for community action and to bring people together in delivering this strategy.
46. Seek funding sources to take forward this strategy on an ambitious scale.
47. Encourage the expansion and support of Tree Wardens across the district.
48. Bring together stakeholders, woodland owners and managers, statutory organisations and communities to share information, foster joint working and develop projects.



Memorial Park, Herne Bay



Thornden Wood, The Blean

Part 4 – Action Plan

Funding Sources

There are various funding sources available for tree and woodland expansion. Some of these are very small, from small numbers of free trees to others which could help to fund larger-scale tree planting.

The availability of these funds will differ at any given time and are often subject to change. Some sources are shown below.

- Tree Council
- Woodland Trust
- Environmental Land Management Schemes, Woodland Creation Grants, Farming in Protected Landscapes
- Local Authority Treescapes Fund
- Urban Tree Challenge
- Developer contributions
- Biodiversity Net Gain
- Lottery sources
- Range of charities and grant-giving sources
- National flood risk funding and Natural Flood Management Schemes

It may be possible for Canterbury City Council itself, along with partners, to secure a larger tranche of funding for more ambitious projects. It may also be possible to utilise money

from development, including through s106 and Biodiversity Net Gain, which will be explored further by the council.

Response to this Evidence

There are a range of funding sources, which are subject to change and can be specific in the sorts of projects that they will fund. Canterbury City Council will seek to secure funding to deliver this strategy. It will signpost others to seeking funding for their projects. It will work with partners to secure funding and to progress more ambitious projects.

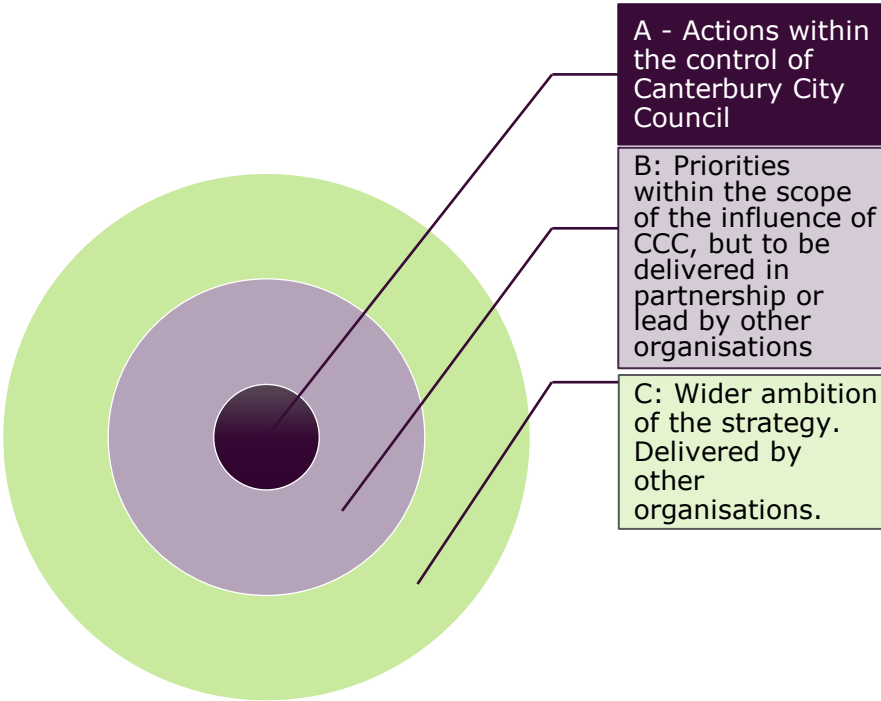
Actions

49. Provide information on the knowledge hub of up-to-date sources of funding.
50. Seek to secure funding through development.
51. Investigate larger-scale funding for ambitious tree planting, working with partners such as KCC, Kent Wildlife Trust, RSPB and others.
52. Investigate novel and emerging funding streams, for example through trading carbon.

Delivery

The actions listed in this strategy will need to be delivered by a range of stakeholders. These are set out as shown in the diagram below.

The actions in this strategy are high level. An implementation plan detailing specific projects will be produced every few years. Canterbury City Council will monitor and report on progress against the implementation plan and the strategy annually. The council will review and update this strategy every five years.



Actions

Action	£	Timescale -term	Delivery
Part 2 – About Canterbury District’s Trees, Woodlands and Hedgerows			
1. To increase canopy cover in all wards from the 2020 assessment baseline.	£££	Long	B
2. To carry out further assessments in the 14 wards which fall below the Canterbury and Kent averages to determine what increase in canopy could be achievable, given constraints of urban areas, land use and other factors. Ward Action Plans will be produced with the help of stakeholders and communities to identify priorities and targets for each ward area and will identify areas for expanding trees.	££	Short	A
3. Ensure that all trees on council-owned land are included in a tree management system.	££	Short	A
4. Carry out further high level analysis of the profile of species and age of the trees to enable long-term management and health of tree stock owned by the council.	£	Short	A
5. At minimum, replace every tree which needs to be felled. This may not be possible in the same location, but the council will seek to replace the tree as close as possible to the felled tree.	££	Medium	B
6. Monitor and annually publish information on tree removal, tree works and the reasons for these actions, and tree planting and replacement.	£	Short	A
7. Ensure that woodlands in the ownership of the council have an up to date management plan, which is being implemented, to secure the wildlife value, health and longevity of the woodland.	££	Medium	A
8. Work with KCC to develop a tree replacement policy to ensure that street and highway trees are replaced, as close to the removed tree as possible, and at least one tree planted for every tree removed. This is to include trees which are not under a TPO or within a Conservation Area, as these are currently not routinely replaced.	£	Short	C

Action	£	Timescale -term	Delivery
9. Work with KCC to include annual reporting of tree stock, species and age class, works carried out, removal and planting of street trees in the annual report produced by Canterbury City Council (see action 6).	£	Medium	C
10. Work with KCC and developers to deliver more street trees in development, as set out in the NPPF.	££	Medium	A
11. Work towards protecting all ancient, veteran and notable trees through Tree Preservation Orders, with support from Tree Wardens and parish councils.	££	Medium	B
12. Work with Tree Wardens, parish councils and other interested and viable groups ⁴⁵ to survey local areas to record ancient, veteran and notable trees.	£	Medium	C
13. Prioritise protection of woodland and seek no net loss of this habitat.	£	Medium	C
14. Expand woodland cover across the district. Prioritise areas based on benefits to existing habitats, connecting and expanding small and fragmented woodlands and delivering multiple benefits (e.g. access or improvement to water environment). Highlight potential areas through Ward Action Plans.	£££	Long	B
15. Support appropriate management of woodland to benefit biodiversity and improve resilience. Lead by example for woodlands owned by Canterbury City Council (for example Larkey Valley Woods).	££	Medium	B
16. Encourage and expand access to woodland across the district. Identify areas where access to woodland can be improved in the Ward Action Plans.	£	Medium	C
17. Encourage the conversion of conifer plantation to broadleaved woodland on Planted Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS) to decrease the figure to being less than 20%, in line with Forestry Commission targets.	££	Long	C
18. Ensure tree expansion is in keeping with, enhances and restores landscape character. Large-scale expansion should be in areas where this is in keeping with the landscape, for example in The Blean and Kent Downs National Landscape.	££	Long	C

Action	£	Timescale -term	Delivery
19. Increase hedgerows across the district, and particularly where these are degraded, for example in the Whitstable and Herne Bay landscapes and the south and east of the City of Canterbury. Work with parishes, tree wardens, Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership and landowners.	££	Long	C
Principle 1: Protecting Existing Trees and Woodland			
20. Ensure that Canterbury City Council exercises its powers in regard to making Tree Preservation Orders and acting on breaches against TPOs.	££	Short	A
21. Canterbury City Council will provide information to the public on the sensitive management of trees in order to prolong their life, on the online knowledge hub.	£	Short	A
22. Canterbury City Council will draw up an Ash dieback plan for CCC owned trees and woodlands.	££	Medium	A
23. Canterbury City Council will help local communities assess the potential impact and appropriate actions in regard to Ash dieback through the provision of information on the online knowledge hub.	£	Medium	B
24. Increase awareness of the need for biosecurity measures when sourcing tree stock for planting and the choice of appropriate species to support longevity in a changing climate.	£	Short	A
Principle 2: Expanding Trees, Woodlands and Hedgerows			
25. Carry out further work to progress larger-scale woodland expansion projects, identifying potential areas in conjunction with landowners and communities and determining what type, scale and species are appropriate. Refine approach when Local Nature Recovery Strategy and KCC evidence is published. Feed into Ward Action Plans.	££	Medium	B
26. Canterbury City Council will produce an online guide to designing and implementing tree planting schemes to support anyone wishing to plant more trees.	£	Short	A
27. Canterbury City Council will identify potential areas of search for tree expansion and will feed this information into the Local Plan.			

Action	£	Timescale -term	Delivery
28. Canterbury City Council will seek grants to increase tree planting in the district.	£	Short	A
29. Canterbury City Council will seek opportunities to increase trees on its own land, for example in parks and other green spaces and will encourage parish councils to do the same.	££	Medium	A
Principle 3: Capturing More Carbon			
30. Support the development and implementation of carbon sequestration policies and actions relating to both CCC open space assets and with private landowners and managers / farmers.	£	Short	A
31. Investigate a range of tools to calculate the potential carbon sequestration of tree expansion and tree planting projects.	£	Medium	B
32. Ensure data (including Canenco / Contracts) on all tree expansion / planting projects are collated to provide an overall picture and to monitor progress.	£	Medium	A
33. Work with universities and conservation bodies (Kent Wildlife Trust) to calculate and set targets for deliverable carbon sequestration through woodland expansion in the district.	£	Short	A
34. Work with universities and conservation bodies (Kent Wildlife Trust) to investigate tools to value and sell carbon units for tree planting and tree expansion projects in order to fund tree planting / expansion. Promote investment in tree planting by businesses, preferably local, as part of their ambitions towards carbon neutrality.	£	Short	A
Principle 4: Enabling Nature Recovery			
35. Provide information on natural regeneration on the online knowledge hub to for those wishing to develop this as an option for tree expansion, and as the preferred option of Canterbury City Council, where it can be achieved.	£	Short	A
36. Restore and increase hedges as corridors to link rural and urban landscapes.	££	Long	C

Action	£	Timescale -term	Delivery
37. Provide information on protected and important natural sites, appropriate species, woodland creation as well as landscape character, as part of online information for those wishing to expand trees and woodlands.	£	Short	A
Principle 5: Involving and Benefitting Everyone			
38. Increase knowledge and awareness of trees amongst children and support their active involvement in this strategy. Encourage Forest Schools. Carry out community based projects with children, including tree planting.	££	Medium	B
39. Encourage participation and update on schemes through which businesses can buy carbon credits to fund tree planting schemes.	£	Medium	B
40. Create an online knowledge hub, to be expanded over time, providing a breadth and depth of information, and signposting to other sources of information, around tree and woodland care and management, ancient trees, TPOs, tree planting, species, climate change and sequestration, funding sources, education and other topics as appropriate.	£	Short	A
41. Assess tree planting opportunities on all Canterbury City Council landing including play areas, parks, pitches and amenity green spaces.	££	Short	A
42. Develop Ward Action Plans in partnership with local people, communities and parish councils.	££	Medium	B
43. Raise awareness and 'buy-in' to this strategy across all sectors of the community and business.	£	Short	A
44. Continue to strengthen the evidence base behind this strategy, revise and review.	£	Short	A
45. Celebrate National Tree Week as a focus for community action and to bring people together in delivering this strategy.	£	Short	A
46. Seek funding sources to take forward this strategy on an ambitious scale.	£	Short	B
47. Encourage the expansion and support of Tree Wardens across the district.			

Action	£	Timescale -term	Delivery
48. Bring together stakeholders, woodland owners and managers, statutory organisations and communities to share information, foster joint working and develop projects.	£	Short	A
Delivery - Funding			
49. Provide information on the knowledge hub of up-to-date sources of funding.			
50. Seek to secure funding through development.	£	Medium	B
51. Investigate larger-scale funding for ambitious tree planting, working with partners such as KCC, Kent Wildlife Trust, RSPB and others.	£	Medium	B
52. Investigate novel and emerging funding streams, for example through trading carbon.	£	Medium	B

Bibliography

ARCH / Kent County Council. (2012). *Kent Habitat Survey*.

Canterbury City Council. (2017). *Canterbury District Local Plan*.

Canterbury City Council. (2020). *Climate Change Action Plan*.

Edwards J, Knight M, Taylor S and Crosher I. E. (May 2020). *Habitat Networks Maps, User Guidance v.2*. Natural England.

Forestry Commission. (2012). *Kent Downs Forest Design Plan 2012 – 2042*.

Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. (2019). *Kent Downs AONB Landscape Character Assessment Update*.

Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. (2021). *The Kent Downs AONB Management Plan 2021 – 2026*.

Kent County Council. (2020). *Canopy Cover Assessment – Kent Districts*. Kent Environment Strategy.

Kent County Council. (2022). (Consultation Draft). *Kent County Council's Tree Establishment Strategy 2022-2032*.

Kent Downs AONB. (2022) (unpublished). Kent Downs AONB Landscape Character Assessment Update.

Kent Nature Partnership. (2020). *Kent Nature Partnership Biodiversity Strategy 2020 to 2045*.

Land Use Consultants. (2020). *Canterbury Landscape Character Assessment and Biodiversity Appraisal*. Canterbury City Council.

Lawton, J.H., et al (2010) *Making Space for Nature: a review of England's Wildlife Sites and Ecological Network*. Report to Defra.

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. (2021). *National Planning Policy Framework*.

Natural England. (2021). *Carbon storage and sequestration by habitat: a review of the evidence (second edition)*. NERR094.

Sansum. P. (2012). *A Revision of the Ancient Woodland Inventory for Canterbury District, Kent*. Canterbury City Council, High Weald AONB, Kent Downs AONB, Forestry Commission and Natural England.

Tree Council. (2019). *Ash Dieback: An Action Plan Toolkit*.

Woodland Trust. (2017). *Space for Nature*.

Endnotes

¹ Canterbury City Council. (2017). *Canterbury District Local Plan*.

² Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. (2021). *National Planning Policy Framework*. para 180 c.

³ *Ibid*, Unless, in specific cases, there are clear, justifiable and compelling reasons why this would be inappropriate, para 131.

⁴ Kent County Council. (2020). *Canopy Cover Assessment – Kent Districts*.

⁵ <https://www.canterbury.gov.uk/downloads/strategies-and-policies/development-plans/tree-management-policy/>

⁶ In 2018/19, 123 trees had to be felled; in 2019/20, 143 trees had to be felled; in 2020/21 87 trees had to be felled.

⁷ 7 September 2022.

⁸ See the Woodland Trust website <https://ati.woodlandtrust.org.uk/> for more information and to search for trees.

⁹ E.g. Ancient Tree Forum <https://www.ancienttreeforum.org.uk/who-we-are/local-uk-groups/atf-kent/> or Kent Men of the Trees <http://kentmenofthetrees.co.uk/>

¹⁰ <https://treecouncil.org.uk/tree-wardens/><https://treecouncil.org.uk/tree-wardens/>

¹¹ Kent County Council. (2012). *Kent Habitat Survey – Section 5: Results and Habitat Distribution by Districts*.

¹² In the 25 Year Environment Plan the government announced an aspiration to increase the woodland coverage of England to 12% by 2060.

¹³ There are various sets of data which map woodland all use slightly different criteria of what to include as woodland. Some woodlands are included in all of the datasets and others only in

one or two. Some only include woodland greater than a certain size.

¹⁴ Forestry Commission. The National Forest Inventory (NFI) woodland map covers all forest and woodland area over 0.5 hectare with a minimum of 20% canopy cover, or the potential to achieve it, and a minimum width of 20 metres. 2019 data used. <https://www.forestryresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/national-forest-inventory/about-the-nfi/>

¹⁵ The Priority Habitat Inventory (England) is a spatial dataset that describes the geographic extent and location of Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006) Section 41 habitats of principal importance. 2021 data used.

¹⁶ Natural England. Defined for the purposes of Natural England data as: 'Ancient woodland in England is defined as an area that has been wooded continuously since at least 1600 AD. Ancient woodland is divided into ancient semi-natural woodland and plantations on ancient woodland sites. Both types of stand are classed as ancient woods.' Generally ancient woodlands below 2 hectares are not recorded, but in Canterbury District a review of ancient woodland in the district found and mapped smaller sites (Sansum. P. (2012). *A Revision of the Ancient Woodland Inventory for Canterbury District, Kent*. Canterbury City Council, High Weald AONB, Kent Downs AONB, Forestry Commission and Natural England).

¹⁷ Sansum. P. (2012). *A Revision of the Ancient Woodland Inventory for Canterbury District, Kent*. Canterbury City Council, High Weald AONB, Kent Downs AONB, Forestry Commission and Natural England

¹⁸ Forestry Commission. (2012). *Kent Downs Forest Design Plan 2012 – 2042*.

¹⁹ Woodland Trust. (2017). *Space for Nature*.

20

<https://www.canterbury.co.uk/homepage/5/result?resultID=466&indexID=9>

²¹ Forestry Commission. (2012). *Kent Downs Forest Design Plan 2012 – 2042*.

²² Land Use Consultants. (2020). *Canterbury Landscape Character Assessment and Biodiversity Appraisal*. Canterbury City Council.

²³ Kent Downs AONB. (2022) (unpublished). *Kent Downs AONB Landscape Character Assessment Update*.

²⁴ Town and Country Planning Act 1990, Section 198.

25

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/876642/Tree Felling - Getting Permission - web version.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/876642/Tree_Felling_-_Getting_Permission_-_web_version.pdf)

²⁶ Kent County Council (2019), *Climate Change Risk and Impact Assessment for Kent and Medway, Part 1*.

²⁷ Forestry Commission, 2019
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/urban-tree-challenge-fund>.

²⁸ More information on the pests and diseases that are currently a potential threat to UK trees and how to report them can be found at <https://www.observatree.org.uk/tree-health/pests-and-diseases/>

²⁹ *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*, formerly known as *Chalara fraxinea*. Defra. (2013). *Chalara Management Plan*.
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/221051/pb13936-chalara-management-plan-201303.pdf

³⁰ Tree Council. (2019). *Ash Dieback: An Action Plan Toolkit*.
<https://treecouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Tree-Council-Ash-Dieback-Toolkit-2.0-2.pdf>

³¹ For example BS 8545 Trees: From Nursery to Independence in the Landscape.

³² <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/about-us/what-we-do/we-plant-trees/uk-sourced-and-grown-scheme/>

³³ <https://takeclimateaction.uk/woodland-opportunity-mapping-england>

³⁴ <https://takeclimateaction.uk/near-you/local-authority/canterbury?postcode=ct12au#nature>

³⁵ Canterbury City Council. (2018). *Canterbury District Green Infrastructure Strategy*.

³⁶ https://treecouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/TCHandbook_5_Care.pdf

³⁷ Natural England. (2021). *Carbon storage and sequestration by habitat: a review of the evidence (second edition)*. NERR094.

³⁸ Canterbury City Council. (2020). *Climate Change Action Plan*.

³⁹ For example through <https://www.woodlandcarboncode.org.uk/>

⁴⁰ Kent Nature Partnership. (2022). *State of Nature in Kent 2021*.

⁴¹ Lawton, J.H., *et al* (2010) *Making Space for Nature: a review of England's Wildlife Sites and Ecological Network*. Report to Defra. Natural England provides more detail on developing 'Nature Networks'. Natural England. (2020). *Nature Networks: Evidence Handbook*. NERR081; *Nature Networks: A Summary for Practitioners*. NERR082.

⁴² Sensitive management around sites to help protect them and increase biodiversity.

⁴³ <https://www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk/wilderblean>

⁴⁴ <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/visiting-woods/things-to-do/ancient-tree-inventory/>

⁴⁵ E.g. Ancient Tree Forum
<https://www.ancienttreeforum.org.uk/who-we-are/local-uk-groups/atf-kent/> or Kent Men of the Trees
<http://kentmenofthetrees.co.uk/>