



A Tree and Woodland Strategy for Derbyshire

**Phase 1
2023/24 to 2026/27**



Facilitating the planting of up to 1 million trees across Derbyshire by 2030

21 September 2023

CONTROLLED

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Foreword

Derbyshire County Council is committed to enabling nature recovery and tackling the causes and impacts of climate change. This is a long-term endeavour that is very much founded in the Council's net zero and nature positive organisational values, its partnership working ethos, and priority to stimulate commercial enterprise.

Our Tree and Woodland Strategy initially focuses on the three-year period of 2023/24 to 2025/26. During this time the Council is keen to accelerate appropriate action to improve the quantity and quality of, and public accessibility to, Derbyshire's varied treescapes. The Strategy will be reviewed and updated accordingly.

We have prepared this Strategy at a time of unprecedented global, national, regional, and local recognition of the necessity to protect the natural environment. This is due to a growing appreciation of the wide-ranging benefits that a nature connected society can secure, not least in the essential drive to net zero. Hence, the Strategy's actions are designed to benefit society and local wildlife now, whilst ensuring the famous attributes of Derbyshire's diverse and beautiful natural heritage is enhanced for the generations to come.

This will require a significant collective effort. Hence, the Strategy represents a route map for the people of Derbyshire to apply their enthusiasm, enterprise, and civic pride to delivering the Council's call to action to plant a million trees across the county by 2030.

In so doing the Council wishes to partner with the public, community groups, landowners, businesses, our local authority peers, and civil society organisations. We will apply best evidence to the design, planting, and aftercare of new tree planting and woodland creation; ensuring the right tree is planted in the right place and they are intrinsic to our public infrastructure. Furthermore, we will encourage the implementation of best practice management plans to the county's existing treescapes and ensure the Council leads by example in this regard.

We appreciate that new resources will need to be applied. Hence, we will seek innovation in combining public, private and community sector vigour, experience, landholdings, and funding to identify solutions that demonstrate a viable return on investment from the high value ecosystem benefits of woodlands and trees.

I am confident that the strategic intent set-out in this document can be translated into collaborative action from all sections of our society. Together we can protect, grow, and sustain our natural heritage for the enjoyment of everyone today and for the appreciation of our descendants.

Councillor Carolyn Renwick
Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and Environment
Derbyshire County Council

21 September 2023

References

The preparation of this Tree and Woodland Strategy has been informed by relevant policy, plans, research and good practice set by the public sector, businesses and civil society organisations. Hence, it is important to acknowledge that the following documents have been used as valuable sources of reference.

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[Trees map | Friends of the Earth](#)
- Trees and Woodland Strategy Toolkit 2022 (Defra, Forestry Commission, the Tree Council)
[Tree-Council-Trees-and-Woodland-Strategy-Toolkit-2022.pdf \(treecouncil.org.uk\)](#)
- Tree Planting and Resilience Strategy 2020 (Norfolk County Council)
[Tree Planting and Resilience Strategy \(norfolk.gov.uk\)](#)
- Tree, Hedgerow and Woodland Strategy 2020 – 2030 (Wirral Borough Council)
[Wirral Tree Strategy, May 2020 appendix 1](#)
- Tree Planting Guidance Pack 2022 (NHS Forest)
[Tree-Planting-Guidance-Pack.pdf](#)

1. Executive Summary

1.1 Trees, hedgerows, woodlands and forests are vital parts of Derbyshire's diverse and special rural landscapes and urban streetscenes. They characterise the rich heritage of the county, offer a wide range of wellbeing and prosperity benefits to society, and offer substantial long-term solutions to the combined global challenges of climate change and the decline in wildlife.

1.2 Derbyshire County Council (the Council) has assessed the value that such treescape habitats provide across Derbyshire and understands the current and future threats to their sustainability. Acting at pace and scale to ensure that Derbyshire realises the benefits of suitable investment in nature recovery is a primary policy of the Council. It is also a priority that reflects the Thriving Plants and Wildlife apex goal of the Government's Environmental Improvement Plan 2023. Trees and woodlands are integral to this agenda.

1.3 Such evidence, strategic policy and legislation has defined this Tree and Woodland Strategy's vision to:

Create a network of thriving woodlands and trees that complement Derbyshire's landscapes and contribute to the county's success as a nature positive and net zero place to live, work and visit

1.4 This Strategy provides the framework and action plan by which this vision will be secured.

1.5 The Strategy has been designed to:

- Direct the effective management and enhancement of existing trees and woodlands in Derbyshire to ensure their current value is maximised and liabilities mitigated
- Facilitate the planting of up to 1 million trees across the county by 2030 and thereby stimulate near-term action at scale to secure the benefit of trees for Derbyshire for the long-term
- Contribute to the preparation and delivery of the Derbyshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy
- Encourage an improved relationship between people and nature that benefits society's wellbeing and enhances wildlife

1.6 The Strategy sets out how these outcomes will be delivered by:

- Ensuring strategic alignment with relevant other Council strategies, policies and guidance
- Providing a strategic framework for enhancing trees and woodlands that robustly demonstrates to the Government how national objectives for nature recovery will be delivered in Derbyshire
- Establishing an action plan to accelerate the delivery of the strategic framework over the three-year period of 2023-24 to 2025-26

- Instigating new collaborative activity within the Council and with its partners that brings greater intelligence, resources, and efficiencies in the effective management of woodlands and new tree planting at scale and pace
- Identifying the most appropriate species of new trees for planting and strategically identifying where new trees should be planted in Derbyshire's landscapes
- Identify areas of land that can be planted and maintained to Woodland Carbon Code standards so that the carbon sequestered in woodlands can be counted for carbon offsetting. (Sites need to be registered with the Woodland Carbon Code before planting begins.)
- Empowering Derbyshire's communities, businesses, and land-owners to take collective tree planting action through promotion, education and guidance, funding, and the consistent application of planting and aftercare standards
- Offering a prospectus for investment in Derbyshire's Green Infrastructure (green and blue natural spaces) to the public and private sector, and the voluntary, community, faith, and social enterprise sector (including for carbon sequestration)

1.5 An overview of the Strategy's content and structure is provided in Table 1 below.

Table 1: An overview of the Tree and Woodland Strategy

Vision	
<i>To create a network of thriving woodlands and trees that complement Derbyshire's landscapes and contribute to the county's success as a nature positive and net zero place to live, work and visit</i>	
Strategic objectives, by 2050	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trees and woodlands across Derbyshire are making their greatest contribution to protecting society from the impacts of climate change; through carbon sequestration, flood prevention, cooling and shading and nature conservation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woodlands are sustaining and connecting wildlife-rich habitats that are valued by the county's residents, businesses, and visitors; for the social, economic, and environmental benefits that nature provides
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A collaborative and evidence-based approach will have increased the quantity, quality, and diversity of Derbyshire's treescape; that is effectively maintained and adapted to ensure its maturity and replenishment against the challenges of a changing climate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council and its partners have demonstrated their commitment and credentials for delivering sustainable tree and woodland stewardship; and have secured fitting levels of Government and investor funding to enable the delivery of this Strategy
Targets	
Facilitate the planting of up to 300,000 trees across Derbyshire by March 2025	Facilitate the planting of up to 1 million trees across Derbyshire by 2030
<p>In accordance with Government national targets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Increase tree canopy cover by 14% across the total land area of Derbyshire by 2050 when compared to 2020 ○ Halt the decline in species abundance associated with woodlands and hedgerows by 2030, and then increase such abundance by at least 10% to exceed 2022 levels by 2042 	
<p>Five delivery themes and an action plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Championing and realising the benefits of trees B. Managing trees for safety and a changing climate C. Directing the transformational growth, renewal, and protection of woodland D. Financing tree planting and woodland creation E. Nature connected tree and woodlands partnerships 	<p style="text-align: center;">Review and refresh</p> <p>The strategy will be reviewed in 2025/26 and refreshed for the three-year period 2026/27 to 2029/30</p>

2. Introduction

- 2.1 The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) published its Synthesis Report for the Sixth Assessment Report on 19 March 2023. Based on eight years of work by the world's leading climate scientists, the report acts as a "final warning" on the climate crisis, as rising greenhouse gas emissions push the world to the brink of irrevocable damage that only swift and drastic action can avert. The IPCC is calling on every country and every sector and, on every timeframe, to massively fast-track climate efforts.
- 2.2 The United Nations Biodiversity Conference (COP 15) held in December 2022 adopted the "Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework" (GBF) through which international action will be taken to address the dangerous loss of biodiversity and the need to restore natural ecosystems. COP15 identified that because of human activity the world is experiencing the largest loss of life since the dinosaurs became extinct 66 million years ago; with one million plant and animal species now threatened with extinction, many within decades.
- 2.3 The GBF reflects the importance of nature to limiting global warming to 1.5°C and to securing an equitable distribution of social and economic prosperity across the world. It has established global targets to be achieved by 2030 to halt the decline in biodiversity, these include:
- Ensuring the effective conservation and management of at least 30% of the world's lands, inland waters, coastal areas and oceans, with emphasis on areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem functioning and services
 - Having restoration completed or underway on at least 30% of degraded terrestrial, inland waters, and coastal and marine ecosystems
 - Reducing to near zero the loss of areas of high biodiversity importance, including ecosystems of high ecological integrity
- 2.4 The message from the IPCC, and the GBF for an international impetus to protect and enhance biodiversity, is very relevant to Derbyshire.
- 2.5 Derbyshire County Council (the Council) as the Responsible Authority for preparing and delivering a Local Nature Recovery Strategy for the county from 2023-24 has statutory, collaborative leadership, and practical nature conservation roles in contributing to delivering the GBF. Furthermore, through the Council's Climate Change Strategy: Achieving Net Zero it has a clear obligation to enable Derbyshire to adapt to, and mitigate, the impacts of climate change for the long-term. Hence, this Tree and Woodland Strategy has been prepared to ensure that Derbyshire's trees and woodlands are at the forefront of the Council activity to facilitate the regeneration and sustainable use of the county's natural capital of habitats, landscapes, and air.
- 2.6 The Council's objective is for Derbyshire to champion a network of well-planned, well-managed, and well-utilised trees, hedgerows, woodlands and forests; the county's treescape.
- 2.7 This Tree and Woodland Strategy is part of a range of measures that the Council is progressing to meet its policy commitments and legislative obligations that support the

delivery of the Thriving Plants and Wildlife objective of the Government's Environmental Improvement Plan 2023 (EIP 2023), the national route map to meet the 2030 Global Biodiversity Framework targets. An important part of the Environmental Improvement Plan 2023 requires a locally led transformation in the way in which trees and woodlands are protected, restored, and enhanced; with accelerated action over the next three-years. To achieve this a collaborative and co-ordinated approach is necessary that drives improvement in an evidence based, value for money, and sustainable manner; so that the benefits of this near-term action increase in value over the next 100 years or more. Hence, this Tree and Woodland Strategy sets plans against these long-term time horizons for woodland creation, management, and use. It will dovetail with the forthcoming Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Derbyshire, another important delivery action of the EIP 2023.

- 2.8 The Council's Natural Capital Strategy for Derbyshire (February 2023) is a further important reference point for the Strategy as it provides a comprehensive understanding of the current condition of Derbyshire's natural environment; the type and value of the ecosystem services it provides, and where opportunities exist for improvement. Natural capital is the stock of renewable and non-renewable natural resources (e.g. plants, animals, air, water, soils, minerals) that combine to yield a wide range of benefits (ecosystem services) to people.
- 2.9 The Natural Capital Strategy's findings are of great relevance to ensuring a robust landscape-scale approach is applied to tree and woodland protection and enhancement in Derbyshire. It considers in detail the diverse network of Derbyshire's woodland, heathland, wetland, and grassland habitats. It identifies how trees and woodlands make a huge contribution to enhancing biodiversity, mitigating the impacts of climate change, improving public health, providing jobs, supplying markets, sequestering carbon, and in celebrating cultural heritage. However, the effects of climate change, increasing population pressure, and a decline in biodiversity are negatively impacting on the resilience of these woodland habitats and restricting their ability to provide many of the ecosystem services that much of society takes for granted and will increasingly need.
- 2.10 This Tree and Woodland Strategy reflects these opportunities and challenges. It provides a blueprint for Council action to achieve a step-change in the quantity, quality and diversity of trees and woodlands in Derbyshire. The Strategy sets long-term objectives in this regard, whilst ensuring focused near-term action over the three years of 2023/24, 2024/25, and 2025/26 to build momentum to facilitate the planting of a million trees in Derbyshire by 2030.

3. Drivers for Change

3.1 The Council's policy to facilitate the planting of up to 1 million trees across Derbyshire by 2030 is set to stimulate near-term priority action to promote and secure the value of trees for Derbyshire over the long-term. Importantly the policy reflects the Council's recognition of the necessity for effective intervention at scale and pace to address the interlinked challenges of climate change and a decline in biodiversity across the UK. In so doing the policy's intent is to facilitate the achievement of a wide range of social, environmental, economic, and cultural benefits that trees, hedgerows, woodlands, and forestry provides to society.

3.2 This Strategy has been prepared in response to this range of drivers for change. They provide the impetus to take transformational action to protect and enhance Derbyshire's treescapes. The Strategy also reflects the necessity for effective planning for nature recovery to take place in a strategic, collaborative, and evidenced based manner.

3.4 Council policy

3.4.1 The Council has set policy to fulfil the stewardship roles it has for protecting landscapes and habitats from the impacts of climate change and biodiversity loss, and to facilitate appropriate use of the County's valuable ecosystem services to the benefit of everyone. This is demonstrated through the following Council Plan 2023-25 priority and action:

- Priority – A prosperous and green Derbyshire
- Action – Develop the Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Derbyshire in accordance with the Environment Act 2021 for the co-ordinated benefit of Derbyshire's natural environment

3.4.2 The following Council environmental policies are also of relevance:

- To help reverse the decline in biodiversity as part of the Climate Change Strategy: Achieving Net Zero 2021-2025
- To facilitate the planting of up to 1 million trees across Derbyshire by 2030
- To maximise opportunities for carbon capture using woodlands as agreed in the Vision Derbyshire Climate Change Strategy: 2022-2025
- To make decisions that protect and enhance nature wherever possible, in accordance with the Council's Nature Recovery Motion (2 February 2022)

3.4.3 Given the importance of trees to Derbyshire's streetscene the Council as a Highways Authority and Planning Authority set relevant policy. This includes:

- The Highways Network Management Plan (April 2019)
- The Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Plan for Trees (to be completed during 2023/24)
- Planning Streets and Places manual (to be completed during 2023/24)

3.4.4 Furthermore, the East Midlands Mayoral Combined County Authority (MCCA) Deal (August 2022) makes the following related commitments:

- Provisional agreement by Derbyshire County Council and Nottinghamshire County Council to act as the responsible authorities for the preparation of the Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRSs) for the Derby City and Derbyshire County, and Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County LNRS respectively. Both county councils will work to ensure join-up of each LNRS where this is possible.
- Production of a MCCA Flood Alleviation Strategy to help build community and economic resilience. This will support a comprehensive approach to tackling local nature recovery with a focus on green and blue infrastructure and maximising benefits for people, wildlife, and the economy.

3.5 The Government's Environmental Improvement Plan 2023

- 3.5.1 On 31 January 2023 the Government published its Environmental Improvement Plan 2023. This is a detailed delivery plan designed to halt the decline in biodiversity and achieve the Government's apex goal of Thriving Plants and Wildlife. The Plan replaces the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan (2018).
- 3.5.2 Importantly the Plan is set against the legal framework of the Environment Act 2021 to ensure effective progress of its policies and actions. This includes enabling local government, businesses, the third sector, and the public to take collective nature positive action.

3.6 National Planning Policy Framework 2021

- 3.6.1 The National Planning Policy Framework provides the guiding principles against which the Government expects locally-prepared plans for housing and other developments in England to be produced. The Framework identifies the contribution that trees make to the character and quality of the urban environment, and their role in mitigating and adapting to climate change.
- 3.6.2 Of note is the Framework's requirement that planning policies and decisions should ensure that new streets are tree-lined, that opportunities are taken to incorporate trees elsewhere in developments (such as parks and community orchards), and that measures are in place to secure the long-term maintenance of new trees.
- 3.6.3 On 31 January 2023, the Government (via Natural England) launched its Green Infrastructure (GI) Framework. GI is defined as "a network of multi-functional green and blue spaces and other natural features, urban and rural, which can deliver a wide range of environmental, economic, health and wellbeing benefits for nature, climate, local and wider communities, and prosperity". (National Planning Policy Framework, 2021). GI provides the physical delivery of Biodiversity Net Gain, Local Nature Recovery Strategies, and the national Nature Recovery Network – for information on these matters see Appendix B.
- 8.2 The Green Infrastructure Framework is designed to help local authorities and developers meet requirements in the National Planning Policy Framework to consider GI in local plans and in new development. The Framework has also been developed to enable other organisations to plan for GI's creation or improvement e.g. in the preparation of Local Nature Recovery Strategies and in the application of Biodiversity Net Gain planning permission requirements.

8.3 The Green Infrastructure Framework is of relevance and value to the Council. However, its application is not mandatory. Therefore, there is a need to decide how the Framework is adopted in Derbyshire through new and consistent planning policy; highways infrastructure design and asset management; developer financial contributions; regeneration programmes; the Council's Countryside Service Business Plan; and consideration of how new investment in the Framework's delivery will be secured.

3.7 Important drivers for change

- a) National political support for tree planting and woodland creation demonstrated in the Government's England Trees Action Plan 2021-2024.
- b) An uplift in the public's connections with nature, and interest in its protection, through their visits to local natural environments during and since the Covid-19 pandemic.
- c) A strong body of researched evidence and practice that clearly demonstrates the value of trees and the return on investment they offer, as seen in the Council's Natural Capital Strategy for Derbyshire (2023).
- d) New public and private sector funding and delivery mechanisms for improving tree and woodland quality, quantity, and diversity. For example the Government's Nature for Climate Programme, Environmental Land Management (ELM) Scheme, and Biodiversity Net Gain.
- e) An increasing availability of funding from individual and organisations to plant trees and create woodlands linked to their ethical motivations and interest in social return on investment performance.
- f) The Government's expectation that local authorities will incorporate its new Green Infrastructure Framework into their Local Planning Authority policies and in the development of Local Nature Recovery Strategies.
- g) Commitments of Vision Derbyshire through its Climate Change Strategy 2022-2025 to maximise the potential for woodlands to absorb carbon dioxide and therefore make a significant contribution to the county being net zero by 2050.
- h) The East Midlands Devolution Deal's commitments to net zero, nature recovery, and climate change adaptation through new infrastructure, green jobs, and improving habitats.
- i) The highly collaborative relationship between the Council and the Derbyshire Lieutenancy in developing The Queen's Green Canopy in Derbyshire during 2022/23 and the legacy of further tree planting the Council is keen to secure from this unique national memorial to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

3.8 These drivers for change offer significant opportunities and challenges for Derbyshire. In accordance with the priorities of the Council Plan 2023-2025, and the partnerships, enterprise, and community engagement approaches the Council is applying to their achievement, it is incumbent on the Council to determine the appropriate means of securing

a step-change in the quantity, quality and diversity of Derbyshire trees and woodlands. This strategy sets out the Council's plans for achieving this.

4. The Strategy's Framework

4.1 This Tree and Woodland Strategy has been arranged as follows:

- **Vision**
Sets out the overarching vision for trees and woodlands in Derbyshire
- **Strategic objectives**
The primary goals of the Strategy
- **Guiding principles**
Six principles that the Council will follow to ensure the array of benefits provided by trees and woodlands in Derbyshire are maximised
- **Near-term and medium-term targets**
The measurable improvements that the Strategy has been designed to secure
- **Five delivery themes**
A structured explanation as to why trees and woodlands are important now and, in the future that informs the Strategy's Action Plan
- **Action Plan**
Identifies how the Strategy will be delivered in 2023-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26

4.2 Information relating to these items is provided below.

4.3 Vision

To create a network of thriving woodlands and trees that complement Derbyshire's landscapes and contribute to the county's success as a Nature-Positive and Net Zero place to live, work and visit.

4.4 Strategic objectives

By 2050:

- Trees and woodlands across Derbyshire are making their greatest contribution to protecting society from the impacts of climate change; through carbon sequestration, flood prevention, cooling and shading and nature conservation.
- Woodlands are sustaining and connecting wildlife-rich habitats that are valued by all the county's residents, businesses, and visitors; for the social, economic, and environmental benefits that nature provides.

- A collaborative and evidence-based approach will have increased the quantity, quality, and diversity of Derbyshire's treescape; that is effectively maintained and adapted to ensure its maturity and replenishment against the challenges of a changing climate.
- The Council and its partners have demonstrated their commitment and credentials for delivering sustainable tree and woodland stewardship; and have secured fitting levels of Government and investor funding to enable the delivery of this Strategy.

The 2050 date has been identified as it correlates with the Government's Environmental Improvement Plan 2023 target to:

- Increase tree canopy and woodland cover from 14.5% to 16.5% of total land area in England by 2050, with a new interim target to increase this by 0.26% (equivalent to 34,000 hectares) by 31 January 2028, in line with the trajectory required to achieve the long-term target.

The change in canopy and woodland cover from 14.5% to 16.5% by 2050 represents an increase of 13.8% (14%).

4.5 The Strategy's Guiding Principles

The Council has established guiding principles to shape the delivery of this vision and the strategic objectives. These guidelines will be used to inform the Council's decision making as it implements this strategy on the Council's land. They will also be advocated by the Council to encourage other land-owners to follow similar approaches, the six guiding principles are:

- Collaborative leadership that demonstrates good practice and mobilises collective endeavours.
- Connecting those who live, visit, work and do business in Derbyshire with nature.
- The application of practices that maximise the value of trees across all ecosystem services (as explained in the Derbyshire Natural Capital Strategy).
- The strategic alignment of tree and woodland management and renewal with the prescribed habitat types of Derbyshire's Landscape Character Areas.
- The sustainability of trees and woodlands by ensuring they are planted and maintained to the UK Forestry Standard (UKFS), and Woodland Carbon Code where planting is being undertaken for carbon sequestration.
- Woodland should not be planted on existing ecologically valuable habitat including species rich grassland and heathland.

4.6 **The Strategy's near-term target for the Council is as follows:**

- Facilitate the planting of up to 300,000 trees across Derbyshire by March 2025

As an example this could be secured by:

- Creating 17 km of hedgerow and in so doing plant 85,000 trees
- Planting 15,000 trees along 300 km of public highway
- Creating 80 hectares of woodland and in so doing plant 200,000 trees

4.7 **The Strategy's medium- and long-term targets for the Council are as follows:**

- Facilitate the planting of up to a further 700,000 trees across Derbyshire by 2030 (medium-term)

As an example this could be secured by:

- Creating 50 km of hedgerow and in so doing plant 250,000 trees
- Planting 50,000 trees along 1,000 km of public highway
- Creating 280 hectares of woodland and in so doing plant 700,000 trees

- In accordance with Government national targets (long-term):
 - Increase tree canopy cover by 14% across the total land area of Derbyshire by 2050 when compared to 2020
 - Halt the decline in species abundance associated with woodlands and hedgerows by 2030, and then increase such abundance by at least 10% to exceed 2022 levels by 2042

4.8 **The Strategy is framed against the following five delivery themes, selected as they describe the high-level activities that this Strategy seeks to instigate:**

Theme A:	Championing and realising the benefits of trees
Theme B:	Managing trees for safety and a changing climate
Theme C:	Directing the transformational growth, renewal, and protection of woodland
Theme D:	Financing tree planting and woodland creation
Theme E:	Nature connected tree and woodlands partnerships

These themes correspond to the following Sections 5 to 9 of this Strategy and inform the Action Plan shown in Section 11.

5. Theme A: Championing and realising the benefits of trees

- 5.1 Trees and woodlands are vital components of Derbyshire's green infrastructure and make significant contributions to making the county an attractive place to live, work, visits, do business, and invest in. Furthermore, they are key to negating the impacts of climate change, in helping society adapt to changing weather, and in providing the network of habitats to rejuvenate natural ecosystems.
- 5.2 The outcome that Theme A seeks to deliver, and the associated example benefits to be realised, is summarised below.

Theme A: Championing and realising the benefits of trees	
Outcome	Example benefits
<p>Derbyshire is a place where trees are treasured as valuable living community assets worthy of protection, care and investment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carbon sequestration • Timber supply • Water regulation and flood risk management • Air pollution abatement • Noise pollution mitigation • Improving Physical and mental health • Providing opportunities for tourism, education, and volunteering • Employment, skills, and business • Biodiverse habitat • Natural Capital Accounting

- 5.3 A description of the primary benefits that trees and woodlands provide from social, economic, environmental & cultural perspectives is outlined below.

5.3.1 Social benefits

- Improved health and wellbeing
 - Research has shown that access to trees and nature can reduce stress, improve mental health and promote wellbeing; whilst tree lined streets have been shown to encourage walking.
- Reduce the urban heat island effect
 - The cooling effect of trees, as a result of evapotranspiration, reduces the urban heat island effect and enhances Derbyshire's resilience to an increasing number of hot days (>25°C), one of the projected impacts of climate change.
- Provide shade
 - Trees shading school grounds, playgrounds, public spaces, and cycling and walking routes provide relief from the sun and protect people from harmful ultraviolet (UV) radiation, in turn reducing a range of public health risks.

- Enhance visual amenity
 - Trees can visually enhance a street, the character of an area and foster civic pride. They add beauty to landscapes, soften harsh urban environments and screen unsightly views.

5.3.2 Environmental benefits

- Enhance biodiversity
 - A healthy treescape is important for biodiversity and provides opportunities for connected habitats that support wildlife.
- Improve water quality
 - Trees intercept rainwater and reduce the quantity of pollutants being washed from hard surfaces and agricultural fields into watercourses. This is particularly important in catchment sensitive areas.
 - Increasing canopy cover in urban, semi-urban and rural areas will also contribute towards fewer storm water overflows from the combined sewer / stormwater systems and therefore lower levels of water pollution entering watercourses.
- Carbon sequestration
 - Trees reduce carbon dioxide (CO₂) in the atmosphere through sequestering carbon in new growth. One tonne of carbon stored in wood is equivalent to removing 3.67 tonnes of CO₂ from the atmosphere. An increase in the rate of carbon sequestration across the county will be crucial to achieving the Council's goal of Derbyshire being net zero by 2050.
- Improve air quality
 - Trees improve air quality by removing air pollutants, such as particulate matter, and absorb gases harmful to human health.

5.3.3 Economic benefits

- Reduce healthcare costs
 - Improving air quality and enhancing health and wellbeing will contribute to preventative healthcare and associated costs.
- Reduce flood risk
 - Increasing appropriate tree planting enables water storage upstream in river catchments.
 - An increase in canopy cover would intercept an increased volume of rainwater reducing and slowing urban runoff, placing less pressure on stormwater systems and thereby reducing the risk and impact of flooding.
- Increase property values
 - Studies have shown that mature street trees increase residential property values and attract buyers and tenants.

- Reduce energy costs
 - Well-positioned trees provide shade and reduce cooling requirements and associated energy costs in buildings.

5.3.4 Cultural benefits

- Support education
 - Tree nurseries and planting projects, such as community orchards, promote environmental awareness and provide opportunities to encourage and facilitate learning.
- Cultural heritage
 - Trees create a cultural connection to place and history.
- Local food growing
 - Planting fruit trees and establishing community orchards provides people with access to fresh fruit. Maintaining and harvesting fruit trees can connect and strengthen communities.

5.4 Accounting for Derbyshire's natural capital

5.4.1 The Derbyshire Natural Capital Strategy includes a Natural Capital Account that places a monetary value on the physical benefits provided by county's ecosystem services. The Account offers a robust evidence base to inform decisions as to whether to prioritise maintaining or developing a natural capital asset; of which trees and woodlands are a primary example.

5.4.2 A natural capital balance sheet accounting method has been applied which identifies the natural capital benefit value (using a financial performance measure (£)) that Derbyshire's ecosystem services provide. This measure has been applied to the following benefits:

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| • Agricultural output | • Recreation |
| • Timber | • Physical health |
| • Water supply | • Education |
| • Renewable energy | • Volunteering |
| • Minerals | • Amenity |
| • Carbon sequestration | • Soil |
| • Air quality regulation | • Water quality |

5.4.2 The Natural Capital Account identifies a wide and quantifiable range of benefits from the natural capital of Derbyshire as highlighted below.

- The total annual net value of ecosystem benefits and services produced within Derbyshire each year is £2.6 billion (2021 prices).
 - This total includes carbon sequestration by habitats of trees, woodlands, and grasslands (£2 billion, 77% of the total benefits)

- If these current annual benefits and quantified trends continue over 60 years, then Derbyshire's natural capital assets have an asset value over this period of £87 billion in present value terms.
 - Most of these benefits accrue to wider society through air quality regulation, carbon sequestration, water quality, recreation, and physical health, equating to around £73 billion in present value terms.
 - A further £14 billion accrues to businesses through agriculture, timber, water supply, renewable energy, and minerals.
 - The contribution of trees and woodlands to such outcomes is significant.

5.4.3 The Council has high to moderate confidence in the results of the Natural Capital Account. However, further analysis is needed to develop its accuracy and range of use. Examples are highlighted below.

a) The following benefits are considered as being important but have not yet been measured / valued in the Natural Capital Account.

- *Flood risk management*

Quantifying the benefit provision of natural capital to mitigating flood risk requires more detailed modelling i.e. identifying flood risk areas and natural capital assets that can provide flood risk benefits e.g. woodlands and trees.

- *Mental health benefits of peoples connections with nature*

The strong evidence of the benefits to mental well-being from increased nature connectedness has seen nature connectedness identified as a basic psychological need and as being a driver for pro-environmental behaviours. Hence, improving peoples connection with nature is an attractive target for improvement and this Strategy advocates that such benefits should be measured, invested in and monitored for Derbyshire. For example, Forest Research has identified the mental health benefits associated with the UK's woodlands and quantified these as being valued at £185m per annum in reduced costs to the NHS and employers.

b) Whilst the Natural Capital Account has financially valued benefits it has not financially assessed the liabilities of natural capital i.e. the spending (£) required to maintain or develop the natural capital / ecosystem services (what it costs to maintain the assets and how do these costs compare to benefits over time). Such appraisal is needed to understand the relationship between spending on assets and the benefits they provide. This appraisal is a complex undertaking and would require the involvement of key public and private land managers across Derbyshire who manage most of such spending.

5.5 Tree planting in Derbyshire since 2021/22

5.5.1 The Council has a strong track-record in advocating the benefits of trees and supporting the restoration of tree cover in Derbyshire across suitable locations, particularly the planting of street trees within the county's urban neighbourhoods. This Tree and Woodland Strategy builds on these commitments, partnerships, and good work to date.

- 5.5.2 A good example of work to date that the Council is exceptionally proud of is its involvement in the Queen's Green Canopy project to create a wonderful legacy to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Of note was the Council's highly collaborative relationship with the Derbyshire Lieutenancy in developing the Queen's Green Canopy planting projects, alongside the Council's district, borough, and city council partners. Working in partnership, the Queen's Green Canopy successfully brought together the county's diverse society to take part in and celebrate the Platinum Jubilee and in commemorating the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.
- 5.5.3 The Council is keen to collate an accurate record of the tree planting endeavours of all parties in Derbyshire since 2021-22. The latest and approximate information the Council holds in this regard is shown in Table 2 below. The Council will work with all stakeholders through the delivery of this Tree and Woodland Strategy to ensure such data demonstrates the quantity, type, canopy cover, and maintenance standards to which new trees are planted and woodlands created in Derbyshire.

	2021/22	2022/23
Local Authority Area		
Derbyshire County Council	2,776	21,051
Amber Valley Borough Council	21,500	325
Bolsover District Council	6,200	12,042
Chesterfield Borough Council	2,000	2,543
Derbyshire Dales District Council	10	60
Erewash Borough Council	*	336
High Peak Borough Council	*	2
North East Derbyshire District Council	32	4
South Derbyshire District Council	*	*
Derby City Council	*	*
Town and Parish Councils	*	*
Peak District National Park Authority	*	*
The National Forest	*	5,441
The Queen's Green Canopy (ShIPLEY Country Park)		6
The Queen's Green Canopy (Derbyshire wide)		33,777
Records on the Council's Million Trees website		3,949
Local Authority Treescapes Fund (LATF) partnership tree planting project ¹	2,760	

Local Authority Treescapes Fund (LATF) partnership & Million Trees tree planting project ²		1,408
The Woodland Trust – The Young Peoples Forest at Mead		194,699
Total	35,278	275,643
GRAND TOTAL FOR 2021/22 & 2022/23 (28 June 2023)	310,921	
¹ LATF partnership of Derbyshire County Council (lead), High Peak Borough Council, North East Derbyshire District Council, and Peak District National Park Authority		
² LATF partnership of Derbyshire County Council (lead), Amber Valley Borough Council, North East Derbyshire District Council, Peak District National Park Authority, Pilsley, Pinxton, Etwall parish councils.		
* No return		

6. Theme B: Managing trees for safety and a changing climate

- 6.1 It is essential that the existing treescapes of Derbyshire are cared for through effective stewardship and strategic planning to ensure long-term development and succession.
- 6.2 Key to success will be designing Derbyshire's treescape so it is future-proofed to thrive within a changing climate, able to sustain and network wider habitats, and be able to provide the ecosystem services that Derbyshire's society will need by the 2080s to help mitigate the impacts of much warmer weather and high intensity periods rainfall. Furthermore proactive biosecurity of the county's tree-stock against an increasing threat of pests and diseases that are migrating to the UK from mainland Europe and beyond is a key challenge. The necessity for the Council to ensure its compliance with health and safety legislation through the effective management of trees on, or adjacent to, public land is a further important part of this theme.
- 6.3 The outcome that Theme B seeks to deliver, and the associated example benefits to be realised, is summarised below.

Theme B: Managing trees for safety and a changing climate	
Outcome	Example benefits
<p>Derbyshire is a place where trees and woodlands flourish through good practice planning, management, and maintenance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retention of important woodland habitats • Mitigating and adapting to the impacts of climate change • Mitigating the impact of Ash Dieback disease • Biodiversity Net Gain • Connecting people with nature • Employment and skills • Creating the future ancient woodlands • Risks to public health and safety mitigated • Increased survival rate of new plantings and nurturing of woodland on public land • Best practice standards for work on, and around trees, through inspection regimes and maintenance contracts • Demonstrating the Council's on-going compliance with the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974

6.4 Designing Derbyshire's future treescapes for the changing climate

- 6.4.1 Climate change is having visible effects on the world. The earth is warming, rainfall patterns are changing and sea levels are rising. These changes are increasing the risk of heatwaves, floods, droughts and fires. The severity of these impacts will be determined by the global challenge to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions within this current generation. Unless emissions are reduced rapidly, the world is likely to exceed 2°C warming and by the end of this century warming could reach 4°C or more. This will have catastrophic consequences for developing countries and poses significant issues for developed countries such as the UK.
- 6.4.2 The UK climate is predicted to be characterised by an increase in the frequency of warm / dry spells, the frequency of heavy rainfall events and storms, and a decrease in the frequency of cold spells. The Council's Natural Capital Strategy for Derbyshire identifies that climate change has the potential to significantly disrupt the natural capital of Derbyshire and the ecosystem services it provides. The predicted changes in temperature and rainfall patterns will alter growing conditions in the county, meaning that some places become less suitable for supporting some species and habitats, while other places become more suitable.
- 6.4.3 Against this climate scenario the Natural Capital Strategy identifies the long-term context that is relevant to planning the appropriate future treescape of the county. Key information relating to how Derbyshire's future treescape should be planned in a manner that reflects increasing temperature and changing rainfall patterns is illustrated below.
- **Maximum temperatures are predicted to increase by 8°C consistently throughout Derbyshire by 2080.**
 - Temperature increases, and an increase in heatwave events, are particularly significant for densely populated and deprived urban areas, where there is a greater risk of heat stroke and other impacts on health and well-being. To mitigate the effects of heat, green corridors, and cooling features such as trees and wetlands are expected to become increasingly valuable, particularly in urban environments.
 - There is spatial variation in the magnitude of these changes; lowland areas, which coincide with the most productive agricultural land, are predicted to experience greater fluctuations in temperature than the uplands; increasing risk to agricultural food production. This will impact on the areas of Derbyshire that are suitable for farming and strategically modelling such changes will be important to identifying the best places for new woodlands.
 - Temperature increases will also influence the distribution of many species. Derbyshire is currently at the northern limit of the distribution of many native 'southern' species and the southern limit of the distribution of many native 'northern' species. Temperature changes could alter the distribution of native species in Derbyshire, through the impact of changes in site suitability or competition from new species. It will be necessary to future-proof the resilience of the county's trees and woodlands to ensure they are adaptable to the changing climate and support the anticipated biodiversity changes.

- The implications of severe heat waves and fire risk will also be a fundamental component of planning for the management of trees and woodlands in Derbyshire.
- **Although the total amount of rainfall received in Derbyshire throughout the year in 2080 will be very similar to that of today, the seasonality will increase; the rainfall will fall in sharper, more intense bursts, with longer dry periods between them.**
 - The northern and upland parts of Derbyshire are predicted to be subjected to greater change in this seasonality than the lowlands.
 - This trend is very significant for trees and woodlands, as the required amount of rainfall may be less likely to fall at key times of year, for example to support germination and fruiting. Conversely, more intense bursts of rainfall are likely to increase surface water runoff increasing, flood risk, and causing soil erosion and water quality issues. This highlights the importance of taking early action in support of natural flood management through targeted woodland creation.
 - Some areas of Derbyshire will decrease in agricultural land quality by 2080 largely due to an increase in soil drought conditions. This includes significant areas of land that is currently good quality, Grade 2, and Grade 3 agricultural land, around the Chesterfield / South Yorkshire Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Coalfield area, and in the Trent Valley. In these areas, particular consideration needs to be given to agroforestry whereby farm management practices use the planting of trees, shrubs, and hedges to improve the quality of soil and so generate higher yields.

6.4.4 Whilst this Strategy's intent is to instigate a near-term revival in tree and woodland care and creation for Derbyshire the outcomes of such activity will be realised over a long timeframe spanning more than 100-years. For example, by the 2080s, an oak tree planted now will only be half-way through a commercial rotation, while as a component of semi-natural woodland, it would still be at a juvenile stage. Hence, it is important that the decisions arising from this Strategy that are made now (i.e. tree or woodland type, location, and maintenance) are appropriate to both the current and future climate.

6.5 Ash Dieback Disease

6.5.1 Ash dieback is a fungal disease thought to have originated in eastern Asia and imported into mainland Europe in the 1990s. It has spread rapidly across the continent with the first recorded case in the UK in 2012. This is a vascular wilt fungus that blocks the water transport vessels within the tree, firstly causing the leaves to die then leading to dieback of twigs, branches and ultimately the whole tree. The disease is usually fatal for young ash trees and can kill saplings within one growing season. Larger mature ash with the infection are thought to be more tolerant or decline at a slower rate of several years.

6.5.2 In Derbyshire as a whole, ash is the second most common tree after oak, but in limestone areas of the County, they are the dominant species. Ash is the dominant tree in the woodlands of the limestone dales where it may comprise up to 99% of the tree cover. Estimates for the number of ash trees in Derbyshire have been made based on data from the Tree Council, Forestry Commission and Derbyshire Lowland Biodiversity Action Plan 2011 – 2020, suggesting there are around 9 million ash trees in Derbyshire.

6.5.3 The Council has implemented an Ash Dieback Action Plan (April 2022) to manage the impacts of the disease in the county. An outline assessment (January 2022) of the total cost of the outbreak to the Council over the next 20 years has estimated this to be between £22.5 million and £40.5 million for tree felling and replacement, depending on the lowest (50%) and highest (90%) mortality rate predictions. Hence, the successful delivery of the Plan will have significant financial implications for the Council. The effective delivery of the Plan is integral to this Strategy.

6.6 Other Tree Pests and Diseases

6.6.1 Although ash dieback is a major concern in Derbyshire the county's treescape is also under threat from other tree pests and diseases. Some are already present within the UK, whilst others are at risk of entering the UK in the future.

6.6.2 Tree pests and diseases already present in the UK include *Phytophthora ramorum* or commonly known as "water mould" (affecting over 150 species of plants, including trees and shrubs), *Dothistroma* or commonly known as "needle blight" (affecting pine species), and acute oak decline affecting native oak species. Many trees and woodlands are also adversely affected by the presence of grey squirrel and deer, where high population levels can lead to the destruction of many different native broadleaved species and negatively impact woodland ground flora. This reduces the long-term contribution of these trees and woodlands to the landscape and biodiversity.

6.6.3 The rapid increase in the globalised movements of goods and people has increased the risk of spreading pests and diseases around the world, and a changing climate is increasing the likelihood of these species surviving in the UK where previously they would have been unable. As a result, pests and diseases not yet present in the UK also pose a threat to Derbyshire's trees and woodlands. Such threats include emerald ash borer (which would put the county's native ash trees under even greater pressure alongside ash dieback) and *Xylella fastidiosa* or commonly known as "Xylella" (which can affect several species of broadleaved trees including oak and plane). Both are already present in continental Europe having spread from their native regions of Asia and the Americas.

6.6.4 Protecting the Derbyshire treescape from these threats alongside tackling ash dieback will require the following actions:

- Active management of existing tree pests and diseases through monitoring regimes, sanitation felling, appropriate wildlife management and the application of specific treatment measures where available.
- Robust biosecurity to prevent further accidental introductions of non-native invasive pests and disease. This will involve sourcing new trees for planting from responsible nurseries with biosecurity policies or 'Plant Healthy' accreditation, ensuring staff and contractors undertake personal biosecurity measures to prevent any potential spread between site and supporting proposals to improve biosecurity at a national level.
- Building resilience into the Derbyshire treescape against existing and future pest and disease threats and a changing local climate by increasing the species, genetic and structural diversity of trees and woodlands across the county.

6.7 The Council's Tree Safety Policy

- 6.7.1 The Council recognises its duty under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 in criminal and civil law to protect employees and members of the public, so far as is reasonably practicable, from danger arising from trees on its premises, highways, and landholdings. This duty is enacted through the Council's Executive Health and Safety Policy Statement and through the collective responsibilities of officers within the Council's Place Department and Corporate Services and Transformation Department.
- 6.7.2 Given the critical importance of the Council robustly managing the hazards to its employees and members of the public from dangerous trees it is important that the Council appraises its current arrangements in this regard to ensure they are fit for purpose / optimal.

7. Theme C: Directing the transformational growth, renewal, and protection of woodland

- 7.1 The Council has set an ambitious target to facilitate the planting of up to 1 million trees across Derbyshire by 2030 (from a start date of May 2021). This transformation reflects the Council's commitment to the delivery of a net zero society and enhancing the county's wildlife. In planning the delivery of this target, which is a key purpose of this Strategy, it is important to consider strategically the areas of Derbyshire where it is appropriate to plant this quantity of new trees and consider how the delivery of this policy could be financed.
- 7.2 The outcome that Theme C seeks to deliver, and the associated example benefits to be realised, is summarised below.

Theme C: Directing the transformational growth, renewal, and protection of woodland	
Outcome	Example benefits
Derbyshire is a place where tree and woodland growth accelerates in a manner that complements and reinforces the county's landscape characters and sustainably renews	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A thriving and varied network of resilient woodland and tree habitats appropriate to the landscape areas of Derbyshire • An increasing proportion of larger trees and resulting tree canopy cover that provide ecosystem services • Positive impact on the value of Derbyshire's natural capital • Climate change mitigation and resilience • Demonstrates the Council's Place leadership credentials • Carbon sequestration

7.3 The Landscape Character of Derbyshire

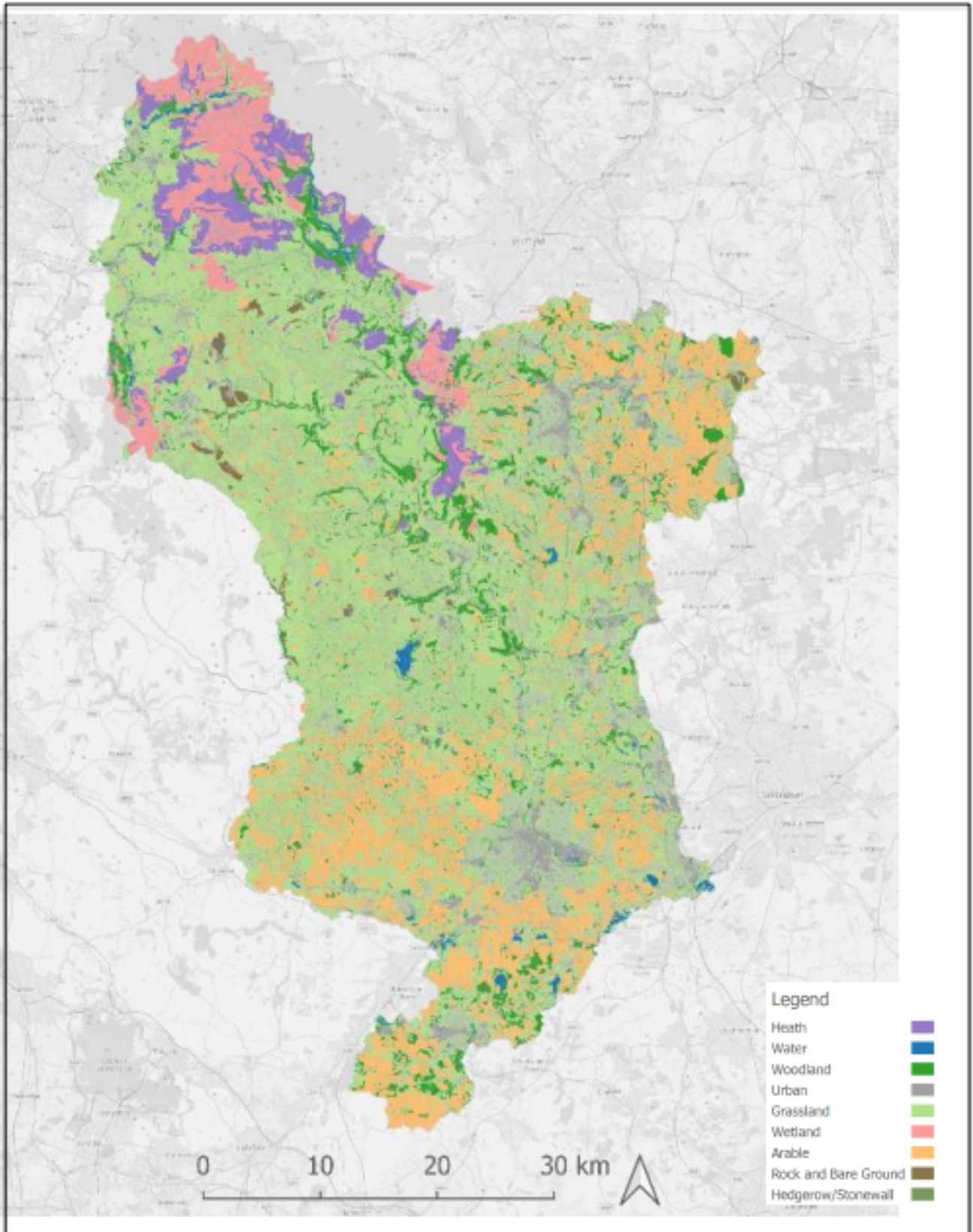
- 7.3.1 Derbyshire sits at the heart of England with a diverse range of landscapes from the upland moors of the Peak District to the expansive floodplain of the Trent Valley. It occupies a unique position encompassing England's upland-lowland divide between the north and south, and the dairy-arable transition from west to east. The quality of Derbyshire's landscape is recognised by the designation of the Peak District National Park but also the intrinsic qualities of the spectacular landscape of Derbyshire outside the National Park designation.
- 7.3.2 This is critically important context for this Strategy. The transformational growth, renewal, and protection of woodland must be delivered in a sensitive, informed and integrated manner across Derbyshire's varied and distinctive urban and rural landscapes.
- 7.3.3 Derbyshire's landscapes sustain varied, extensive, and valuable habitats. These are identified in Table 3 and Figure 1 below. Woodland and forest habitats make up 9%, or

23,300 hectares, of the total habitat area of 263,100 hectares. Of the woodland habitats, approximately 850 hectares are owned by the Council.

Table 3: Derbyshire's habitat types and area	
Habitat	Area (hectares)
Cropland (including intensive grassland)	104,000
Grassland	71,200
Woodland and forest	23,300
Heathland and scrub	22,800
Urban	21,200
Wetland	13,700
Rivers and lakes	5,200
Sparsely vegetated land	1,700
Total	263,100

- 7.3.4 Privately owned land comprises most of the land in Derbyshire. Hence, a major challenge in delivering this Strategy is Council's ability to encourage appropriate tree maintenance and woodland creation on such land. Therefore, the Strategy identifies the need to work collaboratively and in partnership with all stakeholders to retain and grow the tree population across the county (see Theme E: Nature Connected Partnerships for Trees and Woodlands).

Figure 1: The type and distribution of habitats across Derbyshire



7.3.5 The Council has invested in research that provides an evidence base to strategically plan and deliver tree and woodland planting in the locations of Derbyshire where they are most suited from landscape character and biodiversity perspectives and so provide greatest benefit to the provision of ecosystem services. This takes the form of two principle guiding reference points:

- The Landscape Character of Derbyshire document (2003)
- The Natural Capital Strategy for Derbyshire (2023)

7.4 The Landscape Character of Derbyshire document

7.4.1 The Landscape Character of Derbyshire document was prepared by the Council in 2003 and updated by the Council in 2014. It informs spatial planning and landscape policy for Derbyshire. It has been prepared to follow the Government's (Natural England) national mapping of 159 separate and distinctive National Character Areas (NCAs). There are ten NCAs which wholly, or in part, cover Derbyshire.

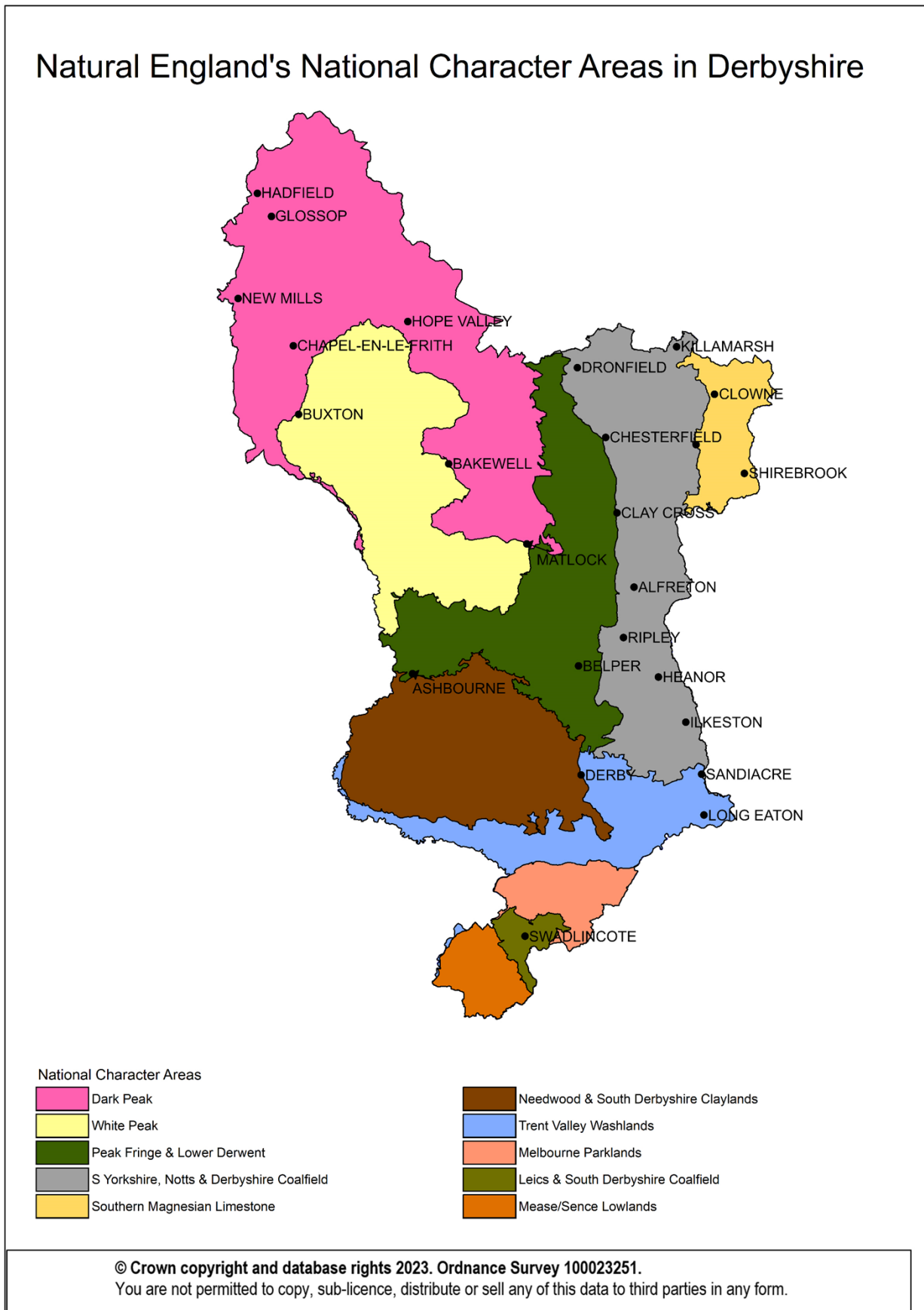
7.4.2 These ten National Character Areas have been sub-divided into 39 Landscape Character Types (LCTs) that represent landscapes within these NCAs of similar character. A description of the key features each Landscape Character Type has been prepared alongside planting and management guidelines identified to support its ecological woodland development. This analysis provides a robust evidence base against which new woodland creation can be strategically planned and delivered in a manner that complements Derbyshire's existing landscapes and generates new and long-term ecosystem service benefits.

7.4.3 The National Landscape Character Area descriptions for Derbyshire are identified below in Table 4 and on a map in Figure 2.

National Character Area	Landscape Character Type
1) Dark Peak	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open Moors • Moorland Fridge • Enclosed Moorland • Settled Valley Pastures • Riverside Meadows
2) White Peak	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plateau Pastures • Upland Limestone Pastures • Limestone Slopes • Limestone Dales
3) Derbyshire Peak Fringe and Lower Derwent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enclosed Moors and Heaths • Wooded Slopes and Valleys • Woodland Farmlands • Gritstone Heaths and Commons • Settled Farmlands • Riverside Meadows

4) Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, and Yorkshire Coalfield	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wooded Hills and Valleys • Estate Farmlands • Wooded Farmlands • Coalfield Village Farmlands • Coalfield Estatelands • Plateau Estate Farmlands • Riverside Meadows
5) Southern Magnesium Limestone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limestone Farmlands • Limestone Gorges
6) Needwood and South Derbyshire Claylands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Settled Plateau Farmlands • Settled Farmlands • Sandstone Slopes and Heaths • Estate Farmlands • Riverside Meadows
7) Trent Valley Washlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lowland Village Farmlands • Wet Pasture Meadows • Riverside Meadows
8) Melbourne Parklands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estate Farmlands • Wooded Estatelands • Sandstone Slopes and Heaths • Riverside Meadows
9) Leicestershire and South Derbyshire Coalfield	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coalfield Village Farmlands
10) Mease / Sence Lowlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Village Estate Farmlands • Riverside Meadows

Figure 2: Natural England's National Character Areas in Derbyshire



7.4.4 Tree Planting and Management Guidelines for each Landscape Character Type

At the end of each Landscape Character Type description, the Landscape Character of Derbyshire document provides information on Tree Planting and Management Guidelines. The overarching appropriate character of trees and woodland within each Landscape Character Type is outlined, including the pattern, shape, and typical size of woodlands, and a vision for tree and woodland creation. Where trees are not a key characteristic of a landscape then these areas are described as unwooded and generally favour the maintenance of a more open landscape.

7.4.5 As an example the Tree Planting and Management Guidelines for the Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Yorkshire Coalfield / Wooded Farmlands is shown below.

- A well-wooded landscape of small, organic woodlands, some of ancient origin, with scattered hedgerow and dense watercourse trees.
- Primary woodland character: Thinly scattered small woodlands
- Primary tree character: Thinly scattered hedgerow trees and dense watercourse trees
- Woodland vision: Widespread small-medium woodlands
- Tree vision: Densely scattered hedgerow and dense watercourse trees
- Typical woodland size range: 0.5 - 20ha (small-medium)
- Opportunities for improvement:
 - Small-medium scale woodland planting.
 - Conserve and restore all ancient woodland sites and restock with locally occurring native species.
 - Promote linked extensions to ancient woodland by natural regeneration and planting.
 - Ensure the use of indigenous tree and shrub species, including a proportion of large, long-lived species.
 - Re-establish and enhance physical links between existing isolated woodland and hedgerows. Ensure the management and enhancement of hedgerow trees, through selection and natural regeneration, or by planting.
 - Encourage the management of scrub and secondary woodland to link with existing habitats and woodland.
 - Enhance the visual and ecological continuity of river corridors by management, natural regeneration and planting of riparian trees.
 - Ensure the conservation and management of mature/veteran trees within hedgerows.
- Woodland species mix defined, primarily including Silver Birch and Oak
- Hedgerow species mix defined, primarily including Hawthorn

7.4.6 Information on the landscape character for Derbyshire can be found at <https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/environment/conservation/landscapecharacter/landscape-character.aspx>

7.5 The Natural Capital Strategy for Derbyshire

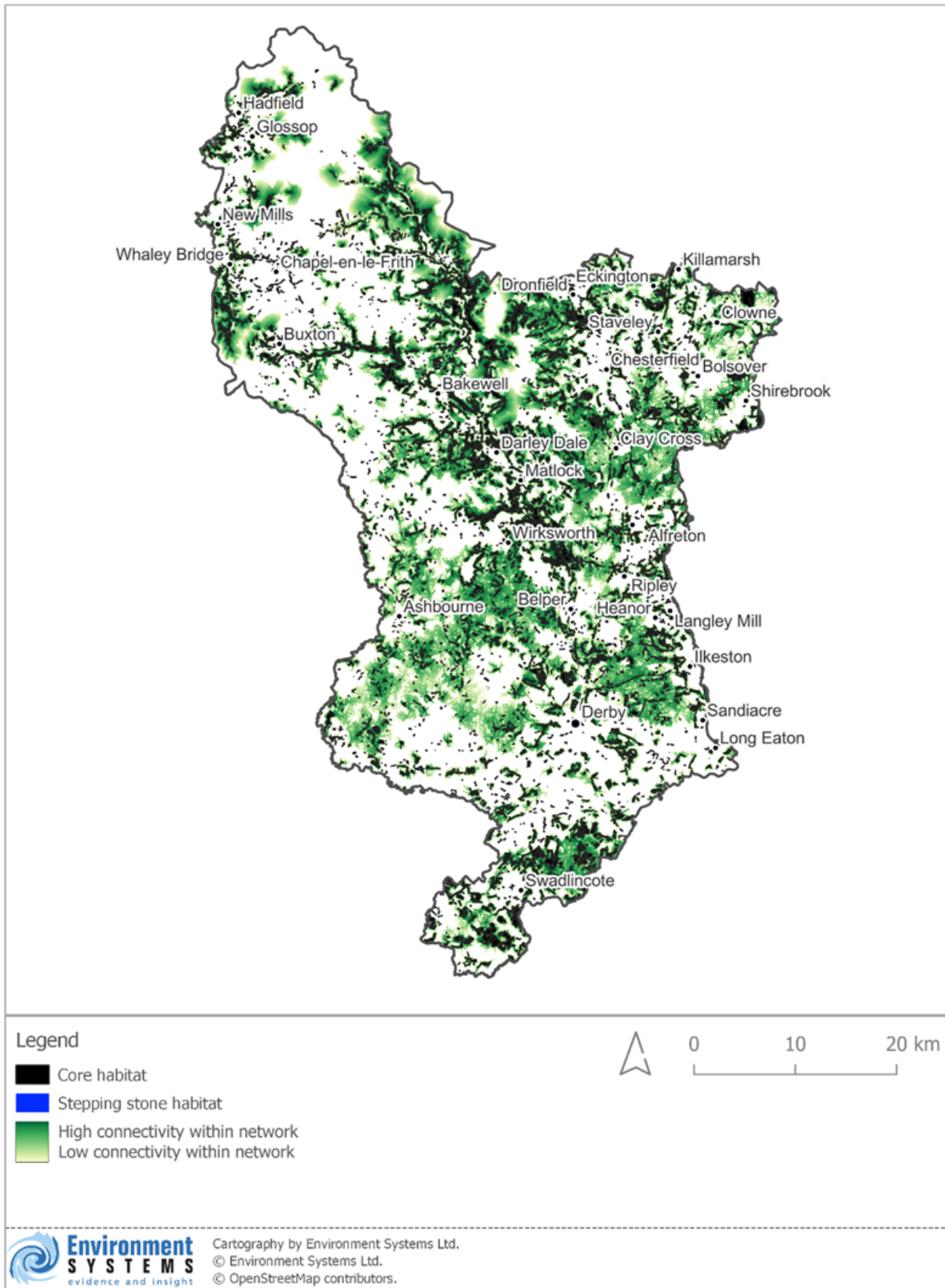
7.5.1 During 2022/23 the Council commissioned a study of Derbyshire's natural capital (completed in February 2023). This was an extensive research project and has provided a unique understanding of the county's ecosystems and, importantly for this Strategy, the trees, hedgerows, and woodlands it hosts. The Natural Capital Strategy provides the following information:

- A natural capital baseline assessment with:
 - Baseline habitat and ecological network maps
 - Landscape character and cultural heritage assessments
- Natural capital baseline accounts (as referenced in Theme A paragraph 5.4)
- A monitoring plan for updating the natural capital accounts and habitat map
- Analysis of the predicted impacts of climate change on natural capital of the county
- Proposed land management actions to maintain and enhance natural capital that align with landscape character
- Identification of funding mechanisms to attract investment for natural capital projects
- Conclusions, recommendations, and technical appendices

7.5.2 A key insight that the Natural Capital Strategy provides is the importance of physical connections of ecological networks across the county's landscape. The closer patches of habitats are together the better they can share resources such as pollinators and seeds. Where habitats are close enough to share these resources, an ecological network is formed. These networks are significant as they increase the resilience of the habitats within them. For example, a woodland that is damaged by a storm will have a better chance of regenerating to its former level of biodiversity if it lies within a network of other woodlands, as animals and seeds will be able to disperse from neighbouring habitats to recolonise the damaged area. Conversely, damaged woodland that is isolated will be less able to regenerate to the same habitat type, or level of diversity.

7.5.3 Derbyshire's woodland ecological network has been mapped in accordance with the UK Habitat Classification. This is shown in Figure 3 below. (The other networks mapped in the Natural Capital Strategy are wetland, heathland, and grassland.)

Figure 3: Derbyshire's woodland ecological network



7.5.4 The key features of Derbyshire's woodland network are as follows.

- Derbyshire currently has a very strong woodland network following the Derwent and Wye valleys, with large blocks of well-connected core habitats. Where hedgerows occur these greatly enhance woodland connectivity and are particularly important for linking the numerous smaller core habitat patches.
- Derbyshire's woodland network includes ancient woodlands, broadleaved woodlands, and mixed plantation woodlands.
- The core woodland habitat is located predominately in central and north-eastern areas of Derbyshire.
- There is generally high connectivity of woodlands throughout Derbyshire except in areas that are managed intensively for agriculture; a very strong woodland network follows the Derwent and Wye river valleys, from the upper catchments to the valley bottom.
- There is a high abundance of small, highly fragmented woodland patches in the Trent Valley Washlands National Character Area, and northern Melbourne Parklands National Character Area, where hedgerows are less common; in these areas the woodland network is not functioning well.
- There are large areas of core woodland habitat in the Mease / Sence Lowlands National Character Area, that are relatively poorly connected at present.
- There is widespread opportunity for creating woodland across Derbyshire along the river valleys and other lower lying areas of the county, particularly associated with an emerging new landscape in the Trent Valley.
- Hedgerows are important habitats that have a profound influence on ecosystem service delivery in Derbyshire. Hedgerows support biodiversity, help intercept water, contribute to carbon storage and abatement and, in the correct places, can have a significant effect on water quality and flood management.
- Hedgerows form a very important part of the woodland network in the Needwood and South Derbyshire Claylands National Character Area, and south of Chesterfield, and are particularly important for connecting the many smaller woodland core habitat patches.
- Hedgerow planting is not appropriate and woodland creation is more limited in the White Peak National Character Area where the policy vision developed by the Council is to maintain an open / unwooded landscape character or where existing boundaries are formed by dry stone walls.
- The National Forest provides an opportunity to improve connectivity of large blocks of core woodland habitat that are currently poorly-connected in the Mease/Sence Lowlands National Character Area, either through further woodland creation or improved hedgerow connectivity.

7.6 The land required to plant 1 million trees

- 7.6.1 The location, design, and aftercare of new trees needs to be strategically planned in accordance with descriptions and guidance in the Landscape Character of Derbyshire publication and the findings of the Natural Capital Strategy for Derbyshire. However, as a headline guide as to how 1 million trees could be delivered the following information is provided.
- 7.6.2 Good practice identifies that the number of trees planted per hectare varies from 1,600 to 4,400 trees. However, the number will vary hugely, depending on the species and the type of planting. Different types of tree planting require different spacings to reflect the character of the woodland being created. For example, hedging trees are planted compactly 30cm apart, or 40-45cm if planting a double hedging row, while mixed woodland planting allows 1.5–2m between trees that provides space for 1,600 trees per hectare to flourish in maturity. Furthermore, avenue trees or some orchards will have a bespoke planting design. If trees are being planted primarily for carbon sequestration the guidelines of the Woodland Carbon Code will need to be followed.
- 7.6.3 To illustrate the area of land that is needed to plant 1 million trees the following three scenarios are presented. Each reflects the land requirements to deliver this Strategy's short and medium-term targets i.e.:
- Short-term target
For the Council to facilitate the planting of up to 300,000 trees across Derbyshire by March 2025
 - Medium-term target
For the Council to facilitate the planting of a further 700,000 trees across Derbyshire by 2030

Scenario A – based on planting 1,600 trees per hectare for new woodland creation

Short-term target For the Council to facilitate the planting of up to 300,000 trees across Derbyshire by March 2025			
	Trees per km	Number of trees planted by March 2025	Outcomes
Hedgerows (five trees planted per metre)	5,000	85,000	17 km of new hedgerow
Highways (one tree planted per 20 metres)	50	15,000	300 km of street / highway trees
	Trees per hectare		

Woodlands (trees planted 2.5 metres apart)	1,600	200,000	125 hectares of new woodland
Total		300,000	

Medium-term target For the Council to facilitate the planting of up to 1,000,000 trees across Derbyshire by March 2030			
	Trees per km	Number of trees planted by March 2025	Outcomes
Hedgerows (five trees planted per metre)	5,000	250,000	50 km of new hedgerow
Highways (one tree planted per 20 metres)	50	50,000	1,000 km of street / highway trees
	Trees per hectare		
Woodlands (trees planted 2.5 metres apart)	1,600	700,000	438 hectares of new woodland
Total		300,000	

Scenario B – based on planting 2,500 trees per hectare for new woodland creation

Short-term target For the Council to facilitate the planting of up to 300,000 trees across Derbyshire by March 2025			
	Trees per km	Number of trees planted by March 2025	Outcomes
Hedgerows (five trees planted per metre)	5,000	85,000	17 km of new hedgerow
Highways (one tree planted per 20 metres)	50	15,000	300 km of street / highway trees
	Trees per hectare		
Woodlands	2,500	200,000	80 hectares of new woodland

(trees planted 2.5 metres apart)			
Total		300,000	

Medium-term target			
For the Council to facilitate the planting of up to 1,000,000 trees across Derbyshire by March 2030			
	Trees per km	Number of trees planted by March 2025	Outcomes
Hedgerows (five trees planted per metre)	5,000	250,000	50 km of new hedgerow
Highways (one tree planted per 20 metres)	50	50,000	1,000 km of street / highway trees
	Trees per hectare		
Woodlands (trees planted 2.5 metres apart)	2,500	700,000	280 hectares of new woodland
Total		1,000,000	

Scenario C – based on planting 4,400 trees per hectare for new woodland creation

Short-term target			
For the Council to facilitate the planting of up to 300,000 trees across Derbyshire by March 2025			
	Trees per km	Number of trees planted by March 2025	Outcomes
Hedgerows (five trees planted per metre)	5,000	85,000	17 km of new hedgerow
Highways (one tree planted per 20 metres)	50	15,000	300 km of street / highway trees
	Trees per hectare		
Woodlands	4,400	200,000	45 hectares of new woodland

(trees planted 2.5 metres apart)			
Total		300,000	

Medium-term target			
For the Council to facilitate the planting of up to 1,000,000 trees across Derbyshire by March 2030			
	Trees per km	Number of trees planted by March 2025	Outcomes
Hedgerows (five trees planted per metre)	5,000	250,000	50 km of new hedgerow
Highways (one tree planted per 20 metres)	50	50,000	1,000 km of street / highway trees
	Trees per hectare		
Woodlands (trees planted 2.5 metres apart)	4,400	700,000	159 hectares of new woodland
Total		1,000,000	

7.7 Tree canopy cover

7.7.1 Tree canopy cover is the area of leaves, branches, and stems of trees covering the ground when viewed from above. It is the measurement that the Government is using to assess the delivery of its Environmental Improvement Plan 2023 target to:

- Increase tree canopy and woodland cover from 14.5% to 16.5% of total land area in England by 2050, with a new interim target to increase this by 0.26% (equivalent to 34,000 hectares) by 31 January 2028, in line with the trajectory required to achieve the long-term target.

7.7.2 Therefore, it is important that the Council understands tree canopy cover for Derbyshire and uses this measurement in this strategy. To do so effectively the Council should consider investing in the Light Detection and Ranging Technology (LiDAR) method for measuring current and future trends in tree canopy cover. Friends of the Earth LiDAR data shows that Derbyshire has an average tree canopy cover of 12.4% (see link: [Trees and Woodland Opportunity \(mapst.ac.\)](#).)

8. Theme D: Financing tree planting and woodland creation

8.1 This Strategy has been prepared at a time of increasing opportunities for public and private sector investment in the UK's natural environment. This is driven by Government's policy priorities to address climate change and enhance nature, as well as the commercial driver for carbon offsetting through verified carbon sequestration projects. It is important for the Council to ensure that Derbyshire is well placed to benefit from these funds as accessing them will be a very rigorous process. To be successful the Council needs to demonstrate it can enable a financial return on such investment and evidence that long-lasting benefits will be realised. Therefore, an important intent of this Strategy is to demonstrate to potential investors in Derbyshire's natural capital that the Council is mobilising its high ambitions for creating new thriving woodlands in the county and in so doing is keen to fully explore innovative means to finance these plans.

8.2 The outcome that this theme seeks to deliver, and the associated example benefits to be realised, is summarised below.

Theme D: Financing tree planting and woodland creation	
Outcome	Example benefits
Derbyshire is a place where financial investment in green infrastructure is attractive to a blend of public, private, and social investors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New public infrastructure • Well maintained assets • Investment in Derbyshire that helps drive its green economy • Financial, social, and environmental benefits realised and quantified as returns on investment • Favourable commercial risk management • More effective use of public funds • Demonstration of corporate social responsibility • Social enterprise development • Portfolio or pipeline of good quality carbon offsetting opportunities

8.3 There is a range of funding solutions that the Council should seek to access to fund the delivery of this Tree and Woodland Strategy and these are identified below. They include grants, incentives, guidance and regulatory processes. The Council will need to create new woodland creation partnerships with the Government, other local authorities, local organisations, civil society groups, communities, businesses and private investors at local and regional levels to be effective in this regard.

8.4 The Government's Nature for Climate Fund

The Government's £640m fund to enable the delivery of its Environment Improvement Plan 2023. Of which £500m is intended to be spent on trees and woodlands in England

between 2020 and 2025 to increase planting rates to 30,000 hectares per year by 2025. This funding requires that woodland creation is compliant with the UK Forest Standard and is not planted in inappropriate locations. The Council can access this funding via the following means.

8.4.1 *Trees for Climate*

Trees for Climate is a £125m woodland creation programme being run by England's Community Forests on behalf of the Government (with The Mersey Forest being the accountable body). It is part of the wider Government Nature for Climate fund. Through Trees for Climate the Community Forests offer landowners free bespoke advice, finance, and delivery of tree planting projects (covering up to 100% of costs). They also provide 15-years of maintenance payments and other benefits.

Whilst Derbyshire does not fall within the geographic area of one of the 13 Community Forests it is adjacent to The Mersey Forest, City of Trees (Manchester), the White Rose Forest (Yorkshire), and Greenwood Community Forest (Nottinghamshire). Therefore, the areas of Derbyshire that fall within a ten-mile "halo" of these Community Forests can seek support from Trees for Climate.

8.4.2 *The National Lottery Community Fund – Nature and Climate*

This Fund is for projects that focus on using nature to encourage more community-led climate action. It is important that projects provide social and economic benefits, for example the creation of strong, resilient, and healthy communities or the development of 'green' skills and jobs. It is part of the Government's Nature for Climate fund.

This is an example of the type of community-led projects that this Strategy seeks to mobilise.

8.5 **Environmental Land Management Schemes (ELMS)**

The Government will pay landowners for providing environmental and climate goods and services through the following methods.

- a) The Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI) will fund farmers if they evidence their adoption and maintenance of sustainable farming practices that can protect and enhance the natural environment alongside food production, and also support farm productivity (including by improving animal health and welfare, optimising the use of inputs and making better use of natural resources).
- b) Countryside Stewardship (CS) will fund landowners for delivering more targeted actions relating to specific locations, features and habitats. There will be an extra incentive through CS Plus for land managers to join up across local areas to deliver bigger and better results. The forthcoming Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Derbyshire will inform where such action is best targeted in the county, with trees and woodland expected to be a primary investment opportunity.
- c) Landscape Recovery will provide investment for bespoke, longer-term, larger scale projects to enhance the natural environment. Linked to point (b) the Local Nature

Recovery Strategy is expected to identify how Derbyshire best works at scale to deliver biodiversity improvements.

8.6 A New Biodiversity Offsetting Market for England

- 8.6.1 Biodiversity offsets are conservation activities that are designed to give biodiversity benefits to compensate for losses; ensuring that when a development damages nature (and this damage cannot be avoided or mitigated on the development itself) new nature sites will be created elsewhere. This is a requirement of the Environment Act 2021 whereby biodiversity offsets will be created by developers in their compliance with a new planning regime from November 2023 that requires a demonstrable $\geq 10\%$ Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) from their development site compared to the pre-development value of onsite habitats. When such BNG cannot be provided on the development site then the developer must provide biodiversity offsets that fund the provision of their development site's BNG and an alternative appropriate location.
- 8.6.2 Biodiversity offsetting will become a new market mechanism that the Government is establishing to drive and fund nature recovery in England. The commencement of biodiversity markets is expected from November 2023 (when mandatory BNG planning permission starts) and is expected to lead to multiple local biodiversity offset markets being developed across England. The Government has estimated that this market will generate annual demand for around 6,200 off-site biodiversity units for England with a value of £135 million, other sources predict this value to be £274m.
- 8.6.3 Landowners or land managers (the supply-side) who can create or enhance habitat to the required standards on their land will be able to sell biodiversity units to developers (who cannot achieve BNG on their development site) and use this income to fund the habitat improvements on their land, and its maintenance for at least 30-years after the completion of the works. In return for purchasing the biodiversity units the developers (the demand-side) will be able to demonstrate their mandatory BNG compliance to LPAs. These arrangements will be legally binding to the land through new conservation covenants or planning obligations. Intermediaries such as brokers may facilitate these transactions.
- 8.6.4 The Government expects off-site biodiversity gains to be delivered locally to the development site. However, where the available local opportunities for off-site habitat creation or enhancement are insufficient for developers to meet their net gain requirements, off-site delivery outside of the local area will be allowed (but must be in England).
- 8.6.5 Any landowners or land managers will be able to create or enhance habitat for the purpose of selling biodiversity units to developments anywhere in England. This includes local authorities who can sell biodiversity units from their own land or act as a broker for third party units provided they manage the conflict of interest with their planning decision function.

8.7 Embedding tree planting in funded Council led regeneration projects

- 8.7.1 The Council, as a project sponsor and as a delivery partner, has a role in an extensive and ambitious regeneration programme encompassing projects under Town Deals, Levelling Up, large local major and active travel programmes. These include a number of infrastructure projects, such off-road walking and cycling routes plus highways, to facilitate land-use development which may lend themselves to the incorporation of tree planting.

They also involve close partnership working with district and borough councils and with private-sector developers, and all have a requirement to demonstrate Biodiversity Net Gain.

- 8.7.2 This Strategy proposes that the Council commits to establishing the scope for significantly increasing appropriate tree planting and subsequent maintenance within its existing and future programme of regeneration and infrastructure projects. This will include bespoke reporting and monitoring from each project on the degree to which such tree planting is contributing to the delivery of this Strategy's vision and objectives.

8.8 The UK Woodland Carbon Code

- 8.8.1 The Woodland Carbon Code (<https://woodlandcarboncode.org.uk/>) is the UK standard for verifiable carbon sequestration meaning that woodlands managed to this standard can be claimed as an offset in carbon reporting. Importantly this is the mechanism for selling carbon credits as income generation.
- 8.8.2 For woodland to meet Carbon Code standards it must conform to the UK Forestry Standard and be recorded on the UK Land Carbon Registry. Managing woodland to Carbon Code standards has additional responsibilities (and may determine the maximum number of trees per hectare in some cases) but means that carbon sequestration benefits can be accounted for.
- 8.8.3 This is an important opportunity for funding that the Council will explore and should be considered at the start of any new woodland creation to ascertain whether the woodland could meet the standard.

8.9 The preparation of a Green Infrastructure Investment Plan for Trees and Woodlands in Derbyshire

- 8.9.1 This Strategy identifies the need for the Council to establish a Natural Capital Investment Plan for Trees and Woodlands in Derbyshire to ensure an informed, collaborative, and efficient approach is adopted to funding the county's nature recovery ambitions. The plan would use the evidenced natural capital benefits that the county's ecosystem services provided and identify the different types of potential investors in these goods and services for Derbyshire (and the wider East Midlands) i.e. from the public, social, and private sectors plus the Government funding sources referenced above. It would establish a pipeline of investment propositions in natural capital; the revenue, social and environmental returns on such investment; and identify an expected blend of financing approaches for their delivery through public grants, regulatory incentives, social investment, and commercial funding solutions.
- 8.6.2 Such a Natural Capital Investment Plan is expected to be a key consideration for the delivery of the forthcoming Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Derbyshire and is an essential feature of this Tree and Woodland Strategy.
- 8.6.3 *Potential investment mechanisms in Derbyshire's natural capital*

There is a broad range of potential sources of investment in the county's natural capital. These will be explored further by the Council to establish which models offer the best outcomes in terms of the following criteria:

- Demonstrate alignment with the Council’s statutory powers and policy commitments.
- Can be advanced at pace as their business case demonstrates greater revenue generating potential and therefore near-term investment credentials.
- Are relevant to, and are therefore supported by, Derbyshire’s public, private and community stakeholders i.e. they align with the Derbyshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy.
- Offer best prospects to motivate significant value from non-public sector investment in the short term i.e. over the next two to five years.
- Demonstrate scale and longevity against which large portfolio investment in natural capital can be secured i.e. over 50 years.

8.6.4 The potential investors in Derbyshire’s natural capital are identified in Table 5 below.

Table 5: Potential investors in Derbyshire’s natural capital		
Type of investor	Investor	Form of investment
Public	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government e.g. Nature for Climate Fund • Mayoral County Combined Authority e.g. Levelling Up • UK Infrastructure Bank • Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) • Derbyshire County Council e.g. Climate Change and Environment Programme Reserve £4m / Public Health budget / Green Entrepreneurs Fund / capital investment in regeneration and infrastructure projects • Borough/District and Parish/Town Councils • Public Sector e.g. Schools and Natural England • Environment Agency • Forestry Commission • The UK Woodland Carbon Code • NHS • UK Research Councils (e.g. ESRC, NERC, AHRC) • Sport England “Active Environments” theme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity building • Technical and business case preparation • Capital projects / revenue maintenance • Community engagement • De-risking other investors / match funding • Incorporation of tree planting in regeneration and infrastructure projects • Research and public engagement • In-kind use of land for planting

Philanthropic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant making trusts and foundations e.g. Derbyshire Wildlife Trust and Foundation Derbyshire • Non-Government Organisations e.g. Peak District National Park Authority • The National Lottery e.g. Community Fund – Nature and Climate • Religious institutions/Places of worship/Community venues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity building • Feasibility studies • Capital projects • Community engagement • Use of land for planting • Financial contribution towards tree planting on their own property
Impact investors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social investors • Charity bonds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Debt or equity investment
Corporates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utility companies e.g. United Utilities and National Grid • Insurance companies • Infrastructure developers e.g. mineral products industry • Commercial companies e.g. housing developers • Educational Academy Trusts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate Social Responsibility • Debt or equity investment • Risk mitigation payments • Sponsorship • Biodiversity Net Gain offsetting credits • Carbon offsetting credits • Use of land for planting • Financial contribution towards tree planting on their own property
Institutional investors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pension funds • Financial sector e.g. Environment Bank 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Debt or equity investment
Retail investors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High Net Worth Individuals • Retail bonds • Crowdfunding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Debt or equity investment

9. Theme E: Nature Connected Partnerships for Trees and Woodlands

- 9.1 The delivery of the full ambitions of this strategy will require a keen interest and collective effort across Derbyshire's citizens and the county's public, private, and community sectors. Many partnerships that promote and sustain the value of nature are well established and successful and offer a wealth of good practice to continue and learn from. However, there is opportunity in Derbyshire for much more collaborative sharing of ideas, innovation, and enterprise to secure maximum benefit from a thriving and well connected county-wide tree and woodland resource. These are the outcomes that this Theme seeks to deliver.
- 9.2 The outcome that Theme E seeks to deliver, and the associated example benefits to be realised, is summarised below.

Theme E: Nature Connected Partnerships for Trees and Woodlands	
Outcome	Example benefits
Derbyshire is a place where society's collaboration is strong and generates shared resources to plant and care for trees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrating the Council's Place Leadership role • Creating thriving communities e.g. new social enterprise and opportunities for conservation volunteering • Financial, and monetarised social and environmental, return on investment to public, private, and civil society investors • New Government funding invested in Derbyshire • Preparing for delivering important aspects of the Net Zero, Energy and Environment theme of the East Midlands Mayoral Combined County Authority (EMCCA) Deal

- 9.3 The delivery of this Strategy is an endeavour that the Council wishes everyone to be offered the opportunity to be involved in. For example: a local community tree planting initiative; an asset transfer of the management of a woodland to a social enterprise; corporate social responsibility sponsorship of new "Derbyshire Tree Champion" volunteers; upskilling young people in forest maintenance techniques; or securing commercial investment for the creation of new woodlands.
- 9.4 Hence the Council has identified the stakeholder partners it sees as being important to this strategy's successful delivery. In taking the strategy forward the Council will develop a stakeholder engagement plan to ensure it appropriately seeks to partner with these organisations to co-produce solutions that improve the quality, quantity, and accessibility to, Derbyshire's trees and woodlands.

- 9.5 This strategy defines a stakeholder as a person, group or organisation that has a vested or general interest in supporting the Council deliver this Strategy's vision and objectives. These stakeholders are identified in three groups as follows.

9.6 **High-involvement stakeholders**

High-involvement stakeholders are those who have a significant interest / accountability in the delivery of the strategy and will be directly and significantly impacted by its success or failure. These are the stakeholders who need to provide the most power or influence in the strategy's delivery; they are vital to the success of the strategy and include:

- Derbyshire County Council
 - Countryside Service
 - Conservation, Design and Heritage Service
 - Climate Change Programme
 - Local Planning Authority
 - Highways Authority
 - Corporate Property Services
- Other Derbyshire local authorities
 - Amber Valley Borough Council
 - Bolsover District Council
 - Chesterfield Borough Council
 - Derbyshire Dales District Council
 - Erewash Borough Council
 - High Peak Borough Council
 - North East Derbyshire District Council
 - South Derbyshire District Council
- Derby City Council
- Peak District National Park Authority
- East Midlands Mayoral Combined County Authority (from 2024)

9.7 **Medium-involvement stakeholders**

Medium-involvement stakeholders are those stakeholders with ambitions that are complementary to the strategy, but who are not as invested in its direct success as high-involvement stakeholders. They may have a national, regional, or local interest in the strategy's success as it complements the delivery of their more diverse, policy direction and management priorities, these include:

- Derbyshire Wildlife Trust
- University of Derby
- The Northern Forest
- The National Forest
- Greenwood Community Forest
- The Woodland Trust

- The Forestry Commission
- Environment Agency
- Natural England
- National Trust
- Severn Trent Water
- Yorkshire Water
- United Utilities
- Catchment Based Approach Partnerships
- Derbyshire's Town and Parish Councils
- Derbyshire's Community, Voluntary, Faith and Social Enterprise Sector
- Derbyshire's Schools and Young People
- The Tree Council
- DEFRA
- Highways England
- Nottinghamshire County Council

9.8 Low-involvement stakeholders

Low-involvement stakeholders are those stakeholders who have interest in the strategy but are not likely to be affected by its success or failure. However, there is opportunity to raise their interest and use their influence and resources to enable the success of the strategy, these include:

- East Midlands Chamber
- D2N2 - Local Enterprise Partnership for Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire
- Business Sector
- Private estates
- Mineral Products Industry
- Agricultural Sector
- Investors

10. Governance, monitoring, and review

- 10.1 Ensuring effective and timely delivery of the Strategy is central to the successful delivery of the Council's net zero and nature positive organisational values and ambitions.
- 10.2 The Council's Climate Change and Environment Programme Board (the Board) will be responsible for providing strategic oversight and direction for the overall delivery of the Strategy. Accountable to the Place Programme Board and ultimately the Council's Portfolio Direction Group, the Board will oversee the successful delivery of the Strategy and make recommendations around the commissioning and resource implications of priority projects and initiatives. The Board will also provide assurance that the Strategy is delivering the required outcomes, manage any key risks, and provide direction and advice to ensure the Strategy is delivered in a value for money, good-quality, and timely manner in accordance with the Council's strategic priorities.
- 10.3 The delivery of the Strategy has links and synergies with the work being carried out through the 'Living and Working Sustainably' workstream of Vision Derbyshire. As such, close engagement with the relevant Vision Derbyshire Boards, Working Groups and wider governance structures will be carried out to ensure delivery is aligned with the needs and priorities of wider Vision Derbyshire members.
- 10.4 The Strategy will be reviewed and updated in full in 2025 to form Phase 2 of the Strategy for the three-year period 2027/28 to 2030/31.

11. The Strategy's Action Plan

Theme A: Championing and realising the benefits of trees	Timescale			Lead Council Service(s)	Funding options
Action A1	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26		
<p>Use this Tree and Woodland Strategy to support the preparation of a Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Derbyshire during 2023/24 and 2024/25</p> <p>Key considerations:</p> <p>a) Ensure that appropriate tree and woodland protection and creation is incorporated within the county's Local Nature Recovery Strategy.</p> <p>b) Local Nature Recovery Strategies are a system of spatial strategies for nature and environmental improvement required by law under the Environment Act 2021.</p> <p>Each Local Nature Recovery Strategy must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree priorities for nature's recovery • Map the most valuable existing areas for nature • Map specific proposals for creating or improving habitat for nature and wider environmental goals <p>c) The Council is the Responsible Authority for preparing / delivering a Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Derbyshire and will undertake this duty in a collaborative manner with the county's many public, private and voluntary sector partners stakeholders e.g. via action A2.</p>	✓	✓		Conservation, Heritage & Design Service	<p>Government new burdens funding for Local Nature Recovery Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £0.048m in 2022/23 for Council preparation for Local Nature Recovery Strategy (not used) • New funding for Local Nature Recovery Strategy preparation of £0.200m for 2023/24 and £0.175m for 2024/25 <p>The Council's Climate Change</p>

					Programme £4m reserve
Theme A: Championing and realising the benefits of trees	Timescale			Lead Council Service(s)	Funding options
Action A2	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26		
<p>Consult with the other Derbyshire local authorities and the Peak District National Park Authority to seek opportunities to align strategies, projects and resources in respect to trees and woodlands.</p> <p>Key considerations:</p> <p>a) This work is conducted as part of the Council's engagement with these organisations in their role as "supporting authorities" to the preparation of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.</p> <p>b) Carbon sequestration and Woodland Carbon Code should be a key area of this work.</p> <p>c) Reviewing how the planning system can be better utilised to protect trees, hedgerows, woodlands will be explored.</p>	✓			Conservation, Heritage & Design Service Climate Change Programme	Government new burdens funding for Local Nature Recovery Strategy (as per A1)
Theme A: Championing and realising the benefits of trees	Timescale			Lead Council Service(s)	Funding options
Action A3	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	Action	
<p>Promote the findings and recommendations of the Natural Capital Strategy for Derbyshire to explain to stakeholders the contribution that trees and woodlands make to ecosystem services, to encourage and inform their involvement in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good practice tree and woodland management Creating appropriate new woodlands 	✓			Conservation, Heritage, & Design Service Countryside Service	Government new burdens funding for Local Nature Recovery Strategy (as per A1) The Council's Climate Change

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparing and delivering a Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Derbyshire • Developing woodlands to Woodland Carbon Code standards <p>Key considerations:</p> <p>a) Establish a methodology for measuring the benefits of natural capital (including trees and woodlands) as the consistent approach used by Derbyshire’ stakeholders and is aligned to reporting performance against the Government’s national targets for nature recovery.</p> <p>b) Actively engage with those interested in increasing tree cover to ensure that new planting and woodland creation maximises benefits across all ecosystem services.</p> <p>c) Recognise and understand the differing motivations and barriers that will inform stakeholders decisions on whether to establish new trees and woodlands, and what form any new trees and woodlands should take considering these matters.</p> <p>d) Collaboration across stakeholders, utilising existing partnerships, are needed to facilitate projects at scale that deliver for the priorities of multiple organisations.</p> <p>e) Use of a Natural Capital “story board” to communicate key messages simply and quickly.</p> <p>f) Include explicit promotion of Woodland Carbon Code as an approach to follow where appropriate.</p>					<p>Programme £4m reserve</p> <p>Million trees annual revenue budget of £0.113m</p> <p>2023/24 one-off budget of £0.450m for Ash Dieback Disease and Woodland Creation</p>
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Theme A: Championing and realising the benefits of trees	Timescale			Lead Council Service(s) Action	Funding options
Action A4	2023/24	2023/24	2023/24		
<p>Establish a “Tree and Woodland Performance Monitoring and Verification Framework” for Derbyshire that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifies the number and area of woodlands in Derbyshire being managed to the UK Forestry Standard and the UK Woodland Carbon Code; and the outcomes they provide • Collates and verifies the type, location and number of new trees planted, their maintenance arrangements, and their ongoing health • Monitors tree canopy cover across Derbyshire (to accord with the Government’s tree and woodland creation target metrics) <p>From 2024/25 publish an annual report explaining outcomes of the Tree and Woodland Performance Monitoring Framework on the Council’s Million Trees website (in accordance with the Council’s duty to conserve and enhance biodiversity under the Environment Act 2021; the “general biodiversity objective”.</p> <p>Key considerations:</p> <p>a) Agree a common approach to canopy measurement in Derbyshire and use this to inform monitoring of woodland creation and management.</p> <p>b) Consider current tree species, size and age, distribution, and dominance diversity for each of Derbyshire’s ten National Landscape Areas to guide species selection.</p>	✓	✓		<p>Countryside Service</p> <p>Conservation, Heritage, & Design Service</p>	<p>Million trees annual revenue budget of £0.113m</p>

<p>c) Secure a better understanding of Derbyshire's tree canopy cover and its impact on the county's Natural Capital Asset Account (as provided in the Natural Capital Strategy for Derbyshire).</p> <p>d) Use planning permission new landscape schemes to inform tree planting numbers and aftercare provision.</p>					
Theme A: Championing and realising the benefits of trees	Timescale			Lead Council Service(s) Action	Funding options
Action A5	2023/24	2023/24	2023/24		
<p>Optimise confidence in the Natural Capital Strategy for Derbyshire's Natural Capital Account to improve its effectiveness as a tool for quantifying the return on investment in the ecosystem services provided by trees and woodlands.</p> <p>Key considerations:</p> <p>a) Such appraisal is needed to understand the relationship between spending on natural capital and the benefits they provide.</p> <p>b) Incorporate the benefit of flood risk management and the mental health benefits of engagement with nature in the Account.</p> <p>c) Financially quantify the liabilities of maintaining and creating natural capital.</p>	✓	✓		Conservation, Heritage, & Design Service	<p>Government new burdens funding for Local Nature Recovery Strategy (as per A1)</p> <p>The Council's Climate Change Programme £4m reserve</p>

Theme A: Championing and realising the benefits of trees	Timescale			Lead Council Service(s)	Funding options
Action A6	2023/24	2023/24	2023/24	Action	
<p>Review the Council’s annual Woodland Festival to ensure it is commercially viable and champions the delivery of this Strategy’s vision and strategic objectives.</p> <p>Key considerations:</p> <p>a) Ensure the Council fully understands the cost / benefit implications of delivering the Festival.</p> <p>b) Conduct a baseline assessment of the current Woodland Festival offer, value, and cost to the Council.</p> <p>c) Review the purpose of the Woodland Festival and identify / appraise options for its future.</p>	✓	✓		Countryside Service	The Council’s Climate Change Programme £4m reserve
Theme B: Managing trees for safety and a changing climate	Timescale			Lead Council Service	Funding options
Action B1	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26		
<p>Provide assurance to the Council that its tree and woodland assets are being managed in compliance with the Council’s Executive Health and Safety Policy Statement (13 December 2022) by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing a Council “Tree and Woodland Health, Safety, and Protection Policy” that identifies the Council’s approach to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Applying a risk-based approach to ensuring the safety of users of the public highway from trees ○ Inspecting / monitoring the health of trees and rectifying identified defects and hazards 	✓			Countryside Service Highways Service Corporate Property Services	2023/24 one-off budget of £0.450m for Ash Dieback Disease and Woodland Creation Grounds maintenance annual revenue budget for Countryside Sites of

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dealing with trees that are causing an actionable nuisance ○ Management of Tree Preservation Orders ○ Maintenance standards for tree and woodland assets ○ Regulation and enforcement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Establishing a service level agreement between the Countryside Service and the Highways Division that ensures the effective monitoring and management of risk of trees on and adjacent to the highway. ● Establishing a service level agreement between the Countryside Service and the Corporate Property Service that ensures the effective monitoring and management of tree risk on the Council’s estate. <p>Key considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Establish the current level of risk posed by dangerous trees and how such risk is being mitigated. b) Identify the functions and resources the Council is deploying to manage this risk. c) Appraise the requirements and performance of Derbyshire’s borough and district councils in highways / street tree inspections and maintenance against the highways maintenance Agency Agreements the Council has with each local authority. d) Ensure the Council’s asset management system is applied to all trees that are the responsibility of the Council so that a up to date record of inspections, maintenance, and risk appraisal can be evidenced. 					<p>£0.300m from 2023/24</p> <p>See Action D1: Prepare a “Green Infrastructure Investment Plan for Trees and Woodlands” to ensure an informed, collaborative, and efficient approach is adopted to funding this element of the Council’s nature recovery objectives for Derbyshire</p>
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e) Review options for improvement and recommend a preferred way forward.					
Theme B: Managing trees for safety and a changing climate	Timescale			Lead Council Service	Funding options
Action B2	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26		
<p>Implementation of the Council's Ash Dieback Action Plan.</p> <p>Key considerations:</p> <p>a) Continued implementation of the Council's Ash Dieback Action Plan, including understanding and addressing health and safety risks and addressing the long-term decline of ash trees in the county through their appropriate replacement.</p> <p>b) Continue to forecast and monitor the financial implications of managing Ash Dieback for the Council and identify funding options for ash tree removal and replacement.</p> <p>c) Share expertise, knowledge, and resources with stakeholders to help manage the decline in ash trees and factor this loss into wider tree planting and natural woodland regeneration targets.</p> <p>d) Consider joint local authority working opportunities through Vision Derbyshire and at the East Midlands scale to derive economies of scale to improve performance, operational efficiency, and accelerate tree replacement.</p>	✓	✓	✓	Countryside Service	<p>Ash Dieback Action Plan annual revenue budget of £0.270m</p> <p>2023/24 one-off budget of £0.450m for Ash Dieback Disease and Woodland Creation</p>
Theme B: Managing trees for safety and a changing climate	Timescale			Lead Council Service	Funding options
Action B3	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26		

<p>Prepare a “Tree and Woodland Adaptation for a Changing Climate Guide in Derbyshire” that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifies how Derbyshire’s future trees and woodlands should be selected, designed, located, and maintained so that they are resilient and thrive in the predicted changing climate conditions of the next 50 – 80 years and help to enhance resilience to climate change through flood protection and the provision of cooling and shading; and they replace those existing trees that are expected to be lost due to extreme weather. <p>Key considerations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Commission a study to understand the impact of projected climate change on trees and woodlands in Derbyshire and to inform new tree species and planting design and location decisions. Monitor trends from the baseline (the Natural Capital Strategy for Derbyshire) to gain a greater understanding of how effectively natural capital assets are being managed. Apply natural woodland regeneration techniques, plant trees sourced and grown in the UK, and support local tree nurseries to ensure strict biosecurity and quality control practices. Create a list of tree species to put on the Council’s Million Trees website with advice on which tree is preferred based on species distribution, size, and location; this will help species selection by residents, businesses, and developers. Establishing robust biosecurity measures and accreditations. 		✓		Climate Change Programme Team	The Council’s Climate Change Programme £4m reserve
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Theme C: Directing the transformational growth, renewal, and protection of woodland	Timescale			Lead Council Service	Funding options
	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26		
Action C1					
<p>Accelerate the creation of a network of resilient woodland ecosystems that comprises of 300,000 trees by March 2025 in accordance with the findings and recommendations of its Natural Capital Strategy through:</p> <p>a) Appraise options for establishing a “Tree and Woodland Partnership” for each of Derbyshire ten National Landscape Character Areas (potentially linked to the preparation / delivery of a Local Nature Recovery Strategy for the county); and implement the preferred way forward (in 2024-25).</p> <p>b) The preparation of a “Tree and Woodland Development Prospectus” for each of Derbyshire ten National Landscape Character Areas that provides a bespoke guide to the siting, type, and design of new tree planting – potentially prepared by each “Tree and Woodland Partnership” and in accordance with the Government’s Green Infrastructure Prospectus (in 2023-24).</p> <p>Key considerations:</p> <p>c) The Council to achieve this through effective design, planning, implementation, and aftercare action and by encouraging the natural regeneration of woodlands where this can be achieved.</p> <p>d) Informed by Council and partner best evidence, experience, resources, and natural capital investment frameworks.</p>	✓	✓		<p>Conservation, Heritage, & Design Service</p> <p>Countryside Service</p>	<p>Government new burdens funding for Local Nature Recovery Strategy (as per A1)</p> <p>The Council’s Climate Change Programme £4m reserve</p> <p>See Action D1: Prepare a “Green Infrastructure Investment Plan for Trees and Woodlands” to ensure an informed, collaborative, and efficient approach is adopted to funding this element of the Council’s nature recovery objectives for Derbyshire</p>

<p>e) Liaison between the Council’s Countryside, Highways, Planning and Corporate Property services (and its Vertas / Concertas Joint Venture) to encourage more tree design and planting in infrastructure development projects e.g. the new Council Highways Design Guide to fulfil National Planning Policy Framework (2021) street tree planting requirements and the good practice guidance of the Government’s Green Infrastructure Prospectus.</p> <p>f) The following types of settings are expected to be utilised for these purposes and undertaken in accordance with relevant Local Character Type specifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban settings e.g. street trees • Highways (where trees do not pose a risk to infrastructure or safety) • School grounds • Existing woodlands through extension and management • Agricultural land e.g. new hedgerows, boundary trees, and agroforestry • Community land e.g. countryside sites, parks and other green spaces • Residents gardens • Private land and country estates • Former industrial land e.g. derelict land and closed landfill sites <p>g) While ensuring no net deforestation, seek to restore priority habitats, views, and landscape character by removing trees where appropriate; and manage woodlands through thinning and felling where this would improve their value to wildlife and people.</p> <p>h) Where new woodland is being established, promote the adoption of Woodland Carbon Code before planting begins.</p>					
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<p>i) Demonstrate opportunities for smaller scale planting in urban areas which will showcase the benefits of trees in the residential, workplace, education and community setting.</p> <p>j) The following findings and recommendations of the Natural Capital Strategy for Derbyshire are of particular importance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Woodland creation is desirable across most Landscape Character Types in Derbyshire, but is preferred in the east, in the Derwent valley, and in the southern tip (National Forest area) of the county o The planting of native species is a priority as they will better support overall biodiversity net gain. However, expert advice and further research is required as to the suitability of incorporating non-indigenous tree species that will be better suited to the changes predicted in Derbyshire’s climate by 2080 (see Action B3) o The planting of riparian woodlands along Derbyshire’s rivers where there is no existing adjacent semi-natural vegetation. This flood management solution will be particularly beneficial in reducing flood risk in the Trent Valley Washlands, and the mid and lower section of the river Derwent. o The planting of new hedgerows or rows of trees across slopes or adjacent to watercourses, to reduce the sediment and pollutant load reaching watercourses. o The planting of new hedges or the restoration of older hedges and field margins. This will help slow the movement of water and mitigate flooding particularly when implemented in the mid-reaches of Derbyshire’s hydrological catchment zone. 					
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The planting of hedgerows to bring carbon sequestration benefits to farms while also benefiting animal welfare and pollutant run-off. ○ The establishment of new wetlands: particularly wet woodlands (which are some of the least common wooded habitats in the UK) and fens. This will enhance soil carbon capture, as well as providing other benefits for water management and biodiversity. ○ Management and restoration of the county’s largely small and fragmented 7,700 hectares of ancient woodlands i.e. (any woodland (including plantations) that has been continuously wooded since 1600AD. The coppicing / pollarding of individual trees will maintain the ecosystem in a state of carbon sequestration rather than it reaching an equilibrium. ○ Hedgerow planting and woodland creation should be resisted in those Landscape Character Types where the policy vision developed by the Council is to maintain an open / unwooded landscape character or where dry-stone walls are the traditional boundary detail. ○ When considering commercial woodlands, trees should be destined for the timber rather than paper market. To make a positive impact on carbon sequestration, trees should be in place for at least 40 years prior to harvest. Willow coppice for biofuel can be a useful carbon market, to enhance the soil carbon while still preserving woodland habitats. 					
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Theme C: Directing the transformational growth, renewal, and protection of woodland	Timescale			Lead Council Service	Funding options
Action C2	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26		
<p>Prepare a business case to appraise the value of the Council working with partners to establish a new “Community Forest” in Derbyshire in accordance with the Government’s interest to expand the existing Community Forest programme in England.</p> <p>Key considerations:</p> <p>a) A new Community Forest partnership to bring trees and people together to create healthy, inspiring resilient places for humans and nature to live, side by side.</p> <p>b) The Council’s participation in the England’s Community Forests management forum.</p> <p>c) Seek support from England’s 13 Community Forests and the National Forest i.e. advice, advocacy, and funding.</p> <p>d) Apply to the call for expressions of interest in accordance with the Government’s intention during 2023/24 to establish a further two England Community Forests.</p>	✓			<p>Conservation, Heritage, & Design Service</p> <p>Countryside Service</p>	<p>The Council’s Climate Change Programme £4m reserve</p> <p>The Government’s Trees for Climate Fund</p>

Theme C: Directing the transformational growth, renewal, and protection of woodland	Timescale			Lead Council Service	Funding options
Action C3	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26		
<p>Review and develop proposals for the Council adopting the Government’s Green (GI) Infrastructure Framework into its Local Planning Authority policy and its Countryside Service Business Plan delivery.</p> <p>Key considerations:</p> <p>a) The Green Infrastructure Framework is designed to help Local Planning Authorities and developers meet requirements in the National Planning Policy Framework to consider green infrastructure in local plans and in new development.</p> <p>b) The Framework has also been developed to enable other organisations to plan for green infrastructure creation or improvement e.g. in the preparation of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Derbyshire and in the application of Biodiversity Net Gain planning permission requirements.</p>		✓		<p>Conservation, Heritage, & Design Service</p> <p>Local Planning Authority</p>	<p>Government new burdens funding for Local Nature Recovery Strategy (as per A1)</p>

Theme C: Directing the transformational growth, renewal, and protection of woodland	Timescale			Lead Council Service	Funding options
Action C4	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26		
<p>Ensure officer capacity and expertise is available within the Council to effectively deliver the Tree and Woodland Strategy.</p> <p>Key considerations:</p> <p>a) Review the Council’s officer capacity to effectively deliver the strategy.</p>	✓			Countryside Service Conservation, Heritage, and Design Service Climate Change Programme Team	Government new burdens funding for Local Nature Recovery Strategy (as per A1) Climate Change Programme Revenue budget of £0.253m for project development
Theme C: Directing the transformational growth, renewal, and protection of woodland	Timescale			Lead Council Service	Funding options
Action C5	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26		
<p>Prepare a “Communities for Trees Policy” to promote, guide and regulate public tree planting and aftercare action</p> <p>Key considerations:</p> <p>a) A technical specification that provides good practice guidance on community led tree and woodland planting and maintenance in Derbyshire.</p> <p>b) Communicate that trees, or certain trees, are not appropriate in all places of the county and the need to conserve sensitive landscapes</p>	✓			Countryside Service	Million trees annual revenue budget of £0.113m

and ecology, as well as the ecological value of more open, unwooded landscapes i.e. Derbyshire's Landscape Character Areas and Types.						
c) Developing a method to assess suitable sites for tree and hedgerow planting and woodland creation that does not adversely affect or conflict with Local Plans.						
d) Develop and deliver a public promotion campaign.						
e) Utilise public land to establish community orchards as a resource for both people and wildlife.						
f) Provide communications on tree and woodland maintenance to ensure the public are well informed.						
g) Preparation of a comprehensive and robust database that enables assessment of where tree planting is proposed and has been undertaken.						
Theme C: Directing the transformational growth, renewal, and protection of woodland		Timescale			Lead Council Service	Funding options
Action C6		2023/24	2024/25	2025/26		
C6	<p>Establish woodland management plans in accordance with the UK Forestry Standard for the Council's 53 "named" woodlands (850 hectares) by 31 March 2025.</p> <p>Key considerations:</p> <p>a) Address the current low levels of management within the Council's 53 woodlands (850 hectares).</p>	✓	✓	✓	<p>Countryside Service</p> <p>Corporate Property Services</p>	<p>Grounds maintenance annual revenue budget for Countryside Sites of £0.300m from 2023/24</p> <p>2023/24 one-off budget of £0.450m</p>

	<p>b) Utilise the Biodiversity Net Gain offset funds (which requires a commitment to 30 years of management), the Environmental Land Management (ELM) Scheme and other funding sources, to improve the Council's woodland management credentials.</p> <p>c) Seek the support of the commercial and community enterprise sectors in the future stewardship of these sites.</p>					<p>for Ash Dieback Disease and Woodland Creation</p> <p>The Council's Climate Change Programme £4m reserve</p> <p>Countryside Stewardship Woodland Management Plan Grants</p> <p>UK Woodland Carbon Code</p>
Theme C: Directing the transformational growth, renewal, and protection of woodland		Timescale			Lead Council Service	Funding options
Action C7	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26			
<p>Appraise the potential of providing new woodlands with legal protections to ensure those created now last in perpetuity.</p> <p>Key considerations:</p> <p>a) Explore the legal and financial implications of establishing formal safeguards on newly created woodland.</p> <p>b) Develop a strategy for ensuring in-perpetuity protection of newly created woodlands, building on national protections.</p>			✓	Conservation, Heritage, & Design Service	The Council's Climate Change Programme £4m reserve	

<p>c) Conservation covenants arising from woodland created through Biodiversity Net Gain.</p> <p>d) Adoption of Woodland Carbon Code as appropriate.</p>					
Theme D: Financing tree planting and woodland creation					
Action D1	Timescale			Lead Council Service	Funding options
<p>Prepare a “Green Infrastructure Investment Plan for Trees and Woodlands” to ensure an informed, collaborative, and efficient approach is adopted to funding this element of the Council’s nature recovery objectives for Derbyshire.</p> <p>Key considerations:</p> <p>a) Develop expertise in accessing public funding mechanisms, including Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) and the Environmental Land Management (ELM) Scheme.</p> <p>b) Develop expertise in creation of Woodland Carbon Code projects to show leadership.</p> <p>c) Use the Council’s Million Trees website to communicate and advise on the range of funding sources for trees and woodlands.</p> <p>d) Identify, prioritise, and develop engaging projects that facilitate delivery of the vision and priorities of the Tree and Woodland Strategy to potential investors in Derbyshire’s natural capital.</p>	<p>✓</p>			<p>Conservation, Heritage, & Design Service</p>	<p>Government new burdens funding for Local Nature Recovery Strategy (as per A1)</p> <p>The Council’s Climate Change Programme £4m reserve</p>

e) Maintain a pipeline of trees and woodland projects with investment ready businesses cases so that when funding becomes available Derbyshire is ready to benefit from it.					
Theme D: Financing tree planting and woodland creation	Timescale			Lead Council Service	Funding options
Action D2	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26		
<p>Prepare a “Tree and Woodland Logistics Plan” that identifies how the Council will ensure the necessary supply chains are in place to meet the targets set in the strategy.</p> <p>Key considerations:</p> <p>a) Review existing nursery capacity in England to supply Derbyshire and the anticipated wider East Midlands market over the next ten-years.</p> <p>b) Provide support for new and existing tree nurseries.</p> <p>c) Review Local Planning Authority policies to enable the establishment of new tree nurseries for the supply of suitable trees for planting.</p> <p>d) Ensure strong biosecurity practices are in place through appropriate regulation and good practice.</p> <p>e) Assessing the business case for establishing a Council tree nursery and / or supporting new community enterprise ventures to supply this market.</p> <p>f) Explore opportunities for business development and new jobs, scholarships, qualifications and training in forest management and arboriculture.</p>	✓			Countryside Service	<p>The Council’s Climate Change Programme £4m reserve</p> <p>The Council’s Green Entrepreneurs Fund of £1.9m</p>

Theme D: Financing tree planting and woodland creation	Timescale			Lead Council Service	Funding options
Action D3	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26		
<p>Commission a study to understand the commercial timber market demands of Derbyshire (and the wider East Midlands) and how local woodlands could meet these needs.</p> <p>Key considerations:</p> <p>a) This reflects a Council role in developing the county’s “green” economy and supporting the skills, employment and training associated with this.</p> <p>b) A potential income for the Council if it is determined to be a viable to participate in this market.</p> <p>c) Appraise the potential to fund an officer post to develop and support local timber markets.</p>		✓		Countryside Service	The Council’s Climate Change Programme £4m reserve
Theme D: Financing tree planting and woodland creation	Timescale			Lead Council Service	Funding options
Action D4	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26		
<p>Appraise options to mitigate the long-term after care cost that can be a disincentive for landowner investment in planting new trees (including the Council).</p> <p>Key considerations:</p> <p>a) Identify and apply innovative solutions such as private funding for trees to ensure sufficient resources are available for planting and care.</p>		✓		Conservation, Heritage, & Design Service	Government new burdens funding for Local Nature Recovery Strategy (as per A1) The Council’s Climate Change

b) Further develop the evidence of the ecosystem service benefits of trees to encourage investment in long-term management / maintenance.					Programme £4m reserve
Theme D: Financing tree planting and woodland creation	Timescale			Lead Council Service	Funding options
Action D5	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26		
<p>Appraise options to mitigate the high-cost of planting trees into established urban streetscenes.</p> <p>Key considerations:</p> <p>a) Ensuring the benefits of planting more urban trees are secured by identifying infrastructure and funding solutions that allow the establishment of new trees in these complex locations.</p> <p>b) The Government's Green Infrastructure Framework (GI) (see paragraph 3.6.3) is relevant as it has been designed to help local authorities and developers meet requirements in the National Planning Policy Framework to consider GI in local plans and in new development (including the planting of trees in urban environments).</p>		✓		Conservation, Heritage, & Design Service	<p>Government new burdens funding for Local Nature Recovery Strategy (as per A1)</p> <p>The Council's Climate Change Programme £4m reserve</p> <p>Local Authority Treescapes Fund</p> <p>Urban Tree Challenge Fund</p>

Theme E: Nature connected tree and woodlands partnerships	Timescale			Lead Council Service	Funding options
Action E1	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26		
<p>Prepare a “Tree and Woodland Stakeholder Engagement Plan” to ensure the Council utilises effective partnerships to deliver this Tree and Woodland Strategy.</p> <p>Key considerations:</p> <p>a) Use the Stakeholder Engagement Plan guidance set out in the Council’s Project and Programme Management process.</p> <p>b) Work with partners (e.g. Derbyshire Wildlife Trust) to embed the ambitions and priorities of this Tree and Woodland Strategy into their existing and future projects and in co-ordinating local authority tree planting activity and data, and Local Plan delivery.</p>	✓			Countryside Service	Million trees annual revenue budget of £0.113m
Theme E: Nature connected tree and woodlands partnerships	Timescale			Lead Council Service	Funding options
Action E2	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26		
<p>Establish a new nature-positive collaboration with Derbyshire’s agricultural sector that provides commercially viable new land management techniques to farmers that reverses the long-term decline in the county’s hedgerow quality, loss of boundary field trees, and traditional orchards.</p> <p>Key considerations:</p> <p>a) Promote the use of the Environmental Land Management (ELM) Scheme to financially incentivise farmers to better manage hedgerows.</p>	✓			Climate Change Programme Team Conservation, Heritage, & Design Service	Government new burdens funding for Local Nature Recovery Strategy (as per A1) The Council’s Climate Change Programme £4m reserve

<p>b) Seek opportunities for agroforestry as a mechanism for integrating trees into appropriate farmland whilst not impacting on wider agricultural outputs.</p> <p>c) Work with farmers and landowners to promote the benefits of traditional orchards and utilise the ELM Scheme to prioritise the creation of new orchards.</p>					
Theme E: Nature connected tree and woodlands partnerships	Timescale			Lead Council Service	Funding options
Action E3	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26		
<p>Work in partnership with the schools in Derbyshire to create new tree nurseries and planting (including orchard creation).</p> <p>Key considerations:</p> <p>a) The outcomes of the Council’s 2022/23 survey of Derbyshire’s schools to ascertain their requirements for climate change / net zero advice and support from the Council.</p>	✓			<p>Climate Change Programme Team</p> <p>Countryside Service</p>	<p>Million trees annual revenue budget of £0.113m</p>
Theme E: Nature connected tree and woodlands partnerships	Timescale			Lead Council Service	Funding options
Action E4	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26		
<p>Encourage residents to plant in their own back gardens or in appropriate public spaces, and private landowners to do the same.</p> <p>Key considerations:</p> <p>a) Promote Forest Gardens (Forest Gardening – The Agroforestry Research Trust) and Community Orchards (Community orchards: How</p>	✓	✓	✓	<p>Countryside Service</p>	<p>Million trees annual revenue budget of £0.113m</p>

<p>to guide (publishing.service.gov.uk)) that enable people to take action while being given guidance on considerations when planting in private gardens and suitable species.</p> <p>b) Communicate the importance of shrubs, trees, and other wild areas to both wildlife and people's health and wellbeing.</p>					
Theme E: Nature connected tree and woodlands partnerships	Timescale			Lead Council Service	Funding options
Action E5	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26		
<p>Mobilise a “Million Trees Champions” volunteer movement for Derbyshire – providing tree planting and maintenance encouragement and advice.</p> <p>Key considerations:</p> <p>a) Establish, with a relevant community sector partner, new volunteering roles that will contribute to the delivery of this strategy by providing advice and applying practical nature conservation skills to preserving, growing, maintaining, and restoring Derbyshire's woodlands.</p> <p>b) Ideally volunteer roles and activities will be defined; open to those demonstrating relevant experience; receive training, development, and equipment; reimbursed for expenses, and be appropriately recognised by the Council.</p> <p>c) Access to community enterprise funds for tree planting and maintenance.</p>	✓	✓	✓	Countryside Service	<p>Grounds maintenance annual revenue budget for Countryside Sites of £0.300m from 2023/24</p> <p>2023/24 one-off budget of £0.450m for Ash Dieback Disease and Woodland Creation</p> <p>The Council's Climate Change Programme £4m reserve</p>

Theme E: Nature connected tree and woodlands partnerships	Timescale			Lead Council Service	Funding options
Action E6	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26		
<p>Design and deliver a Council flag-ship woodland creation project by March 2025.</p> <p>Key considerations:</p> <p>a) As a major landowner in Derbyshire the Council will identify areas on its own estate where trees and woodland can be planted</p> <p>b) The Council owns more than 1,600 hectares of publicly accessible countryside sites, as well as the highway network, closed landfill sites, and property – all of which offer opportunities for increased tree planting activity</p> <p>c) In addition to maximising tree planting opportunities on its own land, the Council will consider the option of purchasing new land on which to create a new community woodland.</p>	✓	✓	✓	<p>Countryside Service</p> <p>Conservation, Heritage, & Design Service</p>	<p>2023/24 one-off budget of £0.450m for Ash Dieback Disease and Woodland Creation</p> <p>Corporate Services and Transformation Feasibility Assessment budget of £1.866m</p> <p>The Council's Climate Change Programme £4m reserve</p>
Theme E: Nature connected tree and woodlands partnerships	Timescale			Lead Council Service	Funding options
Action E7	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26		
<p>Design and establish a “Tree and Woodland Planting Charter” scheme from autumn 2023 for planting and maintaining trees on the highway or other public open space.</p> <p>Key considerations:</p> <p>a) A new Council tree planting and care policy (and supporting good practice guidance on tree and woodland planting and maintenance in</p>	✓			<p>Countryside Service</p>	<p>2023/24 one-off budget of £0.450m for Ash Dieback Disease and Woodland Creation</p> <p>The Council's Climate Change</p>

Derbyshire) to clearly explain to the public where, when, and how the Council expects such activity should be undertaken to maximise the chances of new tree survival.					Programme £4m reserve
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Appendix A: Background Information

Identifying the Council's role in Nature Recovery

The Government has established a suite of interrelated measures to enable the effective delivery of its Environmental Improvement Plan 2023. These are of relevance, and complement, the Council's intentions to ensure nature recovery across Derbyshire. They are summarised as the following five policy drivers for change, which are explained further below.

- i. New legally binding national targets to protect the environment
- ii. A general duty for the Council to conserve and enhance biodiversity
- iii. A Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Derbyshire
- iv. Biodiversity Net Gain as a mandatory condition of planning permission
- v. Biodiversity Net Gain offsetting

New legally binding targets to protect the environment

The Government has set national targets to drive action to tackle climate change, restore natural capital, and protect landscapes and green spaces. The targets include:

- Halt the decline in species populations by 2030, and then increase populations by at least 10% to exceed current levels by 2034
- Restore precious water bodies to their natural state
- Increase total tree and woodland cover from 14.5% of land area now to 16.5% by 2050
- Restore or create in excess of 500,000 hectares of a range of wildlife-rich habitat outside protected sites by 2042, compared to 2022 levels

The Environment Act 2021 requires environmental considerations to be central to national and local government policy making, thereby delivering these targets against the principles of: integration; prevention; rectification at source; polluter pays; and the precautionary principle.

A duty for the Council to conserve and enhance biodiversity

The Environment Act 2021 has strengthened the duty on public authorities to conserve and enhance biodiversity (“the general biodiversity objective”) with effect from 1 January 2023. This includes a requirement to consider what action public authorities can take to further this objective by setting appropriate policies and objectives i.e. a Biodiversity Report. If the authority is a Local Planning Authority (LPA), which the Council is, then this report must also provide information on Biodiversity Net Gain outcomes related to the planning system.

Hence, the Council must prepare a Biodiversity Report for the 12-month period from January 2023 by 31 December 2023 for submission to Natural England. The next requirement for such a report to be submitted is before 31 December 2028, however there is an expectation that the Council will report publicly on its biodiversity duty actions annually.

A Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Derbyshire

The Environment Act 2021 brings into law the Government’s intention to create a national Nature Recovery Network (NRN). The NRN is expected to comprise of 50 county-based Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) which will cover the whole of England. Each LNRS will be prepared during 2023/24 and designed to ensure locally targeted, more co-ordinated, practical, and focused action, and investment in nature.

The Council has provisionally accepted to be the “Responsible Authority” for the creation of a LNRS for Derbyshire. The Government intends that each Responsible Authority will work closely with relevant public, private and voluntary sector organisations to draw on their collective expertise in the co-production of their area’s LNRS. Hence the LNRS will reflect collective knowledge of relevant planned or ongoing nature recovery activity, enabling the LNRS to improve integration between existing efforts to improve the natural environment in Derbyshire. The LNRS must be understandable and of value to local stakeholders and therefore their involvement in its preparation will be essential. The Government expects such stakeholders to include non-governmental organisations (NGOs), local planning authorities, businesses, landowners and managers, and community interest groups.

The approach / scope that the Council will need to adopt in preparing the LNRS as the Responsible Authority for Derbyshire is as follows.

a) Purpose

The LNRS will provide the route map for nature recovery in Derbyshire; setting a long-term vision and action plan that is formulated and delivered in a collaborative manner.

b) Establishing the baseline

The LNRS will map the location and condition of Derbyshire's habitats i.e. existing areas, places and sites that are already good for nature and which form the basis for nature recovery. Furthermore it will identify where biodiversity is in decline or limited in ecosystem value. The Council's Natural Capital Strategy provides this information for Derbyshire and therefore this part of the LNRS is expected to be largely completed.

c) *Setting Derbyshire's ambition for nature recovery through a Statement of Biodiversity Priorities*

The LNRS preparation will identify priorities, outcomes, and measures for nature recovery and the wider environmental, economic, and social benefits this will realise. Importantly this work needs to include engagement workshops and meetings with a range of residents, experts, and organisations to co-produce the nature recovery priorities, outcomes, and measures for Derbyshire.

d) *A Delivery Plan for Nature Recovery in Derbyshire*

The LNRS will need to provide a robust, costed, long-term set of actions through which Derbyshire's nature recovery will be delivered, with an initial five-year time horizon.

Biodiversity Net Gain as a mandatory condition of planning permission

Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) will become a mandatory part of the planning permission system from November 2023. Developers will be required to demonstrate $\geq 10\%$ BNG from their development site compared to the pre-development value of onsite habitats.

Therefore, all Local Planning Authorities (including the Council) must meet the statutory duty to deliver BNG through their enactment of the planning system. This will include the following new duties of assessment, control, and monitoring:

- Pre-application advice to developers on BNG
- Planning application BNG formal review / assessment i.e. of the developer's Biodiversity Net Gain Plan
- Critically reviewing biodiversity metric calculations submitted with planning applications (in accordance with the Government's Biodiversity Metric)
- Preparation of BNG conditions and obligations for new development
- Undertaking the monitoring, enforcement, and reporting of the delivery of approved BNG conditions and obligations for a 30-year period

Ideally these new BNG planning duties will be applied consistently by all the Derbyshire LPAs. Planning officers are currently discussing how this is best progressed.

Biodiversity Offsetting

Biodiversity offsets are conservation activities that are designed to give biodiversity benefits to compensate for losses; ensuring that when a development damages nature (and this damage cannot be avoided or mitigated on the development site itself) new nature sites will be created elsewhere.

Biodiversity offsetting will become a new market mechanism that the Government is establishing to drive and fund nature recovery in England. The commencement of biodiversity offset markets is anticipated from November 2023 (when mandatory BNG planning permission starts) and is expected to lead to multiple local biodiversity offset markets being developed across England. The Government has estimated that this market will generate annual demand for around 6,200 off-site biodiversity units for England with a value of £135 million.

Land managers (the supply-side) who can create or enhance habitat to the required BNG standards on their land will be able to sell biodiversity units to the developers who cannot achieve BNG on their development sites. The land managers will be able to use this income to fund the habitat improvements on their land and its maintenance for at least 30-years after the completion of the BNG works. In return for purchasing the biodiversity units from land managers, the developers (the demand-side) will be able to demonstrate their mandatory BNG compliance to Local Planning Authorities. These arrangements will be legally binding to the land affected through new conservation covenants or planning obligations.

There is no statutory requirement for local authorities to participate in biodiversity offset markets. However, there are opportunities for the Council which are summarised below.

a) *Providing strategic direction to biodiversity unit investment in Derbyshire*

The Derbyshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS), for which the Council is accountable for preparing in 2023/24, will include driving such decision making through the identification of a prioritised investment pipeline of Derbyshire sites suitable for biodiversity net gain offsetting.

b) *Commercial involvement in the biodiversity offsetting land market*

There are market opportunities for the Council to act as a biodiversity net gain offset site provider by selling biodiversity units from its public land, and thereby improving its habitat credentials, either direct to developers or via a broker.

c) *A trusted advisor and / or broker of biodiversity offsetting*

The Council could expand its Local Planning Authority Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) statutory functions to BNG offsetting advisory paid for services (with a clear demarcation between these roles). For example, helping developers to understand biodiversity net gain offsetting options in Derbyshire, and to secure approval of their Biodiversity Net Gain Plan that include such offsets.

d) *Habitat Maintenance Services*

Whilst the Council would be responsible for maintaining new habitats created from BNG offsetting on its own land (funded by developers' biodiversity units) it could also provide a paid for service for habitat conservation and maintenance to developers or landowners of either the BNG net gain on the development land or of the BNG net gain on their offset land.

The Council's Climate Change Strategy and Climate Risk and Resilience

The Derbyshire County Council Climate Change Strategy: Achieving Net Zero (2021-2025) was approved by Cabinet on 14 October 2021. It sets out the role of the Council, Derbyshire's residents, businesses, and communities to deliver the Strategy and the crucial partnership working that is needed to enable effective delivery.

The Strategy commits the Council to playing its role in delivering net zero buildings, expanding local renewable energy generation, changing transport choices, generating green jobs and preventing waste being sent to landfill. The Strategy covers the period 2021-25 and will be reviewed and updated fully in 2025 to provide a Strategy beyond 2025. It recognises that even with widespread effort across the county to reduce emissions, there are likely to be remaining emissions to be balanced/offset through renewable energy generation and nature-based carbon removal techniques, which includes tree planting and woodland creation.

Whilst the Strategy is focussed on reducing emissions to achieve a more sustainable future, it also recognises that the impacts of climate change are already being experienced globally and locally, and therefore it is important that, as part of the journey to address climate change, the Council needs to consider the actions that can be taken to build resilience and adapt to the inevitable changes to the global and local climate. The Council is undertaking a review of the climate change risks facing Council services and estate, and the responses that are needed to build resilience to these risks and in 2023-24 a wider study is being planned, working with partners, to assess risks and opportunities facing the county's residents, businesses and natural and built environment.

Vision Derbyshire Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan

Vision Derbyshire is a shared commitment across Derbyshire's county, district, and borough councils, to strategically collaborate to improve outcomes for people and places, speak with one voice as a county, and coordinate our resources better and more sustainably.

Through collaboration between the Council and all eight district and borough councils in Derbyshire, a joint Vision Derbyshire Climate Change Strategy (2022-2025) has been developed and is now in place, which sets out what needs to be done to support a reduction in emissions across the county to net zero by 2050, or sooner, and how Derbyshire's councils will work to achieve this through a series of ambitions and priorities, supported

by an action plan. The Strategy sets out the ambition for councils to work together and with wider stakeholders to maximise offsetting activities, for example, through carbon sequestration techniques such as increasing tree cover and restoration of the county's peatlands and grasslands.

Priority actions to 2025 in the action plan include working together to develop and implement a tree planting programme across the county and promoting and facilitating an increase in green spaces and tree coverage in urban areas.

Derbyshire Trees and Woodland Strategy: Case studies

Managing Ash Dieback along Derbyshire's highways

As part of Derbyshire County Council's ongoing responsibility to maintain the public highway, and our commitment to managing ash dieback (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*) under our Ash Dieback Action Plan, in summer 2022 a survey was undertaken of all A and B roads across the Derbyshire highway network.

This survey aimed to determine the quantity of ash trees along these networks and the level dieback amongst these trees, ensuring all visible ash trees within potential falling distance of the highway were assessed.

A total of 1,180.33 km of A and B category roads were surveyed, leading to 9,645 records on the quality of individual or groups of ash trees throughout this part of the highway network.

The findings of the survey were as follows:

- 69% of ash were STAGE 1 (75-100% live canopy)
- 18% of ash were STAGE 2 (50-75% live canopy)
- 9% of ash were STAGE 3 (25-50% live canopy)
- 4% of ash were STAGE 4 (0-25% live canopy)

The results from the survey indicated the main areas of high-risk ash trees along Derbyshire's A and B roads - those at stages 3 and 4 of canopy dieback - were located near Froggatt, between Bakewell and Buxton, near Ashbourne, north-west of Wirksworth and around Ripley.

This data was collated into a geospatial database, enabling us to visualise the current risk levels throughout the network and subsequently support the planning and prioritisation of targeted ground truthing surveys by our own Tree Inspectors.

Using this data, ground truthing surveys are now being undertaken to confirm the extent of dieback, identify ownership of high-risk trees – liaising with private landowners to facilitate remedial works where necessary –, and coordinate management and replanting operations.

Finding opportunity in Ash Dieback at Derbyshire Eco Centre

Derbyshire Eco Centre is an environmental education centre run by Derbyshire County Council, sitting within an area of the county important for its industrial archaeology and natural history.

The centre stands within the Limestone Plateau area on a former lead mine, where landscaping plans were developed in 1980's when the land associated with the lead mines was restored. Species planted on site included oak, wild cherry, lime, field maple, rowan, hazel and other broadleaves in smaller quantities, along with a large proportion of ash trees.

Ash Dieback has been identified on site, with the ash suffering from varying stages of dieback. As a result, it was decided to proactively manage all ash trees on site to protect the health and safety of site users from declining trees, and to increase the benefits provided by the remaining and newly planted trees on site.

The program of operations was split into two phases. Phase 1, classed as the 'health and safety phase', aims to mitigate the immediate risk to site users and property from any declining and potentially dangerous trees. This phase is currently underway and involves the removal of trees adjacent to the main access road and those on the bank overlooking the main building.

Phase 2, classed as the 'woodland management phase', will involve the removal of declining ash within the wooded areas. Any ash trees in this area showing tolerance of ash dieback will be retained and monitored for potential genetic resistance to the disease. This phase is due to commence in autumn 2023.





Replanting of all areas will take place during autumn/winter 2023-24 in order to replace any trees that are lost. This will focus on introducing a mixed palette of species to:

- further increase site resilience to future tree pests and diseases;
- ensure more appropriate, smaller species are planted in high-risk areas; and,
- provide further alternative benefits, such as planting fruit trees for students to take advantage of as part of their studies.

Pinxton

The Council’s Leader, Councillor Barry Lewis, has been out and about supporting the tree planting effort and helped to create an orchard in Pinxton which will count towards the Million Trees target.

Pinxton Parish Council and St Helens Church in Pinxton arranged to plant 70 fruit trees on parish council-owned land off Church Street West, as part of the Queen’s Green Canopy initiative. A collection of apple, plum, pear and cherry and damson trees were planted, one for each year of the Queen’s reign, on 2 sites in the village – on land owned and managed by Pinxton Parish Council off Park Lane and a county council-owned plot off Kirkstead Road, next to the Village Hall.

The fruit will be available for the whole community to enjoy in the years ahead. Councillor Lewis said: “Trees act like sponges which suck carbon emissions out of the air so the more we plant, the more climate-changing greenhouse gases will be removed from the atmosphere.

“The community orchard in Pinxton is a great example of what can be achieved when the community comes together, but it’s not all about large-scale projects – every single tree will count towards our target, even if it’s an individual tree in your garden at home.”

We helped to secure funding to supply and maintain trees for the Pinxton project through the Forestry Commission’s Local Authority Treescapes Fund as part of the Million Trees campaign.



ShIPLEY Queen's Green Canopy

Six trees from the iconic 'Tree of Trees' gifted to Derbyshire by the Queen's Green Canopy and dedicated to organisations and schools across the county have been planted at Shipley Country Park to create a coppice in memory of Her late Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.

At a ceremony held on Tuesday 18 October 2022 at the country park, the six trees, along with a seventh courtesy of His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Derbyshire, were planted to create The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Coppice, Derbyshire.

[The Queen's Green Canopy](#) is a nationwide tree-planting initiative launched by Her Majesty to mark her Platinum Jubilee.

The trees have been dedicated to six Derbyshire organisations, schools and groups following recommendations made by the Derbyshire Lieutenancy which helped to secure the trees for the county from the Queen's Green Canopy. The six Derbyshire recipients are among more than 300 organisations to receive a tree from the Tree of Trees or have one dedicated in their name.



The ceremony at Shipley was attended by His Majesty's Vice-Lord Lieutenant Colonel John Wilson OBE DL, Chief Executive of The Queen's Green Canopy Colonel Dan Rex MVO, Lead for The Queen's Green Canopy in Derbyshire Brell Ewart DL and Derbyshire County Council Leader Councillor Barry Lewis.

Civic dignitaries and councillors representing all Derbyshire districts also attended the event, along with representatives from organisations, groups and schools having a tree dedicated to them, and school children from nearby Cotmanhay Junior School.

The Derbyshire recipients who have a tree dedicated to them are:

- Alfreton Park School, Alfreton
- Buxton Mountain Rescue Team, Buxton
- Derbyshire County Council Children's Homes
- Derbyshire Federation of Women's Institutes, Derby
- Landmarks Specialist College, Eckington
- The Royal School for the Deaf, Derby

The six trees that have been planted are hornbeam trees which are known to prosper and thrive in the county's climate and soil. The seventh tree, a copper beech, was planted in the centre of the new coppice. With the added seventh tree there is one tree to represent each decade of Her late Majesty's historic 70-year reign.

Grassmoor COVID memorial and NFM

A £275,000 project to reduce flood risks using natural defences has been completed at Grassmoor Country Park in Chesterfield. The project saw new ponds, grasslands and woodland developed.

The Environment Agency, which helped to fund the project, said it hoped the features would work together to reduce rainfall flowing into the Calow Brook, which leads to the River Rother. It said it also hoped the scheme would boost wildlife. The scheme is designed to slow the flow of rainwater heading from land to the brook. The Environment Agency said it hoped the creation of temporary and semi-permanent ponds, marshy grasslands and wet woodland would act as a natural flood defence while improving and diversifying the habitats for wildlife within the park.

The Environment Agency worked with the Heritage Fund as well as Derbyshire County Council, which owns and maintains the park, and the Friends of Grassmoor and Don Catchment Rivers Trust.

In addition, the county council agreed the creation of the memorial parkland in September and it has been supported by the Friends of Grassmoor Country Park.

The memorial parkland will be designed in keeping with the character of the local landscape and will feature a native wildflower meadow with an avenue of trees including wild cherry, rowan, hazel, birch, hawthorn, dogwood, oak, wych elm, willow and aspen. These trees have been selected for their spiritual meaning and to give displays of blossom in the spring and fruit for birds and other wildlife in the summer and autumn. They will be complemented by smaller, native shrub species.

A walkway to a memorial feature is also proposed, which will be made accessible to all.

Councillor Barry Lewis said: "The idea for the memorial parkland came from a lady who contacted me during the pandemic and had lost loved ones to COVID-19 and wanted somewhere to remember them and celebrate their lives.

“From that conversation the idea grew, and what we will have as the trees grow is a beautiful, green, peaceful space where people will be able to sit, walk, reflect and remember.”



Derbyshire County Council
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