

# Bracknell Forest Tree Strategy



Our vision for trees, hedgerows, orchards and woodland in the borough that make up the forest of Bracknell.

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## The value of trees

Trees, woodlands and hedgerows are valuable for our social, economic and environmental well being. The forest of Bracknell covers 39.8%<sup>1</sup> of our borough, the third highest in the UK, so it is important that we maintain this resource for people, business and nature. When we use the term 'tree' in this strategy we are referring to all forms of trees including saplings, mature trees, veterans, hedgerows, orchards and woodlands. Collectively, the areas of our borough with tree cover are referred to as the forest of Bracknell.

## For people

Trees provide us with a wide range of benefits that support our quality of life. They enhance people's recreational experiences, creating appealing places for leisure and play. Trees, woodlands and hedgerows have a natural beauty which enhances both natural and man-made landscapes. They represent part of our natural and cultural heritage, changing through the seasons and years. Areas of trees and woodland can provide opportunities for communities to mix and get involved in practical work. They are home to a wide variety of wildlife, giving people an opportunity to experience nature close up. Trees also provide shade and are calming and relaxing, providing a welcome respite from the fast pace of the modern world.

In 2017, when residents were asked what they liked about the borough, 54% identified the parks and open spaces, the single biggest reason.. Trees, hedgerows and woodlands form the majority of green space in Bracknell Forest which improves people's physical and mental health.

Increased access to trees, hedgerows and woodland has a significant impact on the residents of Bracknell Forest, improving their health and reducing the burden on the health service. People who live furthest from green spaces are more likely to be overweight due to lower levels of physical activity<sup>2</sup>. People who live in areas with more green space are less likely to suffer from anxiety or depression<sup>3</sup>.

Access to a forested landscape provides us with opportunities to build better communities through involvement and education. Participation has many benefits, including exercise and time spent outdoors, learning new skills, meeting new people and understanding more about wildlife and nature conservation.

Trees are important as living monuments and link us to the past in an intimate way, often revealing previous land-uses and traditions. They give locally distinctive character to our landscape and have provided inspiration to generations of people.

We need to treasure our trees so that they can provide for and inspire people in the future.

## For business

The forests of Bracknell attract visitors from across the borough and the region. The wooded character of the borough also provides an attractive environment for investment and

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<sup>1</sup> Identified by BlueSky in the national tree map survey in 2014

<sup>2</sup> E Coombes, AP Jones, M Hillsdon. 2010. The relationship of physical activity and overweight to objectively measured green space accessibility and use. *Social Science and Medicine*, 70 (6), 816-822

<sup>3</sup> I Alcock, MP White, BW Wheeler, LE Fleming, MH Depledge. 2014. Longitudinal Effects on Mental Health of Moving to Greener and Less Green Urban Areas. *Environmental Science and Technology* 48, 1247 - 1255

increases property values<sup>4</sup>. As such they are a huge asset for local businesses in the borough which provide goods and services to residents and visitors.

The sustainable management of woodlands is a priority in Bracknell Forest to secure an important visitor attraction for the future. They are an appealing place for pursuing leisure activities, for example walking, dog walking, cycling, running and wildlife watching. Tourism needs to be balanced with the wildlife value of woodlands, as well as the other services that they provide, such as flood amelioration and climate change mitigation.

Trees, hedgerows and woodlands also provide a number of natural services to business and society which help to regulate our environment. They do this by providing cooling urban areas<sup>5</sup>, absorbing flood water<sup>6</sup>, stabilising soils and preventing erosion, trapping and absorbing pollution from the air, water and soils and by absorbing carbon<sup>7</sup>. These services will become increasingly important to mitigate the effects of climate change on our economy.

Trees, woodlands, orchards and hedgerows provide a range of natural goods that are valued by both business and consumers. These include fruit, nuts, timber, fuel, fibre and food.

In order to retain these vital goods and services, our trees need to be sustainably managed.

## For nature

Trees, hedgerows, orchards and woodland are all important for nature, providing shelter, and food for a myriad of species. From fungi and invertebrates in the soil to birds and bats in the canopy, trees can support an entire ecosystem.

Bands of trees and hedgerows also act as wildlife corridors, linking habitats across urban and rural landscapes. Small woodland patches can provide stepping stones for wildlife moving through urban areas.

Bracknell Forest has a large number of important ancient woodland and veteran trees in the borough. Part of the internationally important Windsor Forest and Great Park Special Area for Conservation (SAC) falls within the boundary of Bracknell Forest.

Other areas of woodland are also protected by statutory or non-statutory designations due to the important wildlife they support, including Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Local Nature Reserves (LNR) and Local Wildlife Sites (LWS), and ancient woodland.

At a national and local level, our wildlife continues to decline and nature conservation must focus on restoring areas across the landscape. Our natural environment is under threat and it is important that we ensure that trees, hedgerows, orchards and woodland can continue to support a wealth of wildlife.

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<sup>4</sup> Forestry Commission (2005) Bold Colliery Community Woodland: District valuer's report on property values. Benefits of Green Infrastructure Case Study.

<sup>5</sup> Doick, K and Hutchings, T (2013) Air temperature regulation by urban trees and green infrastructure. Forestry Commission Research Note FCRN012.

<sup>6</sup> Rumble, H. Rogers, K. Doick, K. Albertini, A. Hutchings T. (2015) Valuing urban trees in Glasgow. Technical Report, Forest Research.

<sup>7</sup> London itree report, November 2015. [www.forestry.gov.uk/london-itree](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/london-itree)

## What this strategy does

This strategy describes how the council will approach the management of trees, hedgerows, orchards and woodland in Bracknell Forest on public and private land. The adoption of this strategy provides a coordinated approach to the management of Council owned and private trees, while maintaining their individual character.

We believe this document should provide a useful resource to anyone who is interested in maintaining the urban and rural forests of our borough. The strategy is designed to cover the next 20 years and includes a delivery plan in appendix 1 for the next 5 years.

On page 7, we describe three key values and six principles that the council will apply when working to maintain trees in the Bracknell Forest borough. We also provide links to guidance for anyone wanting to better manage their trees in Appendix 3.

## Legal and policy context

Bracknell Forest Council has a range of existing legal powers and responsibilities that relate to the management of trees. These are explained briefly below with further references in Appendix 2. The Tree Strategy complements the existing legal, regulatory and policy framework, it does not have legal status and it does not replace any existing policy.

### Legal

**The Town and Country Planning Act**, gives the council duties as the Local Planning Authority such as deciding planning applications. The Tree Strategy may assist people making planning applications by explaining the council's approach to managing trees. Relevant planning policies are listed in Appendix 2.

Trees and woodlands may be protected under the Town & Country Planning Act by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO). A TPO makes it an offence to wilfully damage or destroy a protected tree. The planning authority's written permission is required to prune any living part of the tree or to cut the tree down. A TPO can protect a single tree, a group of trees, woodland or a defined area. This strategy explains more about our approach to making TPOs.

**The Hedgerow Regulations 1997** means that anyone wishing to remove a hedgerow (excluding garden hedges) must apply for permission from the council. This strategy will complement the existing legal protection by explaining the council's position on all hedgerows as covered by reference to trees.

**The Occupiers Liability Act 1957 and the Highways Act 1980<sup>8</sup>** give the council legal responsibility to ensure that trees are managed to avoid harm to people and property. This strategy provides further information about how we may manage trees and when we may carry out work or remove them for reasons of public interest.

**Under the NERC<sup>9</sup> Act 2006**, the council is also responsible for conserving biodiversity<sup>10</sup> within its statutory functions. This strategy demonstrates how the council will manage trees to maintain and restore biodiversity in line with this duty. Under section 41, the government has listed Habitats and Species of Principal Importance for conservation which include hedgerows, orchards and several woodland types.

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<sup>8</sup> There are a number of laws relating to the safety of trees, these are the two most significant.

<sup>9</sup> Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006

<sup>10</sup> Meaning biological diversity, the variety of life, all species.

**Forestry Act 1967** controls tree felling and makes the Forestry Commission responsible for issuing felling licences. The council is often notified about tree felling in the borough and informs the Forestry Commission to ensure any unlicensed tree felling is addressed. Anyone felling without a tree licence can be fined and issued with a replanting order.

## Policy

**The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)** provides planning policy at a national level that is used by the council in making planning decisions. Relevant paragraphs are provided in Appendix 2.

**The Core Strategy Development Plan Document** provides local policies that the planning authority uses within Bracknell Forest borough to decide planning applications. This includes policies that seek to protect trees as components of landscape and biodiversity. However, this will be replaced by a new Comprehensive Local Plan.

**The Council Plan 2015-2019** includes themes that the Tree Strategy will contribute towards:

- A clean, green, growing and sustainable place
- Value for money
- People live active and healthy lifestyles
- Strong, safe, supportive and self-reliant communities
- A strong and resilient economy

These themes aim to provide a good borough to live, work and play. The Tree Strategy contributes to the council plan by providing trees for people, business and nature as described in The Value of Trees (page 3). For links to the council plan, see Appendix 2. Publishing this Tree Strategy ensures a consistent approach across different parts of the Council.

**The Parks and Open Spaces Strategy** priorities supported by this Tree Strategy are: Priority 6 - "Positively manage trees and woodlands, to include new planting to provide for future generations."

Priority 7 - "Identify opportunities to increase the positive role that parks and open spaces can contribute to climate change mitigation (e.g. tree planting as part of carbon capture)."

**The Bracknell Forest Biodiversity Action Plan** includes targets for trees, hedgerows, orchards and woodland that complement this strategy (see Appendix 2). There are also four priority species relevant to trees, woodlands and hedgerows; these are Bullfinch, Wild Service Tree, Noctule bat and Stag beetle.

Our **Climate Change Action Plan** for Bracknell Forest was published in 2013. The plan identifies actions that Bracknell Forest Council can take in which trees play a vital role (see Appendix 2).

## Our strategy for trees

The Council works to ensure that the Forest of Bracknell is recognised and valued for its trees and the vital contribution these make towards improving the quality of life for residents, businesses and visitors. Sustainable management helps to protect and enhance this important resource so that it can deliver environmental, economic and social benefits for present and future generations.

To implement our strategy we have defined values and principles described in the following section.

## Our values and principles for trees

This Tree Strategy explains how the council will work to manage trees, hedgerows, orchards and woodland through our values and principles. Our values are broad statements that cover all areas of our work with trees. Our principles are themed statements that cover more specific areas of interest and apply in certain situations. The values and principles are shown below and explained further in the following pages.

Value 1 Significance	Value 2 Active management	Value 3 Stewardship
<p>The Council recognises the <b>significance of trees*</b> in creating the character of Bracknell Forest and works to ensure that its varied <b>tree population</b> is managed and enhanced for environmental, social and economic benefit.</p>	<p>The Council will ensure that our <b>tree resource</b> is actively managed* and expanded with nature conservation and public benefit* as the main objectives as part of <b>green infrastructure</b>. The Council will seek potential <b>income from woodland</b> through timber and other woodland products where this does not conflict with other principles.</p>	<p>The Council works to <b>promote understanding and responsible stewardship</b> of all trees on public and private land as part of <b>green infrastructure</b>.</p>

Principle I Tree retention	Principle II New trees	Principle III Veteran trees	Principle IV Ancient woodlands	Principle V Growing environment	Principle VI Tree Preservation Orders
<p>The Council will favour tree retention unless there are sound reasons for removal such as sustainable woodland management, arboricultural practice or public interest such as quality of life or safety.</p>	<p>The Council will support <b>new tree planting</b> within new and existing urban areas that are appropriate<sup>4</sup> for their location. Special consideration will be given to large species, future veterans and street trees.</p>	<p>The Council will use best practice to promote the lifespan of <b>veteran</b> and potential veteran trees within the borough.</p>	<p>The Council will seek to protect, manage or restore <b>ancient woodlands</b> to maximise their biodiversity and historic value on public and private land.</p>	<p>The Council will endeavour to protect <b>trees and their growing environment*</b> from threats such as encroachment, pruning pressure*, compaction, shading and excavation.</p>	<p>The Council will continue to protect significant trees by the use of <b>Tree Preservation Orders</b> using a best practice approach.</p>

\*See Glossary for explanations of the terms in this table.





## **Value 1 - Significance**

The Council recognises the significance of trees in creating the character of Bracknell Forest and works to ensure that its varied tree population is managed and enhanced for environmental, social and economic benefit.

### **Explanation**

The forest of Bracknell is recognised as significant and valued by the borough's residents, visitors and the council alike. The council works to ensure continuous tree cover is maintained by managing this resource to create a varied tree population including a range of ages and species.

Bracknell Forest is fortunate in having a large amount of woodland within the urban landscape, much of which is accessible to the public. The woodland and surrounding forestry gives Bracknell Forest its character. In many places trees provide an important component of residential, business and leisure development.

The council will use this value alongside a range of legal and policy tools to support the varied tree population in the borough (see Appendix 2). For example, planning policies support the retention of woodland and tree cover that can be applied to planning applications in new and existing developments. The Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) also includes actions for the maintenance and enhancement of trees, hedgerows, orchards and woodlands. The management of trees should be carried out in line with the Bracknell Forest Borough Landscape Character Assessment (LUC, 2015).

As set out in this value, we will manage the trees in the borough for a range of benefits based on three themes:

- **Environmental**, providing habitats for wildlife and shaping our landscape and alleviating the effects of climate change.
- **Social**, supporting our mental and physical wellbeing, providing contact with nature and bringing together communities.
- **Economic**, increasing property values, providing an attractive environment for investment and creating revenue.

## **Value 2 – Active management**

The Council will ensure that our tree resource is actively managed and expanded where there is nature conservation and public benefit as the main objectives. The Council will seek potential income from woodland through timber and other woodland products where this does not conflict with other principles.

### **Explanation**

The council manages trees on council land with the main objectives of nature conservation and public benefit. This may involve balancing conflicting interests by considering how these can be accommodated within a specific site. The type of management regime will vary depending on the location of the trees.

Managing for nature conservation will provide a diverse habitat for a wide range of species by creating a variety of ages, structures and species within trees, hedgerows, orchards and woodlands. To achieve this, management work includes thinning, selective felling and coppicing. The management of trees and woodland includes the use of natural processes such as regeneration, which allows seedlings to continue the succession of woodland as well as providing replacements where this is not an option. Retaining deadwood is also important for a range of wildlife and to capture carbon. Where appropriate the Council will ensure standing and fallen deadwood is left on site unless there are sound conservation and/or safety reasons for its removal. In some areas, we may use non-intervention where no management action is necessary to maintain the woodland habitat. In line with the Bracknell Forest Biodiversity Action Plan, where appropriate the council also intends to expand woodland area within the borough.

Managing for public benefit is achieved by maintaining access to areas with trees and making sure they are safe through routine inspections. In some cases, the council has to assess the effect of council-owned or private trees on the safety or quality of life for residents. The Council will endeavour to fulfil our obligation to ensure the safety of people and property. The Council is also responsible for ensuring that trees outside the highway boundary, but within falling distance, are safe. We do this through a cyclical inspection programme within greenspaces and along highways to ensure that trees are inspected on a routine basis. The Council has published a Highway Management and Maintenance Plan. This outlines the approach to the managing trees adjacent to public highways on council-owned and private land (see Appendix x).

Large areas of woodland in the borough are sustainably managed for wood products such as timber. Bracknell Forest Council holds a significant asset in the form of woodlands that could provide wood products such as wood fuel, but this is not currently being realised. The Council will seek the potential income of woodland through the marketing of timber and other woodland products where this does not conflict with other values or principles.

Wood fuel is a sustainable, low carbon, source of energy that is produced from managed woods. It can be burned to generate heat or electricity using locally grown fuel in efficient, modern boilers as a clean way to provide energy for business and community buildings, saving money and reducing CO<sup>2</sup> emissions.

The production of wood products has biodiversity benefits, by bringing woodlands back into positive management. Traditional management methods such as coppicing benefit a number of different woodland species and management in general creates a number of different habitats for woodland species.

Engaging our communities with local trees, hedgerows, orchards and woodlands is a central part of delivering the benefits of this strategy. The Woodland Trust supports local groups to establish Community Woodlands where local people take on the management of the site. Where appropriate the council will look at partnering with any organisation that seeks to deliver sound woodland management within the borough.

### Value 3 – Stewardship

The Council works to promote understanding and responsible stewardship of all trees on public and private land as part of green infrastructure.

#### Explanation

The Council is committed to protecting the borough's current tree cover, improving its management and increasing tree cover where appropriate. Understanding the value of trees and the benefits they provide will help to foster responsible stewardship.

At a landscape scale, managing public and privately owned trees, hedgerows, orchards and woodland will provide an important part of Green Infrastructure (GI) also known as an ecological network. GI is a network of green areas that provide the full range of benefits to people, business and nature (described in '*The value of trees*'). It is important to maintain links between parts of GI so that they continue to function.

Bracknell Forest Council plays a central role within the community and is in a good position to encourage public and private landowners to adopt best practice in the care of their trees, hedgerows, orchards and woodlands. Through statutory functions such as the planning process we will provide advice and direct landowners to current guidance.

As land managers, we are able to promote understanding around our greenspaces, highways and properties. In addition, the Council is linked to education providers and the local health authority that are well placed to communicate the value of woodlands to meet shared goals. For example, teachers and could use the woodland areas as a classroom. Local Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG) could also promote access to and enjoyment of greenspace for the benefit of residents' health and well-being.

By communicating with the public through our website, social media and holding events we can also raise awareness of responsible stewardship. For example, answers to common enquiries about managing trees close to houses are provided alongside links for reporting issues.

We will also work in partnership with major landowners such as the Crown Estate and Forestry Commission to demonstrate sustainable management of woodlands.

To support this value, the Council may also use links to bigger initiatives and organisations such as the Berkshire Local Nature Partnership, Urban Forestry and Woodlands Advisory Committee, and Woodland Trust. Appendix 3 of this strategy provides further reading on best practice management.

Responsible stewardship also applies to issues such as wildfires, pests and diseases that require a coordinated approach between landowners.

**Wildfires** - The Council will manage its trees to reduce the risk of wildfires by following guidance created by South East England Regional Wildfire Group that includes:

- Establishing species that are less susceptible to wildfire
- Managing effective fire breaks between high risk habitats and residential property
- Prohibiting the use of fires and barbeques on high risk sites
- Working with partners to raise awareness of the dangers of wild fire and arson through education and publicity

- Include wild fire mitigation provision in new development in high risk areas

**Pests and diseases** – these are a natural part of our trees, hedgerows, orchards and woodlands. Some pests and diseases that affect the long term health of trees may require management action. Pests such as invasive non-native plants are a particular problem in woodlands across the borough and many landowners are working to remove these species from their land. With climate change, an increasing number of diseases are also beginning to colonise our trees which need to be managed.

Good management practices significantly help in the reduction and management of pests and diseases. The Forestry Commission also provides guidance and support on how to manage pests and diseases. The council will also help landowners to identify and carry out effective management to reduce the impact of these species on natural habitats, people and the economy.

## **Principle I – Tree retention**

The Council will favour tree retention unless there are sound reasons for removal such as sustainable woodland management, arboricultural practice or public interest such as quality of life or safety.

### **Explanation**

To maintain our existing tree cover for the benefit of our community, we need to ensure that removal of trees is only done when there is a sound reason. The reasons in Principle I are explained below:

- **Sustainable woodland management** – where tree removal is in line with woodland management guidance or an existing management plan in that location. For example, coppicing requires the cutting of trees on rotation to create a woodland product while regenerating the habitat.
- **Nature conservation** – there are many areas in the borough where we may need to remove trees to maintain habitats of importance for nature conservation. For example, heathlands in the borough can be lost if self sown pines and scrub are allowed to grow too large.
- **Arboricultural practice** – where a tree has been assessed by a suitably qualified person and has a defect that is likely to result in failure of the tree or creates a hazard.
- **Overriding public interest** – where a tree seriously affects public safety due to a defect or where it may significantly reduce the quality of life for nearby residents. Overriding public interest will be considered by the council on a case-by-case basis.

Wherever possible, the council will seek options that allow trees to be retained, for example by pruning or creating a monolith<sup>11</sup> or replacement. In the planning process, the council will also use policies to protect existing tree cover (see Appendix 2). See Principle VI for TPOs (page 20).

Under the Hedgerow Regulations 1997, hedgerows cannot be removed without our permission. If those hedgerows meet the criteria as an important hedgerow, the council has the power to protect these.

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<sup>11</sup> In tree terms, this means removing the branches and leaving the trunk standing as a deadwood habitat feature.

## **Principle II – New trees**

The Council will support **new tree planting** within new and existing urban areas that are appropriate for their location. Special consideration will be given to large species, future veterans and street trees.

### **Explanation**

To maintain our existing tree cover for the benefit of the community, we need to ensure that new trees are continuously planted by exploring a range of opportunities across the borough. These opportunities may include new developments, developer contributions, community projects, sponsorship and donations.

New trees need to be appropriate to their location, so the council will use the principles of right tree in the right place<sup>12</sup>.

- **For trees** in general, this means choosing those that are the right size and species for their location. Where possible native trees will be sourced from stock of local provenance.
- **For woodlands**, this means that the council will encourage natural regeneration or plant species in keeping with local woodlands.
- **For hedgerows**, this means that the Council will support planting native species to maximise habitats for wildlife, ensuring the layout and selection of species reflects the local landscape character.

The Council will promote the planting of hedgerows and trees to link existing woodlands and to provide green corridors for wildlife and people.

The Council will place a priority on the replacement of ageing street tree populations, particularly where these adjoin major traffic routes, planting large tree species in highly visible locations where appropriate.

Within new urban areas, we work with developers to provide new trees, hedgerows, orchards and woodlands that provide benefits for people and wildlife. It is important that new developments provide adequate space for these trees to avoid any future pressure to remove them or conflicts with adjacent landuse.

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<sup>12</sup> Alex Shigo (1991) Modern Arboriculture: as systems approach to the care of trees and their associates.

### **Principle III – Veteran trees**

The Council will use best practice to promote the lifespan of **veteran** and potential veteran trees within the borough.

#### **Explanation**

Natural England and the Forestry Commission have jointly defined<sup>13</sup> veteran trees as:

“trees which, because of their age, size or condition are of cultural, historical, landscape and nature conservation value. They can be found as individuals or groups within ancient wood pastures, historic parkland, hedgerows, orchards, parks or other areas.”

Veteran trees are also described as irreplaceable habitat alongside ancient woodland in paragraph 118 of the National Planning Policy Framework (see Appendix 2).

Bracknell Forest has a large number of important ancient and veteran trees in the landscape. Part of the internationally important Windsor Forest and Great Park Special Area for Conservation (SAC) falls partly within the borough. This SAC has been designated for the large number of ancient and veteran trees which are home to some of Britain’s rarest saproxylic (deadwood) invertebrates.

There are also a number of historic estates, such as Warfield Park estate, Wellington College, South Hill Park and Lily Hill Park in the borough. Due to a history of plant collecting, veteran trees from around the world can be found in the areas covered by these former estates.

Veteran trees are important in a number of different ways. Veteran trees are of great value for biodiversity due to the wide range of conditions they provide. They support a huge variety of species from the roots to the canopy including specialist deadwood invertebrates such as Stag Beetles and Violet Click Beetles, many of which are very rare in the UK. Veteran trees provide us with a link to the past as living heritage and often form significant features of a wooded landscape. Veteran trees are also important gene pool for disease resistant species.

Veteran trees are currently being recorded by the Bracknell Forest Veteran Tree Survey and stored by Thames Valley Environmental Records Centre. The Council will use this information to promote the protection and sensitive management of these trees.

The Council will use best practice to assess and maintain the lifespan of veteran and potential veteran trees within the borough, whilst meeting our legal obligations for public safety. We will aim to establish and maintain successive generations of veteran trees within the borough. Bracknell Forest Council will also encourage the best practice management of veteran trees on private land by advising landowners and developers.

The management of veteran trees is different to other trees due to their higher value. Most veteran trees benefit from a “halo” treatment which seeks to improve growing conditions within the root zone of the trees. Any clearance or mulching in this area will need to take into account the biodiversity value of the vegetation to be removed.

Any hazards posed by veteran trees will be addressed where ever possible in a way which minimises harm to the tree. The Council will use best practice to undertake initial risk assessments of veteran trees to identify risks, both to and from the tree. Where opportunities exist, features that may cause harm to veteran trees will be removed (such as furniture or

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<sup>13</sup> Standing advice on ancient woodlands and veteran trees dated 2015. [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)



paths). Equally, where there may be a potential hazard to the public from the tree, furniture and paths will be relocated away from trees.

Links to best practice for veteran trees is provided in Appendix 3.

## **Principle IV – Ancient woodlands**

The Council will seek to protect, manage or restore **ancient woodlands** to maximise their biodiversity and historic value on public and private land.

### **Explanation**

Natural England and the Forestry Commission have jointly defined<sup>14</sup> ancient woodland as:

“an area that has been wooded continuously since at least 1600 AD.”

Continuously wooded does not require continuous physical cover of trees, as open areas are an important component of woodlands. In most ancient woods, the trees and shrubs have been cut down periodically as part of the management cycle, for instance during coppicing. Therefore, ancient woodland does not necessarily contain very old trees.

Ancient woodland also includes plantations on ancient woodland sites (PAWS, also known as ancient replanted woodland) where the former native tree cover has been replaced by planted trees, predominantly of non-native species. These sites often retain some ancient woodland features such as soils, ground flora, fungi, and woodland archaeology and they can respond well to restoration.

Ancient woodland is of prime ecological, historical and landscape importance, it is exceptionally rich in wildlife supporting many rare and threatened species and acts as a reservoir from which wildlife can spread into new woodlands. Ancient woodland is an integral part of England’s historic landscape and contains a wealth of features of historical and archaeological importance. It also contributes to people’s sense of place, seasons and provides inspiration.

The importance of ancient woodlands and veteran trees as an irreplaceable habitat is set out in paragraph 118 of The National Planning Policy Framework (see Appendix 2).

Bracknell Forest Council is committed to protecting existing ancient woodland and to improving its management so that it can be enjoyed for generations to come. We will ensure that ancient woodland on land that it owns is managed sensitively for the benefit of biodiversity and people, through woodland management plans. We will also work with other landowners to ensure that ancient woodland on private land is managed or restored. In particular we will encourage the restoration PAWS woodland to native semi-natural woodland, in line with Forestry Commission and Woodland Trust guidance (see Appendix 3).

The Council will use planning policy to avoid development resulting in the loss or deterioration of ancient woodland, unless the need for, and benefits of, the development in that location clearly outweigh the loss (see Appendix 2).

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<sup>14</sup> Standing advice on ancient woodlands and veteran trees dated 2015. [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)

## ***Principle V – Growing environment***

The Council will endeavour to protect **trees and their growing environment** from threats such as encroachment, pruning pressure, compaction, shading and excavation.

### **Explanation**

The growing environment is the immediate surroundings of a tree including its root zone and canopy. The long term health and sustainability of a tree depends on having a favourable growing environment. In many cases, the immediate surroundings of a tree will change over the lifespan of a tree which could be anything from 50 to 1000 years.

Because trees provide us with so many benefits, it is important that we ensure their protection by considering changes to their growing environment. Threats can be short term in the form of temporary excavation by statutory undertakers (utilities companies) or they can be long term where new housing could physically encroach on trees and result in pressure to prune or remove them. Where a tree precedes a change in the built form, the interests of the tree should be given protection provided this does not conflict with other values or principles.

We will work as far as is reasonable to ensure the growing environment is favourable for the protection of trees. This will involve using our statutory functions as a planning authority, flood authority and highway authority, and by working with residents, landowners and statutory undertakers. We will also use relevant policy documents to support this principle such as the Council Plan, Parks & Open Spaces Strategy, Biodiversity Action Plan (see page 6 and Appendix 2).

## ***Principle VI – Tree Preservation Orders***

The Council will continue to protect significant trees by the use of **Tree Preservation Orders** using a best practice approach.

### **Explanation**

Trees may be protected under the Town & Country Planning Act 1990 by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO). To be eligible for a TPO, a tree should be of amenity value and under threat (it is expedient for the council to take action). A tree of amenity value contributes to the local landscape and provides public benefit. It could be a tree that is in a prominent place or is visible from a public highway.

A TPO makes it an offence to wilfully damage or destroy a protected tree, group of trees, woodland or defined area. The planning authority's written permission is required to prune any living part of the tree including roots or to cut the tree down.

All trees within Conservation Areas are also protected above a certain size. It is a legal requirement to give written notice of any intention to prune or remove any trees for property within a Conservation Area.

The Council operates an application process to assess and decide on any works proposed to protected trees. We will assess TPO applications and grant or refuse consent where appropriate, in line with good arboricultural practice and the values and principles of this strategy.

The location of TPOs is provided by an online map on our website [www.bracknellforest.gov.uk/treepreservationorders](http://www.bracknellforest.gov.uk/treepreservationorders).

## Glossary

Below is a list of terms used in this strategy with descriptions of what those words mean. Where possible, published standards have been used to define these terms (shown in brackets).

**Ancient woodland** - any wooded area that has been wooded continuously since at least 1600 AD. It includes:

- 'ancient semi-natural woodland' mainly made up of trees and shrubs native to the site, usually arising from natural regeneration
- 'plantations on ancient woodland sites' - areas of ancient woodland where the former native tree cover has been felled and replaced by planted trees, usually of species not native to the site.

(Forestry Commission and Natural England Standing Advice on Ancient Woodlands, 2015)

**Active management** – To actively manage, we mean maintaining continuous cover of a range of species and ages.

**Canopy or crown** - The branches and associated foliage of a tree.

**Canopy cover** - the percentage (%) of an area covered by trees.

**Coppicing** - The cutting down of a tree within 300mm (12in) of the ground at regular intervals, traditionally applied to certain species such as Hazel and Sweet Chestnut.

**Continuous cover** – managing an area to maintain tree cover while allowing occasional clearance to create a varied age structure and encouraging regeneration.

**Deadwood** - Non-living branches or stems due to natural development / ageing or external influences.

**Growing environment** – the immediate surroundings of a tree that influences its long term health and management.

**Hedgerow** - any boundary line of trees or shrubs over 20m long and less than 5m wide at the base, provided that at one time the trees or shrubs were more or less continuous. (Hedgerow Survey Handbook, 2007)

**Monolith** – A tree reduced to its main stem without branches that is left standing as a dead or dying tree.

**Native** – species that are generally agreed to naturally occur within or have colonised the British Isles without human intervention.

**Non-native invasive species** - species that have invasive characteristics that threaten native species and that have been introduced deliberately or accidentally by humans.

**Orchard** – a group of five or more trees that have been planted for fruit or nuts.

**Pollard** - A tree where canopy branches have been cut back to the main stem, generally at a height of 2-3m, and new ones have been allowed to sprout. (Hedgerow Survey Handbook, 2007)

**Pruning pressure** – the pressure to prune a tree as a result of perceived threats due to its proximity to a property. This may include reasons such as overhanging branches, shading, falling leaves and seeds, television reception, risk to structures (without compelling evidence), or general concerns over perceived safety due to tree size.

**Public benefit** – this term covers any action that is deemed to be in the interests of the general public such as health and safety, recreation, access, well-being and other benefits.

**Tree** – A plant species that generally forms a single woody stem of substantial height with lateral branches. In this strategy we use the term tree to mean to cover any form of tree from saplings to veterans. This term is also used to cover areas of trees such as hedgerows, coppice, orchards, woodlands, plantations and forest.

**Regeneration** – the natural process by which trees seed in an area and develop into woodland.

**Root zone** – the area around a tree that contains its roots.

**Veteran tree** - trees which, because of their age, size or condition are of cultural, historical, landscape and nature conservation value. They can be found as individuals or groups within ancient wood pastures, historic parkland, hedgerows, orchards, parks or other areas. (Forestry Commission and Natural England Standing Advice on Ancient Woodlands, 2015)

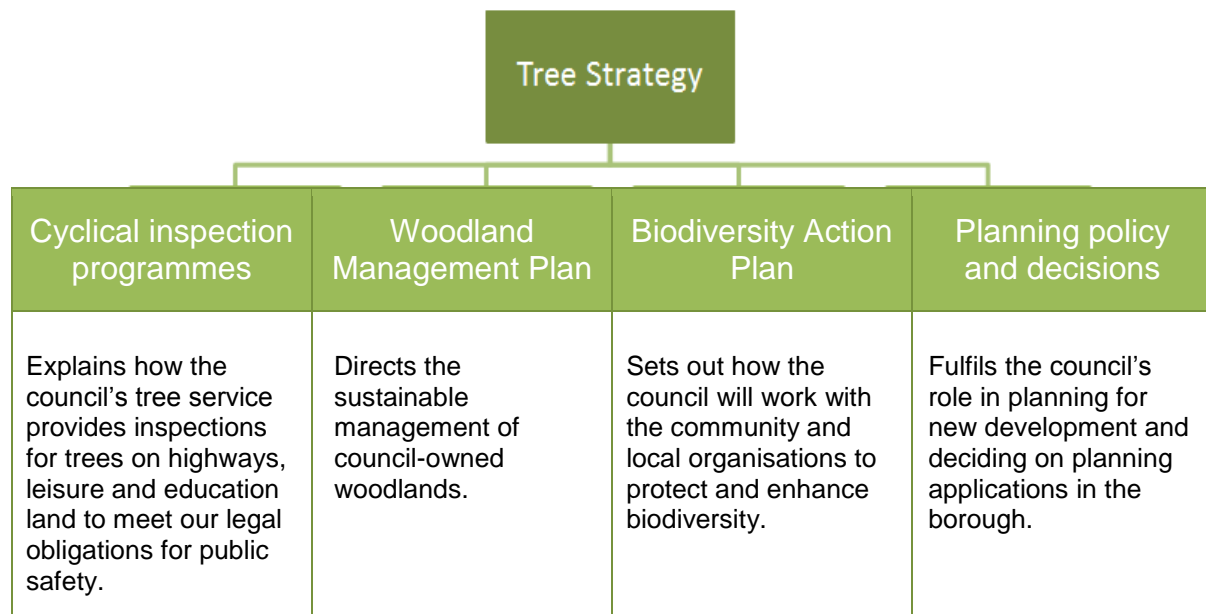
**Woodland** – an area of trees and shrubs which has a canopy  $\geq 20\%$  cover. This can also be termed forest.

## Appendix 1 – delivering the strategy

In this delivery plan we explain how the council will implement this strategy through the council's statutory roles and a range of other mechanisms shown below. However, we welcome action and involvement from anyone in Bracknell Forest who owns or is interested in trees as the Tree Strategy is intended to be relevant to everyone.

Figure 1 below shows how four areas of council work will be used to deliver the Tree Strategy. A brief description is given for each area to broadly describe how these achieve action for trees. Table x overleaf explains this in more detail.

**Figure 1. How the Tree Strategy will be delivered**



**Table A.1 actions for delivering the Tree Strategy**

Table A.1 below explains in more detail how each of four areas of council work will deliver on the values and principles of the tree strategy. Each box contains an action that will be delivered by one or more of these work areas. These actions will be implemented within the next five years while the Tree Strategy is designed to cover the next 20 years.

Value	Cyclical Tree Management	Woodland Management Plan	Biodiversity Action Plan	Planning Policy and decisions
<p><b>Significance</b> The Council recognises the significance of trees in creating the character of Bracknell Forest and works to ensure that its varied tree population is managed and enhanced for environmental, social and economic benefit.</p>	Implement the cyclical strategy to maintain a varied tree population.	All Council owned woodland to have a management plan by 2020.	Compile a database of hedgerows in Bracknell Forest.	Develop a green infrastructure policy in the Comprehensive Local Plan.
<p><b>Active management</b> The Council will ensure that our tree resource is actively managed and expanded with nature conservation and public benefit as the main objectives. The Council will seek potential income from woodland through timber and other woodland products where this does not conflict with other principles.</p>	As above.	Woodland management plans are reviewed on a 5 year rolling basis. Apply for woodland grants to manage the Council's woodlands. Explore options for council owned woodland to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. produce woodland products</li> <li>ii. plant new, or enhancing existing woodlands</li> </ul>	Identify sites and funding for new hedgerow planting.	Produce a guide to appropriate species for trees and hedgerows species for different landscape character areas for the Borough by 2017.
<p><b>Stewardship</b> The Council works to promote understanding and responsible</p>	Maintain an inventory of trees on council land	Provide information about Council owned trees and woodland, both on site and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Encourage the recording of wildlife associated with trees</li> <li>ii. Provide education</li> </ul>	As above for green infrastructure policy.



<p>stewardship of all trees on public and private land as part of green infrastructure.</p>		<p>online.</p>	<p>related to trees, woodland and hedgerows, eg. Forest schools</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>iii. Support community involvement in woodland and hedgerow management, through community groups, conservation volunteering and other means.</li> <li>iv. Promote tree-related groups, talks and walks to Bracknell Forest residents</li> <li>v. Commission a study to identify the monetary value of the natural environment to Bracknell Forest.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Tree retention</b> The Council will favour tree retention unless there are sound reasons for removal such as sustainable woodland management, arboricultural practice or public interest such as quality of life or safety.</p>	<p>Implement the cyclical strategy with systems in place to minimise tree removal.</p>	<p>Deliver the management plan to sustainably manage woodlands for public interest and nature conservation.</p>	<p>Identify important trees, hedgerows, orchards and woodlands as an evidence base for developing a green infrastructure policy in the Comprehensive Local Plan.</p>	<p>As above for green infrastructure policy. Explore options for designating important hedgerows.</p>
<p><b>New trees</b> The Council will support new tree planting within new and existing urban areas that are appropriate<sup>4</sup> for their location. Special consideration will be given to large species, future veterans and street trees.</p>	<p>Seek to replace trees whenever budget allows.</p>	<p>Identify opportunities to plant new trees including large species and future veterans.</p>	<p>Identify locations and funding for the planting of trees that will become the veterans of the future. Explore the potential for a tree warden scheme for Bracknell Forest and recruit</p>	<p>Apply appropriate conditions on planning permissions and ensure discharge. Identify and apply section106 contributions and Community Infrastructure Levy funds to enhance landscape, biodiversity and</p>

Principle	Cyclical Inspection Programme	Woodland Management Plan	Biodiversity Action Plan	Planning Policy and decisions
<p><b>Veteran trees</b> The Council will use best practice to promote the lifespan of <b>veteran</b> and potential veteran trees within the borough.</p>	Adopt sensitive work methods for veteran trees to promote their lifespan.	Develop a management plan for veteran trees in parks, open spaces and adjacent to highways.	Compile a database of veteran trees in the borough in partnership with the Woodland Trust and the Bracknell forest Veteran Tree Survey.	Use NPPF to protect veteran trees as irreplaceable habitat.
<p><b>Ancient woodlands</b> The Council will seek to protect, manage or restore <b>ancient woodlands</b> to maximise their biodiversity and historic value on public and private land.</p>	Ensure that inspections within ancient woodland prioritise biodiversity and historic value.	Develop a management plan for ancient woodlands to maximise biodiversity and historic value on council land.	Provide advice to landowners on management of ancient woodlands.	Use NPPF to protect ancient woodland as irreplaceable habitat.
<p><b>Growing environment</b> The Council will endeavour to protect trees and their growing environment<sup>4</sup> from threats such as encroachment, pruning pressure, compaction, shading and excavation.</p>	Identify issues during inspections and make recommendations for protection or improvements.	Develop management techniques to reduce threats in the woodland growing environment.	Publish online resources to raise awareness of good tree management for residents.	Develop a policy in the Comprehensive Local Plan that seeks to protect trees and their growing environments.
<p><b>Tree Preservation Orders</b> The Council will continue to protect significant trees by the use of Tree Preservation Orders using a best practice approach.</p>	As above.	Identify TPOs as part of the management plan.	As above.	Continue to make TPOs for public amenity where they are expedient in line with regulations

## Appendix 2 - relevant legislation and policy

### Legislation

<p>The Occupiers' Liability Act 1957</p>	<p>Places a duty on the occupier of the land to:</p> <p>“take such care as is reasonable” to ensure that <b>visitors</b> to their land shall be reasonably safe from harm, in using the premises for the purposes for which they are invited or permitted by the occupier to be there.”</p>
<p>The Occupiers' Liability Act 1984</p>	<p>Places a duty on the occupier of the land to:</p> <p>“take such care as is reasonable” to ensure that people other than visitors, <u>in particular trespassers</u>, in circumstances where the occupier knows of the potential presence of such people on their land and the risk posed to them by features of the land such as trees, to take reasonable action to ensure they are reasonably safe from harm.”</p>
<p>The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974</p>	<p>Section 3 (1) places general duties upon employers and the self-employed to those other than employees ( i.e. members of the public) and states:</p> <p>“It shall be the duty of every employer to conduct his undertaking in such a way as to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that persons not in his employment (who may be affected thereby) are not exposed to risks to their health and safety.”</p>
<p>Highways Act 1959</p>	<p>The Council has a duty under this act to maintain a safe highway, which may include pruning, or removing trees for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Obstruction by trees, i.e. low hanging branches</li> <li>(ii) Irreparable damage to highway trees by passing vehicles</li> <li>(iii) Dangerous trees near roads and footpaths.</li> <li>(iv) To recommend specific management objectives and regimes</li> </ul>
<p>The Highways Act 1980</p>	<p>Section 154(2) - A highway authority also has the power under this Act to require trees growing on land adjacent to the highway that are dead, diseased, damaged or insecurely rooted, to be removed by those responsible for the trees and, in default of removal, to take action itself to have the trees removed.</p>
<p>Abatement of nuisance</p>	<p>Tree owners have an obligation under common law to abate nuisance. Whilst the law has struggled with a simple definition of nuisance typically the definitions of nuisance would include:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Dangerous trees or parts of trees.</li> <li>(ii) Actual damage to property, such as direct damage by branches or roots</li> </ul>
<p>Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010</p>	<p>These regulations implement the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and impose duties in relation to European protected species.</p> <p>Schedule 2 of the Regulations lists European protected species. These include bats and great crested newts. It is illegal to disturb,</p>

	injure or kill individuals or to disturb or destroy the resting place or breeding site of such a species whether it is occupied or not.
<b>Natural Environmental and Rural Communities Act 2006</b>	<p>Section 40(1): “Every public authority must, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity.”</p> <p>Section 41 requires the Secretary of State to publish a list of Habitats and Species of Principal Importance for special consideration when implementing this duty.</p>
<b>Wildlife &amp; Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)</b>	<p>Schedule 1 birds: rare species afforded additional protection, which cannot be intentionally or recklessly disturbed when nesting.</p> <p>Schedule 5 animals protected against killing and injury.</p> <p>Schedule 8 protected rare plants.</p> <p>Part 1: All birds, their nests and eggs are protected by law and it is an offence, with certain exceptions, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird</li> <li>b) intentionally take, damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or being built</li> <li>c) intentionally take or destroy the egg of any wild bird</li> </ul>
<b>Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000</b>	
<b>Forestry Act 1967</b>	<p>This act defines the role of the Forestry Commission.</p> <p>Part II of the act makes it illegal to fell a growing tree without a licence issued by the Forestry Commission and lists various exceptions such as trees on public open space.</p>
<b>Hedgerow Regulations 1997</b>	<p>Section 5 requires anyone who wishes to remove a hedgerow to notify the local planning authority.</p> <p>Schedule 1 sets out criteria for identifying ‘important hedgerows’ for which the local planning authority can issue a retention notice.</p>
<b>The Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation)(England) Regulations 2012</b>	<p>This act sets out the process for making a Tree Preservation Order and for applying to carry out works to a protected tree. It is additional to Part VIII of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.</p>
<b>Town &amp; Country Planning Act 1990</b>	<p>Part I identifies which councils are local planning authorities responsible for deciding planning applications and what their powers are.</p> <p>Part II of the act requires planning authorities to develop development plans also known as local plans.</p> <p>Part III explains what works require planning permission and the process for planning applications.</p> <p>Part VIII includes Tree Preservation Orders.</p> <p>Section 211 covers conservation areas in which trees are protected.</p>

## National Policy

### **Circular 06/05: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation - Statutory Obligations and Their Impact Within The Planning System**

This document covers a wide range of biodiversity issues including protected sites and protected species. Of particular relevance are:

84. The potential effects of a development, on habitats or species listed as priorities in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP), and by Local Biodiversity Partnerships, together with policies in the England Biodiversity Strategy, are capable of being a material consideration in the preparation of regional spatial strategies and local development documents and the making of planning decisions.

90. When granting planning permission for any development, local planning authorities are under a duty, where appropriate, to impose planning conditions to ensure adequate provision is made for the protection or planting of trees, and to make Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) as appear necessary in the circumstances.

91. Veteran and other substantial trees and many types of woodland, especially ancient semi-natural woodland, can be of importance for biodiversity conservation. When considering whether particular trees or woodlands merit a TPO in the interests of amenity, local planning authorities should, where appropriate, include consideration of their nature conservation value.

Available at: [www.gov.uk/government/publications/biodiversity-and-geological-conservation-circular-06-2005](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/biodiversity-and-geological-conservation-circular-06-2005)

### **National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)**

The NPPF provides a strong national basis for planning policy. The most relevant paragraphs are:

17. Planning should....contribute to conserving and enhancing the natural environment and reducing pollution.

99. Local Plans should take account of climate change over the longer term, including factors such as flood risk, coastal change, water supply and changes to biodiversity and landscape. New development should be planned to avoid increased vulnerability to the range of impacts arising from climate change. When new development is brought forward in areas which are vulnerable, care should be taken to ensure that risks can be managed through suitable adaptation measures, including through the planning of green infrastructure.

109. The planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:

- protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, geological conservation interests and soils;
- recognising the wider benefits of ecosystem services;
- minimising impacts on biodiversity and providing net gains in biodiversity where possible, contributing to the Government's commitment to halt the overall decline in

biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures;

118. When determining planning applications, local planning authorities should aim to conserve and enhance biodiversity by applying the following principles:...

- if significant harm resulting from a development cannot be avoided (through locating on an alternative site with less harmful impacts), adequately mitigated, or, as a last resort, compensated for, then planning permission should be refused;
- opportunities to incorporate biodiversity in and around developments should be encouraged;
- planning permission should be refused for development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats, including ancient woodland and the loss of aged or veteran trees found outside ancient woodland, unless the need for, and benefits of, the development in that location clearly outweigh the loss;

Available at: [www.gov.uk/guidance/national-planning-policy-framework](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-planning-policy-framework)

### **Standing Advice for Ancient Woodland and Veteran Trees**

This document is jointly published by Natural England and the Forestry Commission. It provides advice on how ancient woodlands and veteran trees should be protected through the planning process. In particular, it identifies the use of buffer zones to protect ancient woodlands and suggests that 15 metres or more would be appropriate.

Available at: [www.gov.uk/guidance/ancient-woodland-and-veteran-trees-protection-surveys-licences](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/ancient-woodland-and-veteran-trees-protection-surveys-licences)

## **Local Policy<sup>15</sup>**

### **Bracknell Forest Local Plan 2002**

Saved policies relating to trees include:

#### **EN1: Protecting tree and hedgerow cover**

Planning permission will not be granted for development which would result in the destruction of trees and hedgerows which are important to the retention, where applicable, of:

- (i) a clear distinction between built up areas and the countryside; or
- (ii) the character and appearance of the landscape or townscape; or
- (iii) green links between open spaces and wildlife heritage sites; or
- (iv) internationally, nationally or locally rare or threatened species; or
- (v) habitats for local wildlife; or
- (vi) areas of historic significance.

#### **EN2: Supplementing tree and hedgerow cover**

In imposing landscaping conditions to secure additional tree and/or hedge planting, the Borough Council will require developers to include in their schemes the planting of indigenous trees appropriate to the setting and character of the area and a variety of other indigenous plants. According to circumstances, these may include grasses, heathland or wetland species.

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<sup>15</sup> Bracknell Forest Council is in the process of developing a new Comprehensive Local Plan that will supercede current policies. This appendix will be amended once the CLP has been approved.

## **Bracknell Forest Council Core Strategy**

### **CS1: Sustainable Development Principles**

Development will be permitted which;...Protects and enhances:...

- vii. the quality of natural resources including water, air, land and biodiversity;
- viii. the character and quality of local landscapes and the wider countryside; and
- ix. the historic and cultural features of acknowledged importance.

### **CS7: Design**

95 Development proposals will be permitted, which;...

- iii. enhance the landscape and promote biodiversity;

## **Bracknell Forest Council Plan**

The council plan sets out 6 strategic themes:

- value for money
- a strong and resilient economy
- people have the life skills and education opportunities they need to thrive
- people live active and healthy lives
- a clean, green, growing and sustainable place
- strong, safe, supportive and self-reliant communities

Each strategic theme is linked to key measures of success and performance indicators. The narrative, strategic themes and key measures provide the framework for us to deliver our new approach and be a council that can adapt and innovate to keep Bracknell Forest a good place to live.

Available at: <https://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/council-plan/council-plan>

## **Bracknell Forest Climate Change Action Plan**

Available at: [www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/strategies-plans-and-policies/strategy-and-policy-documents/business-strategies-and-policies](http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/strategies-plans-and-policies/strategy-and-policy-documents/business-strategies-and-policies)

## **Bracknell Forest Open Spaces Strategy**

Available at: [www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/strategies-plans-and-policies/strategy-and-policy-documents/parks-and-countryside-strategies-and-policies](http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/strategies-plans-and-policies/strategy-and-policy-documents/parks-and-countryside-strategies-and-policies)

## **Bracknell Forest Biodiversity Action Plan**

Available at: [www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/wildlife/biodiversity-action-plan](http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/wildlife/biodiversity-action-plan)

## Appendix 3 – useful references

### *Tree management*

#### **BRITISH STANDARDS**

BS3998 2010 Tree Work Recommendations

BS5837 2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations.

NJUG 10 Trees and Utilities

**Common Sense Risk Management Of Trees.** National Tree Safety Group, 2011.

**Management of the risk from falling trees or branches,** Health and Safety Executive 2013. [http://www.hse.gov.uk/foi/internalops/sims/ag\\_food/010705.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/foi/internalops/sims/ag_food/010705.htm)

**Veteran Trees: A guide to good management (IN13)** Natural England

**Veteran Trees: A guide to risk and responsibility (IN131)**

**Visual Tree Assessment VTA (Mattheck and Breloer 1994)** - VTA is a non-invasive method of examining the health and structural condition of individual trees. It has become the standard approach for surveying trees.

### **Woodlands**

**Managing ancient and native woodland in England,** Forestry Commission (2010)  
<https://www.forestry.gov.uk/anwpracticeguide>

**So, you own a woodland?** Forestry Commission, 2009.  
[www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/so-you-own-a-woodland.pdf/\\$FILE/so-you-own-a-woodland.pdf](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/so-you-own-a-woodland.pdf/$FILE/so-you-own-a-woodland.pdf)

### **Urban Forest**

**No Trees, No Future: Trees in the Urban Realm.** Trees and Design Action Group, 2008.  
<https://www.forestry.gov.uk/tdag>

#### **Our vision for a resilient urban forest**

Our Vision for a Resilient Urban Forest sets out a clear vision for what could be achieved by a resilient urban forest; identifies the key components and pulls together evidence, data and case studies to illustrate the variety of benefits afforded by the urban forest. This document was produced by the Urban Forestry and Woodland Advisory Committee Network.

**Trees in Towns II: New Survey of Urban Trees in England and Their Condition and Management.** Department for Communities and Local Government, 2008.

#### **Urban woodland guides (Woodland Trust)**

Guide 1 – damage and misuse

Guide 2 – litter and fly tipping

Guide 3 – complaints and queries



Guide 5 – thinning and felling

Available at: <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/publications/>

## Pests and diseases

The Forestry Commission website provides guidance on a wide range of pests and diseases, available at: <https://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/BEEH-9TDJCJ>

## Nature Conservation

**Managing your woodland for wildlife.** David Blakesley and Peter Buckley, 2010.  
<http://www.woodlands.co.uk/owning-a-wood/managing-your-woodland-for-wildlife>

## Environmental studies

**Air temperature regulation by urban trees and green infrastructure.** Forestry Commission Research Note FCRN012.  
[www.forestry.gov.uk/website/publications.nsf/DocsByUnique/3F4651051A46CBB680257EBB0046FA81](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/website/publications.nsf/DocsByUnique/3F4651051A46CBB680257EBB0046FA81)

**The role of productive forests in water management.** Confor, 2015  
[www.confor.org.uk/media/79557/1208-confor-productive-woodlands-plus-water-12pp-aw-sml.pdf](http://www.confor.org.uk/media/79557/1208-confor-productive-woodlands-plus-water-12pp-aw-sml.pdf)

## Social and Economic studies

**Health benefits of Street Trees.** Forestry Commission Research, 2011.  
<https://www.forestry.gov.uk/fr/inf-d-8jcejh>

**The Case for Trees in Development and the Urban Environment.** Forestry Commission England, 2010.  
<https://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/inf-d-88nfn2>

**Leisure Landscapes: Exploring the role of forestry in tourism.** Forestry Commission, 2007.  
[https://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/fcrp011.pdf/\\$file/fcrp011.pdf](https://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/fcrp011.pdf/$file/fcrp011.pdf)