

Broadsheet

The Magazine for Broadland Tree Wardens

Issue 215 – March 2023

A photograph of a large, gnarled tree trunk. The trunk is dark brown and textured, with a prominent, light-colored, moss-covered section in the center. The tree is surrounded by green foliage and a path in the background.

**Promises, Promises
and More Promises**

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The Monthly Magazine for
Broadland Tree Wardens



Issue 215 – March 2023

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This Month's Cover Picture

The wonderful Tisbury Yew in St John the Baptist churchyard in Tisbury, Salisbury. See the article on page 10.

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Promises, Promises and More Promises

PLANS to restore nature, improve environmental quality, and increase the prosperity of our country were set out by the government on Tuesday 31 January as it published its Environmental Improvement Plan 2023.

Helen Briggs, BBC Environment Correspondent, reported that we will all live within 15 minutes' walk of a green space or water under the new government plans to restore nature.

Habitat for wildlife will be expanded and there will be 25 new or enlarged national nature reserves. More money will go to protecting rare wildlife, such as hedgehogs and red squirrels. The "blueprint" sets out how ministers intend to clean up air and water, boost nature and reduce waste over the next five years in England.

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said protecting the natural environment was fundamental to the health, economy and prosperity of the country.

"This plan provides the blueprint for how we deliver our commitment to leave our environment in a better state than we found it, making sure we drive forward progress with renewed ambition and achieve our target of not just halting, but reversing the decline of nature," he said.

The government promised in 2018 to leave the environment in a better state for future generations. Yet earlier this month the Office for Environmental Protection said efforts were falling "far short" of what was needed.

The post-Brexit green watchdog warned the country was facing a "deeply concerning decline in biodiversity".

The government has now set out how it intends to meet legally-binding targets on water quality, biodiversity and waste as well as international targets agreed at the COP15 UN biodiversity summit in December.

The ambitions of the Environmental Improvement Plan include:

- Creating and restoring at least 2,000 square miles of new wildlife habitats
- Ensuring everyone in England lives within a 15-minute walk of woodlands, wetlands, parks and rivers
- Restoring 400 miles of England's rivers
- New targets for 2028 for reducing plastic, glass, metal, paper and food waste
- A promise to put environmental protection at the heart of all new government policy.

Environment Secretary, Therese Coffey, said: "Nature is vital for our survival, crucial to our food security, clean air, and clean water as well as health and wellbeing benefits."

Green groups have been calling for a "quantum shift" in action and ambition on restoring nature.

Richard Benwell, chief executive of Wildlife and Countryside Link, said the plans should be "a biodiversity to-do list for every minister in government" and the Wildlife Trusts said they must deliver "a huge shift in action and ambition".

Caroline Lucas, Green Party MP for Brighton, raised concerns about how the plans to get people back into nature could affect

farmers in the UK.

"At the moment nearly three million people live more than 10 minutes from green space and any new access would be needed to be protected in perpetuity," she told BBC Radio 4's Today programme.

"If it means access on farmers' land, obviously that would need to be squared with farmers and finance might be needed for that as well."

Chief executive Craig Bennett said the plans must ensure "the whole of government is acting to halt the chronic loss of nature and tackle this existential threat to our prosperity, our ability to produce food, and to have enough clean water".

The government has set legally-binding targets for reversing the decline of wildlife such as hedgehogs, red squirrels and water voles by 2030.

Yet, the latest figures show key animals and plants declined by 82% between 1970 and 2018.

One lesson for how to turn around the fortunes of some of the UK's native wildlife comes from conservation efforts to protect the pine marten, a small woodland mammal that is making a return to southern Britain.

The pine marten was once found across the UK, but has declined dramatically due to deforestation and hunting.

Populations have clung on in Scotland and in the last decade a handful were moved to mid-Wales to reinvigorate the tiny population there.

Small numbers have also been released in the Forest of Dean and Wye Valley in Gloucestershire in a project run by the Vincent Wildlife Trust and Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust.

"The pine marten is a good example of how a species can recover if people stop killing them, you provide more habitat and you direct conservation efforts," said Lizzie Croose of the Vincent Wildlife Trust.

It also shows the importance of restoring habitats for wildlife that are bigger and better connected, said Jamie Kingscott of Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust.

"We need to think on a landscape scale," he said. "We're running out of time and we have to start to think bigger."

WRITING on www.ft.com, Laura Battle reported that "Nature is Too Often the Victim When We Exercise Our Right to Roam".

How do we balance the human need to engage with nature with the interests of nature itself? It's one of the great questions of our age and it lies at the heart of the UK government's new Environmental Improvement Plan. This blueprint for halting the decline of biodiversity and tackling environmental pollution and climate change includes the headline-grabbing pledge

Ten goal areas of 25-year environmental plan

| | | | |
|---|---|----|--|
| 1 |  Clean air | 2 |  Clean and plentiful water |
| 3 |  Thriving plants and wildlife | 4 |  Reducing environmental hazards |
| 5 |  Using natural resources more sustainably | 6 |  Enhanced beauty, heritage and engagement with nature |
| 7 |  Mitigating and adapting to climate change | 8 |  Minimising waste |
| 9 |  Managing chemicals and pesticides | 10 |  Enhanced biosecurity |

Source: Office for Environmental Protection

BBC

that everyone will live within a 15-minute walk of water or green space, including woodlands, wetlands, parks and rivers.

Improved public access to the countryside is fundamental for society and this target should be just a starting point. Not only is a connection with nature vital for people's psychological and physical wellbeing - the plan estimates the mental health benefits associated with woodland visits to be £185mn a year - but it is key to fostering greater understanding and respect for the natural world. Yet with so little detail on the funding or implementation of this aim, there is a risk that it leads to policies that would further endanger the country's wildlife.

The hard truth is that wild animals, birds, insects and plants rarely want to connect with us. Countless studies have linked human impact to a fall in the range and number of bird and animal species, and an increase in littering and erosion. Wildfires erupted around the countryside during last summer's heatwave, many of which were traced to portable barbecues. The damage wrought by dogs (whose population in the UK is estimated to be more than 10 million and rising rapidly) from hunting small animals to disturbing ground-nesting birds is increasingly clear.

The area of woodland in Lincolnshire that I help manage, almost half of which is designated a site of special scientific interest, provides a habitat for many vulnerable species, including woodland warblers and early purple orchids. It is also a cherished green lung for people living in nearby towns and villages. Here, the vast majority of visitors stick to the footpaths, keep their pets under close control and resist the temptation to forage. However, even one rogue dog rampaging through the undergrowth can be disproportionately disruptive.

Right to Roam campaigners, who have encouraged several mass trespasses in recent

years, suggest boosting public engagement with nature by pushing for an extension of the 2000 Countryside and Rights of Way Act to include open access to woodlands, all downland and the greenbelt. This, they say, should extend beyond just the right to walk: "Why shouldn't we also be allowed to camp, kayak, swim, and climb amongst the beauty of the natural world?"

The question sounds entirely reasonable, but the real effect of indiscriminate access would be to risk the destruction of the last of our most precious habitats and species. Supporters point to the examples of Scotland and Scandinavian countries, where people are allowed more "open" access to the countryside but which, crucially, have far smaller populations than England. In Scotland, for example, the ratio of people to woodland is just 3.7 per hectare compared to England's 45.1.

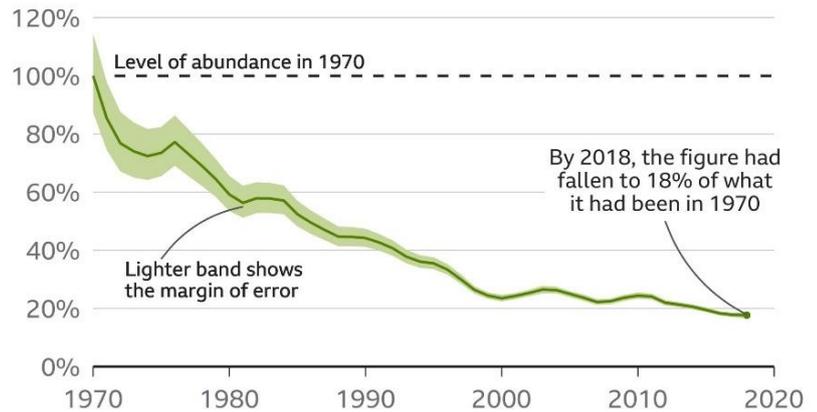
Scotland is also not without its problems. A survey published in September concluded that numbers of the magnificent black and brown feathered Scottish capercaillie, a bird that is now almost exclusively confined to the forests of the Cairngorms National Park, had fallen by 50% to about 542 in just six years. It follows a report that lists human disturbance as one of the primary reasons for their decline.

We must accept that the "right to roam" is rooted in an earlier age, when the UK population was a fraction of what it is today, when people were more localised in their movements and wildlife was not so imperilled. The UK is now densely populated and one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world. Our interactions with the environment must be appropriate to these new challenges and demands, addressing the myriad needs of the public, from dog walking to bird watching and forest-bathing, while prioritising the protection of nature.

It's essential that the government follows its plan with detail on larger urban parks, expanding access to designated waterways and areas of woodland where species are deemed to be at low risk; incentivising landscape-scale initiatives, such as rewilding, that incorporate public access and education projects; and increasing the size and number of nature reserves, where people, without their dogs, can observe and enjoy wildlife. It must also be prepared to acknowledge when our own preoccupations threaten to destroy what little is left.

England's species have been in decline

Change in abundance of 149 priority species compared to 1970



Source: Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs

BBC

E SME STALLARD, Climate and Science Reporter for BBC News, reported that scientific academy The Royal Society says that the UK government risks "overpromising" finite land with its multiple ambitions on farming, nature and renewable energy.

It says an area the size of Northern Ireland could be needed to accommodate current policy targets by 2030.

Farming and forestry groups have welcomed the report and say it shows the need for a UK land-use framework.

A government spokesperson said it would publish its framework later this year.

The report, from the UK National Academy of Sciences, concludes that current policies on land use are "disjointed" and there needs to be more innovative approaches to get the most out of our land.

The report's steering group chairman, Sir Charles Godfray, who is director of Oxford University's Oxford Martin School, said "The UK does not have enough land for any of it to be non-productive, but when we say productive, we don't just mean producing food but producing public good, as well."

The government has ambitious plans for the UK's land, from increasing bio-diversity to providing more homes. It aims to:

- increase woodland cover from the current 13.2% to 17% by 2050
- scale up crops for energy to 23,000 hectares a year by the mid-2020s
- conserve 30% of land for nature by 2030
- build 300,000 new homes a year in England, by the mid-2020s.

The academy reviewed these pledges and concluded that an additional 4.4 million hectares of land - twice the size of Wales - would be needed by 2050 to achieve them, but it has put forward five recommendations for reducing this land demand while still meeting the UK's targets on nature, food and climate change.

One of these recommendations is the establishment of land-use frameworks for each of the UK's nations to make clear to landowners what the priorities are for its land.

The Lords Urban Use Committee recommended at the end of last year that the government establish a land-use framework for England to provide clarity for farmers,



landowners and land managers to make the most effective use of their land.

Emily Norton, head of rural research at Savills, said: "Every time the government sets a new environment target, the question is, where is that going to come from.

"There is going to be a lot of tensions and trade-offs, which is a reason why people keep asking for a land-use framework."

In the UK around 72% of land is already used for agriculture but the Climate Change Committee - the government's independent climate adviser - concluded in 2020 that up to 16% of UK land would need to be released from agriculture to support efforts on climate change.

In 2020, agriculture accounted for 11% of greenhouse gases and is one of the main issues associated with freshwater pollution.

Last month, the government announced the long-awaited details of England's payment scheme for landowners and farmers to reward them for environmental work and more sustainable farming practices, but Tom Bradshaw, deputy president of the National Farmers' Union of England and Wales (NFU), said its members were still struggling to understand where they should focus their efforts.

Mr Bradshaw told the BBC: "Members have always followed government policy and we believe we can deliver environment targets, but right now we don't know what the government's priority is."

A spokesperson for the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs said: "Our land-use framework, due to be published later this year, will help farmers adapt to a changing climate. More information will be available in due course."

The Royal Society has said that better data on the different benefits of land - not just its immediate financial return, but also its social, environmental and health benefits - could help with this.

The report identifies many examples of where land can have multiple uses - including agroforestry, which combines tree planting with farming. Planting trees can protect crops and livestock from the weather and improve the soil structure, potentially increasing crop yield.

The society praised the progress of the Office for National Statistics in building up knowledge of the UK's land, and said this needed to be built on to improve data on soil quality, climate and ecology and the social sciences, to make "robust land-use decisions".

The Forest Stewardship Council, a non-governmental organisation promoting responsible management of forests, welcomed the report's focus on the wider benefits of land

and also the emphasis on "upskilling".

Tallulah Chapman, FSC communications manager, told the BBC: "There is a forestry skills crisis and there are currently not enough skilled professionals to support the expansion and complexity of the issue."

Judy Ling Wong, honorary president of the Black Environment Network, and member of the steering group for this report, said the government had made commitments to deliver green jobs, but "schoolchildren cannot even name the jobs of the land-based sector".

"This is a critical missing element where we need to move very fast."

REGULAR readers of Broad-sheet will know very well just how opposed I am to the construction of HS2 and the damage it is causing to our fragile environment.

So I was not surprised to read an article by Claire Marshall, BBC Rural Affairs Correspondent, reporting that a report by the Wildlife Trusts found that HS2 Ltd, the company building the controversial HS2 rail line, has underestimated its impact on habitats and wildlife.

The coalition of wildlife charities said HS2 Ltd had missed trees, ponds and hedgerows off maps and said the methodology used to calculate the impact on biodiversity of the project was "fundamentally flawed".

Not surprisingly, HS2 Ltd said the trusts' report was "not reliable".

The trusts are calling for construction to be paused and for the government to require HS2 Ltd to re-evaluate the impact construction has on nature.

The Wildlife Trusts said their investigation took a year to complete.

"In addition to the catalogue of errors when assessing the pre-existing nature, this audit found that HS2 Ltd's metric (its 'accounting tool' for assessing impacts on nature) is untested, out of date and fundamentally flawed," they said.

For developers to calculate the impact of construction projects on the natural world, features like streams, hedges and woods are given values that can fit into a spreadsheet and be accounted for.

The trusts' report said that mature hedgerows which "provide berries, shelter and nesting places for wildlife" had been given "a lower nature value than the new hedgerows" that HS2 Ltd would plant. It said some watercourses, ponds and trees had been

"missed out of the data".

Using HS2 Ltd's data where possible, the report found that Phase One, which covers 140 miles of track between London and the West Midlands, would cause almost eight times "more nature loss" than accounted for by HS2 Ltd's calculations.

Phase 2a between the West Midlands and Crewe would result in a 42% nature loss, compared with HS2 Ltd's prediction of 17%, according to the document.

Dr Rachel Giles from Cheshire Wildlife Trust and author of the report, said she had been shocked by the errors and discrepancies that their audit revealed.

"HS2 Ltd must stop using a deeply flawed method to calculate the value of nature affected by the construction of the route," she said. "It is astonishing that a flagship infrastructure project is able to use a metric which is untested and not fit for purpose.

"HS2 Ltd should urgently recalculate the total loss to nature, by re-evaluating existing biodiversity along the entire route whilst there is still time to change the scheme's design and delivery."

Tom Oliver, professor of applied ecology at the University of Reading, told the BBC that the report was "hugely worrying". He said that the methodology HS2 Ltd was using was "ten years out of date" and that the organisation was "marking its own homework".

"You can't go back in time and undo the phase one work that has happened, but for phase two the importance of these natural habitats is so great, the extra work in terms of recalculating ... seems a no-brainer."

Responding to the trusts' report, a spokesperson for HS2 Ltd said that the organisation "didn't recognise the figures" nor did it "believe them to be reliable".

"The Wildlife Trusts have undertaken limited desk research and have not accessed huge areas of land for undertaking ecological survey, in contrast to the ecologists who have compiled HS2's data," the spokesperson said.

They added that it was reviewing its assessment methodology, and intended to "align more closely with the government's biodiversity metric once it is published in the coming months".

The Trusts said that HS2 Ltd should immediately pause all construction and enabling work, and the bill that authorises the Crewe to Manchester leg of the line should be halted. It called on the company to re-map existing habitats and recalculate the impact on nature.

I WAS alarmed, though sadly not surprised, to read an article in the EDP by Dan Grimmer, reporting that fresh concerns have been raised about the condition of trees along the Norwich NDR.

A replanting programme has been scaled back because of uncertainty over whether more of them have died.

When the £205m road was built, 6,000 trees were chopped down, but Norfolk County Council pledged to plant five for each which was removed - 30,000. However, in 2019, the council admitted 3,000 newly planted trees and shrubs had died and two years later it said it needed to replant more than 500 more which had perished.

Council bosses have said it is not clear whether even more trees along the road, also known as the Broadland Northway, have died over the past year, but a replanting programme has been minimised while investigations are



carried out.

A spokesperson said: "It was noticeable that during the drought and towards the end of the summer many of the trees dropped their leaves early, not just on Broadland Northway but generally.

"The advice from our consultant was that this is partly a defence mechanism and it is to be hoped that many of them will survive and come into leaf in the spring.

"With this in mind, it was decided to minimise replanting this current planting season (2022/23), just concentrating on particular areas, and carry out a further survey in the spring 2023 inspection. This will confirm the number of trees requiring replanting in the next planting season, 2023/24."

The spokesperson added most trees and shrubs planted in 2021/22 were "growing reasonably well and becoming established, despite the prolonged high temperatures in the summer of 2022".

Liberal Democrat county councillor Steffan Aquarone said: "It's extremely frustrating to hear the county council can't tell how many trees on the NDR have died. Tree planting is an important part of carbon offsetting, but it needs to be properly managed or it's a waste of effort."

Furthermore, Mr Aquarone said it did not bode well for the council's plans for the £251m Norwich Western Link. He said: "This administration can't afford to manage the roads it has got, let alone take on a new one by creating a concrete corridor through a conservation area to the west of Norwich."

THE GOVERNMENT has boldly promised that hundreds of thousands of trees will be planted in communities across England after two major funding schemes re-opened for applications on 8 February 2023.

Over £14m will be allocated to successful applicants across both funds, which will support tree planting efforts and contribute to Government commitments to treble tree-planting rates across England by the end of this Parliament, planting 30,000 hectares of trees across the UK per year to meet net zero ambitions.

Round 3 of the Local Authority Treescapes Fund (LATF) will see local authorities drive an increase in non-woodland tree planting across our landscapes. Community engagement is encouraged, and local authorities can bring together residents, schools and environmental groups to restore trees in areas outside woodlands, where treescapes are often highly degraded due to neglect or disease. They are particularly valuable trees to society as they can provide the greatest levels of ecosystem services, including wellbeing benefits, and connectivity to support biodiversity.

Round 5 of the Urban Tree Challenge Fund (UTCf) levels up access to nature across the country, planting trees in socially deprived urban areas with low canopy cover, in proximity to healthcare and educational facilities. Trees make our towns and cities healthier and more pleasant places to be, helping to moderate temperatures, reduce pollution, decrease flood risk and improve people's quality of life. The UTCf supports planting of large 'standard' trees and street trees, making an immediate impact to communities and ensuring other organisations who provide planting for smaller trees can continue to do so.

Forestry Minister Trudy Harrison said "Trees improve people's quality of lives and are vital to our ambition to reach net zero by 2050.

This funding will continue to level up people's access to nature, which we committed to doing in our recently published Environmental Improvement Plan. We want to see inspiring projects that plant more trees across England."

Forestry Commission Chief Executive Richard Stanford said "The Urban Tree Challenge Fund and Local Authorities Treescapes Fund will help to promote resilient treescapes in England, support tree planting efforts and improve the urban environment for future generations.

"It will see thousands of trees planted in socially deprived urban areas with limited numbers of trees. Research is clear that streets with trees in them leads to better wellbeing and health outcomes for residents as well as providing important biodiversity in our towns and cities. The same applies to green spaces in or close to towns and cities and we need more people to have access to quality woodlands and green spaces."

For both funds, there are important developments for the new rounds to help increase applications.

This round of LATF welcomes individual applications from borough, district and city councils, as well as county councils, unitary and metropolitan boroughs. Previously, these local authorities needed to form groups with each other or county councils in order to apply. This change opens the fund up to many more local authorities.

The UTCf will now provide 80% funding of standard costs for planting large trees and their establishment costs for three years following planting, compared with funding 50% of standard costs in previous rounds. UTCf will now only require 20% match-funding by the recipient in either money or labour.

Both funds are now open year-round, responding to feedback on the challenges of meeting application windows previously. The Forestry Commission still strongly encourage applications during the spring/early summer so successful applicants can start their planting later this year, and funding will be allocated to successful applicants on a first-come-first-served basis.

There are several key differences between the Local Authority Treescapes Fund and the Urban Tree Challenge Fund. These include:

- The Urban Tree Challenge Fund specifically funds projects planting new, large 'standard' trees, whilst Local Authority Treescapes Fund projects can plant trees of any size - although 'standard' trees in urban areas can only be planted where they are replacing trees that have been lost, for example due to disease.
- Whilst both funds support tree planting in urban areas, the Local Authority Treescapes Fund also supports the planting of trees outside of woodlands in rural areas.
- All projects supported through the Local Authority Treescapes Fund must be led by a local authority. The Urban Tree Challenge Fund is also open to projects led by charities, community groups and other organisations.

This announcement follows a new commitment announced as part of the Government's Environment Improvement Plan, which will see the public benefit from access green space or water within a 15-minute walk from their home, such as woodlands, wetlands, parks and rivers.

For more information and to apply, go to www.gov.uk/guidance/local-authority-

[treescapes-fund](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/treescapes-fund) and www.gov.uk/guidance/urban-tree-challenge-fund

I just hope that this round of funding is easier to access than the previous ones, otherwise this will be another case of "Promises, promises and more promises"

THE UK has made good progress towards achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2050 but getting there may need higher taxes, says a report on the BBC News website.

That's according to leading economist Lord Nicholas Stern, who says both public and private investment in new technologies is needed.

The UK is also being urged to follow the US in stimulating green technology by a former boss of oil giant BP.

However, the government said the UK is "leading the way" on climate change.

Lord Stern told the BBC: "We must have growth and we must drive down emissions, and it's investment in the new technologies that's going to get us there."

He added: "I'm not arguing for delaying investment in health and education. We have to pursue those at the same time. If we have to tax a little bit more, so be it. If we have to borrow a bit more for the really tremendous investments, then we should do that."

His words come as the country grapples with a cost of living crisis and the UK is facing the highest taxes relative to income since the Second World War.

The government is also under pressure, from some quarters, to cut taxes, but Lord Stern says more public investment could help jobs and the environment.

Lord Stern wrote a ground-breaking report in 2006 on climate change for the government, then led by Prime Minister Tony Blair. He delivered an updated version for former Prime Minister Boris Johnson in 2021.

He is optimistic that a tipping point in key green technologies, including energy generation, car batteries and fertilizer manufacture, is achievable within a few years, with artificial intelligence playing a key role.

Lord Stern expects private investment can fund most of it but the government will have to be involved.

Lord Browne, a former chief executive of BP who now heads up a private equity fund that invests in firms that reduce greenhouse gases, wants more state help for businesses. He is urging government to take inspiration from across the Atlantic.

President Biden's Inflation Reduction Act involves subsidies and tax credits for producing electric vehicles, renewable electricity, sustainable aviation fuel and hydrogen as well as money off for consumers who buy US-made electric cars.

"I will give the US an A-grade for the Inflation Reduction Act, that's pretty dramatic," Lord Browne says. "It's nothing like enough, but it's a great start and it's made people notice."

However, some UK Ministers, including former Business Secretary Grant Shapps, who now heads up the new Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, have been critical of President Biden's move. They have been concerned that it gives US businesses an unfair advantage.

Such subsidies are typically financed by tax revenue or borrowing, but Lord Browne says there is already one source of tax cash that

could be channelled better.

He supports the current windfall tax on North Sea oil and gas production, saying it is only right that producers should pay over a slice of the unforeseen profits earned on assets that are ultimately owned by the nation.

He would like to see those revenues earmarked to help renewable specialists who are developing new energies. However, Lord Brown is concerned that with so many issues to consider, such as securing the UK's energy supply, environmental concerns may have slipped from the forefront of policymakers' minds.

"Government ministers are preoccupied with very simple things, which is a rediscovery of inflation and rediscovery of security," he said.

"It is first keeping the lights on, energy security, secondly, affordability and third is climate. Now, you should be able to do all three things at once but it's very theoretical to say that people do focus on three objectives simultaneously. They just don't in life."

Speaking at the COP 27 climate meeting last year, however, Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said that the energy crisis was a reason to accelerate the energy transition.

In a statement, the government claimed the UK is "leading the world on tackling climate change with policies having supported 68,000 green jobs since 2020."

Last month saw the creation of the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero.

The latter was among the 129 recommendations made in a review of the UK's progress towards net zero commissioned by previous Prime Minister Liz Truss, which urged the government to take a bolder approach, but ramping up that role in climate action might need some difficult conversations.

Pollsters Ipsos found that while people are still very concerned about climate change, they are now more focused on inflation, the economy and public services and when it tested several policy areas, including paying environmental levies for frequent flights or other products and phasing out fossil fuel heating, the level of support dropped.

Voters are keen to do the right thing, but maybe less enthusiastic about funding change, especially at the moment.

ALEX Seabrook, Local democracy reporter for the Bristol Post, recently reported that three tall trees in a playing field in Kingswood have been saved from potentially being chopped down.

However, councillors have warned that protection for large trees across South Gloucestershire is not enough, with tree preservation orders (TPO) often being ignored.

An oak, sycamore and horse chestnut, which lie on the northern end of the Lees Hill playing field, will now be protected from a TPO. Owners of an adjacent south-facing garden had objected



to the TPO on the trees, which block sunlight and make growing vegetables difficult.

Nevertheless, South Gloucestershire Council's development management committee decided to confirm the TPO at a meeting on 16 February. The property owners did not attend to make objections in person at the meeting.

Kate Tate, arboricultural officer, said: "The inquirer said they had been offered a piece of land at the rear [of the property] to use as an allotment. As the garden is south-facing and the trees are in the south of the garden, obviously the land is not going to be much use as the trees are going to stop the sun from reaching the plot.

"They wanted to know whether or not it was likely the council would give permission for the trees to be removed. This is backing onto a very large playing field used not only by local clubs but also by walkers, dog walkers and joggers. The trees are substantially in leaf and do provide a huge amount of amenity."

A TPO legally protects a tree from being chopped down, with a threat of a fine from £2,500 to £20,000, but when trees protected by TPOs are felled cases can take at least a year to go through the courts and fines are only issued after the trees have already been removed.

Councillor Brian Hopkinson said: "When we put these TPOs on, sometimes they can be ignored. We had one in Frenchay where a very beautiful oak tree, which framed the whole area around the houses there, was removed. I believe there's a case working its way through the courts

"Unfortunately we had another incident recently where one was taken down. The builder basically ignored what was said on the planning permission and took down a really nice magnolia tree which was supposed to be preserved.

"When we put these TPOs on it must be made clear to people that they will be prosecuted, and they will be taken through the courts if something happens. Because at the moment, a lot of people are just ignoring them."

SEVENTH Woodland Carbon Guarantee auction dates have been announced with farmers and land managers in England encouraged to apply for the Woodland Carbon Guarantee scheme by 30 April 2023, ahead of the seventh auction which will take place online between 15 and 21 May.

Administered by the Forestry Commission, the Woodland Carbon Guarantee is a £50 million scheme that aims to help accelerate woodland planting rates and permanently remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. £10 million is being made available for farmers and land managers to create new woodlands to help tackle the effects of climate change and provide new income in the form of long-term payments for the amount of carbon a new woodland will store.

Following an online auction process, successful bidders will be offered the option to sell woodland carbon in the form of Woodland Carbon Units - a financial value given to each tonne of carbon stored - to the Government over 35 years at a guaranteed price protected against inflation. The scheme reflects the Government's confidence in the continued growth of markets for woodland carbon, as landowners will continue to benefit from a reliable revenue stream in selling carbon on the

domestic market.

Following customer feedback, the Forestry Commission have made some changes to the seventh auction which includes removal of project categories, making it easier for customers to access, and the publication of the reserve price (£30 per Woodland Carbon Unit) to give prospective applicants more confidence and clarity to apply.

Richard Stanford, Chief Executive of the Forestry Commission, said "Now in its seventh round, it's encouraging that the Guarantee has continued to grow in its success, supporting the creation of 2,810 hectares of new woodland specifically to help combat the many and varied impacts of climate change by increasing tree-planting across the country.

"I strongly encourage farmers, foresters and land managers across England to submit their applications to the Guarantee ahead of the application deadline on 30 April."

Before applying for the Guarantee, land managers will need to have registered with the Woodland Carbon Code, which provides the tools and information required to verify and record the carbon they are capturing and can sell in future.

This announcement follows the success of the sixth auction which closed on 27 November and saw 9 contracts offered by the Forestry Commission, to help stimulate proposals for the creation of 60 hectares of new woodland specifically to help combat climate change.

Encouraging diverse woodland types and tree species is a key factor in the government's efforts to treble tree planting rates in England by the end of this Parliament and plant 30,000 hectares of trees across the UK per year by 2025.

SO can you tell me where all the money for this is going to come from for all these promises? Can you tell me why we cannot give our existing trees the protection they deserve?

We can't pay nurses, ambulance crews, physiotherapists, police and teachers a decent living wage so where is the money to finance all of these promises going to come from?

Perhaps Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and his cronies should face up to it. This isn't a game of Monopoly. This is our people's lives and we don't want promises that can't be kept.

By the way, I'm not singling out Rishi Sunak and his cronies for special attention because I cannot remember the last government I actually trusted or had faith in.

Furthermore, our local authorities appear to have no real "clout" any longer, to some extent appearing to have become impotent as a result of central government controls.

Of course, scrapping HS2 will give the government a few bob towards the cost of implementing these promises, but I can't see them doing that.

At a local level one has to ask the question "just how much is it costing to "merge" Broadland and South Norfolk district councils?"

No, I'm afraid that I think it's all just promises, promise and more promises ... very few of which will be kept.

Right. That's your Co-ordinator's rant for March! I just wish it had made me feel a bit better, but I fear things are just getting worse.

Promises, promises and more promises.

Enjoy Broadsheet

John Fleetwood

Controversial Tree Felling Starts for Northamptonshire Dual Carriageway After Protesters Arrested

POLICE arrested protesters who blocked a road to stop contractors from felling dozens of trees to make way for a dual carriageway. The ITV News website reported on 22 February that, despite the ongoing protests over the controversial tree felling, work to chop them down began around lunchtime.

A group of around a dozen campaigners stopped lorries from getting to the site in Wellingborough in Northamptonshire, where workers were due to chop down more than 60 trees.

The trees were due to be cleared during work on the road, which is part of the nearby Stanton Cross housing development.

Campaigners say the line of lime trees on The Walks has been there for at least 80 years, with the oldest of them dating back to 1847, and argue that their felling would be "complete and utter vandalism".

Developers say the removal of the trees is part of the approved plans for the development, and would improve infrastructure in the area. There were tree protection orders in place but it was overridden due to the perceived importance of the dual carriageway for the development.

Jason Smithers, leader of North Northamptonshire Council, has said that while he did not want to see trees "cut down needlessly", the development needed to happen to make way for affordable housing. He added that the development would include hundreds of new trees, as well as parks and green spaces, with homebuilders contributing more than £200m in infrastructure improvements.

Stanton Cross is a development which is seeing around 3,600 new homes built on the outskirts of Wellingborough. The estate came under criticism recently, when an Anglian Water sewer pipe failed, leaving a one-metre diameter pipe system snaking through the development.

A spokesperson from Stanton Cross said 390 new trees planted last summer as part of the Queen's Canopy initiative.

Officers will continue to remain at the scene to oversee a peaceful protest, said Northamptonshire Police. An 84-year-old man and a 44-year-old woman from Wellingborough and a 67-year-old man from Kettering were taken into police custody.

THE arrest of four activists, including an 84-year-old man, at a protest against the felling of ancient trees has been condemned by Amnesty International as "deeply disturbing."

Northamptonshire Police officers made four arrests, including the 84-year-old, who had been sitting in a chair to block the path.

Amnesty International UK's military, security and police director Oliver Feeley-Sprague described the arrests as "deeply concerning."

"Arrest at an entirely peaceful protest by

local residents trying to prevent the destruction of a large number of historically important and protected trees appears ludicrously heavy-handed," he said.

Mr Feeley-Sprague said that the force's actions should serve as a "wake-up call" over the dangers of giving police more powers to crack down on peaceful protests.

The government is currently seeking to pass new measures in its Public Order Bill that would massively expand police powers to restrict protest and criminalise tactics often used by climate activists, including locking on.

"Amnesty has long been concerned that police officers misuse their powers to create a chilling effect on people's rights to speak out about issues that they care deeply about," Mr Feeley-Sprague continued.



"These arrests give an unsavoury flavour of what could well become the norm under draconian legislation that the government is trying to push through Parliament."

The Public Order Bill finished its final stages in the House of Lords this month, with peers successfully removing some of the most contentious measures, including giving police powers to pre-emptively shut down protests before disruption has occurred.

The proposed legislation will return to the Commons in the coming weeks where MPs could reinsert some of the measures removed by peers.

NORTH Northamptonshire Council made the following statement regarding the "concerns" being expressed regarding the felling of the trees.

The original outline planning permission for the Stanton Cross Sustainable Urban Extension (SUE) was approved by the Borough Council of Wellingborough (BCW) in 2008. That application included the proposals for Route 2 and the removal of the trees associated with those works. Since that time there have been a large number of more detailed applications, including Variations and Reserved Matters Applications (RMA's) approved against the

original outline permission.

The most recent planning permission to which Route 2 relates was granted by BCW's Planning Committee. The permission was issued on 6 February 2017 as a variation of the earlier application and is the permission being implemented by the developer.

The SUE has a requirement to deliver a relatively significant amount of road infrastructure, among which is Route 2, required to divert Stanton Cross traffic from having to go through the town centre. It is understood that the cost to the developer of delivering Route 2 will be in excess of £50m. The Route 2 works and associated tree removal, being works within the public highway are also covered by an agreement under s278 of the Highways Act.

As a part of the proposals for Route 2, there is also a requirement to carry out some substantial works to utilities, including the diversion of high voltage electric and high-pressure gas mains. Legislation (Regulation 14 of The Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation) (England) Regulations 2012) also enables works by a statutory undertaker (or their contractor) to be undertaken to trees, including any felling necessary, where in connection with the inspection, repair or renewal of any sewers, mains, pipes, cables or other apparatus of the statutory undertaker to be undertaken.

In 2016 BCW confirmed a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) on a large number of lime trees in this area. However the planning permission (also granted by BCW and detailed above), the s278 agreement and the exception given in law to statutory undertakers overrides the TPO and it cannot therefore be relied upon to offer continued protection to the trees.

By virtue of the fact that the developer is lawfully implementing a planning permission that approves these works, has a s278 agreement in place covering the works and a statutory undertaker exemption, the council has no grounds upon which to prevent the planned works or removal of trees necessary to implement their permission from taking place.

North Northamptonshire Council is therefore bound by the planning permission already granted by the former Borough Council of Wellingborough and is unable to prevent the removal of the trees.

The council is committed to working collaboratively in supporting the continued development of Stanton Cross and will seek to secure a binding commitment from the developer to replace all trees lost as a part of these necessary road infrastructure works.

Oh. That's alright then!!!

Avian Flu Spills Over from Birds to Mammals

By Claire Marshall and Malcolm Prior, BBC News Rural Affairs Team

THE largest ever outbreak of bird flu is spilling over into mammals, including otters and foxes in the UK. Figures released to the BBC show the virus has led to the death of about 208 million birds around the world and at least 200 recorded cases in mammals. Public health bosses warn the mutation in mammals could see a jump to humans but the risk to the public is very low. There will now be more targeted surveillance and testing of animals and humans exposed to the virus in the UK.

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) still advises that avian flu is primarily a disease of birds, but experts across the globe are looking at the risks of it spilling over into other species.

Worldwide, the virus has been found in a range of mammals, including grizzly bears in America and mink in Spain, as well as in dolphin and seals.

In the UK, the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) has tested 66 mammals, including seals, and found nine otters and foxes were positive for highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1. It is believed they had fed on dead or sick wild birds infected with the virus.

The animals were found to have a mutation of the virus that could make it easier to infect mammals, but there was no evidence of transmission between mammals.

The APHA added that there was "a very low likelihood of any widespread infection in GB mammals".

Prof Ian Brown, APHA's director of scientific services, said: "A sick or a dead wild bird contains an awful lot of virus. So scavenging mammals that will be opportunistic and predate on dead or sick birds will be exposed to very large quantities of virus. That gives a possibility for the virus to enter a host population that it doesn't normally maintain in."

Prof Brown said that the UK's national avian flu taskforce was now ramping up its surveillance of cases in mammals and genome analysis of the virus itself while keeping a close eye on its spread in global populations of wild birds.

"The virus is absolutely on the march. And it's almost remarkable - it's a single strain," he said, adding that greater international action to tackle its spread was needed.

He told the BBC he was "acutely aware of the risks" of avian flu becoming a pandemic like Covid-19.

He said: "This global spread is a concern. We do need globally to look at new strategies, those international partnerships, to get on top of this disease. If we don't solve the problem across the globe, we're going to continue to have that risk."

Since October 2021, when the latest outbreak began, there have been five confirmed human cases of the H5N1 virus, including one

in the UK, and one death, in China.

Last month, a nine-year old girl in Ecuador was found to be infected with avian influenza A(H5).

The World Health Organization (WHO) said that, in the past 20 years, there have been almost 870 cases of human infection with the avian influenza H5N1 virus reported from 21 countries. Of these, 457 were fatal.

It said the virus has "not acquired the ability for sustained transmission among humans. Thus the likelihood of human-to-human spread is low."

However, it added: "Due to the constantly evolving nature of influenza viruses, WHO continues to stress the importance of global surveillance to detect and monitor virological, epidemiological, and clinical changes associated with emerging or circulating influenza viruses that may affect human (or animal) health, and timely virus-sharing for risk assessment."

Dr Wenqing Zhang, the head of WHO's global influenza programme, said of the threat posed by the virus spilling over: "It is very concerning - the risk that that will be causing the next influenza pandemic and the risk has been increasing over the years as reflected in the number of outbreaks in animals as well as a number of infections in humans."

Intergovernmental organisation the World Organisation of Animal Health (WOAH) told the BBC it has recorded almost 42 million individual cases in domestic and wild birds since the outbreak began in October 2021.

Almost 15 million domestic birds, including poultry, have died from the disease, and more than 193 million more have been culled.

It also shows 119 outbreaks affecting mammals, with about 200 individual cases recorded, although a WOAH spokesperson warned the spread to mammals was likely to be under-reported.

Dr Gregorio Torres, WOAH's head of science, said there had been an increase in reports of non-avian species being affected by the virus over the past 18 months.

He said it "could be a signal of very sensitive surveillance - an indicator that we are doing a good job".

However, he added: "On the other hand, it could also be an indicator that there is a change in the epidemiology of the disease or a change in the dynamic of the disease and that will require close monitoring. There is a risk for further transmission between species and we cannot underestimate the potential adaptation to humans."

In a recent report, the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) warned that the "rapid and consistent acquisition of the mutation in mammals may imply this virus has a propensity to cause zoonotic infections", meaning it could jump to humans.

The agency also raised concerns about limited wild bird and mammal surveillance and genomic data collection in England, and warned that there was not enough testing of people who had been contact with infected birds.

It is now looking to develop new ways of testing humans who have been exposed to the disease but may be asymptomatic

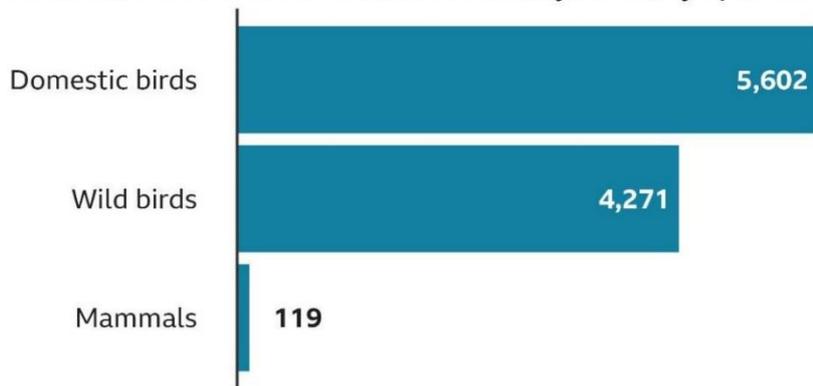
Dr Meera Chand, incident director for avian influenza at UKHSA, said: "Latest evidence suggests that the avian influenza viruses currently circulating in birds do not spread easily to people. We remain vigilant for any evidence of changing risk.

"There have recently been some detections of avian influenza viruses in a small number of mammals in the UK. However, the risk assessment conducted by UKHSA and partners did not identify any signals of increased risk to the general public from avian influenza at present."

Meanwhile, the public is being warned not to touch any dead or sick birds, but to report any dead birds of prey, three or more dead wild waterfowl or gulls or five or more dead birds of any species that they find to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

Bird flu has spilled over to mammals

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza outbreaks in 79 countries between 1 October 2021 and 20 January 2023, by species



Note: An outbreak is defined as one or more cases in a group of animals

Source: World Organisation for Animal Health

BBC

Livestock Grazing Preventing Return of Rainforests to the UK and Ireland

An article by Emma Garnett, Researcher in the Health Behaviours Team, University of Oxford, published on the Conversation website

A FEW YEARS BACK, the president of the National Farmers' Union of England and Wales wrote a defence of the meat industry after a BBC documentary criticised its environmental impact. "British farmers do not clear rainforest to make way for beef and lamb production," she wrote. "British meat does not come from the ashes of the Amazon."

Many believe this but unfortunately it isn't quite true. For one thing, livestock production in the UK and Ireland is still linked to rainforests abroad since chickens, pigs and cows are often fed imported soybeans. Brazil is the world's largest soybean exporter, and much of its crop is grown on deforested land.

Many people might also be surprised to learn that Ireland and western regions of Great Britain are home to rainforests: temperate forests sometimes called Celtic or Atlantic rainforests. And, like their tropical counterparts, UK and Irish rainforests are threatened by grazing livestock, particularly deer and sheep.

Only a tiny and fragmented area of UK and Irish rainforest remains. As the Woodland Trust reports, it "has suffered long-term declines through clearances, chronic overgrazing, and conversion to other uses".

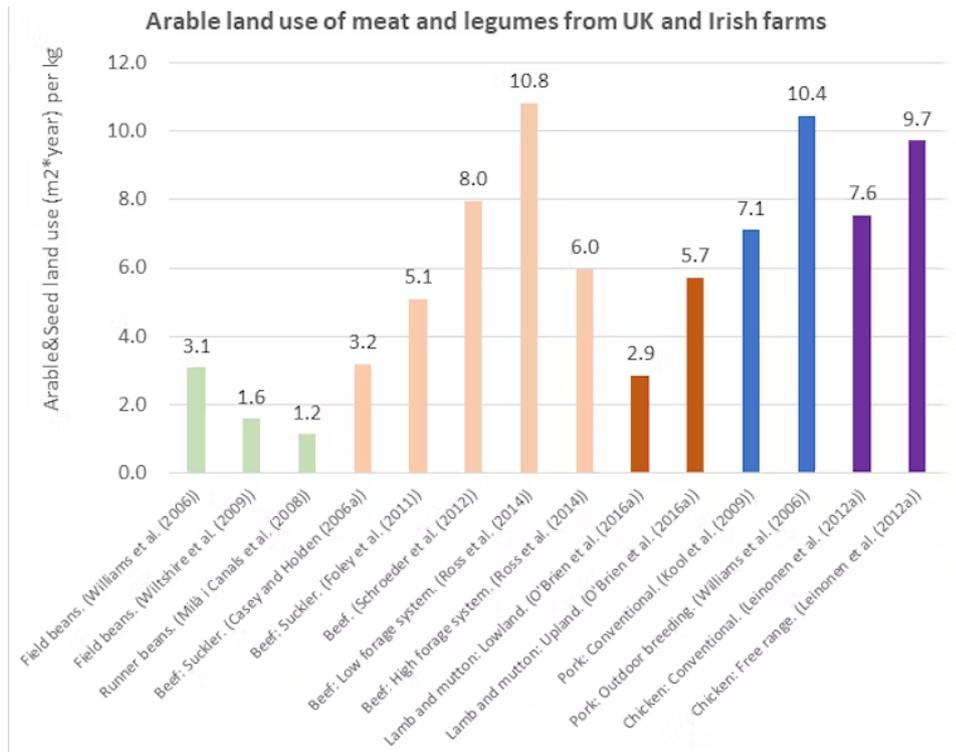
I've found in Twitter discussions that people will argue the treeless state of much of Britain's National Parks is "natural", but that's not the case. When fences are put up and grazing is excluded, trees and vegetation quickly recover.

To protect nature we do need to minimise further deforestation. However, we also need to restore what we have lost. We're used to viewing present-day tree clearing as deforestation, and we now need to view activities that prevent forests naturally regenerating as deforestation too.

A few years back, the president of the National Farmers' Union of England and Wales wrote a defence of the meat industry after a BBC documentary criticised its environmental impact. "British farmers do not clear rainforest to make way for beef and lamb production," she wrote. "British meat does not come from the ashes of the Amazon."

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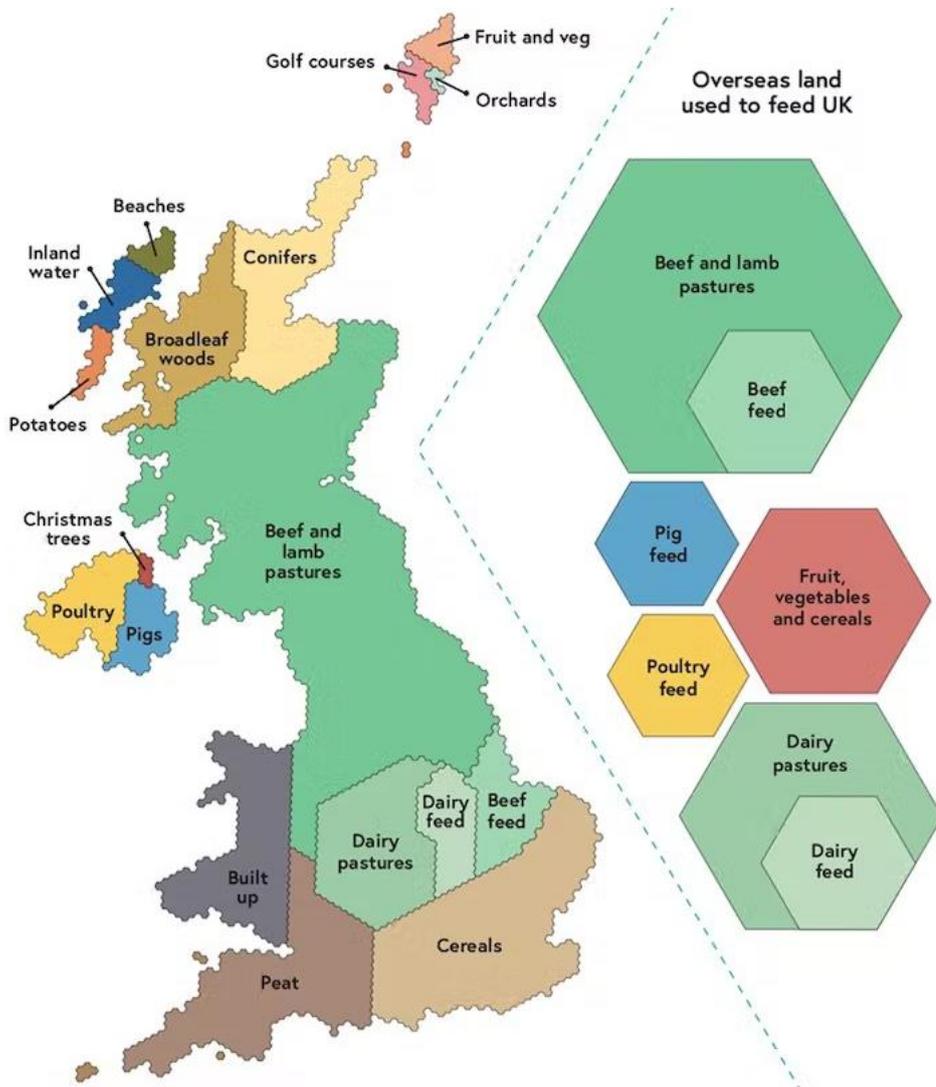
Most of the UK and Ireland's grass-fed cows

and sheep are on land that might otherwise be temperate rainforest. Arable crops tend to prefer drier conditions. However, even if there were no livestock grazing in the rainforest zone, and these areas were threatened by other crops instead, livestock would still pose an indirect threat due to their huge land footprint. You need around 35 times more land to get 100g of protein from lamb than you do from peas, beans and other pulses.



Rainforest and livestock grazing are there-fore competing for space. The UK and Ireland have some of the lowest forest cover in Europe at 13% and 11% respectively, and only one-tenth of this is natural rather than planted. Eating less meat and more plants means your diet has a smaller land footprint, which means more space for woods and rainforests to return.

Yes, grasslands in the British Isles with low levels of grazing can be important ecosystems for wildflowers and insects, but this is not what most grazing land is like. Grassland nature reserves managed for nature and not farming, such as Martin Down in



Hampshire, have trees and shrubs – in the spring and summer the air is filled with birdsong and the ground with butterflies and orchids. They are a far cry from the intensively grazed fields and hillsides which resemble billiard tables and make up too much of the UK and Ireland's grasslands.

Eating meat off well-managed nature reserves is arguably fine for nature and climate but such tiny amounts are produced from these systems that meat consumption would have to plummet far beyond current reduction targets.

Furthermore, most British grass-fed cows are still fed crops on top of their staple grass. They typically have a larger arable land footprint per 100g than British legumes, and a massively larger footprint once you factor in their grazing land.

There is important on-farm biodiversity which needs to be supported, but this must not be at the expense of conserving and restoring unfarmed ecosystems which most (but not all) species prefer.

The UK and Ireland are some of the most nature-depleted countries in the world and grazing is the most common land use, the vast majority of grass-fed livestock are harming not benefiting nature.

British and Irish rainforests are moving up the public consciousness thanks to campaigners such as Guy Shrubsole and Eoghan Daltun. People are increasingly aware of the climate impact of meat, but there is still less discussion about its large land footprint and how that harms nature and biodiversity. This will need to change if the world is to achieve recent commitments made at the biodiversity-focused COP15 summit to protect and restore nature.

Emma Garnett does not work for, consult, own shares in or receive funding from any company or organisation that would benefit from this article, and has disclosed no relevant affiliations beyond their academic appointment.

India's Kerala Forest Department Auctions Teak Tree Planted by the British for £39,101

An article by Taniya Dutta published on The New Scientist website

A 114-YEAR-OLD dead teak tree planted during the British colonial-era has been auctioned for four million rupees (£39,101.63), in Kerala, India. The Nedumkayam Forest Depot auctioned the tree, planted in 1909, after it dried up and fell at Nilambur teak plantation last month. Teak trees at the park are collected only after they fall on their own, the officials told **The National**.

Bidder Vrindavan Timbers won the tightly contested bidding process for 3.9 million rupees on 10 February. The 8m³ of wood was auctioned in three pieces, officials said.

The main piece, which measured more than 3m in length, fetched 2.3 million rupees while the remaining two were auctioned for 1.1 million rupees and 525,000 rupees, respectively.

"Our teak is known worldwide for its quality.

It is the most expensive in the country and is likely the highest auctioned amount because we have never received such a high price in the past," forest depot officer Shereef P, told **The National**.

"The teak timber is of the highest quality. There are mainly three timber logs and cumulatively it has come to 8m³. The one block which is the biggest piece has got the highest price 550,000 per m³.

"The teak here is already expensive but the auction amount was high because this was planted by the British."

Teak is considered as the hardest, strongest and the most durable of the hardwoods. It has been used in the Kaaba in Makkah, in interiors of the Titanic and is used in the interiors of Rolls-Royce. It is used to make furniture and for home decor.

The Nilambur teak plantation was set up by former British collector HV Conolly in 1846 and hosts one of the oldest teak plantations.

Spread across 2.31 hectares, the reserve has over 200 trees planted during the British colonial-era, a teak museum and houses the world's oldest living teak named Kannimari.

Ancient Yew in St John the Baptist Churchyard in Tisbury, Salisbury

By Tim Hills, The Ancient Yew Group

THIS is a remarkable ancient yew and it is not surprising that it has attracted so much interest. Many have tried to estimate its age, and while estimates between 1000 and 2000 can be supported, the age of 4000 years, often quoted for this tree, cannot. Britton's *Beauties of Wiltshire* (1801 Volume 1) contains the earliest account of this yew.

'In the churchyard is a large hollow yew tree 8 or 10 yards in circumference, from the roots of which, near the centre, eight young stems have sprung up, twisting themselves together in a curious form, and at about the height of about 2 yards, struck into the centre of the principal remaining trunk, the hollow of which they entirely fill up...I regret to say that the tree is decaying fast, a great many roots having been destroyed about twelve years since, in lowering the level of the graveyard'.

Gilpin's 1834 *Remarks on Forest Scenery* described a tree 'in fine foliage, although the trunk is quite hollow, an immense yew tree, which measures thirty-seven feet in circumference, and the limbs are proportionately large.

The tree is entered by means of a rustic gate; and seventeen persons lately breakfasted in its interior. It is said to have been planted, many generations ago, by the Arundel family'.

By 1855 the Post office directory of Hants, Wilts and Dorset had reduced its girth to '30 feet in circumference' and the number of persons taking breakfast in its interior to 15! It was, in their opinion 'supposed to have been planted at the building of the church'.

In 1867 Motcombe, past and present, it was not people using the inside of the tree that was making the news headlines: 'It is now so old that but few branches remain, and so large, that one very hot summer's day, two cows were missing, and it was not till after some search that they were discovered concealed within the hollow trunk of the tree, where they had found a luxurious and shady retreat, large enough to protect them both from the flies, and to hide them from their anxious owners'.

In 1868 L H Grindon's *Trees of Old England* repeated the 1834 account, including the girth of 37ft. In the same year, an article appeared in a Victorian publication called *Hardwicke's Science Gossip*: 'In the churchyard at Tisbury stands a venerable yew of immense size, well worthy of a place among the celebrities so pleasingly recorded by Mr Spicer. The trunk, which is hollow, with a large opening towards the north, measures thirty feet six inches round. By a calculation made from the appearance of an exposed surface, it must be at least one thousand five hundred years old'.



Elwes and Henry (p122/123) who saw the tree in 1903, observed that inside the hollow space was 'a good-sized younger stem, probably formed by a root descending inside the hollow trunk from one of the limbs. They recorded a girth of 35', acknowledging that young growth can exaggerate measurements.

E W Swanton saw it on June 14th 1924. He recorded a girth of 30' at ground and 29' 8" at 3', adding that 'the interior cavity is being further reduced by filling up' - with internal growth.

These are some of the many accounts that have described Tisbury's yew. However, because the descriptions are so varied, particularly in relation to the yew's girth, it misled John Lowe into recording that Tisbury had two ancient yews in his book *The Yew Trees of*

Great Britain and Ireland (1897): "Tree A: '...an immense yew-tree which measures 37' in circumference', as reported by Sir T Dick Lauder (1834). Tree B: Reported by Rev H Morland, who gave a girth as 31' at ground and 30' 6" at 3'."

Unfortunately, later researchers were to repeat this misinformation, so that in Cornish's 1946 *Churchyard Yew and Immortality* we are told that Tisbury has 'two ancient yews, both more than 30' in girth' and as recently as 1991 Hal Hartzell Jnr, in his book *The Yew Tree*, informs us categorically that 'there were at one time two yews in excess of 30' and that now there is only one'.

There is, and has only ever been, one exceptional Tisbury Yew. I visited in 1998, expecting to see the hollow tree in the photo below.

Nothing had prepared me for the startling discovery that its interior, once filled with internal stems that were helping sustain the tree, was now filled to the height of about 8' with grey and pink concrete. We will never know to what extent the tree's present growth has been restricted by this filling.

At a height of about 9' two main growth areas develop, held together by wire which passes over wooden blocks to prevent it from cutting into the tree's surface. There was once an octagonal wall around the base, though only 5 sides are now visible as the churchyard soil level rises.



Pioneering Nature Projects Launched to Test Carbon Capture Methods in Fight Against Climate Change

NATURAL ENGLAND announced on 11 February that six pioneering nature projects across England have received a major £4.3 million funding award to trial the most effective ways to capture carbon and mitigate the impacts of climate change.

Operating at a landscape scale of over 500 hectares each, the six projects will restore landscapes across England, from Plymouth to Northumberland, and assess how carbon is captured and stored across different habitats such as grasslands, forests, wetlands and hedgerows.

Wild Exmoor Carbon Sequestration Project: The National Trust has been awarded almost £1 million to deliver targeted nature-based solutions and carbon capture across its 670-hectare Watersmeet estate. The charity will create a wetter and wilder landscape by restoring and protecting coastal woodland, heath-land habitats, species rich grassland and wood pasture.

Wansbeck Restoration for Climate Change (WRCC): Almost £600,000 has been awarded to the project managed by Groundwork NE & Cumbria which will assess how nature-based solutions can thrive in a farmed landscape. The project will restore mixed habitats – grasslands, peaty pockets and woodlands – and demonstrate how landowners can work together to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote carbon sequestration. Working across 10 sites, the work will restore over 144 hectares and will contribute to the wider restoration of the River Wansbeck catchment in Northumberland.

Plymouth's Natural Grid Nature Based Solutions for Climate Change at the Landscape Scale project: Approximately £1 million will support Plymouth City Council, working in collaboration with the National Trust, to restore natural habitats and create local solutions to climate change in the urban environment through wood pasture, species rich grassland and woodland creation, salt marsh restoration and floodplain mosaic habitat creation.

Derwent Forest Landscape Recovery Project, part of the Derwent Connections Programme: Derbyshire Wildlife Trust has been awarded £645,000 for its Derwent Forest Landscape Recovery partnership-led pilot project. This project aims to create connected woody habitats between the Northern and National Forests to allow movement of species in response to climate change. It will also develop an economically viable programme to support landowners to create and expand dynamic and resilient ecosystems.

The Oxfordshire–Buckinghamshire Freshwater Network: This programme, run by the Freshwater Habitats Trust, has been awarded over £780,000 to focus on the role played by smaller, peat-dominated wetlands, floodplains, wet grasslands and waters in sequestering carbon in the landscape. These habitats are of exceptional importance for freshwater biodiversity, which is in rapid

decline. The project will help to better understand the role that these habitats can play in carbon sequestration. It will also help Freshwater Habitats Trust build the Freshwater Network – a national network of wilder, wetter, cleaner and connected freshwaters.

Severn Solutions for Nature's Recovery (SSNR): Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust has been awarded over £417,000 to work with Hasfield Court Estate to restore a 500-hectare estate in the Severn Vale. The partnership's vision is to demonstrate and provide evidence of how the restoration of native habitats can provide nature-based solutions that help adapt to climate change and tackle the ecological emergency. Following a baseline survey of the estate, options have been tailored to maximise landscape connectivity between existing priority habitats, and will involve the creation of wood pasture, traditional orchards and species rich grassland. These actions will create habitats for important pollinator species, nesting opportunities for farmland birds and foraging networks for protected bat species.

Tony Juniper, Chair of Natural England said "Many of the solutions to climate change are all around us in the natural world. From trees, hedges and grasslands that absorb carbon from the air to the peat-rich soils that hold it in the ground, there are huge opportunities to catch carbon while achieving other benefits at the same time, including increasing our ability to adapt to climate change impacts. The simple fact is that when it comes to our net zero ambitions Nature is our biggest ally and more we can do to restore it the better.

"Getting the scale of benefits we need requires working together collaboratively across entire landscapes. This is only going to be possible if we forge broad partnerships and this is increasingly the case as different sectors see that they are all part of the solution to the climate and Nature challenges that the world and this country are setting out to meet".

Alan Lovell, Chair of the Environment Agency, said "In the face of increasing climate extremes, using nature-based solutions that restore and work with natural processes is a powerful tool that can help protect us from the devastating impact of drought, floods and wildfires.

"The collective ambition to restore nature at a landscape scale, alongside the right financial incentives, will create a more resilient approach which is needed to address the urgent challenges of nature loss and climate change".

Richard Stanford, Chief Executive at the Forestry Commission, said "Resilient forests, woods and trees are vital for capturing carbon in the fight against climate change and improving biodiversity to aid nature recovery.

"We are working with project partners on the creation and management of woodlands across these landscapes to help treble tree planting to

7,500 hectares per year by the end of this parliament with a goal of reaching 16.5% tree cover by 2050.

"Through this programme we will gain new insights into the factors that affect how trees capture carbon, over the short and long term, in a variety of different habitats and sites. This will build on the excellent work by Forest Research and other organisations on the subject".

Ed Ikin, Director of Wakehurst, Kew's wild botanic garden said "We at Kew are delighted to be part of this transformative landscape research investment.

"We hope our innovative research at Wakehurst will provide vital and valuable data for both the government and our new partner sites, offering essential scientific evidence for the ability of biodiverse landscapes to sequester carbon above and belowground to benefit people and the economy."

Nature-based solutions, which tackle societal challenges in ways that benefit both people and nature, can remove CO₂ from the atmosphere and halt emissions from degraded natural sites and agricultural land. Testing the effectiveness of different landscapes in acting as carbon sinks will be crucial in meeting the UK's climate goals.

Analysis and information from the pilot sites will be used to better inform habitat creation and contribute to tackling climate change. Each project will also look how best to blend public and private sources of funding to support further delivery of their landscape-scale plans for improving the natural environment.

Nature Based Solutions for Climate Change at the Landscape Scale is a partnership led by Natural England with the Environment Agency, the Forestry Commission and Royal Botanic Gardens Kew at Wakehurst, Kew's wild botanic garden in Sussex. It demonstrates the power of collaborative working to understand the value of nature-based solutions in tackling climate change and will deliver against the government's Environmental Improvement Plan.

The organisations will work alongside project partners to expand scientific evidence on greenhouse gas emissions, create sustainable funding opportunities for landscape scale projects, and provide additional data to inform the development of robust carbon standards, such as the Woodland Carbon Code and the Peatland Code.

The Nature Based Solutions for Climate Change Programme is a £12.5 million programme first established in 2021 which is funded by the Treasury's Shared Outcomes Fund, and cosponsored by Defra and the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero. The fund seeks to increase cross-government collaboration and address society's most challenging problems including biodiversity loss, climate change and land use change.

In addition to establishing the partner sites,

the funding is enabling Natural England, the Environment Agency, the Forestry Commission and Kew to undertake further scientific research into the value of nature-based solutions and green finance models.

Researchers at Kew's wild botanic garden, Wakehurst will research the value of broadleaf, coppiced and coniferous woodlands in building resilience to climate change. Using drones, they will measure plant biomass alongside greenhouse gas flux, and undertake soil fungal research to consider how different biodiverse habitats sequester carbon.

Natural England scientists are also assessing carbon and biodiversity both on the

new habitats and assessing the carbon and biodiversity benefits of earlier habitat creation and restoration projects.

The Programme will run until March 2024.

The six projects have been awarded the funding following a competitive application round. Projects were assessed against the benefits they will create for biodiversity, improvements to capture carbon and benefits to people. Projects were also asked to demonstrate a long-term vision including blended funding, bringing private funding in to support the publicly funded works for the long term. *Funding awards:

The Woodland Carbon Code is the UK's

Government-backed quality assurance standard for woodland creation projects, and generates high integrity, independently verified carbon units. It provides the mechanism for landowners to attract carbon funding to support woodland creation projects on their land and is based on robust carbon prediction tools and monitoring protocols developed by Forest Research.

For more information on the Nature Based Solutions for Climate Change Programme, visit: [SOF Nature-based Solutions for Climate Change at the Landscape Scale](#)

Why Are California's Trees Dying?

An article by Erik Vance published on The New York Times website

CALIFORNIA'S iconic mountain forests are in serious trouble, according to a series of recent studies. The latest — an aerial survey of the state's most forested regions — shows that a combination of drought and insect damage wiped out a startling 36 million trees between 2021 and 2022.

“These last three years have been the hardest, driest three years on record in California,” said Jeffrey Moore, a forester with the U.S. Forest Service and the lead researcher on the survey, which was conducted from July to October. “When you get talking about multiyear exceptional drought, I mean, it's rough on everything.”

The death toll wasn't the highest we've seen in recent years, but it was troubling because of the type of trees that died and where they were. There are perhaps 40 species of native evergreen trees in California, but more than three-quarters of the dead trees detected last year came from one family: firs.

These Christmas-tree-looking conifers are found mostly at higher elevations where there's more snow. Half of the dead trees in the study were red firs, a crucial alpine tree in places like the Lake Tahoe area, which had avoided the worst effects of the drought until now.

Likewise, the Douglas-fir had resisted the drought by using its deep roots to pull up water. However, last year saw a shocking 16 times more dead Douglas-firs than the previous one. In other words, the trees that should be the most able to survive the drought are now dying in large numbers.

“Doug fir is probably one of the most resilient species in the Sierra Nevada,” said Scott Stephens, a forestry professor at the University of California, Berkeley. “It is the last species that actually has not been really significantly impacted.”

Losing so many mature, drought-resistant trees can be devastating to delicate mountain ecosystems, and it indicates that the forests of the Sierra cannot withstand many more dry winters and, of course, all of those dead trees may become a fire hazard. A study from last July showed California had lost an area of forest land nearly the size of Delaware since 1985, largely



from wildfires.

What's causing this die off? In effect, it's a one-two-three punch, Stephens said. First, over the last 100 years, California forests have become more crowded, thanks to policies like fire suppression. He and several colleagues recently showed that 60% of lower pine forests in the Sierras are so crowded, the trees are essentially choking one another for water and nutrients.

Then came drought. The already thirsty trees reached a breaking point and many started to die. Lastly, pests like the fir engraver beetle arrived and made a meal out of the already desperate trees.

Stephens said California needed to begin managing its forests pre-emptively to withstand drought. The best way to do this, he said, is selectively thinning out smaller trees and clearing dead ones before they become a fire risk.

It's not all bad news though. For one thing, about a third of the dead trees from the U.S. Forest Service survey were white firs, which are the forest version of garden weeds. They grow fast and push out trees like red firs that create a healthier ecosystem. With them gone, it is possible other species might have a better chance.

In addition, there has been a lot of snow this winter in the Sierras, which means the remaining trees will soon be healthier and better able to fight off pests, but Moore said he's ready for at least one more bad year, since many of the trees that died last summer, including oaks in the lower elevations, weren't spotted by the last aerial survey, because they hadn't turned brown yet.

“We're quite fortunate this year that we were able to recharge the soils,” Stephens said. “We'll have to watch, but it's certainly better than being another drought year.”

Creepy Study Shows How Fungi Lure Tree-Killing Beetles to Their Next Prey

An article by Rebecca Dyer published on www.sciencealert.com

MILLIONS of conifers have been destroyed across Europe due to infestations of the Eurasian spruce bark beetle (*Ips typographus*) and fungi may be helping the tree-killing critters by manipulating the tree's natural defences. According to a new study, the tiny beetles can sniff out aromatic compounds produced by their symbiotic partners – fungi – breaking down tree resin, making it easier for the beetles to find suitable trees to eat and have babies in.

A better understanding of how these compounds affect bark beetle attacks could help protect Europe's conifers, the study authors say, and this is important as climate change makes Europe's forests more vulnerable to insect invasions.

The approximately 5 mm (0.2 inches) long *Ips typographus* can kill mature trees relatively quickly, which is attributed to the fact they attack in large numbers to overwhelm the tree's defences and how they introduce fungal symbionts that help the beetles invade and settle in the tree.

Many interactions between insects and the plants that host them have been linked to fragrant compounds. Trees make an elaborate mix of compounds to repel, entrap, or poison the insects that eat them and the friendly fungi that live with the insects in an ectosymbiotic relationship.

We know that the beetles use pheromones to attract new recruits for mass attacks; compounds produced by the 'conquered' tree also herd in other beetles. However, the role of pheromones in keeping the fungal symbiosis going is not well understood.

The ability of bark beetles to overcome the powerful defence system of conifers has led some scientists to wonder if fungi might be helping since the fungi produce their own potent mix of volatile chemicals. And beetles preferentially target trees infected with symbiotic fungi.

The authors showed in previous research that *Ips typographus* could identify its fungal symbionts of the genera *Grosmannia*, *Endoconidiophora*, and *Ophiostoma* by their chemical compounds.



Now they have shown that *Grosmannia penicillata* and other fungal symbionts metabolize spruce resin compounds from the Norway spruce (*Picea abies*), which is the beetle's host tree, altering the aroma into an attractive blend of oxygenated derivatives.

"We had already been able to show that bark beetles are attracted to their fungal associates when these are cultured on standard fungal growth medium," says lead author Dineshkumar Kandasamy, a biochemist at Lund University in Sweden.

"Now we wanted to know what would happen if we grew fungi on a more natural medium with spruce bark powder added. Would beetles be attracted to fungi now?"

The team of researchers from Europe and South Africa performed a series of tests in the lab with bark beetles and samples of bark from Norway spruce trees to find out what chemical signals the beetles use to find trees infected with the fungus.

They found that *G. penicillata* fungus breaks down chemicals in the bark resin, known as monoterpenes, into new compounds and that 12 days after fungal infection, these compounds made up most of the chemicals that the bark samples gave off.

Specific pheromones in the bark attracted the beetles, and female beetles, in particular, were more interested in the pheromones on the spruce bark when symbiotic fungi were present.

Researchers also found that *Ips typographus* have dedicated olfactory neurons sensitive to these oxygenated compounds. Another type of fungus called *Trichoderma* spp, which is harmful to bark beetles, was also tested, and it produced oxygenated metabolites too, but *Ips typographus* wasn't interested in them.

Kandasamy and colleagues were surprised to find that when fungal symbionts grew on the spruce bark, beetles were drawn to the bark and made tunnels in it.

The results suggest that bark beetles can smell mixtures of compounds produced by fungi and follow the scent depending on whether those fungi are their symbiotic partners or a danger to them.

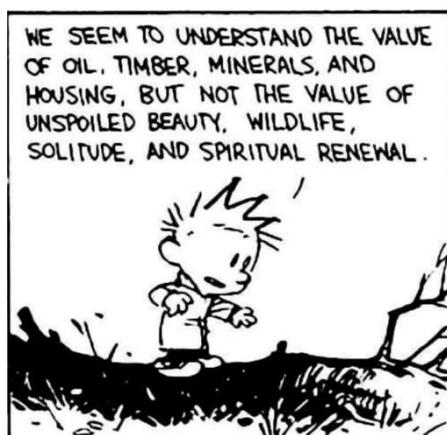
The oxygenated metabolites may help beetles determine if a fungus is present, how well the host tree protects itself, or if the fungi are overwhelming it, and locate potential feeding and breeding sites.

"The ability of the fungus to metabolize resin components that are originally produced by the tree as a defence could indicate which fungi are virulent and could serve as good partners for the beetle," says Jonathan Gershenson, a biochemist from the Max Planck Institute for Chemical Ecology.

However, while the fungus's pheromones may be devastating to trees, it could be the secret ingredient to better management of beetle invasions.

Currently, pest control methods only use beetle pheromones to attract victims, but they aren't very effective. Adding fungal chemicals to the mix could be the key to getting more beetles into the pheromone traps and saving more trees.

The study has been published in PLOS Biology.



How Does Witches' Broom Form?

An article by Martin Fone published on the Country Life website

A WINTER woodland walk, an opportunity to admire the deciduous trees' skeletal frames with their filigree of twigs against the lowering sky, to hear the creaking of the boughs in the wind. Something about a Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*) catches the eye, five dense, ball-like masses of stunted twigs hanging from its branches. The mind runs riot. Creations of an industrious mammal or home to an unusually large bird? The truth more prosaic; a woody deformity known as Witches' broom.

While many woody species, whether deciduous or evergreen, are prone to developing Witches' brooms, in Britain they are usually seen on birch. Some trees have one, others several, and they can form anywhere from the lower parts of the tree to the uppermost branches. They also vary in size, some barely detectible with the naked eye, others large and easily seen, even in the summer.

Witches' brooms have an uncanny resemblance to a besom, a broom made from a bundle of twigs. As well as for sweeping floors, besoms, at least in popular imagination, were used by witches to fly around on, the first depiction of which appeared in marginalia of a 1451 edition of Martin Le Franc's *Le Champion des Dames*. It was an easy leap for the mediaeval mind to believe that these masses of twiggy growths were deposited by witches in the first place, especially in the absence of a more rational explanation.

In mediaeval Germany they were called 'Hexenbesen', which, translated directly into English, gives us Witches' broom as well as the verb 'to hex', to bewitch, and 'besom'. Witches also used them as stopping places or nests ('Hexennester'), as did elves, hobgoblins, and mares. Mares were spirits whose particular trait was to sit on the chest of a sleeper and cause them to have bad dreams, from which we have derived the word nightmare. 'Mahnester' or mare's nest is the alternative German word for a Witches' broom.

Unlike mistletoe, with which they are often confused, Witches' brooms are not parasites stealing the water and nutrients of their unfortunate hosts but forms of abnormal growth in the tree's cells. When growing normally, a tree or shrub will exhibit what botanists call apical dominance, the plant producing a hormone, auxin, which slows the growth of the lateral or side stems and allows the central or apical stem to grow taller and compete for light.

Organisms such as fungi, mites, aphids, ironically, mistletoe, and in British birches the ascomycete fungus, *Taphrina betulina*, can upset this process by inducing the tree to create cytokinin, a form of phytohormone, which interferes with its ability to regulate bud growth in a certain area. Green buds first appear on the tree and can often remain as buds for several years until they grow into shortened branches or slender twigs. Each of these will then potentially produce more small buds which will either fall off or themselves sprout into yet more twigs. Over time the tree will have produced a bundle of tightly packed twigs in that area.



Some defect in the tree, often caused by scarring or clumsy pruning, offers the micro-organisms the opportunity to enter the tree and trigger the formation of brooms. They rarely harm the tree, just reducing flowering in the affected area of the tree. They also offer a haven for other organisms, although not to witches, several species of moth reliant upon certain types of Witches' brooms for food and shelter for their larvae.

Genetic mutations in the buds of the branches can also cause a broom to form, although, normally, there will only be one to a tree. Unlike those caused by living organisms, these can be harmful, diverting energy from the rest of the tree and reducing its strength and ability to withstand extreme weather and disease.

Even more deadly is Witches' broom disease, endemic to South America and the Caribbean, and first reported in 1785 by the explorer, Alexandre Rodrigues, in the Brazilian Amazon basin. When it spread from the Amazon basin to the state of Bahia in 1989, Brazil was the world's second grower of cocoa beans, producing around 400,000 metric tonnes of beans a year. By 2000, its harvest had fallen by three-quarters, wiping out many cocoa farms, causing economic hardship and environmental disaster as dispossessed farmers cut down rainforests to make room for livestock and arable crops.

The cause of this deadly outbreak was a fungus, *Moniliophthora perniciosa*, which stimulated the plant to produce cytokinin, causing the pods to wither and die and diverting its dwindling

energy to sprout bundles of stunted twigs. It also attacked the roots which meant that the traditional method of removing infected branches was less effective, a discovery at the turn of this century that allowed scientists to develop more effective strategies to deal with the disease.

Pieces of Witches' brooms that have developed from a genetic mutation have been rooted or grafted to produce dwarf or miniature plants. Many miniatures, especially conifers, which are commonly found in gardens almost certainly started from a broom, a practice which began almost 250 years ago.

The earliest named miniature conifer was the bee-hive shaped *Picea abies* 'Clanbrassilliana', a dwarf form of Norway spruce, first found around 1780 on the Moira Estate near Belfast. Lord Clanbrassill transferred to his country residence in Tollymore, Co Down, where the mother plant flourishes to this day. The Lodigges Nursery of Hackney introduced the species to the nursery trade in the 1820s.

Another early conifer cultivar was *Picea abies* 'Pygmaea', which began appearing in arboretums and exotic gardens from around 1800. Two were grown in what was reputedly the world's first rock garden at Lamport Hall in Northamptonshire from 1820, but sadly they have now been removed.

In the Heather Garden at Savill in Windsor Great Park there is a splendid specimen of *Pinus sylvestris* 'Beuvronensis', a dwarf Scots pine, that now stands over 17 feet high. Its height suggests that dwarf or slow conifer cultivars derived from Witches' brooms grow faster over time as the hormones suppressing growth of the leading shoot become less effective.

Intriguingly, the Little Gem spruce (*Picea abies* 'Little Gem') came from a Witches' broom taken from a Bird's Nest spruce (*Picea abies* 'Nidiformis'), which had earlier been cultivated from a Witches' broom produced by a Norway spruce.

The usual way to get hold of a Witches' broom is to climb the tree and carefully cut it down. However, Chinquapin, the winter 2012 [Newsletter of the Appalachian Botanical Society](#) revealed that in the States 'most often a shotgun is used', a procedure that leads to a shower of broken pieces raining to the ground. As no roots will have survived the shock, small portions of the broom, scions, are grafted on to rootstock of the same variety.

Witches' brooms have also been used to make brooms, the [most recherché of research published in the Journal of Ethnobiology and Ethnomedicine \(May 2007\)](#) revealed. Of the 108 plants traditionally used to make brooms in Bulgaria, Italy, Macedonia, and Romania, it reported, two were taxa fungi that produce 'the so-called Witches' broom', a curious circularity.

There is more to Witches' broom than meets the eye.

Planting More Trees in Cities Could Cut Deaths from Summer Heat

PLANTING more trees could mean fewer people die from increasingly high summer temperatures in cities, a study suggests. Increasing the level of tree cover from the European average of 14.9% to 30% can lower the temperature in cities by 0.4°C, which could reduce heat-related deaths by 39.5%, according to first-of-its-kind modelling of 93 European cities by an international team of researchers.

The lead author, Tamara Lungman, from the Barcelona Institute for Global Health, said: "This is becoming increasingly urgent as Europe experiences more extreme temperature fluctuations caused by climate change."

"We already know that high temperatures in urban environments are associated with negative health outcomes, such as cardio-respiratory failure, hospital admission, and premature death."

Her team wants to influence policymakers to make cities greener, "more sustainable, resilient and healthy" as well as mitigating climate breakdown, she added, since heat-related illness and death are expected to present an even bigger burden to health services over the next decade than cold temperatures.

The researchers used mortality data to estimate the potential reduction in deaths from lower temperatures as a result of increased tree coverage. Using data from 2015 they estimated that out of the 6,700 premature deaths that year attributed to higher urban temperatures, 2,644 could have been prevented had tree cover been increased.

The cities most likely to benefit from the increase in tree coverage are in south and



eastern Europe, where summer temperatures are highest and tree coverage tends to be lower.

In Cluj-Napoca in Romania, which had the highest number of premature deaths due to heat in 2015, at 32 per 100,000 people, tree coverage is just 7%. In Lisbon, Portugal it is as low as 3.6% and in Barcelona its 8.4%. That compares with 15.5% in London and 34% in Oslo.

Study co-author Mark Nieuwenhuijsen, a researcher at the Barcelona Institute for Global Health, said the team picked 30% as that is a target that many cities are currently working towards.

He said there was no need for buildings to be razed and replaced with parks, since there is enough space to plant more trees in all the cities the team looked at. He praised initiatives such as the EU's 3bn trees plan, and the UK

government's proposal to ensure every home is within a 15-minute walk from green space, though he noted that policymakers must ensure trees are evenly distributed between richer and poor neighbourhoods.

He added that cities which are "too car-dominated" should consider replacing asphalt roads, which absorb heat, with trees.

Planting more trees in cities should be prioritised because it brings a huge range of health benefits beyond reducing heat-related deaths, he added, including reducing cardiovascular disease, dementia and poor mental health.

Prof Yadvinder Malhi, professor of ecosystem science at the University of Oxford, who was not involved in the study, said: "More than half of the world's people live in towns and cities, so trees are going to be critical in making urban areas resilient to climate change and improve urban environments. Urban trees bring many co-benefits beyond climate change adaptation: many studies show just seeing and smelling trees benefit health and wellbeing, as well as enhancing urban biodiversity, but most tree cover is found in wealthy towns and neighbourhoods, so enhancing urban tree cover can reduce this inequity and particularly reduce the high vulnerability of poorer neighbourhoods to climate change."

Shortage of UK Foresters Prompts Government to Offer Free Courses

By Helena Horton Environment Reporter for The Guardian

A SHORTAGE of foresters has prompted the government to launch free courses as it rushes to meet targets for tree planting. There will be training in chainsaw maintenance, coppicing, woodland management, hedge laying and the sale and marketing of timber. The Institute of Chartered Foresters said in November 2021 that the industry faced a shortfall of 10,000 trained workers. Without those positions being filled, the government will not be able to meet its climate goals of increasing woodland cover.

The government has promised to increase England's woodland cover from 14.5% to 16.5% by 2050, and tree-planting across the UK to 30,000 hectares a year by the end of parliament.

The courses will cost £700,000, allocated

from the £750m Nature for Climate Fund.

The government hopes the courses will prompt people to consider a career in forestry, so the sector can grow and woodland goals can be met. Ministers said it could also create new green jobs and boost the economy.

The forestry minister, Trudy Harrison, said: "We need to continue the legacy of our skilled forestry workforce to increase tree-planting

across the country. More woodland is vital for nature's recovery and also essential to increase our security of UK grown timber, and deliver on our net-zero commitments.

"We have many fantastic foresters already, but there aren't enough to grow and manage our woodlands at the planned scale over the coming decades.

"Our free practical forestry training courses

will create green jobs, bring more people into the forestry sector and help existing workers build on and diversify existing forestry skills to meet this demand."

The government is offering 100% funding for eligible courses and expects grants to range between £150 and £3,000.

The Forestry Commission chief executive, Richard Stanford, said: "The forestry training fund is a really valuable resource, accessible to anyone moving into the forestry sector.

"The fund will help people build and diversify their skills in forestry by offering training in essential skills from woodland management to

planning and planting, which are important to creating resilient forests and woodlands.

"I encourage people from all backgrounds and abilities interested to apply, whether that's a farmer looking to upskill or an individual looking for a rewarding career in forestry.

Biden Restores Protections to Alaska's Tongass National Forest

By Madeline Halpert, BBC News, New York

JOEL JACKSON, president of the Organized Village of Kake, a tribal community, has lived within the Tongass National Forest in Alaska his entire life. His community relies on the land for hunting deer and fishing salmon that swim in streams kept cold by the old-growth forest, but the 66-year-old worried about damage to that land - the largest national forest in the US - after former President Donald Trump rescinded a measure blocking logging and road-building on nine million acres of land in the Tongass in 2020. "The forest is key to our survival as a people, to our way of life ... for thousands of years," Mr Jackson said.

January marked a long-awaited victory for Mr Jackson and other tribes and environmental groups who petitioned the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) to reinstate the protections for the forest.

The agency announced on 25 January that it would once again ban logging and the construction of roads for cutting timber in over half of the Tongass.

The decision follows a years-long conflict between Alaskan Republican officials who have argued the rule has slowed economic development and that renewing it will hamper efforts to connect remote communities by road, among other concerns, and conservationists, indigenous groups and others who say the measure is key to protecting the environment.

Spanning nearly 17 million acres - an area slightly larger than the state of West Virginia - the Tongass stores 44% of all the carbon dioxide contained in national forests across the country, according to the Alaska Conservation Foundation.

One of the world's largest intact temperate rainforests, it is home to 800-year-old cedar, hemlock and Sitka spruce trees that help provide habitats for over 400 species of land and marine wildlife.

Environmental experts view protecting the forest as key to conserving biodiversity and mitigating climate change.

The decision to reinstate a rule blocking logging and road-building in the Tongass reflects the voices of Tribal Nations and the people of Southeast Alaska, while taking into account the importance of fishing and tourism to the region's economy, US Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said in a recent statement.

The protections, known as a "roadless rule" regulation, were first introduced by former President Bill Clinton's administration in 2001 to shield certain designated areas in US national forests from logging.

In 2020, after lobbying from Alaskan state officials, Mr Trump stripped the protections for



the Tongass.

In a statement last week, Alaska Senator Lisa Murkowski, a Republican, argued the Biden Administration's decision to reinstate protections turned "the Tongass into a political football", and would hinder local economic development.

Her comments were echoed by her senate colleague Dan Sullivan, who pledged in a statement to "fight this decision with everything in my power", while Governor Mike Dunleavy called the USDA's move a "huge loss for Alaskans".

However, several local businesses and organisations said they disagreed.

Gordon Chew, a co-owner of Tenakee Logging Company, a small family-owned business in the area, said lumber jobs have declined in the Tongass National Forest over the past three decades, but he said this is because of factors such as rising fuel prices for transporting timber from an isolated Alaska and not due to the roadless rule.

"If you believe in global warming, see the value of sequestering carbon, and you like the

fishing industry and support tourism, these are all things that the roadless rule enhances," he said.

The roadless rule was always "contentious with Alaska politicians, but not so contentious with the public", said Meredith Trainor, the executive director of the Southeast Alaska Conservation Council.

She argued it is "really important to have the rule in place to have another impediment to a resurgence of logging in these intact forest areas".

While Mr Jackson celebrated the rule change, he said he would not feel relieved until such protections are made permanent, a move he said could require congressional approval.

That could be his next battle, he said.

"I describe walking into the forest as walking into one of the most beautiful cathedrals you'll ever find in the world," he said. "I don't want to have my grandchildren, their grandchildren, to have to fight for that too."

Defra Slashed Tree Target After Lobbying by National Farmers' Union

An article by Ben Webster published on the openDemocracy website

THE UK GOVERNMENT slashed its flagship environmental target for planting trees after lobbying by the National Farmers' Union which feared, among other things, that it could reduce land values. The decision to cut the target for woodland creation in England conflicts with Britain's net zero strategy, which includes plans for a major increase in tree planting to absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

Documents uncovered by openDemocracy through freedom of information law reveal the NFU's efforts to convince environment secretary Therese Coffey that the original woodland target was "extremely ambitious, if not unachievable, particularly when compared against a backdrop of current planting rates".

It said the change in land use required to meet the target, as well as others aimed at enhancing wildlife and improving water quality in rivers, would have a "significant impact on... food production, food security but also land values".

Upland livestock farmers could be severely impacted by the woodland target, it added, and farm profitability would be reduced.

Official figures on the amount of low quality farmland available for tree planting suggest the NFU overstated the risk to food security.

A government consultation, published in March last year, had proposed a legally binding target to increase tree canopy and woodland cover from 14.5% to 17.5% of England's total land area by 2050. It said the target would help meet net zero emissions by 2050 and provide many other benefits, including creating new wildlife habitats and reducing flooding by slowing the flow of water off hills.

However, Coffey cut the target to 16.5%, with the government's response to its own consultation claiming that "a review of our evidence" now showed this lower figure was "the most ambitious target" that could be set.

It means reducing the government's target for the total area to be planted by 2050 by more than 100,000 hectares, and 37 million fewer tonnes of carbon dioxide being removed from the atmosphere by trees by the end of the century, according to an impact assessment by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra).

The documents obtained by openDemocracy also show Coffey chose to ignore evidence from Natural England, the government's nature adviser.

Natural England said about the originally proposed target: "We consider this a good level of ambition to enable effective integration of trees and woodland within the landscape."

The Office for Environmental Protection, a public body which holds the government to account on its environmental duties, had similarly commended the original 17.5% target, saying it was "coherent with the UK net zero target" and in line with Climate Change Committee advice.

Defra identified 3.2 million hectares of "low-risk" land suitable for conversion to woodland in England – eight times more than would be required to meet the originally proposed target of increasing the area covered by trees to 17.5%. None of the land deemed available is classed as "moderate" or "good" agricultural land.

Defra calculated that meeting the 17.5% target would have required increasing the area planted with trees each year in England from an average of 1,720 hectares in the past five years to 7,500 hectares in 2025 and 16,700 hectares by 2035. Under the reduced target, tree planting in England will instead rise to 10,300 hectares a year by 2035.

This will make it much harder to reach the target in Britain's net zero strategy that tree planting across the whole of the UK should reach 50,000 hectares a year from 2035 to 2050.

In response to the target being cut, Defra upped its recommended ratio of conifers in the overall tree planting mix. Foreign conifers make much poorer habitats for wildlife than native broadleaf trees, but they grow more quickly and in the early years can store more carbon.

Even with the extra conifers, the 16.5% woodland target will leave 1.9 million more tonnes of CO2 in the atmosphere by 2050, and 37 million more tonnes by 2100, than the plan Coffey scrapped.

Woodland Trust chief executive Darren Moorcroft said: "Slashing tree targets by a third from what was consulted on is highly disappointing at a time when ambition and action is so desperately needed. The nature and climate crises demand transformative action and now is not the time for a loss of confidence."

Dustin Benton, policy director at Green Alliance, an environmental think tank, said: "It makes little sense to plan for fewer trees in England from a carbon, nature or rural economy perspective.

"Well managed woodland also provides habitat that will be essential to restoring nature in the UK, and our analysis shows that paying British farmers who own the least productive land to create woodland and restore peat could increase their incomes by a fifth."

Green Alliance's analysis suggests a further 6% of England should be covered by trees by 2050 to deliver net zero and restore nature. That's three times the extra 2% tree cover now planned by the government.

The think tank also calculated that if the planting were targeted at the least productive farmland, an additional 6% of tree cover could be achieved with a loss of less than 1% of the calories produced across the country, which equates to less than 0.5% of the calories consumed when accounting for food imports.

Defra said it had "carefully considered all the responses to the consultation we held last year on the Environment Act targets, and as a result have set ambitious but achievable tree planting targets which will see a five-fold increase in average planting rates".

Richard Bramley, chair of the NFU's environment forum, said some farmers might be reluctant to convert fields into woodland because "once land is planted with trees it's removed from any other use".

To persuade more farmers to plant trees, the government needed to provide "a clear and easy to access, properly funded scheme". But he said government plans to replace EU farm subsidies with payments for "public goods", such as tree planting, had stalled.

Earthquake Appeal

A 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck Turkey and Syria at around 04:00 local time on 6 February. Over 50,000 people died and millions more have been severely affected. Aftershocks were felt throughout the day, including two further earthquakes of 6.5 and 7.5 magnitude. The safety and well-being of those who have lost their homes and families, those who are sleeping rough in freezing temperatures and those who are still searching for their loved ones are of grave concern. £39 could help provide a family with an emergency water and hygiene kit. Please donate to one of the registered charities to help those poor souls who have survived this disaster.

How Non-Native Tree Species Affect Biodiversity

By Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research WSL

NON-NATIVE forest tree species can reduce native species diversity if they are planted in uniform stands. In contrast, the effects of introduced species on soil properties are small. This was found by an international review study with the participation of the Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research WSL.

Curse or blessing? Opinions are divided on non-native tree species. In addition to native species, many foresters also plant non-native species that can withstand the increasing summer drought. In various parts of Europe, the latter are already important suppliers of timber. However, conservationists fear ecological damage, for example if native species are displaced or tree pathogens and insect pests are introduced.

Now a team of European researchers, led by Thomas Wohlgemuth of WSL, has looked at the state of knowledge on the ecological consequences of alien tree species in Europe. They analysed the results of 103 studies on seven such species. All of these studies had investigated how stands dominated by non-native tree species affected biodiversity or soil condition under the trees compared to stands of native tree species. The organisms studied included plants, mosses, microorganisms and insects from the forest floor to the treetops.

Of the seven alien species studied, only the Douglas fir is currently planted in larger numbers in the Swiss forests. While foresters used to value its fast, straight growth and its versatile wood, today they appreciate its higher drought tolerance compared to spruce. Other species are problematic because they can spread uncontrollably. The North American Robinia, for example, is invasive and can displace native species. It was already introduced in Europe



400 years ago and used in Switzerland, among other things, to stabilize soils.

Across the 103 studies, the consequences of non-native species for biodiversity were negative. Comparisons from 20 studies show, for example, that on average fewer insect species live on and in Douglas fir than in spruce or beech stands. Robinia also reduces the diversity of insects, eucalyptus that of birds. This is hardly surprising, says Wohlgemuth, head of the WSL Forest Dynamics Research Unit. Because: "These results apply to comparisons between pure stands." In continuous, uniform plantations, many alien species clearly have worse impacts than native species.

However, alien species do not only have negative impacts. Most of them do not affect soil properties. The easily degradable needles of Douglas firs can even make more nutrients available than the poorly degradable spruce needles. "When it comes only to soil properties, the Douglas fir has no negative impact," Wohlgemuth says. In general, an equal number of studies found positive and negative effects of the seven non-native species on the soil.

Furthermore, it makes a difference whether

the alien species are more closely or more distantly related to European tree species. "Tree species without closer relatives, such as eucalyptus and acacia from Australia, reduce species diversity more strongly across all studies than closely related species, such as Douglas fir and wild black cherry from North America," adds Martin Gossner, head of the WSL Forest Entomology Group and second author of the study.

Management has a significant influence on whether Douglas fir or other tree species are good or bad for a forest overall. Uniform and dense Douglas fir stands are unsuitable habitats for many organisms. However, the same is true for spruces, which have been planted extensively for timber production in lowland areas of Central Europe over the last 100 years. On the other hand, Douglas firs in stands of native forest trees, individually or in small groups, would hardly disturb the ecosystem, Wohlgemuth says, "We conclude that the impact on native biodiversity is low with mixed-in Douglas firs."

Should foresters plant non-native tree species or not? Despite certain negative aspects, Wohlgemuth does not recommend total renunciation. "Particularly in the case of Douglas fir, the facts show that moderate admixture in stands has little impact on native biodiversity, while at the same time preserving ecosystem services such as the production of construction timber. This is especially true when other, less drought-resistant conifers are increasingly lacking with regard to unchecked climate change."

The study is published in the journal *NeoBiota*.

Scotland's Ancient Caledonian Pinewoods Could Vanish

SCOTLAND'S ancient pinewoods are in danger of disappearing forever, a conservation charity has warned. Fragments of the once vast Caledonian forest are dotted across parts of Argyll, Highlands and Aberdeenshire. It is home to descendants of trees that appeared at the end of the last ice age in Scotland about 11,000 years ago.

However, in the first major study into the health of the pinewoods in more than 60 years, charity **Trees for Life** suggested the spread of non-native trees and grazing by deer has threatened the woods' survival.

It said rising temperatures due to climate

change also pose a risk.

It estimates that about a total of 42,000 acres (16,998ha) of original woodland survives and has called for urgent action to tackle high deer numbers, non-native conifers and required improvement in management of the pinewoods.

Chief executive Steve Micklewright said: "Our findings are an alarm bell for Scotland's Caledonian pinewoods, which are such an important part of the country's culture and

environment. The majority of the surviving fragments are now on a knife-edge, and bold action is needed to save them from being lost forever."

He added: "A landscape-scale approach backed by the Scottish government is urgently needed to save, expand and connect up these precious woodlands before it is too late."

More than 80 fragments of Caledonian forest can be found across Scotland from near

Loch Lomond in the south to near Ullapool in the north.

Areas of pinewood still survive around Torridon in the west and eastwards towards Aberdeen. Some of the largest areas are in the Cairngorms. They provide habitat for red squirrels and birds such as capercaillie, crested tits and crossbills.

The pinewoods' tree species include Scots pine - Scotland's national tree - as well as birch and juniper.

Trees for Life said deer were a problem

because they eat saplings, while non-native conifers such as Sitka spruce could "crowd out" native trees.

The charity said the ancient woodlands were recovering in some locations thanks to conservation work, including Glen Affric and around Glenfeshie, which are both in the Highlands, and Mar Lodge near Braemar in Aberdeenshire.

Senior ecologist James Rainey, who led the study, said: "These pinewoods should be playing a key role in Scotland's fight-back

against the climate and nature emergencies, but right now most are on their last legs. "It's not too late to turn this around, but that means seriously stepping-up restoration and rewilding action."

The Caledonian Forest covered huge swathes of Scotland, and even reached the Western Isles and Shetland 5,000 years ago. A change to a cooler and wetter climate, along with human activity, led to a decline in the forest's coverage. By the 1900s about 5% of Scotland's land area had woodland, according to Scottish government agency NatureScot.

Global Supply Chains Devouring What's Left of Earth's Unspoiled Forests

By Siyi Kan and Bin Chen, The Conversation

WHILE farming continues to drive deforestation around the world, 60% of the destruction of Earth's large, intact forests is caused by other forces. In particular, our research shows that more than one-third of this destruction can be blamed on the production of commodities for export, particularly timber, minerals and oil and gas.

Increasing global demand for these commodities, which are often exported through globe-spanning supply chains, explains much of the ongoing removal, degradation and fragmentation of intact forests in a handful of countries including Brazil, Canada, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Russia.

We define intact forest landscapes (IFLs) as seamless mosaics of forest and related habitats bigger than 500km² where there is no detectable sign of activities such as logging, mining or energy extraction. Although IFLs made up 20% of the world's remaining tropical forest in 2020, they stored 40% of all the carbon held in these habitats. Since 2000, the global extent of IFLs has shrunk by 7.2%, a loss of 1.5 million km²—more than quadruple the area of Germany.

We integrated economic models with a global dataset on IFL loss to better understand the extraction and export of commodities in the 2014 world economy. We found that the commodities driving the lion's share of forest loss were primarily extracted from Russia, Canada and tropical regions to the EU, US and China. More than 60% of IFL loss was related to the consumption of a wide range of non-agricultural products including paper, metals and other highly processed products.

These causes of forest loss are more obscure to consumers than traditional food and forest products. For example, it is widely understood that beef production drives deforestation in the Amazon. It is less well known that the manufacture of office furniture involves timber and metals acquired at the expense of the world's dwindling intact forests. Even the power in your home may be derived from oil and gas associated with IFL loss.



So, adopting a plant-based diet will not target all of the big drivers of forest loss. Governments and businesses improving the transparency and traceability of the supply chains they govern could kickstart the phasing out of other destructive products.

Forest scientists and campaigners tend to focus their attention on the wholesale conversion of forests into livestock pasture or cropland. But even the intrusion of logging and mining into relatively small areas can degrade and fragment a forest, greatly damaging the ecosystem's health and accelerating its destruction by making it easier for people to access what remains.

The establishment of roads, exploration trails and electricity transmission lines often precedes the complete destruction of forests. Mining and the extraction of oil and gas is second only to agriculture in destroying IFLs—and the loss of stored carbon which results from forest degradation has exceeded that from

deforestation (the complete removal of forest) in the Brazilian Amazon.

Global supply chains enable countries to avoid destroying forests within their own borders by importing finished products from overseas. How countries decide to use their land is no longer simply determined by demand for products within the country.

International trade and surging global consumption of land-based products plays a far bigger role. For example, Russia produces lots of wood for countries with few forests and for strictly regulated regions such as EU member states.

Revealing the ties between regional IFL loss and the products people buy in other countries shows how global supply chains of various commodities influence forest ecosystems worldwide. Considering the exceptional value of IFLs to conservation, this perspective can also expose the forces driving carbon emissions and biodiversity loss.

Revamped M6 Junction Shelved by Council to Avoid Harming Ancient Woodland

An article by Paul Faulkner, local democracy reporter for LancsLive

PLANS to revamp a junction of the M6 near Lancaster have been shelved after it emerged that the radical redesign would have harmed an area of ancient woodland. The route for the new South Lancaster Link Road was agreed by Lancashire County Council's cabinet exactly two years ago last month. It would have seen the northbound entry and southbound exit slip roads of the motorway at junction 33 shifted just under two miles north of their current locations.

However, members have now given the green light to a realigned scheme which means there is now no need for such a significant change to the existing arrangements. A County Hall cabinet meeting heard that the re-routed link road – part of plans to create at least 9,185 new homes, including student properties, to the south of the city – would be “acceptable in environmental, engineering and traffic terms”.

It would also be cheaper “in a time of increased construction costs” than the original design, which was priced at £106m in February 2021, although no updated cost estimate for the tweaked project has been revealed.

However, campaigners opposed to the overarching development still have misgivings about the so-called South Lancaster Growth Catalyst, whilst the county councillor for the area expressed renewed concern about the potential for the revised route of the link road to worsen flooding in the area.

The new stretch of highway will now connect to the A6 Preston Lancaster Road at the Hampson Green roundabout and run across a new bridge over the West Coast Mainline. That contrasts with the previous plan for the link road to begin just east of the railway, off the current M6 junction 33 spur, which would have cut off two of the existing entry and exit points on the motorway in the process and resulted in them being relocated close to Lancaster University.

Following the now approved changes, the remainder of the planned route will continue largely as it was first conceived, closely following the path of the motorway in a northerly direction and bypassing the villages of Galgate and Ellel. When it reaches the point near the university where it was originally going to join up with the M6, it will still connect to a spine road planned along an upgraded Hazelrigg Lane, which is intended to serve the 3,500-home Bailrigg Garden Village.

The redesign will also allow a planned 500-space park and ride facility to be moved further east along Hazelrigg Lane, “enhancing its attraction”, according to highway officials, by pushing it closer to the motorway. It will be accessed via the link road and will see a shuttle bus running into Lancaster city centre via the A6 and the new garden village.

The link road rethink came in the wake of the discovery that part of the area to the west of junction 33, through which the new route would



have run, has the properties of ancient woodland. That followed environmental surveys undertaken as part of detailed design work carried out last year.

Cabinet member for economic development and growth Aidy Riggott told the meeting at which the changes were agreed that the re-routing was a “relatively modest” change which should not reopen the consultation into the six very different routes for the link road which were put to the public in 2020. The preferred option that was ultimately chosen by the county council, known as “Central 1”, was also the one that won the most public support, with 39% of over 450 respondents selecting it.

“It is not uncommon – and...should be regarded as a beneficial and necessary part of the scheme’s evolution – that alterations are made to the alignment to reflect new information as it is collected and assessed,” said County Cllr Riggott.

Council leader Philippa Williamson stressed that the public would nevertheless be asked for their thoughts once again as part of a new public consultation starting in March ahead of the submission of a planning application. However, Lancaster South East division representative Erica Lewis wanted to know whether the changes had led to any further consideration of a rejected option to build the road to the east, rather than the west, of the M6.

The Labour politician and former Lancaster City Council leader said that such a route would “take the road further from homes [in Galgate] and the Environment Agency has previously advised that [such an] alignment would optimise the flood risk reduction potential of the road”.

County Cllr Riggott said that he recognised concerns over the “sensitive issue” of flooding, but added that there were “convenient water-

courses along the [western] route which could be used after drainage flows are attenuated”. County Cllr Lewis said that that suggestion filled her with “horror” because those watercourses already contributed to flooding in Galgate and she promised to continue to fight for flood risk reduction as part of the scheme.

More than two dozen public questions were lodged regarding the reimagined link road and the county council pledged to answer them and publish the responses on its website within five working days. However, Charles Ainger, co-chair of the Sustainable Lancaster in Climate Emergency group, told the Local Democracy Reporting Service that there was “still great concern locally about this misguided road scheme, as shown by the fact that 28 written questions about it were submitted to cabinet by members of the public”.

“This is a much higher number than usual and reflects not only the financial and environmental risks involved, but the lack of transparency over costs, process and the agreement between the city and county councils. We will make our views strongly felt at the upcoming public consultation and we urge others to do the same,” he added.

County Cllr Riggott told the meeting that it was only the removal of the proposed new slip roads that meant the matter had had to be brought back to cabinet for further consideration, when it might otherwise have simply been considered part of the natural evolution of the scheme. However, he pledged that the forth-coming consultation would form part of an “effective” communication effort, which will include “day and night drop-in event events” at which officials will be available to answer questions.

Plans to Build £400m Center Parcs Village in Ancient Woodland Dropped

An article by Colin Fernandez published on The Daily Mail website

PLANS to build a £400 million pound Center Parcs village in ancient woodland that would have been 'disastrous' to nature have been dropped following protests by nature campaigners including Clive Anderson. The holiday park firm had planned to build around 900 lodges, a 'sub-tropical swimming centre', recreational facilities, shops, restaurants, car parks, and roads spread over an area of around 350 football pitches at the site, Oldhouse Warren in West Sussex.

However, the proposals were ditched following protests including those of Mr Anderson, the President of the Woodland Trust, who said development 'threatens the hard-won protection for ancient woodland across the UK'.

Conservationists said it would put in jeopardy the survival of birds at the site, which incorporates Worth Forest including Goshawks, Crossbills Marsh Tits, and Firecrests as well as rare plants including the Ivy Leaved Bellflower and Bog Pimpernel.

The site, which forms part of Worth Forest, to the south of Crawley, was earmarked to be the firm's sixth site in the UK and Ireland and was chosen for its close transport links to London. It would have created 1,500 permanent jobs and 1,000 jobs in its construction.

Mr Anderson, a former barrister before appearing on shows including *Whose Line Is It Anyway?* had objected to the of the development as 'granting planning permission

for this scarcely exceptional project would open up a loophole which, if exploited elsewhere, could make the hard-won legal protection for ancient woodland all but meaningless: a dead letter leading to dead woods.'

Jack Taylor, lead campaigner for the Woodland Trust, said: 'We're thrilled Center Parcs have abandoned plans to develop a new park in ancient woodland.'

'The proposals would have been disastrous for wildlife and seen the loss of irreplaceable habitat. Oldhouse Warren is an exceptional 550-acre ancient woodland and a rare gem given that ancient woods now cover just 2.5% of the UK.'

'We have strongly opposed the plans alongside Sussex Wildlife Trust, CPRE Sussex, RSPB, Sussex Ornithological Society and local community group Protect Oldhouse Warren.'

'Ultimately, we commend the correct decision being taken by Center Parcs today.'

Sussex Wildlife Trust had objected to claims by Center Parcs 'We cannot see how a 900 lodge holiday facility can nestle into the woodland' and said it was proud at convincing

Center Parcs of the 'devastating damage that a development of this scale would do to wildlife and people.'

Center Parcs UK and Ireland chief Executive Colin McKinlay said: 'We have always been committed to only building our villages in areas where we can improve the biodiversity of the site.'

'Whilst it is obviously disappointing that we will not be able to bring Center Parcs to this part of West Sussex, this decision demonstrates how seriously we take our responsibility to the environment, as well as our ongoing commitment to enhancing the natural habitats in which our villages are located.'

Center Parcs suffered a backlash over its decision last year to close all of its UK locations for the funeral of Queen Elizabeth II - asking guests already present vacate the site by 10am.

It later backtracked, and said guests could remain, but that they would be prevented from leaving their accommodation on the day of the funeral.

Correspondence

An e-mail received from Ernest Hoyos (Lingwood and Burlingham)

I was just reading your last Broadsheet and saw your article on Black poplars. I actually read it in the EDP recently. It didn't make sense as I know a different story. I actually forwarded the article to Gerry Barnes who was Forestry Officer at the County Council through the 1990s and was instrumental, after the National survey, in a programme of taking cuttings of all the known Norfolk trees and then getting them planted out in suitable sites across Norfolk.

Gerry was in Australia when I e-mailed him but when he finally answered his reaction was, 'it was a bonkers article', perhaps they meant only two female black poplars in Norfolk? I don't know but I certainly planted well rooted cuttings, for instance down the A11 Snetterton and either side of the A11 going down to the Brandon roundabout at Thetford on the banks of the Little Ouse.

These trees are now 30 to 40 ft high, we have one at our garden at Gooderstone and there are many planted across the County. There's more than one planted at Reedham which I should think Jo knows about. Anyway I thought you might possibly be interested in the

article I wrote for our BADCOG News Letter a couple of years ago.

'The mature black poplar is now a rare tree in Britain. There are thought to be only a few thousand left. In the 1980s and 90s a national survey was carried out when a total of only 80 trees were identified in Norfolk. Cuttings were taken as they strike easily and a black poplar nursery was established at Easton Agricultural College.

The subsequent young trees were then planted out, mainly on wetland sites near water meadows, river banks and on one or two places on the Broads. The idea was to start a new generation before we lost the last of the old veterans.

Native black poplars are quite distinctive trees and once you get your eye in you can recognize them from a distance. They can grow to 100ft or more with larger boughs arching down in a distinctive manner. The trunk of a mature black poplar often tends to lead to one side and the bark is deeply fissured, often with an abundance of rough burs and bosses and can look dark.

In early spring male catkins are red while females are green. Since nearly all black poplars were planted, male trees were favoured as they did not produce the copious, and to some annoying, fluff of the females.

The only known female black poplar in Norfolk is on Old Buckenham Common in the south of the county and we have a cutting from this tree growing in the lower, damper part of Jary's Meadow along with a male, I think, possibly from Bradwell near Great Yarmouth.

I must not forget that about 20 years ago BADCOG planted six black poplars alongside Lackford Run between Brundall and Braydeston church.

Finally, researchers are beginning to discover more evidence of the use of black poplars in the construction of medieval and early buildings, particularly the great crucks in barns and houses which were always assumed to be of oak or elm, but have now often been identified as black poplar. The great arching boughs mentioned earlier being cut or split lengthways to produce two symmetrical beams to form these crucks

Rochford 100-Year-Old Oak Tree Cut Down by Bloor Homes

By Sophie England, Trainee Reporter, Southend Echo

VALIAN T campaigners have spoken of their sadness and regret after a much-loved, 100-year-old oak tree was axed by developers following a fight to save it. Protesters have been living in the tree, fondly called Cecelia, since October. They aimed to block Bloor Homes' plan to cut it down ahead of a 662-home development in Ashingdon Road, Rochford.

The developers insisted the tree must be removed in order for a new road layout to be created. However, campaigners insisted it was dangerous and demanded action to have the tree protected.

After a legal dispute, the campaigners were ordered to vacate the tree last week so work could begin.

Last month, in the early hours of the morning, the tree was finally felled by the developers, despite one final "peaceful protest".

A spokesman for the Save Holt Farm Oak Tree campaigners said: "We may be losing our beautiful Cecelia, but without her, we would never have found each other. She brought us

tighter, her community, her protectors, friendships and memories that will last forever."

Mark Francois, MP for Rayleigh and Wickford, also shared his disappointment. He said "I am deeply disappointed that Bloor Homes has chopped down the Holt Farm Oak Tree, having raised this issue both in Parliament and with the CEO of Bloor Homes directly, for which I have not even had the basic courtesy of a reply.

"This whole saga is sadly totally characteristic of Bloor Homes' arrogant, and tin-eared behaviour. Is it any wonder that so many property developers get a bad name when you witness the high-handed attitude of companies like Bloor Homes?"

In response to the removal of the tree, a spokesman from Bloor Homes added: "Our

current works will continue on Ashingdon Road until Wednesday after which we will start work on service diversions and the new road junction in due course.

"The new road junction includes enhancements such as extra railings and an upgraded Toucan crossing. The new development will provide much needed new homes, 35% of which will be affordable homes for local people.

"The compensation and mitigation already paid to Rochford District Council for the loss of the tree has been provided for the planting, care and management of many more trees, and is part of the overall £12 million Section 106 contributions which will support and enhance local infrastructure, education, medical provision and transport in Rochford."

Thousands of Trees to be Planted at Flood Defence Project in East Hull

A PROJECT to plant thousands of tree and hedgerow seedlings has started at a flood defence project in Castlehill, East Hull, to create new woodland habitat for local wildlife. Residents and local community groups have been invited to take part in the tree planting programme to create 7 hectares of woodland habitat, and over 5 kilometres of new hedgerow, as part of a flood defence project to create an aquagreen to store floodwater east of the city.

Tree species such as field maple, downy birch, English oak, and black alder are being planted along with different species of willow for hedges and field rose, dog rose, guelder rose and blackthorn and hawthorn to create scrubland.

The planting programme started last month with a group of 20 volunteers planting hundreds of trees over three days.

Andrew Barron, flood risk advisor at the Environment Agency, said "Woodland habitat holds high biological value and the new hedgerow planted across the site will promote a green corridor. We also plan on converting some of the arable land into open grassland which also has great biodiversity value and will be excellent habitat for many conservation priority species, such as skylarks, barn owls, and butterflies.

"We had a great response from volunteers locally and will be doing more planting as part of our ambitions to create new woodland habitat as part of our flood defence work to better protect

homes from the risk of flooding."

Species will be allowed to naturally recolonise areas to create a natural woodland with scrub and grassland fringes to support a diverse make up of species and is expected to reach maturity over 15 to 20 years.

The team has recently worked with children from Biggin Hill Primary School, launching a competition where pupils were asked to use produce drawings of what the castle at Castlehill and its inhabitants might have looked like in the past, as only the earthen mound now survives. This generated a lot of enthusiasm and artistic effort from the children, and the winning entry will be included in the design of interpretation boards for the site.

The Environment Agency is also working with local organisations to explore possibilities for an archaeological project as part of the scheme.

Plans for the overall aquagreen project, part of the Holderness Drain flood alleviation scheme were approved a year ago, and construction work on the project is now halfway through. The aquagreen will reduce flood risk to over 800 properties and key infrastructure in

east Hull.

Once the scheme is completed, the aquagreen will be a versatile green space, south of the old Bransholme Dairy Farm, which will store excess water during a flood and then slowly release it back into the drainage system after the peak of the flood has passed.

Homes in North Carr and Sutton are currently at risk of flooding from water in the Holderness and Sutton Cross drains after heavy rain. The Holderness Drain is a man-made river channel. When it becomes full, water flows into Sutton Cross Drain, overwhelming the local drainage system and increasing the risk of flooding for homes in the area. This area narrowly avoided disaster in November 2019 when other parts of Hull were affected by flooding.

The 'aquagreen' is the second phase of the £28.5m Holderness Drain Flood Alleviation Scheme, and includes construction of the new East Hull Pumping Station.

Full details of the project can be viewed here: [Holderness Drain Flood Alleviation Scheme \(FAS\)](#).

Tree Planting in Blofield

By David Pilch, Broadland Tree Warden for Blofield

David reports how trees supplied by the Network have been planted for the benefit of Blofield parishioners.

ON the frosty morning of 21 January 2023, a group of 16 willing volunteers comprising our two Tree Wardens for Blofield, seven members of the Blofield and District Conservation Group (BADCOG), three parish councillors and four local residents planted 140 trees on new public land behind the new Wyngates development in Blofield.

Formerly strawberry fields, the site had been denuded of topsoil which had been scraped into bunds leaving a poorly draining clay sub-soil. There were also three small shallow alleviation ponds. Thus the site represented a bit of a challenge for species selection and distribution.

The majority of the trees had been supplied by the Broadland Tree Warden Network with others coming from Norfolk County Council or locally sourced trees.

Each planting position was first cleared of surface vegetation with mattocks - a process known as screening. We used the "notch" planting method which was appropriate to the size of the trees. This method involves digging two full spade depth cuts at right angles to each other, lifting the clod of earth so formed and sliding the root of the tree into the slot before letting the clod fall back and treading on it to make it firm. The planted trees were protected from grazing rabbits or deer by guards and stakes and surrounded by a mulch of wood chippings.

The species planted were: cherry plum, field maple, guelder rose, hawthorn, hazel, hornbeam, pedunculate oak, rowan, silver birch, small leaved lime, spindle, walnut and yew.



£2.4k Bill for Chopping Down 'Historic' Trees Without Permission

By Julia Breens, Local Democracy Reporter for Leicestershire Live

THE owner of a former chapel in a Leicestershire village has been ordered to pay more than £2,000 after cutting down two historic yew trees without permission. The trees were described by Melton Borough Council as "an original, historic feature" of the chapel, which is in Great Dalby's conservation area.

A local resident first noticed the landmark trees had been cut down, and reported the matter to the council, which ran a "comprehensive investigation", with support from Leicestershire County Council.

Benjamin Paget, 41, was ultimately charged for the offence, and pleaded guilty at Leicester Magistrates' Court to removing the trees without prior approval of the council.

The trees had been in the front garden of the Main Street property, which is the subject of a planning application, currently under consideration, seeking permission to convert the building into a home.

Conservation areas aim to protect the architectural and historic interest of a place. Trees are said to make an important contribution to the character of an area, and are given special protection in conservation areas as a result.

Magistrates ordered Paget to pay a fine of £500 per tree, plus a £400 surcharge and £1,000 in costs.

Councillor Alison Freer, portfolio holder for climate, said after the sentencing: "We are satisfied with the outcome of this successful prosecution. We take enforcement matters very seriously as they impact on the local, natural environment and history of the borough.

"We are keen to uphold and promote a robust but fair planning enforcement regime to ensure people are not flouting the planning rules and damaging the borough. We will continue to take action when these are being breached and encourage people to seek planning advice before going ahead with work, otherwise they risk criminal proceedings/action."

Great Dalby's conservation area was first designated in 1981, with the borough council's official conservation appraisal of the village reading: "Great Dalby is an attractive small village located on a hillside set in undulating countryside some three miles south of Melton Mowbray."



It adds: "Trees and other greenery including boundary hedges and garden areas are widespread within the street scene with mature trees framing views along the street."

The council has urged residents to follow

planning rules, offering advice and guidance on its website if people are unsure if work they are doing to their home needs permission.

Tree Preservation Orders and Conservation Area News

I regret to report that Broadland District Council has migrated its website to the South Norfolk District Council IT system meaning that Mark Symonds can no longer provide me with up to date lists of applications and decisions relating to current works to trees subject to a Tree Preservation Order and Section 211 notifications for works to trees within Conservation Areas. Furthermore, I am unable to carry out my own searches on the new system.

The Concise Oxford Dictionary defines “progress” as a noun meaning “move forward or onward; be carried on; advance or develop especially to a better state”, so obviously, something went wrong at BDC!!!!

Seriously though (as if that wasn't serious) Mark had a discussion with the manager that organises the planning application data and hopes that normal service will resumed for next month's edition of Broadsheet, but for now I must ask you to bear with me and understand that the current circumstances make it impossible for me to guarantee the accuracy of this month's tables.

Following correspondence with one of our parishes I wish to make it clear that that the list of TPO and Section 211 applications published in Broadsheet each month only covers applications made to Broadland District Council, as stated in the heading.

Trees within the Broads Authority area require permission from the Broads Authority but I am unable to obtain lists of those applications.

Those of you who remember when the Broads Authority decided to create their own Tree Warden Network (they thought it was a good idea at the time) will know that, despite my best efforts, they were not prepared to supply the monthly lists like those that I receive from Mark Symonds at BDC.

So, please be aware that these lists do not include applications made to the Broads Authority.

Broadland Tree Preservation Orders Served, Confirmed and Revoked

| TPO No | Address | Served | Trees Protected | Status |
|------------|---|------------|--------------------|-------------|
| 2022 No 11 | Land rear of 14 Norwich Road, Strumpshaw | 21/09/2022 | A1 various species | Provisional |
| 2022 No 12 | 250 Fakenham Road, Taverham | 02/11/2022 | T1 oak | Provisional |
| 2022 No 13 | Land rear of 9 St Pauls Close, Hellesdon | 16/12/2022 | T1 magnolia | Provisional |

Current Works to Trees Subject to a Tree Preservation Order and Section 211 Notifications for Works to Trees Within Conservation Areas

| App No | Address | Cat | Species / Requested Works | Decision |
|----------|---|-----|--|---------------|
| 20201760 | Land West of Abbey Farm Commercial Park, Church St, Horsham St Faith | TPO | G1 5 x ash and sycamore and G19 1 x verge tree - full details provided within the attached cover letter. | 21/09/2020 |
| 20220220 | The Hollies, 43 Waterloo Road, Hainford | TPO | T1 & T2 species unknown - fell. T3 species unknown - remove dead overhanging branches. | Appeal lodged |
| 20221880 | South Lodge, Oak Lane, Old Catton | 211 | T1 yew - reduce all crown branches max 2m. T2 maple - reduce all crown branches max 3m. T3 & T4 maple - coppice. T5 <i>Thuja</i> - reduce all crown branches max 4m. T6 beech - reduce entire crown max 2m. S1 shrubs - reduce by 2m. H2 holly and M1 ash - reduce entire crown by 2m. | Approved |
| 20222012 | 10 Bishops Close, Thorpe St Andrew | 211 | Willow - approx 15m in height. Crown reduction of 5m all round. | Approved |
| 20222027 | Oulton Lodge, 135 Norwich Road, Wroxham | 211 | T1 oak - 16.3m. Crown reduce by approximately 2.5-3.0m to reform more appealing shape. T2 Lawson cypress - 7-8m. Remove because heavily suppressed. | Approved |

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| 20222067 | Broadland Business Park, Old Chapel Way, Postwick | TPO | T3895, T3900, T3902, T3903, T3904, T3905, T3906, T3907, T3910, T3913, T3915, T3916 & T3917 lime - crown lift to 2.5m to maintain clear access over footpaths. T3908, T3909 & T3911 lime - crown lift to 4m to maintain clear access for vehicles over access road. | Approved |
| 20230001 | 25 Spinney Road, Thorpe St Andrew | TPO | 2 x beech – remove deadwood on both trees and for the southern-most tree (1) towards the front of the property I propose a crown raise to 5m and a 25% crown thin on major westerly limb. | Approved |
| 20230013 | Abbotts Hall Farm House, Drabblegate, Aylsham | 211 | Oak - crown raise by 2.5m above barn. | Approved |
| 20230022 | 44 Hungate Street, Aylsham | 211 | T1 oak - approx measurement of limb before reduction is 5.7m. Reduce limb by 2m. Overhang is 3.3m. T2 cherry - approx measurement of limb before reduction of overhang 5.3m. Reduce overhang by from 3.1m by 2m 1.1m. T3 Corsican pine - approx measurement of the limb before reduction is 5.3m and overhang is 3.9m. Reduce limb by 2.5m and crown lift by 2m. | Approved |
| 20230023 | 3A Mill Road, Salhouse | TPO | 1 x sycamore and 2 x oak - remove dead branches and epicormic shoots at base and on trunk. Crown raise to 5m over road, footpath and front gardens of 3A and 3B. Sever ivy at base. Reduce branches from overhead utility cables and give a clearance around telegraph pole of approximately 1m. | Approved |
| 20230027 | Burgh House, Burgh Road, Aylsham | 211 | T1 wild cherry – fell dead tree. T2 sycamore x 2 – fell. Advised by S McCann, tree surgeon, they are dying and at risk due to close proximity to highway. | Approved |
| 20230031 | 21 Roundway Down, Thorpe St Andrew | TPO | Oak - 10m in height with a 6m crown spread. Remove all ivy and deadwood. Reduce lowest limb overhanging No 21 by 3m and raise low branches to clear fence and shed roof by 1.5m on north. | Approved |
| 20230032 | 37 Meadow Gardens, Sprowston | TPO | T1 lime - 14.4m/5m. Remove T2 lime - 13.4m/5m. Remove. | Split decision |
| 20220034 | The Haven, 1 The Paddocks, Aylsham | TPO | T1 horse chestnut - approx 20m in height, 6m width. Raise crown to approx 4m to allow clearance for vehicles and natural light into property. Deadwood and reduce crown by approx 3.5m to shape. | Approved |
| 20230039 | 90 Charles Close, Wroxham | 211 | T1 willow (11m) - remove. | Approved |
| 20230040 | Hill Barn, 4 Skinners Lane, Wroxham | 211 | T1 birch (13m) - reduce two obvious lower laterals by 2.5m and clear 'phone line by removing smaller diameter branch tips. | Approved |
| 20230050 | Fishermans Car Park, Carr Lane, Blickling | TPO | T1 oak - approx 25m in height. Selectively reduce overextending branches by up to 3m in length back to suitable pruning points. | Approved |
| 20230054 | 16 South Avenue, Thorpe St Andrew | TPO | Beech - remove branches over telephone wires by up to 2m. | Approved |
| 20230066 | 20A Colkett Drive, Old Catton | TPO | T1 Acacia - 10m. Tree is in decline with large cracks forming cavities along main stem and unions. We wish to fell this tree. | Approved |
| 20230070 | 45 Charles Close, Wroxham | 211 | T1 sweet gum - approx 10m height and 9m width. Reduce height by 3.5m and width by 3.15m. | Approved |
| 20230073 | Ollands, Cawston Road, Heydon | 211 | All boundary edge trees within proximal 2m of woodland site extents (as shown) to be pruned to allow access along entire boundary for purpose of installing boundary fences, planting gaps and eventual laying of existing understorey trees / shrubs where appropriate (and where smaller than 75mm in diameter at a height of 1.5m from ground level). Crown lift external facing canopies to no more than 2m by removal of small diameter secondary branches pruned to suitable secondary growth points. Resulting pruning cuts are not to exceed 75mm in diameter. | Approved |
| 20230090 | Wood Lodge, Park Road, Wroxham | 211 | T1 sycamore - 12m height. Reduce branches by approx 1-1.5m to clear sycamore and willow to mitigate forced suppression growth. T2 willow - 6-7m height. Deadwood and reduce crown by up to 2.5m-3.0m to reshape. | Approved |
| 20230092 | 23 Ollands Road, Reepham | 211 | Hazel - reduce overhang, reducing the overall canopy by 10%. | 17/01/2023 |
| 20230095 | 6 Banningham Road, Aylsham | 211 | T1 oak, 1.2m diameter, canopy height 15m, canopy width 12m in field opposite property and owned applicant. Deadwood. T2 oak - 1.2m diameter, canopy height 15m, canopy width 10m. Located approx 20m up road from the property and owned by the applicant. Crown reduction reducing canopy height from 15m to 12m and width from 10m to 8m. Tree is located next to a road that has significant foot traffic and owner wishes to avoid failures. | Approved |
| 20230107 | The Old Dairy, Haveringland Road, Felthorpe | TPO | T4 oak - fell and replant. | Approved |

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| 20230108 | Royal Norwich Golf Club, Weston Hall Road, Weston Longville | TPO | T1 Norway spruce – large tree. Fell to near ground level. | Approved |
| 20230109 | Hollies, 43 Waterloo Road, Hainford | TPO | T1 hornbeam – fell. | 19/01/2023 |
| 20230111 | Heydon Hall, The Street, Heydon , | 211 | Poplar – fell and replant. | Approved |
| 20230115 | Spowston Garden Centre, Spowston | TPO | Willow - fell | 20/01/2023 |
| 20230120 | Stanley Cottage, 58 Millgate, Aylsham | 211 | Apple x 2 - fell. | Approved |
| 20230124 | 10 Granary Loke, Brewmere House, Ollands Road, Reepham | 211 | T1 ash - re-pollard back to previous points. | Approved |
| 20230130 | 10 Granary Loke, Brewmere House, Ollands Road, Reepham | 211 | T1 sweet chestnut - currently 16m tall and 17m spread. Reduce tree by approx 1-1.5m in height and spread. After reduction no less than 14.5m high and 15.5m spread. Remove all the epicormic growth and crown lift any branches within the first 6m of the trunk. T2 holly - currently 13m tall and 6m spread Reduce tree by approx 6m in height and 1m spread. After reduction the tree will be no less than 7m tall and 5m in spread. | Approved |
| 20230131 | Blickling Hall, Blickling Road, Blickling | 211 | T1 Scots pine and G1 2 x hemlock (adjacent) - fell. Proposed to reduce competition for light and nutrients with the young avenue trees, to preserve this feature. The 3 trees account for the 5m ³ of saleable timber we are permitted to remove per quarter. G2 5 x yew and G3 9 x yew - pollard to approx 2.7m to prevent overshadowing avenue and other understory trees and plants. T2 common lime – fell due to underground water services, close proximity to gas tank and undermining of garden wall. | Approved |
| 20230136 | Land Adjacent 47 Waterloo Road, Hainford | TPO | Beech - fell | Approved |
| 20230140 | The Rectory, 73 The Street, Brundall | TPO | T25 western red cedar - remove lower branches, back to trunk, up to a height of around 2m. T17 sycamore – low branch overhangs churchyard storage shed at about 1.5 m making access difficult. Remove back to trunk. | 25/01/2023 |
| 20230141 | 18 Meadow Gardens, Spowston | TPO | Sycamore (mature) - raise canopy by 3-5m, pruning back to suitable pruning points. Thin canopy by approx 20%. This is to let more light into garden and to increase aeration for the tree. | 25/01/2023 |
| 20230149 | 37 Wilks Farm Drive, Spowston | TPO | Tree at rear of private parking area has grown to point where it now hangs into property and covers parking area. Cut tree back along fence line so no longer impacts use of garden and reduce branches sitting above parking spaces due into the impact of our vehicles and remove damage caused by falling debris, natural shedding of foliage and bird droppings. | 26/01/2023 |
| 20230153 | Appletree Cottage, 120 Lower Street, Salhouse | 211 | T1 & T2 - cherry - height 8m. Crown reduce by 1.5 – 2.0m to reform shape. T3 ash - height 8.5m. Crown reduce by 1.5 – 2.0m to reform shape. T4 silver birch - height 14-15m. Crown reduce by 3.5m to shape and crown raise to 3.5m for clearance over garden. T5, T6 & T7 ash - height 12 - 13m. Crown reduce by 3.0 - 3.5m to shape and crown raise to 3-3.5m for clearance over garden. | Approved |
| 20230160 | Public Telephone 20m from 18 Barnby Road and 4m from Barnby Road, Badersfield | TPO | Trees with recommended works on 2022 survey. E-mailed separately. | 26/01/2023 |
| 20230161 | Douglas House (Formerly Tico), 2 Bure Way, Aylsham | TPO | Leyland cypress – fell. | Approved |
| 20230163 | Squirrels Oak, 16 Gardyn Croft, Taverham | TPO | Oak x 2 in back garden - crown thin by approx 20% to allow light into garden and reduce sail weight for reducing potential wind issues as best as possibly manageable. | 27/01/2023 |
| 20230165 | Goosepie Farm, Booton Road, Cawston | 211 | T1 sycamore – fell. | Approved |
| 20230169 | Beech Mount, 1 Bircham Road, Reepham | 211 | G1- approx 4-6 small beech. Was a hedge but not cut recently and therefore grown into small trees. Many small branches overhang footpath. Cut all branches up to 2.5m high back to the trunks. T1 conifer - crown lift by approx 3m to increase clearance over path, road and garden. Some other shrubs overhanging the path will be completely removed, but are small enough that they don't need to be included in this application. | 30/01/2023 |
| 20230180 | Rowangarth, Heydon Road, Aylsham | TPO | T1 oak - pollard at 12m. | 31/01/2023 |

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| 20230181 | 5 Library Close, Blofield | TPO | G1 holly - reduce height from 8m to 6m and trim to shape. T1 oak - reduce spread of lower limbs from 20m to 17.5m to increase light into vegetable patch. T2 horse chestnut - crown reduce height from 15m to 12.5m. | 31/01/2023 |
| 20230183 | 18 Beechwood Drive, Thorpe St Andrew | TPO | T1 beech – fell. | 01/02/2023 |
| 20230192 | 46A Charles Close, Wroxham | 211 | T1 oak - current height 12m and radial spread 7m. Reduce height by 4m to historic pollard points, reduce lower lateral branches by 2-3m, remove epicormic growth and ensure garage is clear by 2m. | 02/02/2023 |
| 20230193 | 12 Barberry Close, Taverham | TPO | T1 oak - height 13m. Deadwood. Remove back to stem. 1 lower branch heavily extends into neighbours' by approximately 4m. Prune back to main stem lower branch that droops into garden to help rebalance extended weight and shape from these branches. | 02/02/2023 |
| 20230194 | 29 Low Road, Hellesdon | TPO | T1 beech - height 13-14m, spread 16-17m. Crown raise to 3.5-4m for sufficient clearance. Reduce crown by 3-3.5m to reduce extended limbs back into crown to reform an appealing shape. | 02/02/2023 |
| 20230196 | High Trees, 17 The Avenue, Wroxham | 211 | T1 conifer - height 7m. Remove to fence height to allow more light into neighbours' property. Replant in different part of garden with more wildlife friendly species. | 02/02/2023 |
| 20230197 | 3 Holly Bank, Sprowston | TPO | T1 beech - 17m/9.5m and T2 oak - 14m/9m. Crown reduction of approx 3m to create shorter more appealing shape. Crown raise to 4m to allow light into garden space. T2 has some significantly extended limbs which we wish to mitigate risk of failure. | 02/02/2023 |
| 20230247 | Fishermans Rest, Haveringland Hall Park, Haveringland | TPO | T1 ash - remove 2 over-extended lateral limbs from over lodge. T2 birch - 20% crown thin of smaller inner branches no more than 20mm in diameter at growth point. T3, T4 & T5 willow - re-pollard. T6 oak - remove smaller branches for 1m clearance from BT wires. G1 6 x oak - crown raise over highway to 4.5m and reduce to give 1m clearance from BT wires. T7 oak - reduce limb growing towards garden by 2m. T8 Scots pine - reduce 3 lateral limbs over highway from 7.5m to 6.5m. T9 Scots pine - fell. T10 oak - reduce to give 1m clearance from BT wires. G4 unknown species - crown raise woodland trees over highway to 4.5m and remove 4 x self-set small cherry. | 21/02/2023 |
| 20230251 | Lynwick, 2 Lawn Crescent, Thorpe End | 211 | T1 pine - reduce height from approx 8.5m to 5.7m and thin live branches by 5% (width of tree will remain the same). T1 Lawson cypress - crown reduction by reducing height from approx 7.3m to 4.8m (width of tree will remain the same). | 20/02/2023 |
| 20230270 | Woodland adj Keys Hill Park, Park Road, Wroxham | 211 | Sycamore x 5 – fell. | 22/02/2023 |
| 20230277 | The Rookery, Sandhole Road, Halvergate | 211 | Large holm oak - selective weight reduction of lever arms through thinning of 20-30% reduction in end weight of over-extended limbs. | 15/02/2023 |
| 20230281 | 337 St Faiths Road, Old Catton | TPO | T1 oak – crown lift southern aspect to 4m removing lowest limb extending to south and overhanging branch obstructing access. | 13/02/2023 |
| 20230321 | Gribbins, 21 The Avenue, Wroxham | 211 | T1 hazel - coppice to a height of 1.5m. | 16/02/2023 |
| 20230323 | Land On Footpath West Of C Of E Primary Academy, Aylsham Road, Cawston | TPO | AOPT025 and AOPT027 lime - crown lift to 4m over path and shrub area, low branches at 2m are obstructing access. AOPT026 lime - crown lift to 4m over path and seating, low branches at 2m are obstructing access. AOPT031 rowan and AOPT041 Norway maple - reduce back from structure to give 2m clearance. AOPT032, AOPT033 and AOPT034 rowan - crown lift to 4m over footpath | 14/02/2023 |
| 20230337 | Anchor Wood, 3 Anchor Street, Coltishall | TPO | Permission is sought to undertake all the works listed within the report schedule. | 15/02/2023 |
| 20230349 | 129 Spixworth Road, Old Catton | 211 | T1 holly - approx 17m tall. Reduce to 11m. T2 lime - approx 19m tall. Pollard to previous points. T3 hazel - approx 11m tall. Reduce crown by 3m. | 10/02/2023 |
| 20230360 | 21 Station New Road, Brundall | TPO | T1 sycamore – fell. | 16/02/2023 |
| 20230373 | Langley Prep at Taverham Hall, Taverham Park, Ringland Road Taverham | TPOP | Ash trees - approx 20-25m in height. Reduce to 10m conservation trunk. | 23/02/2023 |
| 20230409 | Pegaru, 25 Ollands Road, Reepham | 211 | Willow - approx 7m in height. 4 x limbs have grown from trunk. Reduce 3 limbs by approx 1m of the four limbs and reduce limb 2 by 1.5m. | 24/02/2023 |

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| 20230417 | The Gables, 6 Plumstead Road, Thorpe End | 211 | T1 cypress - reduce height from approx 7m to 4.5m | 21/02/2023 |
| 20230450 | Drayton Old Lodge, Drayton | TPO | T1 beech and T2 sycamore – fell. | 21/02/2023 |

Explanatory Notes:

- 1) App No is the unique Broadland District Council Planning Application number allocated to the application to carry out work and is the number by which progress of the application may be traced. Any comment, objection, support or request for information should quote this number.
- 2) Address is the address to which the application for work relates. In other words, it is the address where the trees for which the application is made are located.
- 3) Cat (ie Category) denotes the type of application. TPO = works to trees subject to a Tree Preservation Order; or
211 = Section 211 Notifications for Works to Trees Within Conservation Areas
- 4) Species / Requested Works is the species of the tree(s) concerned and details of the work proposed. A reference such as T1, T2 or G1 may also appear and that is simply a reference to the tree(s) on the TPO, Conservation Order or simply on the application.
- 5) Decision is either the actual decision or the date on which the application was received by Broadland District Council.
- 6) This list is not intended to be a definitive list of all the relevant details. The reader should always refer to the specific application on the Broadland District Council "Planning Explorer" at <https://secure.broadland.gov.uk/Northgate/PlanningExplorer/GeneralSearch.aspx> to view the application or read the Council's decision.