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Forests, Woodland and Trees

Urban Forestry
25th September 2025

Planning and Place-Based Approaches

improvement service

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Presenters

Des Hackett
Urban Forestry Manager at Future Woodlands Scotland

Fiona Melville
Arboricultural and Urban Forestry Consultant at FM Tree Consultancy

Guy Harewood
Development Officer for the Forth Climate Forest.

Planning and Place-Based Approaches

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Agenda

- Urban Forestry & 3-30-300
- NPF4 and BS5837 - empowering Scotland's planning teams
- Forth Climate Forest and Canopy Analysis of New Developments
- Local Authority Experience
- Gap Analysis

Planning and Place-Based Approaches

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Housekeeping

- We will be recording, presentations and links will be shared
- We will be using Menti for audience participation, details on the next slide
- Q+A please raise your hand or use the function Menti
- Please use the MS Teams chat function for technical issues.

Planning and Place-Based Approaches

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Future Woodlands Scotland

Urban Forestry and 3-30-300

Des Hackett

Urban Forestry Programme Manager

September 2025

Trees Matter.

3

Future Woodlands Scotland

We are a charity restoring trees – from city spaces to wild places

13
years

40
Research & Innovation Grants

29
sites

860
hectares of new and restored woodlands

6 staff and
9 trustees

Future Woodlands Scotland

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1

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The urban forest comprises all the trees and shrubs in the urban realm – in public and private spaces, along linear routes and waterways and in amenity areas. It contributes to green infrastructure and the wider urban ecosystem. It provides numerous benefits to human society, and it does so in vast quantities.

Urban forestry is the art, science and technology of managing trees and forest resources in and around urban communities.

The urban forest is part of wider green infrastructure including grass, shrubs, and crops.

Future Woodlands Scotland

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The Benefits of Trees

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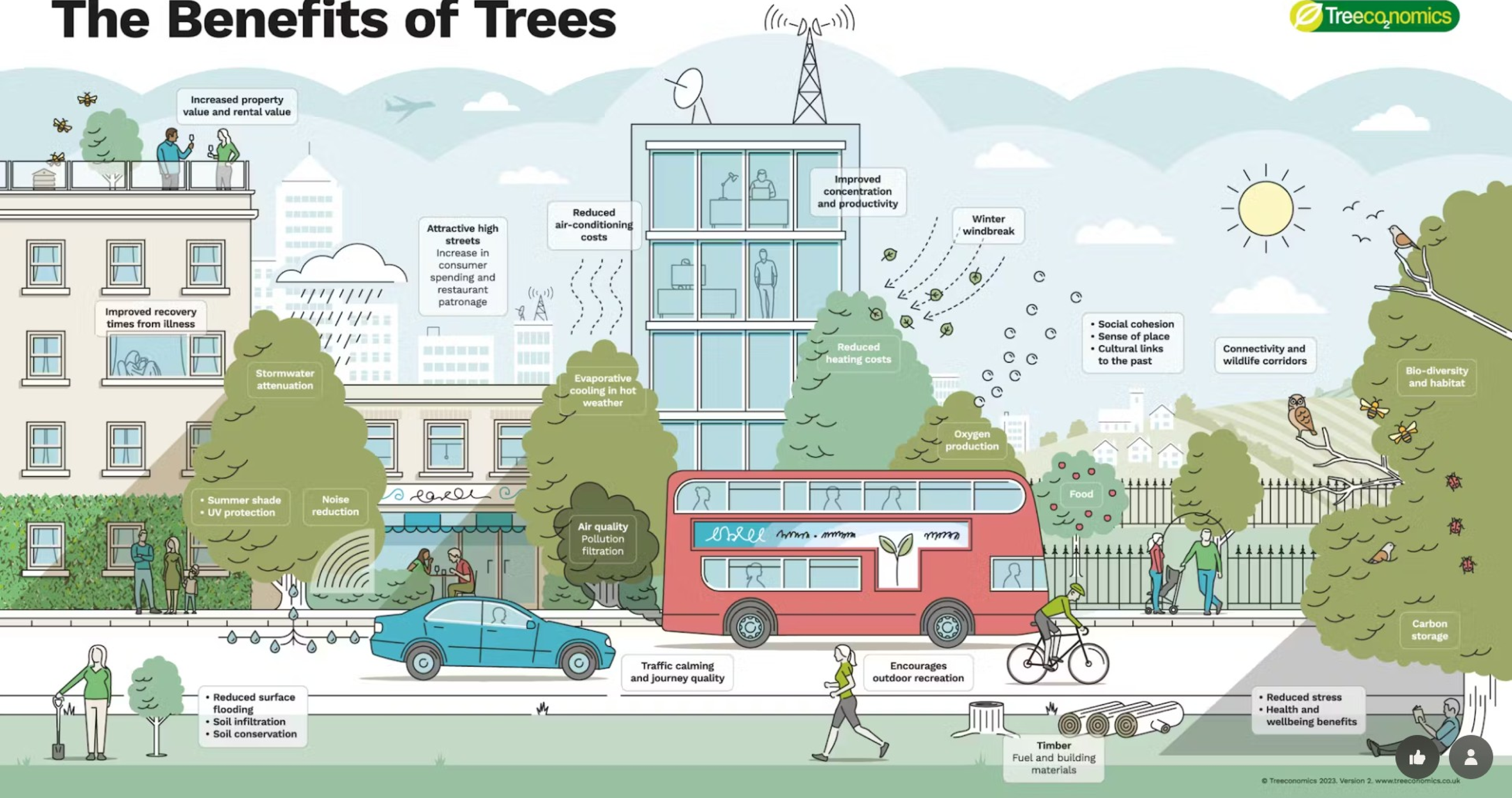
Treeconomics



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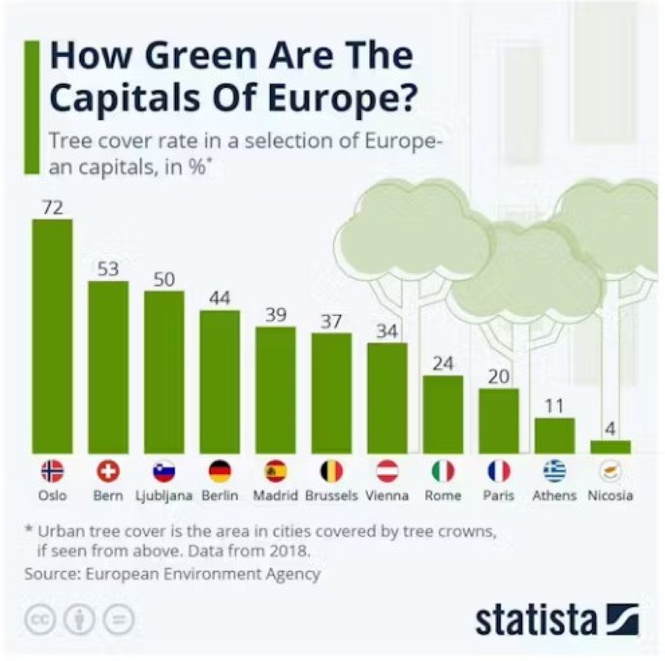
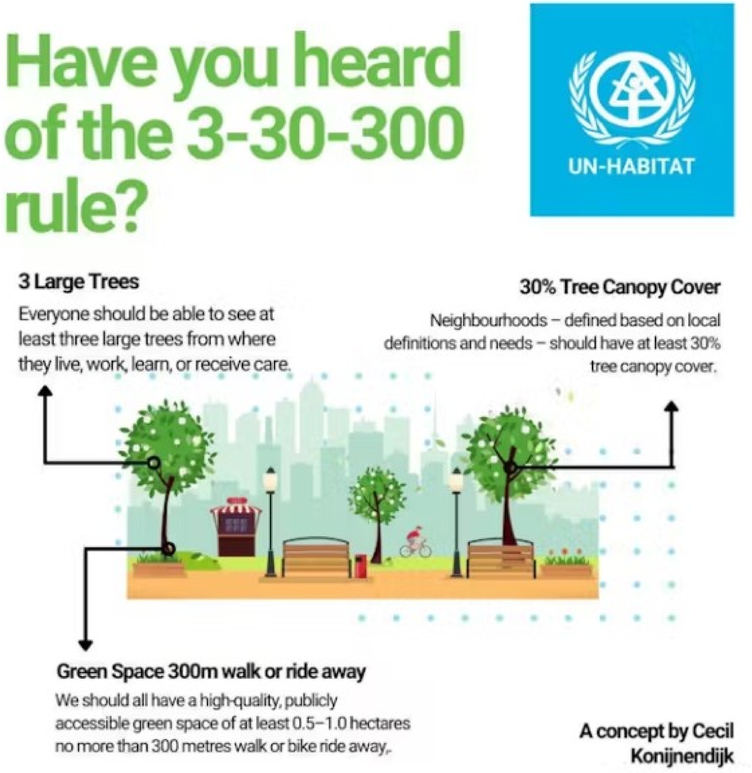
Our Vision

Over the next 10 years towns and cities across Scotland will make significant progress towards developing and achieving the 3-30-300 rule for urban forests that build healthier and more climate resilient communities.





"A simple yet powerful framework for building healthier, climate-resilient, and more liveable cities."

Article | Open access | Published: 03 July 2025

Neighborhood-scale reductions in heatwave burden projected under a 30% minimum tree cover scenario

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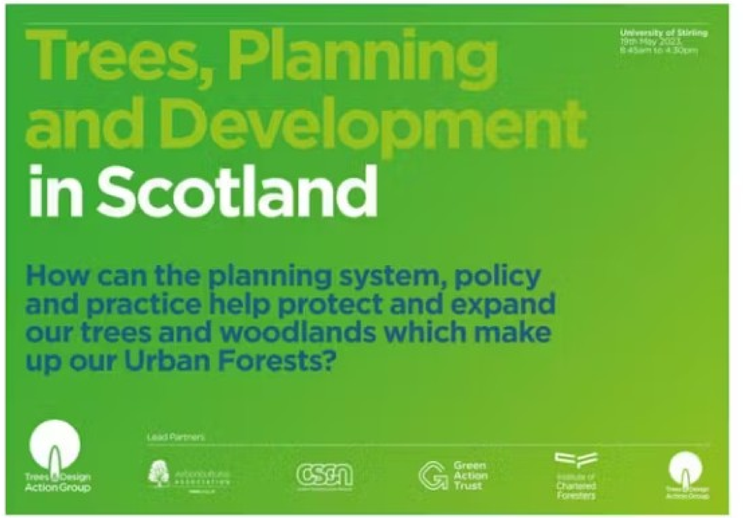
Future Woodlands
Scotland

The Urban Forestry Programme - a 10 year £10m programme which will work towards this vision by:

- Supporting local authorities, eNGOs and community groups in urban forestry projects
- Building capacity in the sector
- Promoting best practice
- Building the evidence base
- Working with stakeholders to advocate for Tree Equity

Tree Warden training session



2023 Conference

JERA NEX BP

urban forestry programme

Thank You

deshackett@futurewoodlands.org.uk

www.futurewoodlands.org.uk

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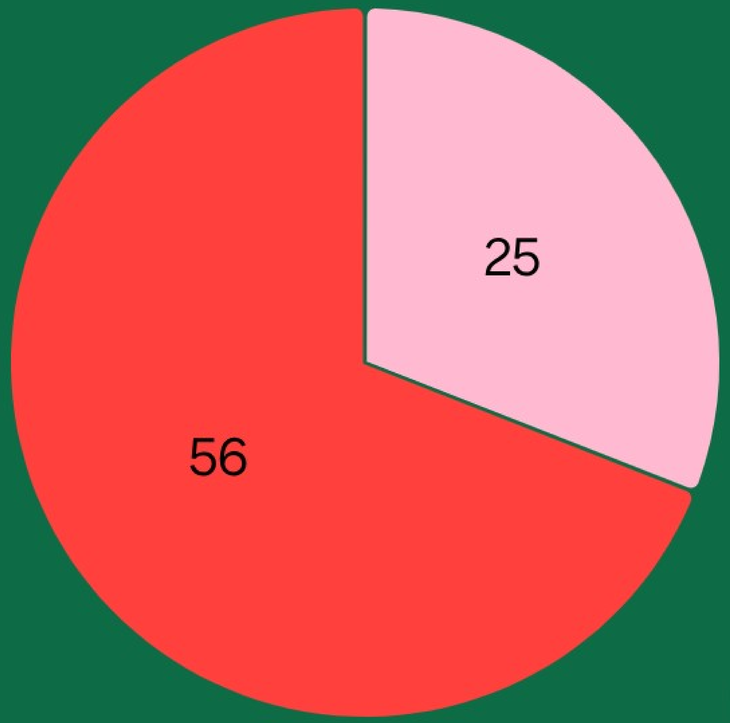
Have you heard or used the 3-30-300 rule before?



25	Yes
56	No
0	Don't know

6

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Planning Webinar Series

Fiona Melville
Arboricultural and
Urban Forestry Consultant

September 2025

fiona@fmtreeconsultancy.com

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NPF4 and BS5837 - empowering Scotland's planning teams to protect and expand our Urban Forests

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Urban Forests

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Irreplaceable Habitats

Trees….

- Mitigate climate impacts
- Enhance biodiversity and ecological connectivity
- Improve public health and wellbeing
- Support placemaking and community identity
- Reduce flood risk and improve soil stability
- Treeconomics Benefits of Trees

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NPF4 Policies and the Urban Forest

The urban forest delivers on many NPF4 policies…….

- Policy 1 Sustainable places
- Policy 2 Climate mitigation and adaptation
- **Policy 3 Biodiversity**
- Policy 4 Natural places
- Policy 5 Soils
- **Policy 6 Forestry, woodland and trees**

NPF4 – Implications for the Urban Forest

NPF4 puts the climate and nature crises at the heart of planning decisions…

- Policy 3 Biodiversity
  - secure positive outcomes for biodiversity
  - strengthen nature networks and connectivity
  - development designed and constructed in accordance with the Mitigation Hierarchy
- Policy 6 Forestry, woodland and trees
  - identify existing woodland and potential for expansion
  - protect irreplaceable habitats, avoid habitat fragmentation and improve connectivity
  - Supported and informed by Forestry, Woodland & Tree Strategies

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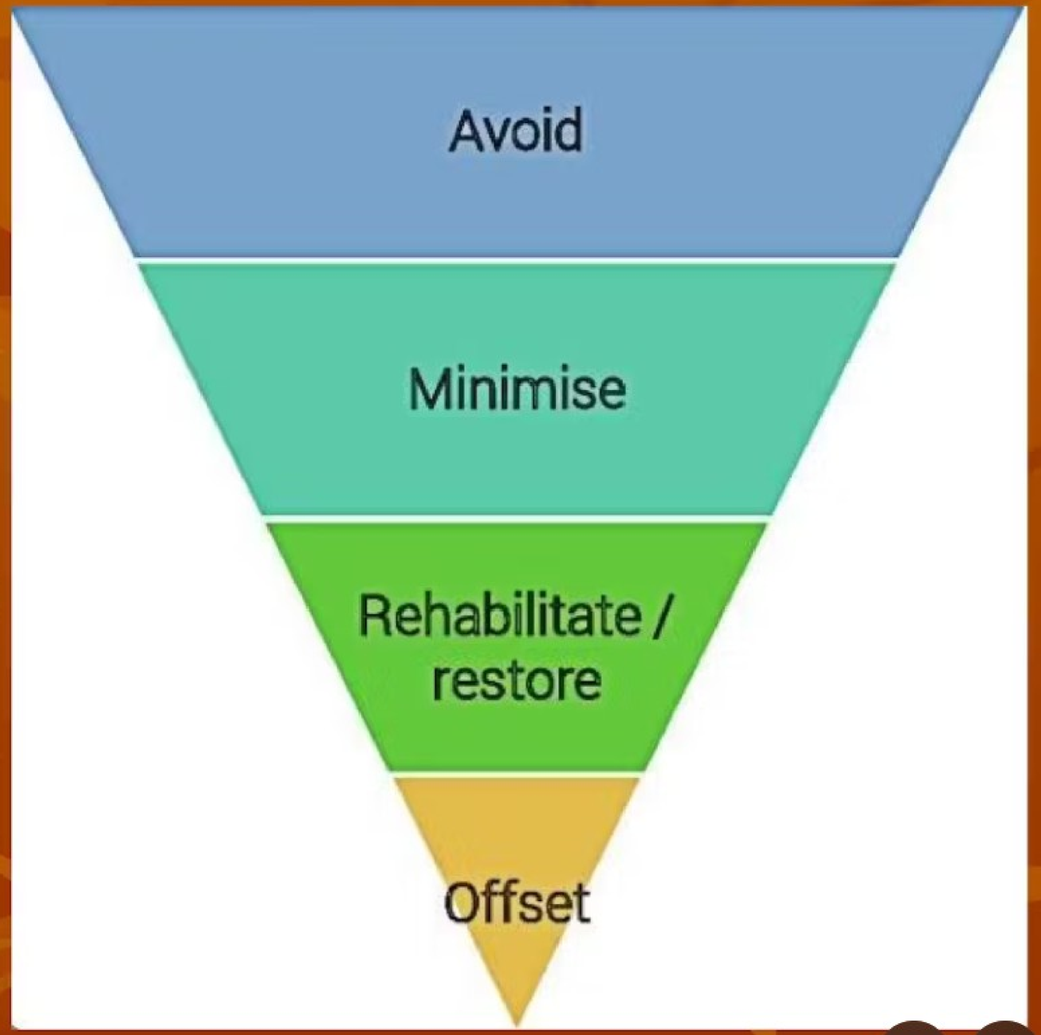
NPF4 - Mitigation Hierarchy

The mitigation hierarchy indicates the order in which the impacts of development should be considered and addressed:

- **Avoid** – by removing the impact at the outset
- **Minimise** – by reducing the impact
- **Restore** – by repairing damaged habitat
- **Offset** – by compensating for the residual impact that remains, with preference to on-site over off-site measures (a last resort)



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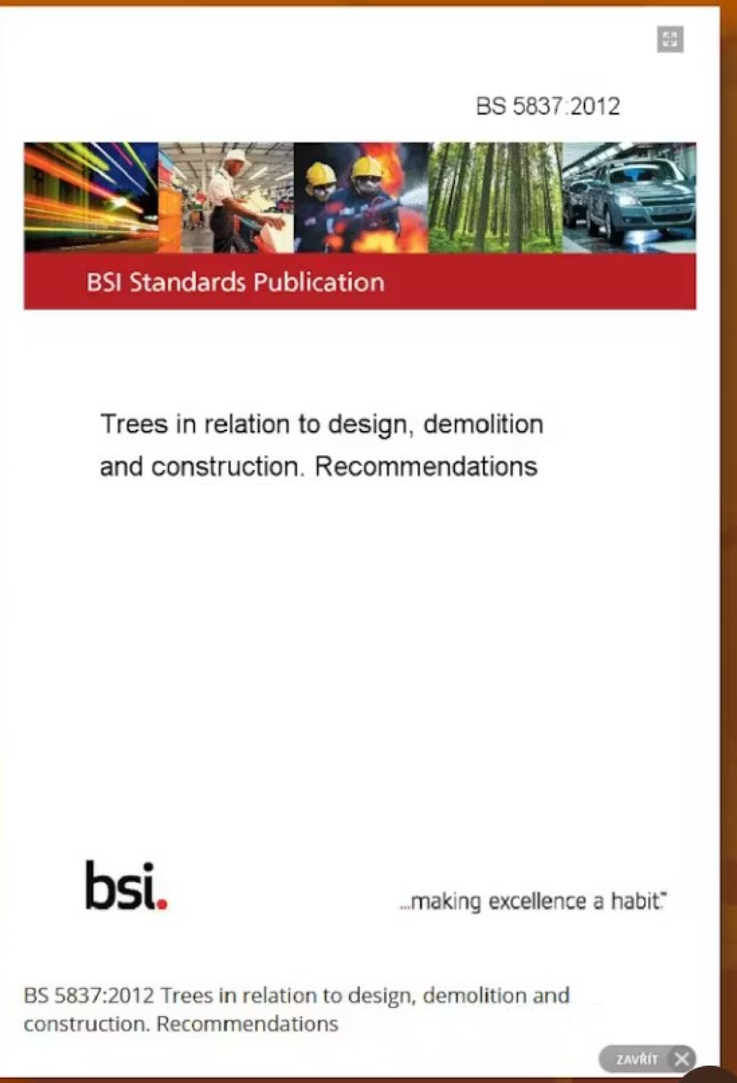
BS5837:2012

BS5837 (under revision) provides process and technical guidance for:

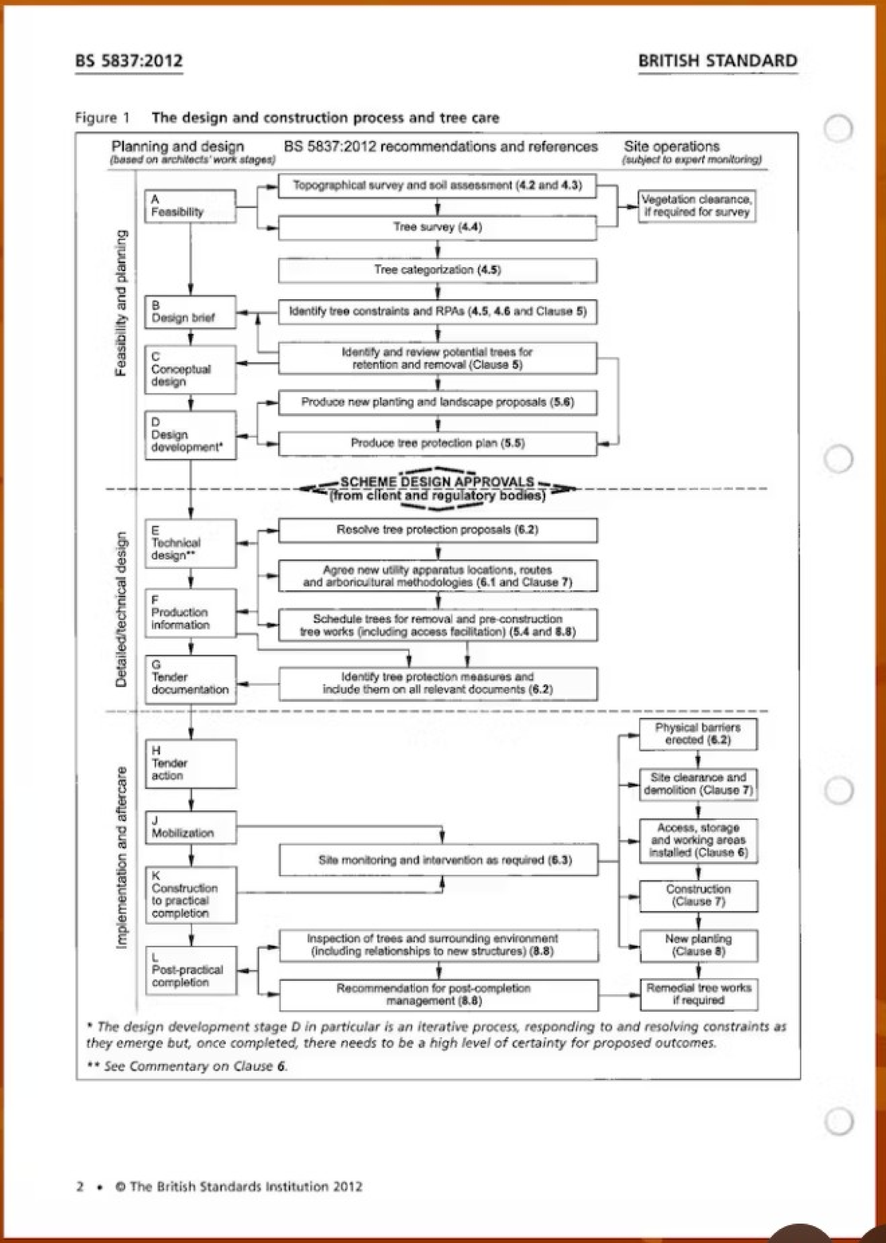
- All those with potential to impact trees in the design, development and construction process
- To assist decision making for the long term retention of trees (existing and proposed) on development sites
- To help achieve a harmonious and sustainable relationship between trees and structures



BS5837: Process

Three main phases:

- Feasibility and planning
- Detailed/technical design
- Implementation and aftercare



BS 5837:2012 BRITISH STANDARD

Figure 1 The design and construction process and tree care

* *The design development stage D in particular is an iterative process, responding to and resolving constraints as they emerge but, once completed, there needs to be a high level of certainty for proposed outcomes.*

** *See Commentary on Clause 6.*

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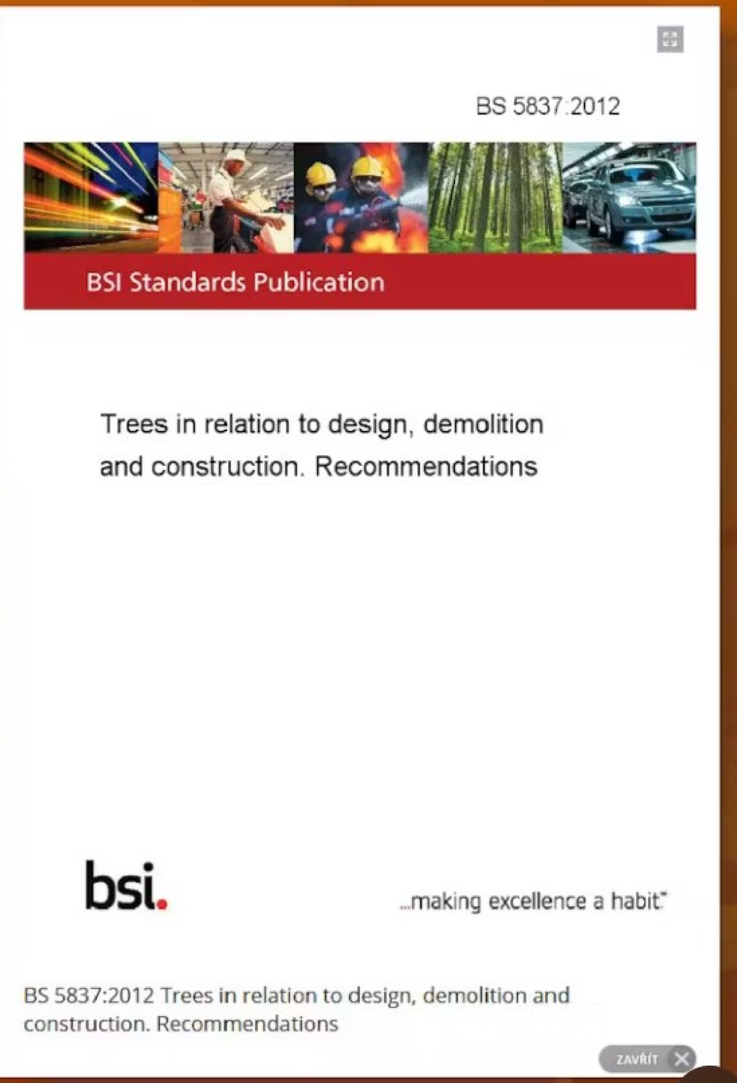
BS5837: The Tree Survey

Key Elements:

- Tree Constraints Plan (TCP)
- Tree survey schedule
- Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA)
- Tree Protection Plan (TPP)
- Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS)
- Site supervision record and sign off



Topographic Survey

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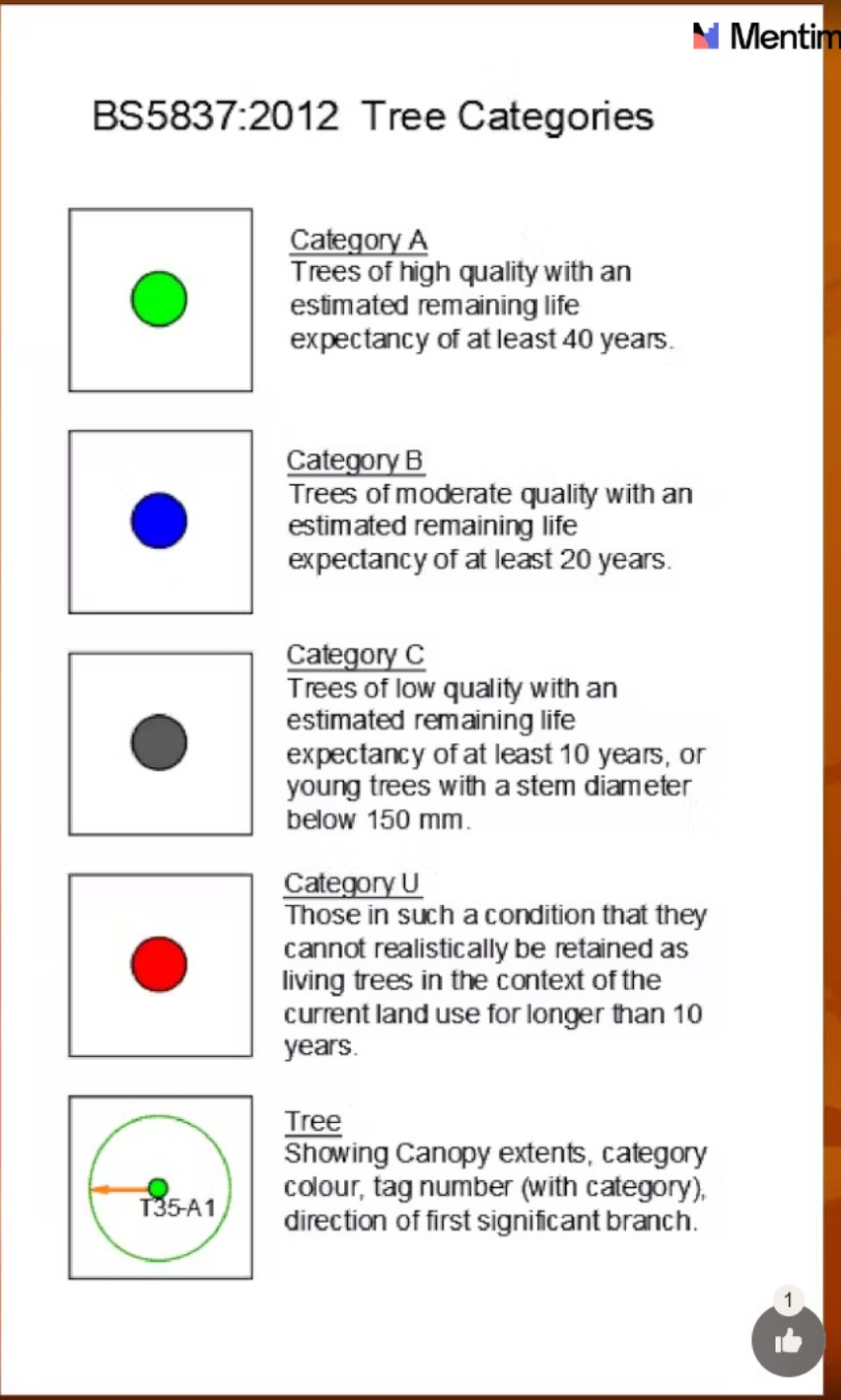
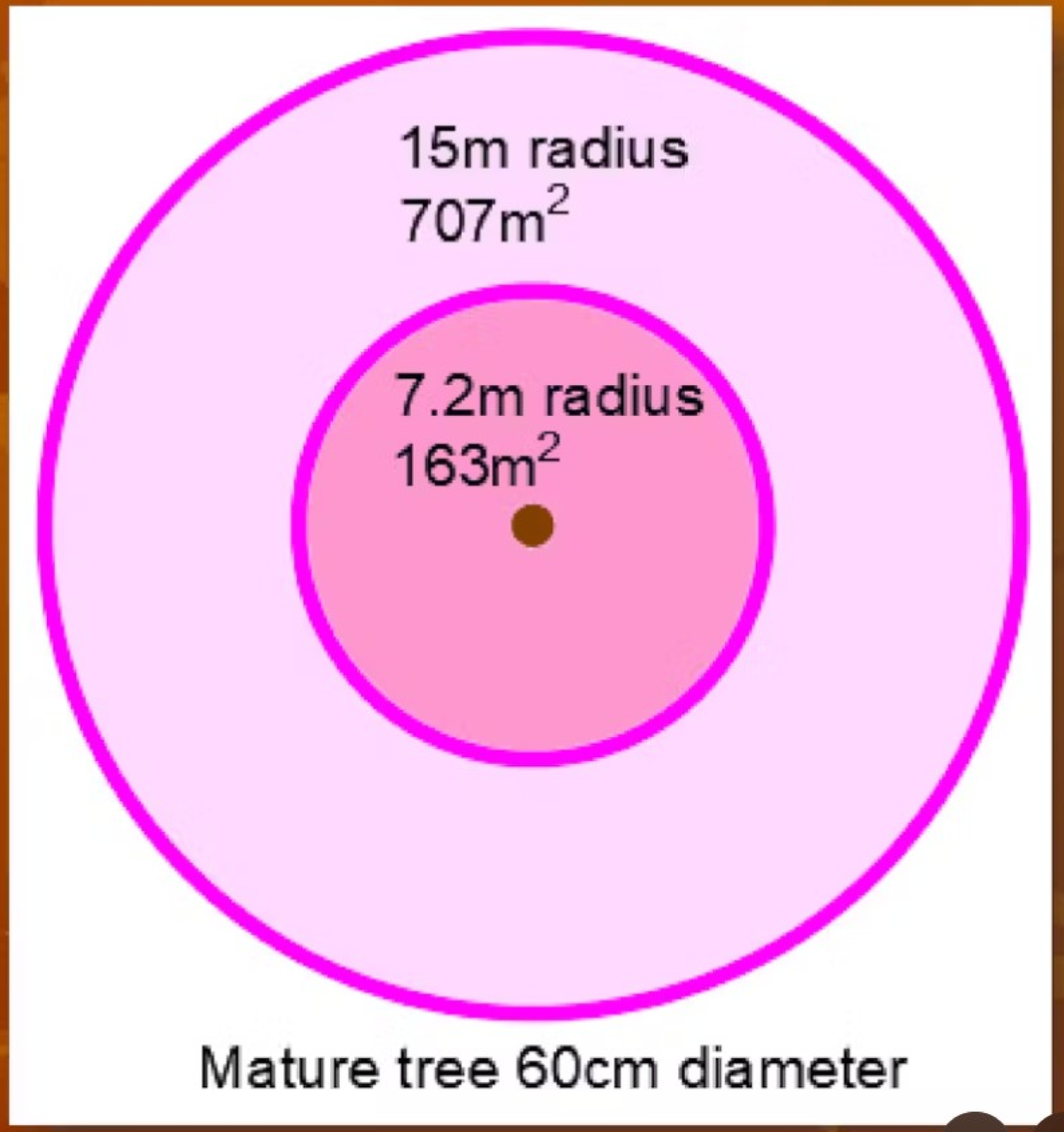
Tree Categories

- Tree quality assessment
- Plan legend
- Retain as many A and B categories
- Sub categories :
  - 1 Arboricultural
  - 2 Landscape
  - 3 Cultural/ conservation
- Category C, U (habitat value?!)
- Revised BS to have “V” category for Veteran trees - always A3
- Ancient woodlands - always A3



Root Protection Area (RPA)

- "Design layout tool" theoretical calculation
- 12x stem diameter - capped at 15m radius or 707m^2
- Multi stemmed combined formula
- Veteran/ancient 15x or 5m beyond canopy whichever is greater
- Minimum soil volume
- Does not allow for future growth
- Modified RPA
- Arboricultural expertise required



Tree Constraints (& Opportunities) Plan

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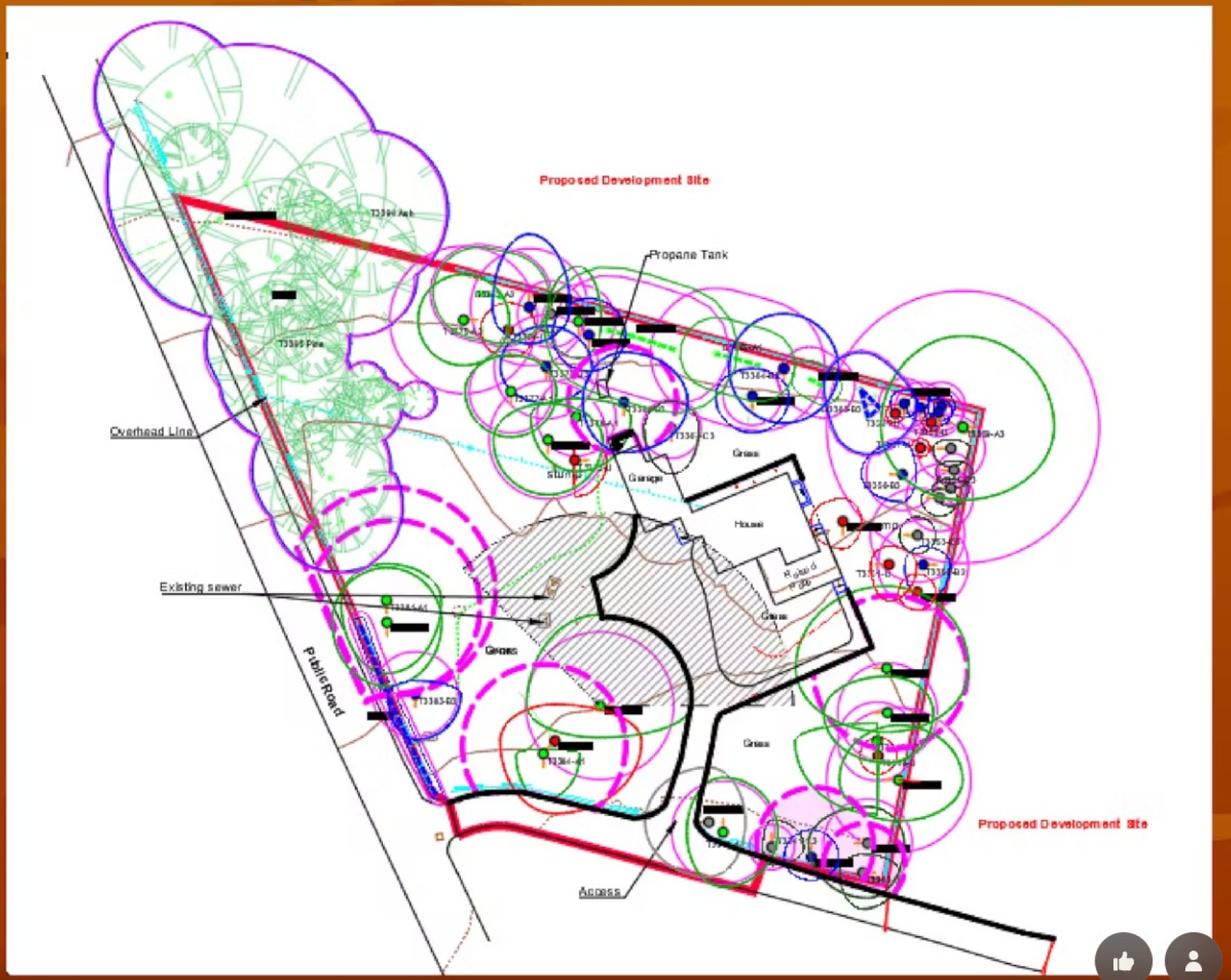
- Site boundary
- Existing site layout
- Tree categories
- Canopy extents
- Root protection areas (RPA)
- Shading (a good thing!)
- Habitat features/protected species

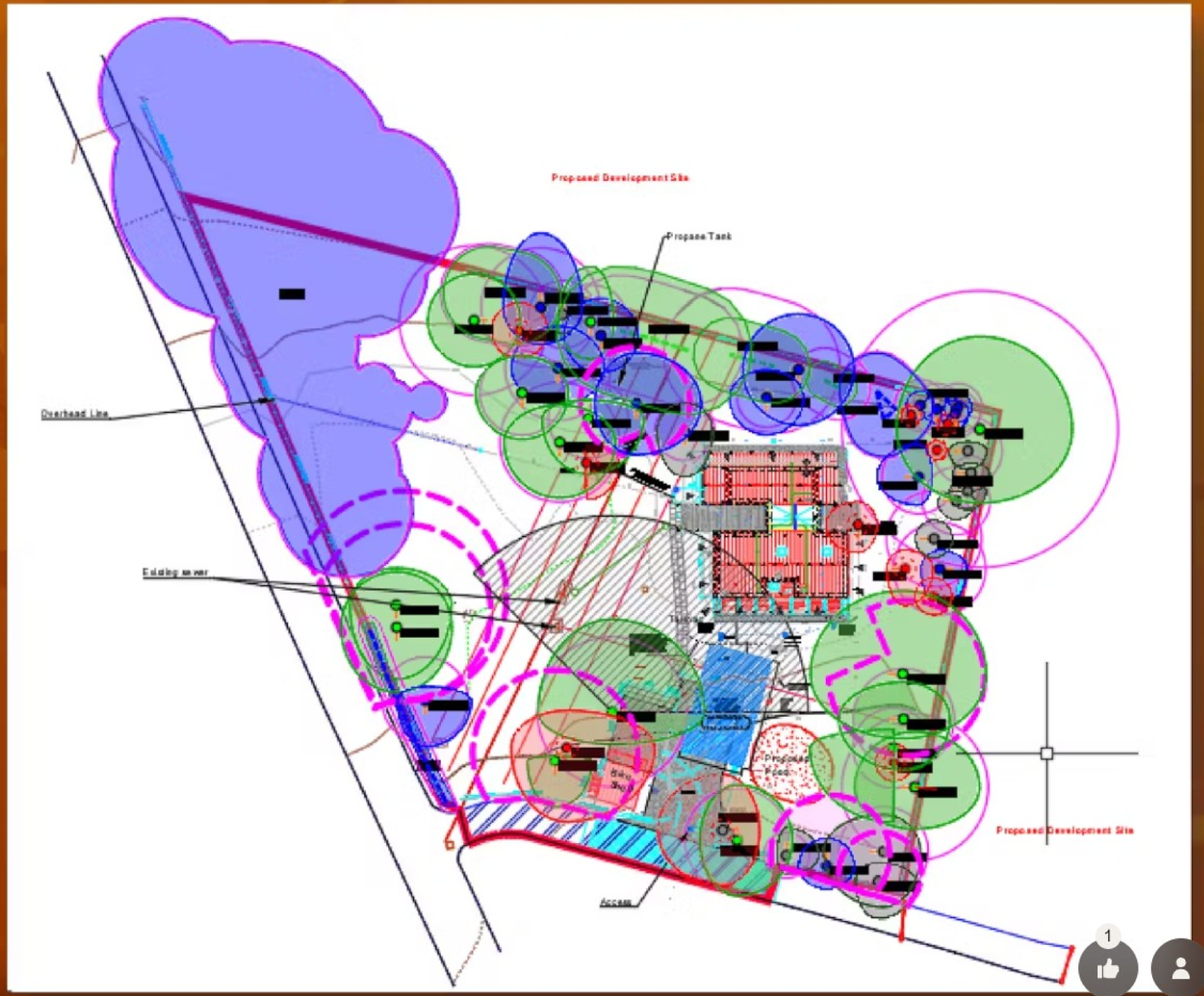


Tree Survey Schedule

Type	Tag no	Species Botanical (Common)	Stem Count	Diameter (mm)	Age Class	Ht (m)	*Ret. Category	Observations	Canopy Ht (m)	FSB	FSBB	N	E	S	W	Condition	Vitality	**LE	PRF (Bat)	*RPR (radius m)	Management Recommendations	Summary Action Pre AIA	Summary Action Post AIA
T	3339	Fraxinus excelsior (Ash)	1	385	Y	15	C3	Located in garden ground with access road south and house access to west around root zone. Earlier leaf loss than neighbour.	9	2	W	6	4	6	7	Moderate	Normal	20+	none/negligible	4.6	No Action	No Action	Remove
T	3340	Acer platanoides (Norway Maple)	1	470	Y	15	A2	No concerns	3	2	N	6	6	6	4	Good	Normal	40+	none/negligible	5.6	No Action	No Action	No Action
T	3341	Sorbus aucuparia (Rowan)	2	150,140	Y	11	C3	Small suppressed crown	1.5	2	N	3	4	2	1	Poor	Low	20+	none/negligible	2.5	Leave for wildlife, shorten lower branches.	Remedial	Remedial
T	3342	Thuja plicata (Western Red Cedar)	1	500	Y	11	B2	Multistemmed codominant at 1.3m all fused. No immediate concerns. Good habitat tree	1	2	N	3	3	3	3	Good	Normal	40+	Low	6.0	No Action	No Action	No Action
T	3343	Fraxinus excelsior (Ash)	1	350	Y	11	C3	Open water drain cut by developer on east root zone. No significant root damage apparent. Small crown and suspect chalara ash dieback. Abnormally small leaves to south, small diameter deadwood west. Low squat tree.	8	8	E	2	4	4	3	Poor	Low	10+	none/negligible	4.2	Reinspect when in full leaf. Further investigation required re confirmation of Chalara Ash Die back	Reinspect	Reinspect
T	3344	Fraxinus excelsior (Ash)	1	405	Y	15	C3	Open water drain as above located within root zone. Severed root diameter more than 25mm. Potential Chalara ash dieback. Pruning wounds east occluded well. Broken branches east, dead branches west.	6	5	W	4	4	6	7	Moderate	Low	20+	none/negligible	4.9	Reinspect when in full leaf. Further investigation required re confirmation of Chalara Ash Die back	Reinspect	Reinspect
T	3345	Fraxinus excelsior (Ash)	1	660	M	19	A1	Open ditch as above cut at distance 2.4m from main stem (RPA 7.9m). Severed roots apparent greater than 25mm diameter. Cut on leeward side (east). Codominant stems with stable union. Mechanically broken damaged branches south and east most likely as a result of drain construction. Elongated branch west. Dead branches upper crown. Fungal body found on the ground near this tree Inonotus hispidus (Shaggy Bracket) common on ash.	9	5	W	6	7	5	7	Moderate	Normal	40+	Low	7.9	Reinspection in full leaf to assess health. Report concerns re future stability and health to Dundee Council and developer. Prune dwd and remove elongated branch to natural target on parent stem. Look for evidence of fungal bodies on stem and limbs when carrying out tree work.	Remedial	Remedial
T	3346	Larix X eurolepis (Hybrid Larch)	1	300	MA	11	U	Suppressed small crown, low crown density	3	3	S	2	2	2	2	Poor	Low	10+	none/negligible	3.6	Remove on silvicultural grounds.	Remove	Remove
T	3347	Salix fragilis (Crack Willow)	1	360	M	5	A3	Low weeping tree with broken top with potential for columnar decay. Swept low stem with elongated branches west. Sounding internal basal cavity forming. Transverse bark cracking on compression side east main stem. Branch rot holes east at 1.5 m and pruning wounds. Excellent habitat tree,	0.5	1.7	W	2	0	8	9	Good	Normal	20+	Medium/High	4.3	Retain as wildlife feature and restrict occupancy around and underneath tree.	No Action	No Action
T	3348	Betula pendula (Silver Birch)	1	455	MA	14	A2	Branch rot hole east 1.6m - habitat potential. Nice tree in landscape. No concerns	1.5	3	W	4	5	6	7	Good	Normal	40+	Low	5.5	No Action	No Action	No Action
T	3349	Betula pendula (Silver Birch)	1	665	LM	18	A1	Small wound east base decay forming. Elongated branch west, pruning wound slow occlusion. Taphrina betulina present upper crown (looks like bird nest - not signficiant to safety) No immediate concerns Stunning landscape tree.	1.7	2	W	9	9	7	10	Good	Normal	20+	Low	8.0	No Action	No Action	No Action
T	3350	X Cupressocyparis leylandii (Leyland Cypress)	1	560		17	U	Codominant stems with acute union, unstable. Low crown density, exudate south stem, Neighbour exhibits past failure of codominant stem with included bar	1.3							Very poor	Low	<10	Medium/High	6.7	Remove to ground level	Remove	Remove
T	3351	X Cupressocyparis leylandii (Leyland Cypress)	1	790	M	18	U	3 codominant stems acute unions with potentially included bark. Upper crown exhibits past failure. Low crown density. Soil grade change due to patio extension				2	3	4	2	Poor	Low	20+	Medium/High	9.5	Remove to ground level past failures and low crown density and target	Remove	Remove

Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA)

- Review proposed layout
- Assess impacts to trees
- Design integrates trees?
- Mitigation Hierarchy?
- Utilities – impacts?
- Site set up
- Site access



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(Draft) Tree Protection Plan

- Protection measures
- Precautionary measures
- Finalise/fine tune
- Method statement
- Site supervision and sign off
- Planning conditions - enforcement

Impacts from Construction Activities

Impacts from Construction Activities

Site Guidance Notes 1 to 12

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Robust protection

Opportunities for Expansion

- Planting plan
- Plant specification schedule
- Tree species suited to site
- Competency of tree planters
- Post planting maintenance programme
- Planning conditions - enforcement

Positive Outcomes

The Seed Eco Build c-David-Barbour

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Summing up….

- The urban forest delivers on many NPF4 policies….
- Scottish Government must support planning teams to enable effective delivery of statutory outcomes for protection and expansion of the urban forest – resources, training, in house expertise.
- Leverage of Policy 3 Biodiversity and Policy 6 Forestry Woodland and Trees
- The Mitigation Hierarchy underpins the NPF4 protection framework
- BS5837 best practice key outputs enables informed decisions around trees
- Consistency and understanding of NPF4 policy and BS5837 best practice can empower planning teams in Scotland
- Planning conditions and enforcement!
- Site visits…with the Project Arboriculturalist!
- You have the power to make a difference and help tackle the climate and nature crises!

Useful Links & References

- BS5837:2012 Trees in relation to design demolition and construction (under review)
- BS8545:2014 Trees from nursery to independence in the landscape
- BS3998:2010 Tree work - recommendations
- Manual for managing trees on development sites v3 Site Guidance Notes 1 to 12
- Tree Species Selection for Green Infrastructure (TDAG)
- Trees in Hard Landscapes a Guide for Delivery (TDAG)
- First Steps in Trees and new Developments (TDAG)
- First Steps in Canopy cover guides (TDAG)
- TPD A Guide for Delivery Section Two: Planning the urban forest: how to develop a Strategy that delivers (TDAG)
- National Soil Map of Scotland
- Forest Research ESC
- Forest Research Pests and Diseases
- TreeAlert - Forest Research
- Plant Health Scotland
- Biosecurity best practice Arb Association
- Arboricultural Association - Arb Knowledge Course Detail
- Woodland Trust : recognising and categorising ancient and other veteran trees (2024)
- Woodland Trust Ancient Tree Inventory (includes access to hybrid historical maps)
- NatureScot Ancient Woodland Inventory (opendata)
- Scotlands Environment Web
- Land Information Search
- Google Maps – aerial and street views of site
- Developing with Nature guidance | NatureScot

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Thank You For Listening - Any Questions?

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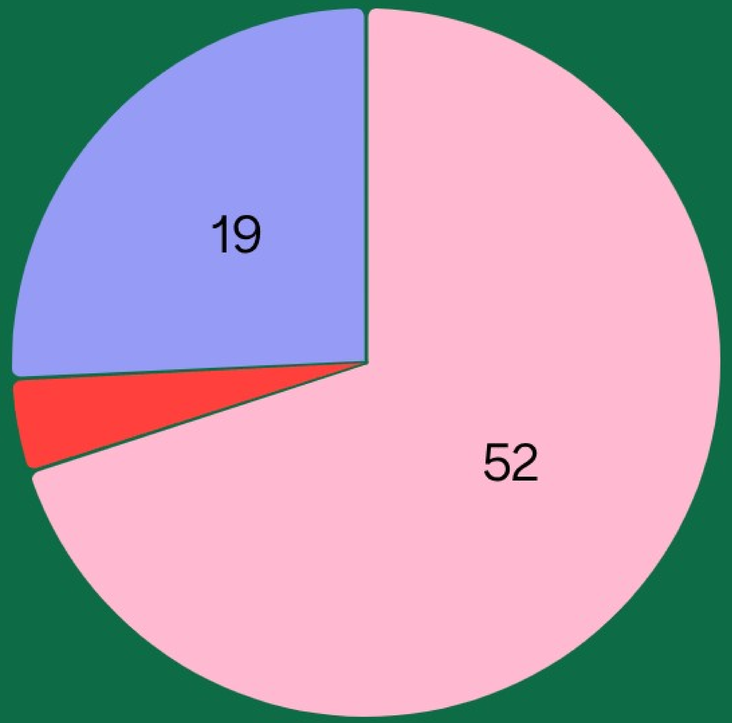
Can you navigate the tree survey and tree plans presented in arboricultural report easily?



52	Yes
3	No
19	Don't know / Not applicable

4 74

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What is the key information you want to see in reports and how can it be made more accessible to planners?

The impact of the development to trees and woodland, not just what's there.

Ways in which trees can be integrated with buildings

Assessment of constraints affecting spreads of RPAs

Stronger focus on biodiversity required. Tree condition sometimes misleading to developer and planners

Accurate survey information .

engaged with specialist early and design being submitted in line with mitigation hierarchy

Can the trees be retained as part of the development?

Canopy and RPA information. This critical information sometimes is omitted.

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What is the key information you want to see in reports and how can it be made more accessible to planners?

non-biased assessment of mitigation hierarchy?

Root protection zones, and how they can be mapped around drainage/SUDS

Clarity on enforcement (must have, not nice to have). Insurance ramifications/risk reduction of trees near buildings.

Sometimes tree surveys are seen by agents as stand alone docs and I Dont always get a combined plan which shows all tree survey data and all development works

Constraints and protection on same plan

Are diseased trees noted? Or trees that require surgery to make them safer?

Integrating trees into streetscapes and incorporating them into urban design.

Good summary of significance of trees to be lost and what would be needed in amendment to allow them to be retained

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What is the key information you want to see in reports and how can it be made more accessible to planners?

More clarity on what is mitigation (making up for impacts) and what is enhancement within a scheme.

long-term species suitability matched to climate predictions

Need better info on how the development has been designed to take account of the survey.

Solutions that do not involve 3D grid every time trees are in the way

future maintenance and protection

TPO information; species; is it native woodland or ornamental?

Consistency in quality and presentation of reports is not great

Plans showing trees at maturity

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What is the key information you want to see in reports and how can it be made more accessible to planners?

tree categorisation, tree RPAs impacted, tree ID nos - all tying up and shown on a site plan.

Include disturbance related to services and SUDS measures (often missed)

Agree most seem to be standalone docs and not clearly related to the development design

Recommendations on appropriate species for replanting specific to the area/climate

Age of trees and what should be done to protect them.

Have impact not advising to develop the site, no impact, or impact but with mitigation

What is the cumulative impact of the loss in the wider area eg neighbourhood and beyond the site boundary

How the tree survey has influenced the design and layout of a develoment - often comes after the design

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What is the key information you want to see in reports and how can it be made more accessible to planners?

wether tree-roots are safe to be near development and what would ensure they don't damage development?

Links to temporary works not just final design

RPAs and other mitigation measures being bespoke to the site as opposed to cut-and-pasted from a technical standard document.

Here's hoping BS5837 revision is free or at least more widely accessible to a wide range of planning users

Clarity regarding development impact as opposed to "woodland management"

integrating trees into play spaces

More integration with proposed development

Young trees - have seen that these can go which sits at odds with what presenter says. Is there guidance on how these should be kept? Feels like they should be if possible

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What is the key information you want to see in reports and how can it be made more accessible to planners?

Recommend more appropriate replacements

Root protection areas, summary of health information

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How can 3D visualisation of trees and design proposals assist you to understand extents of existing canopy cover?

Easier to identify trees on site

Links to height of development, access routes clearance heights, shadow casting

Does any of the satellite date help here?

We usually get the bare minimum and never seen this included

Could help highlight potential conflicts before visit can be made to the site

I have not seen this, but often use 3D feature on google maps, so an enhanced version of that showing proposal would be very useful

This would also help in visualizing the setting for new layouts.

Give a good overview of the site and the surrounding landscape area.

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How can 3D visualisation of trees and design proposals assist you to understand extents of existing canopy cover?

It can help to imagine the development in whole (including the scale of trees and how the space would feel).

Forage cover, shading, layering, visual impacts/benefits (wrt 3-30-300), tree age layering, other layering e.g. shrubs and ground cover/flora to accompany, etc.

3d visuals (models) might become too busy but gives an indication of new setting and visual screening

Provides a clearer indication of the trees relationship with proposed development.

Can assist with visualisation of buildings, key views and trees

Impact on light level on surrounding landscape and any buildings

Easier to illustrate the visual buffer that can be provided by tree belts as well as highlight the visual prominence (or otherwise) or certain trees.

A good site plan should be sufficient.

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How can 3D visualisation of trees and design proposals assist you to understand extents of existing canopy cover?

Overshadowing, siting in relation to fenestration/views which may influence future retention of trees close to buildings.

Show historic avenues and access into the development sites to retrain attractive routes. I've s been n a developer remove one side of a historic avenue .

3D visuals are often misleading

What the glare from new houses will be on existing nearby housing if the trees removed

Not convinced of its value

2 20

Forth Climate Forest and Canopy Analysis of New Developments

Forth Climate Forest

Guy Harewood
Development Officer

UNIVERSITY of STIRLING

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BE THE DIFFERENCE

What is the Forth Climate Forest?

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UNIVERSITY of STIRLING

A tree planting initiative to combat the twin crises of climate change and biodiversity loss. Focussed on 4 main themes:

COMMUNITIES	**Increase knowledge and appreciation of the importance of trees**
CANOPY	**Increase urban tree canopy to 20%**
CONNECTIVITY	**Create 60 new woodland connections**
CARBON	**Plant 16 million trees (8000 hectares)** **Increase overall woodland cover by 3%**

The Canopy Cover of England's Towns and Cities: baselining and setting targets to improve human health and well-being

BE THE DIFFERE

What is the Forth Climate Forest?

A partnership initiative

Hosted by **University of Stirling**, through **Scotland's International Environment Centre.**

Funded by the Woodland Trust, Scottish Forestry and Clackmannanshire, Falkirk & Stirling Councils.

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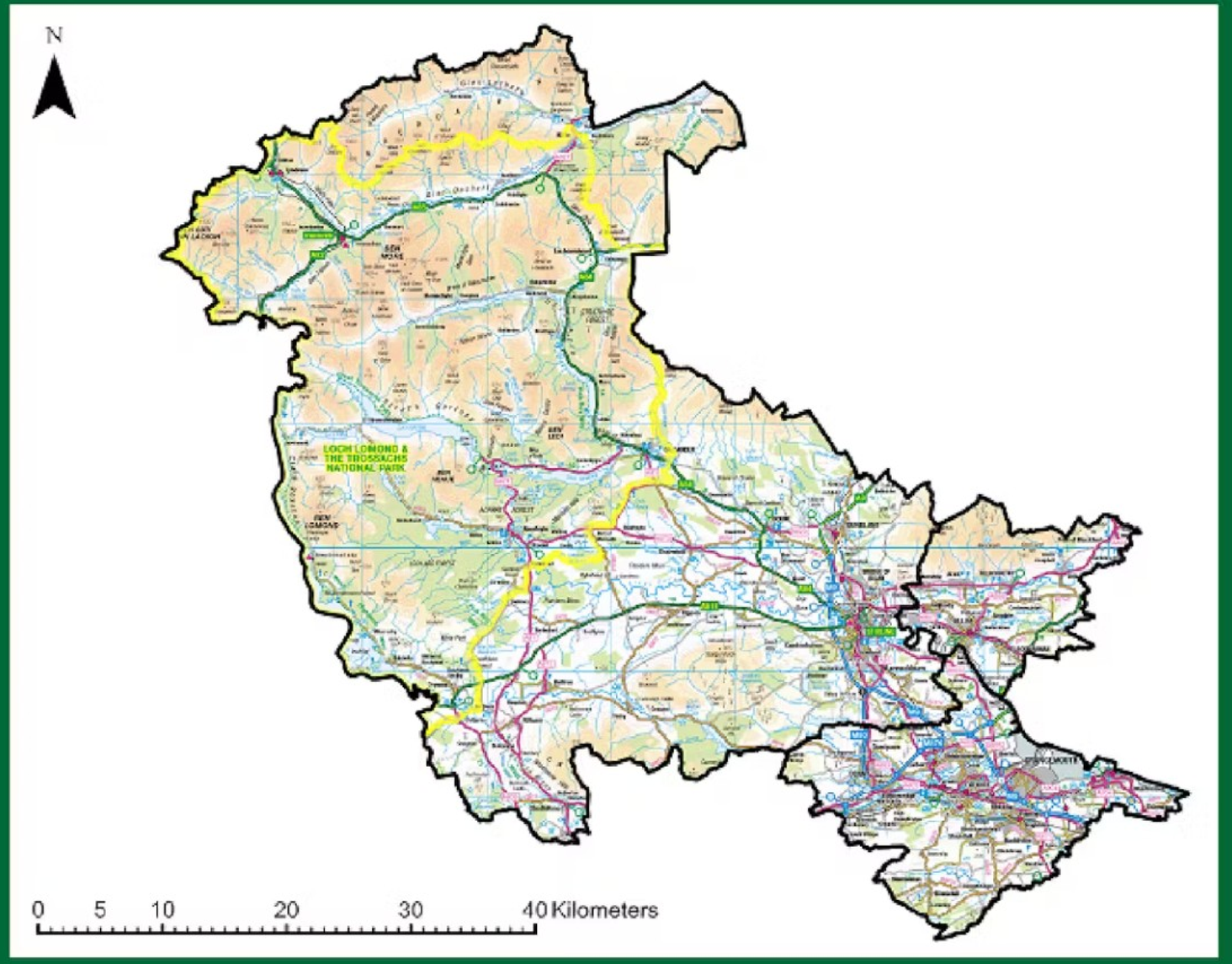
Where is the Forth Climate Forest?

Stirling, Clackmannanshire and Falkirk Local Authority areas



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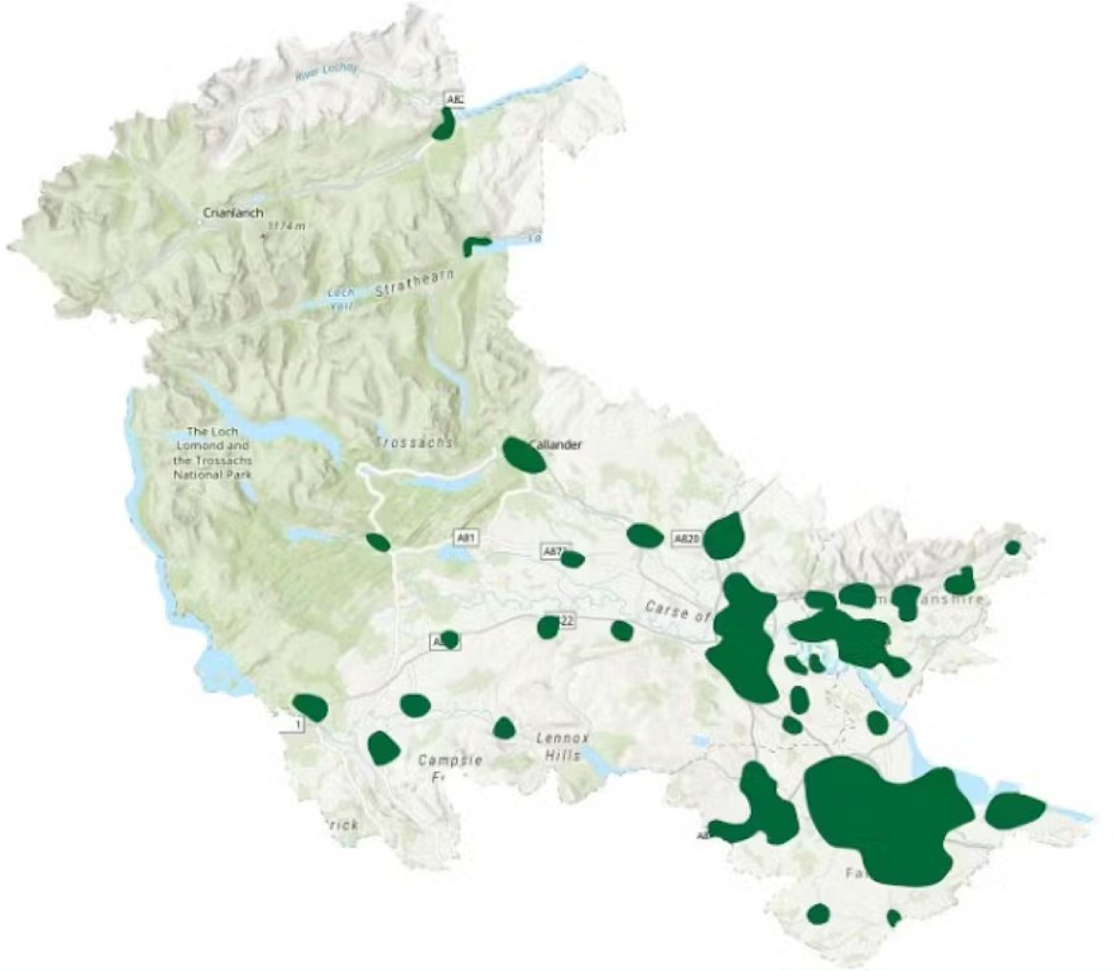
BE THE DIFFERE

Where is the Forth Climate Forest?

Canopy & Community – tree planting in urban areas



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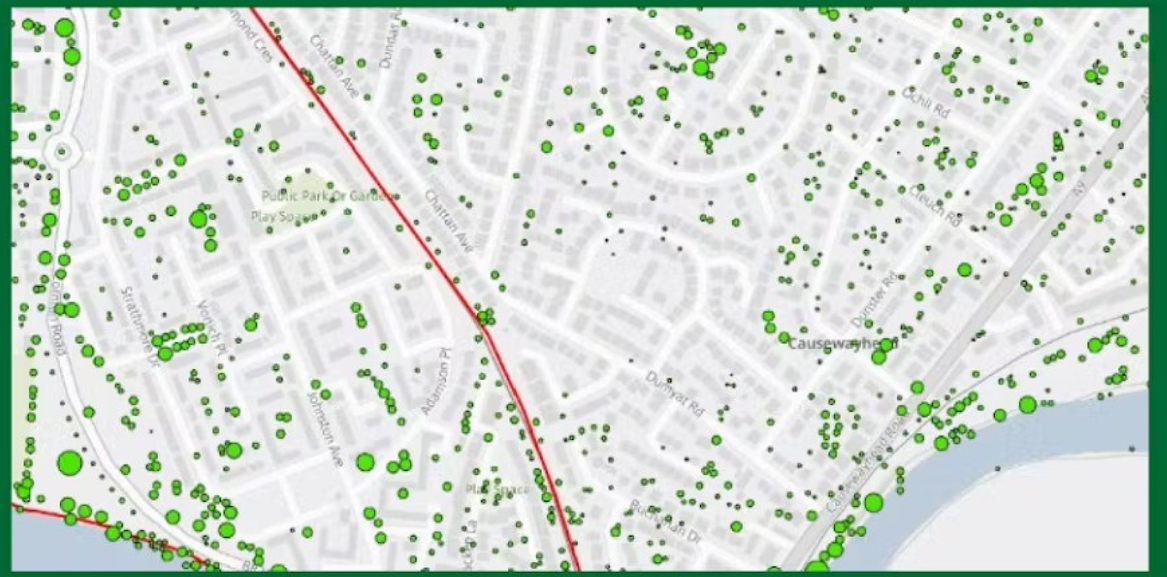
Defining the urban tree canopy



Canopy Targets

- Increase urban tree canopy to 20%
- Increase knowledge and appreciation within communities of the importance of trees

Canopy Baseline

- Develop an AI model to identify and quantify trees in urban areas and green spaces.
- Variable
- As low as 2% in some areas

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Increasing the urban tree canopy

Delivering Change

- Working with partners
- Empowering communities
- Integrating with Plans, Policies and Strategies

Role of Planning

- Keen to see FCF objectives included in local planning policy.
- Is tree canopy cover of 20% or 30% feasible?

Cornwall Council Policy G3 – 15%
Oxford County Council Policy 21 & 22 – up to 30%
Birmingham Urban Forest Master Plan – aim to increase tree canopy

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Canopy Analysis of new developments

Clackmannanshire, Falkirk and Stirling

Forth Climate Forest

Communities - Canopy - Connectivity - Carbon

Green Action Trust

Future Woodlands Scotland

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Site	Name	Planning Details
Clackmannanshire		
1	Lower Mill Street Tillicoultry	20/00204/FULL 74 house units
2	Former Forth Valley College, Branshill Road, Sauchie	19/00214/FULL 149 house units
Falkirk		
3	Rosebank, Dunipace	P/17/0786/FUL 113 house / flat units
4	Crawfield Road, Bo'Ness	P/22/0009/FUL 227 house units
Stirling		
5	Newpark Farm	15/00669/FUL 185 house units
6	Cambusbarron South	19/00462/MSC 265 house units

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1: Desk based analysis of development proposals

Site number	Site name	Area of site (sq. m)	Area of existing canopy cover (sq. m)	% of site that is existing canopy cover
1	Lower Mill Street Tillicoultry	29,239.44	244.91	0.84
2	Former Forth Valley College	54,535.04	68.52	0.13
3	Rosebank, Dunipace	48,915.09	34.87	0.07
4	Crawfield Road, Bo'Ness	120,475.03	153.04	0.13
5	Newpark Farm	82,460.49	127.27	0.15
6	Cambusbarron South	139,166.00	6,292.87	4.52

Site number	% of site that is proposed canopy cover (from landscape drawings)	% of site that is proposed canopy cover (assuming mature tree size)	Number of trees
1	5.10	24.00	164
2	2.32	15.47	180
3	5.09	10.26	93
4	4.97	20.63	217
5	10.66	23.03	419
6	6.38	18.11	351

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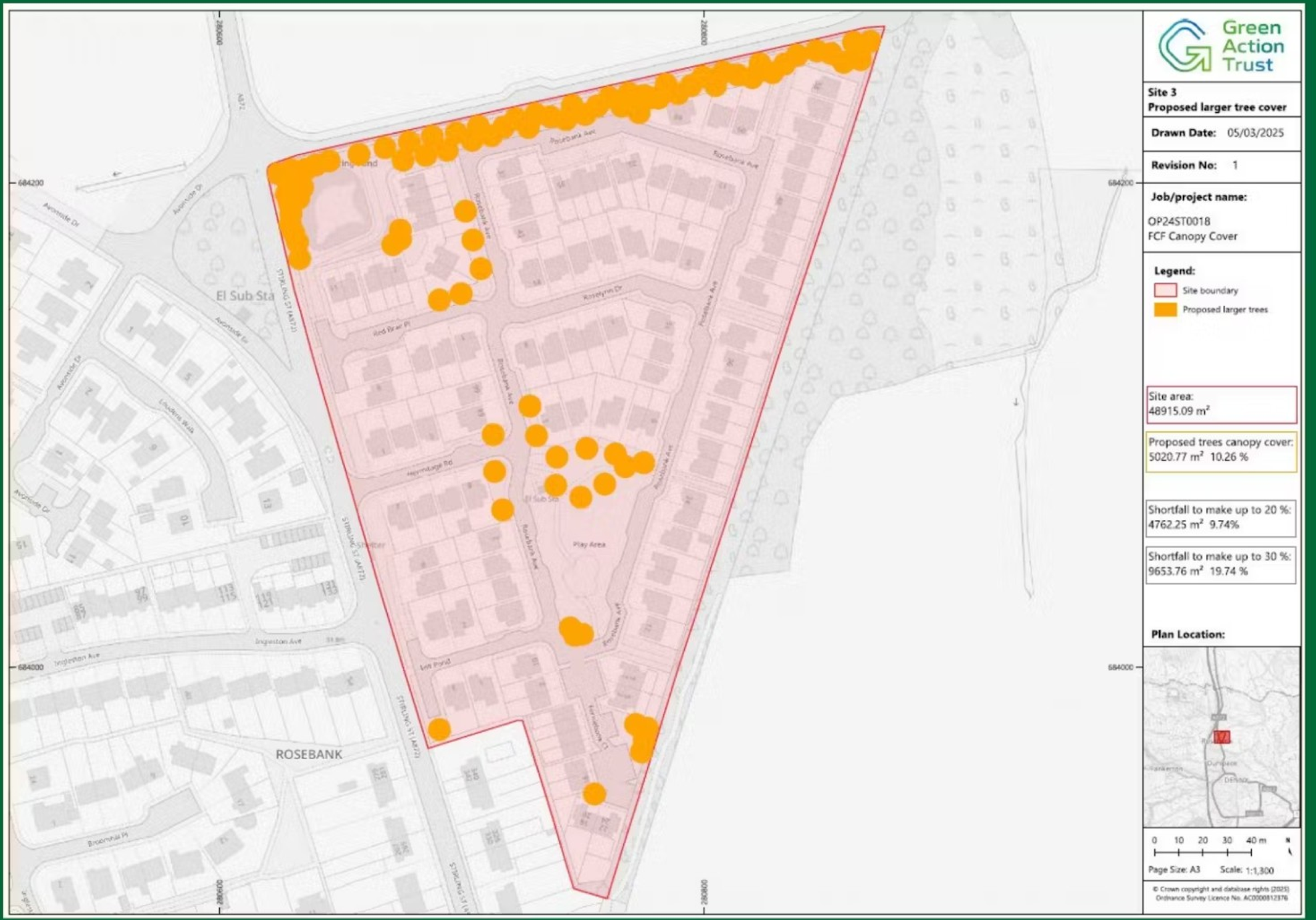

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Green Action Trust

Site 5
Proposed larger tree cover

Drawn Date: 05/03/2025

Revision No: 1

Job/project name:

OP24ST0018
FCF Canopy Cover

Legend:

- Site boundary
- Proposed larger trees

Site area:
82460.49 m²

Proposed trees canopy cover:
18992.86 m² 23.03 %

Shortfall to make up to 20 %:
0.00 m² 0.00 %

Shortfall to make up to 30 %:
5745.29 m² 6.97 %

Plan Location:

0 20 40 60 m

Page Size: A3 Scale: 1:1,750

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2: Achieving 20% and 30% canopy cover

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To increase canopy cover to 20% of site:

Site number	Area needed	% needed	No. of 3m wide canopy trees needed	No. of 4m wide canopy trees needed	No. of 5m wide canopy trees needed	No. of 9.4m wide canopy trees needed
1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	2469.44	4.53	349.35	196.51	125.77	35.28
3	4762.25	9.74	673.72	378.97	242.54	68.03
4	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6	2629.87	1.89	372.05	209.28	133.94	37.57

To increase canopy cover to 30% of site:

Site number	Area needed	% needed	No. of 3m wide canopy trees needed	No. of 4m wide canopy trees needed	No. of 5m wide canopy trees needed	No. of 9.4m wide canopy trees needed
1	1754.26	6.00	248.18	139.60	89.34	25.06
2	7922.94	14.53	1120.87	630.49	403.51	113.18
3	9653.76	19.74	1365.73	768.22	491.66	137.91
4	11283.04	9.37	1596.22	897.88	574.64	161.19
5	5745.29	6.97	812.79	457.20	292.61	82.08
6	16546.47	11.89	2340.85	1316.73	842.70	236.38

Handbook of UK Urban Tree Allometric Equations and Size Characteristics (Version 1.4)

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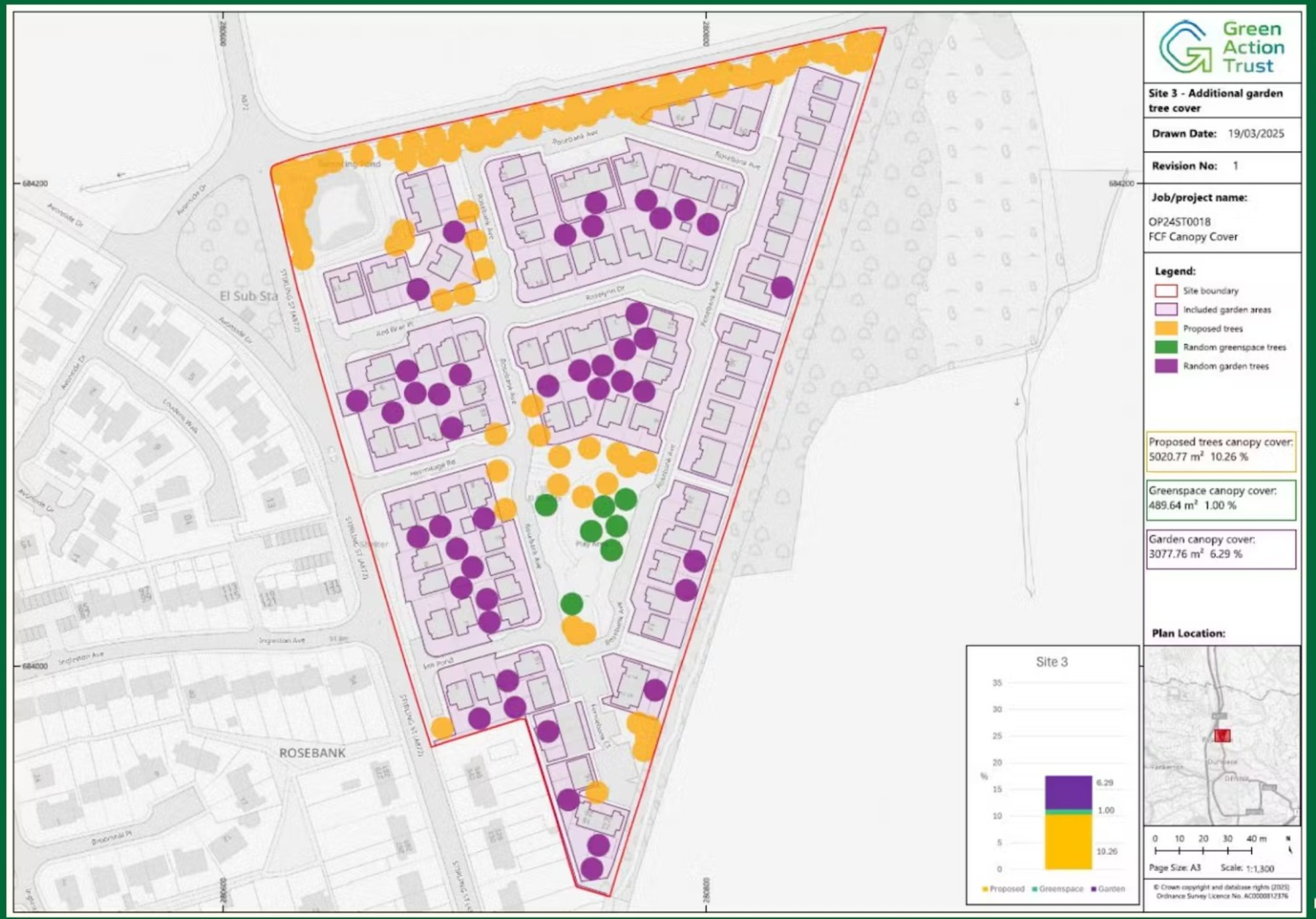

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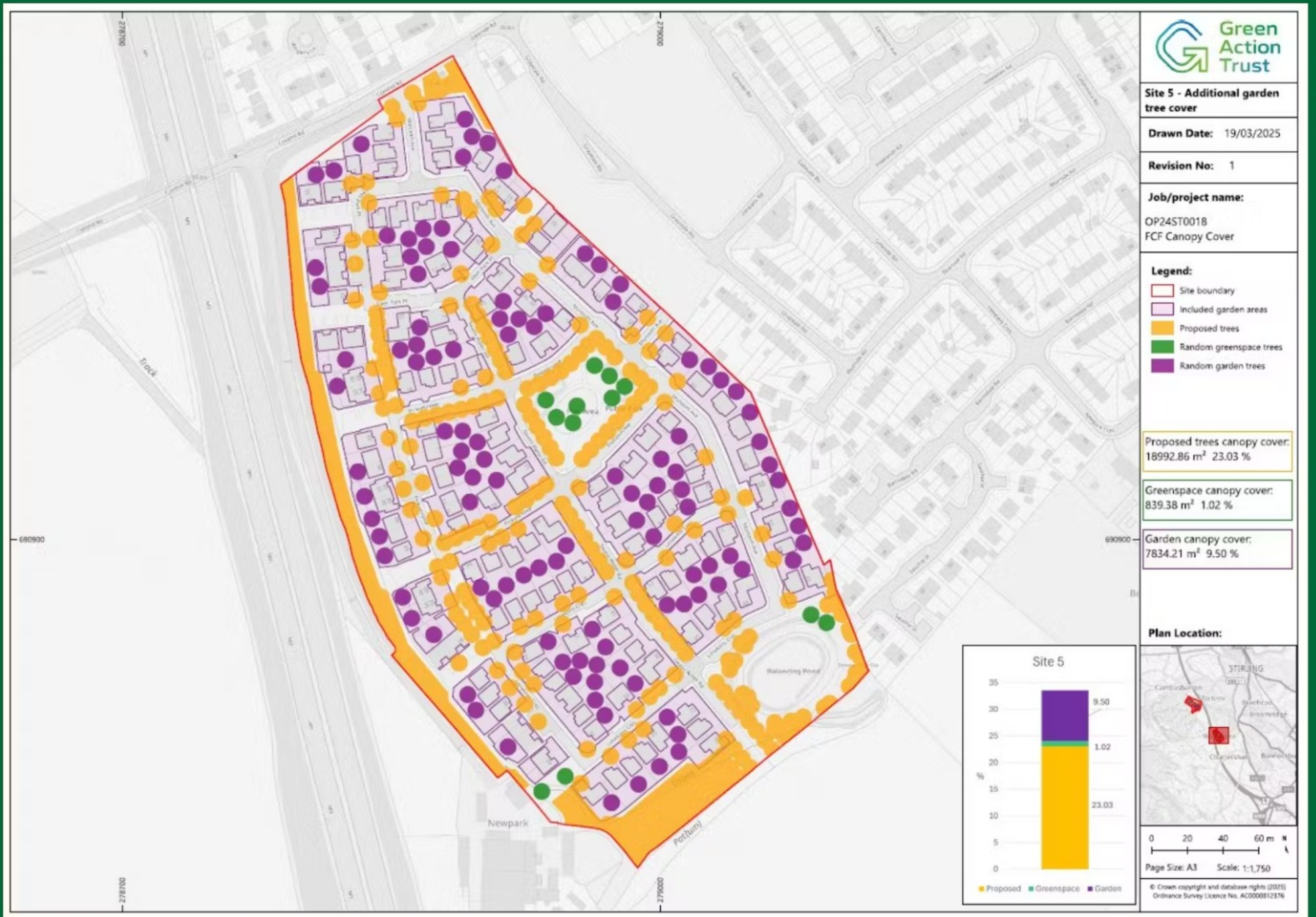

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If all trees from development proposals were planted, sites 1, 4 and 6 meet 20% canopy cover.

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Additional tree planting in greenspaces and gardens is required for other sites to reach the thresholds, though sites 1, 2 and 3 cannot reach 30% canopy cover using this methodology

	% of site			
Site number	Proposed canopy cover	Greenspace trees cover	Garden trees cover	Total
1	24.00	0.48	4.55	29.02
2	15.47	1.67	10.52	27.66
3	10.26	1.00	6.29	17.56
4	20.63	4.12	6.04	30.80
5	23.03	1.02	9.50	33.55
6	18.11	8.44	8.75	35.30

	No. of 9.4m wide trees		
Site number	Proposed, random and garden	Shortfall for 20%	Shortfall for 30%
1	21.00	None needed	5
2	95	None needed	19
3	51.00	18	87
4	175.00	None needed	None needed
5	124.00	None needed	None needed
6	341.00	None needed	None needed

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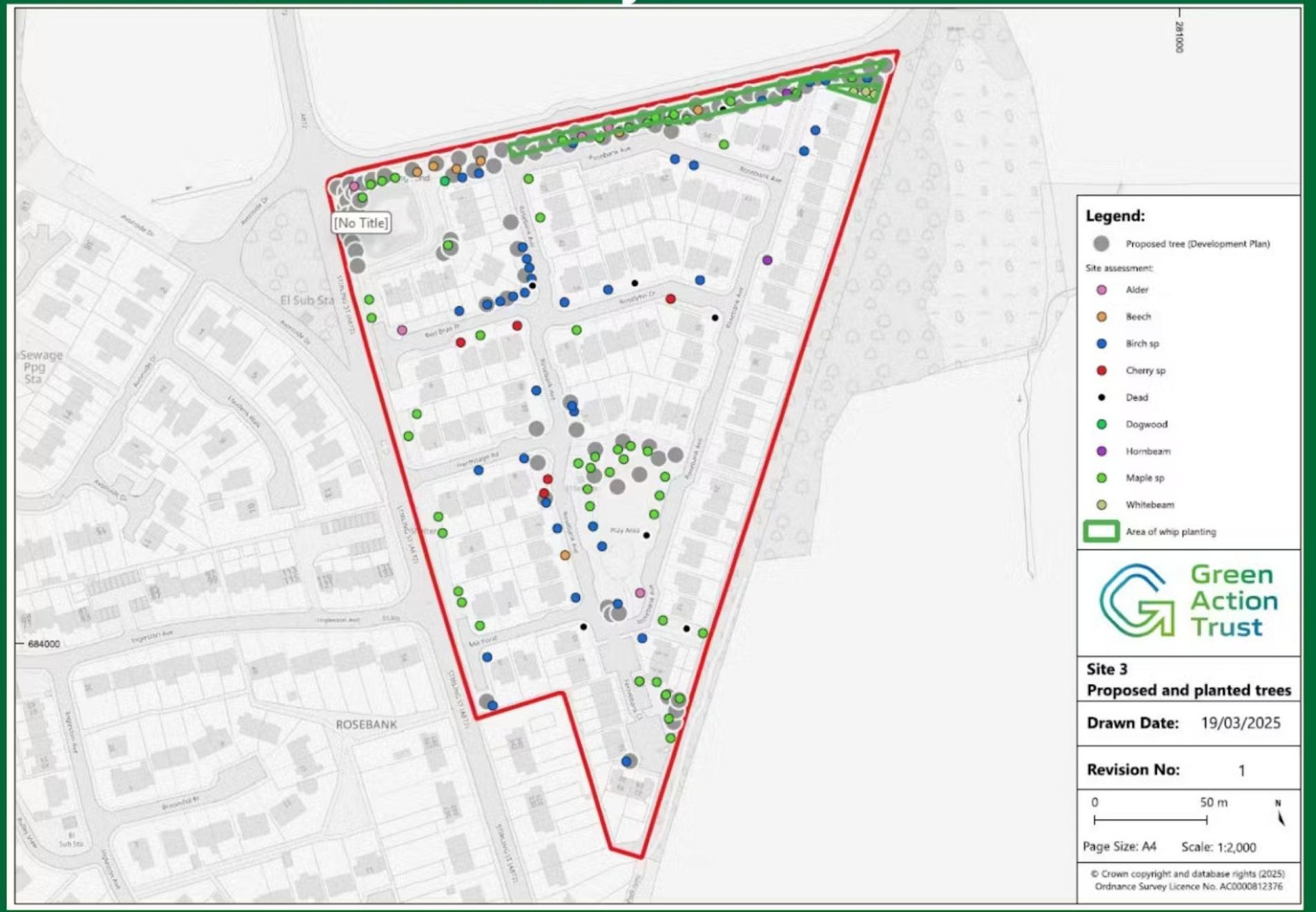
3: Trees from site surveys



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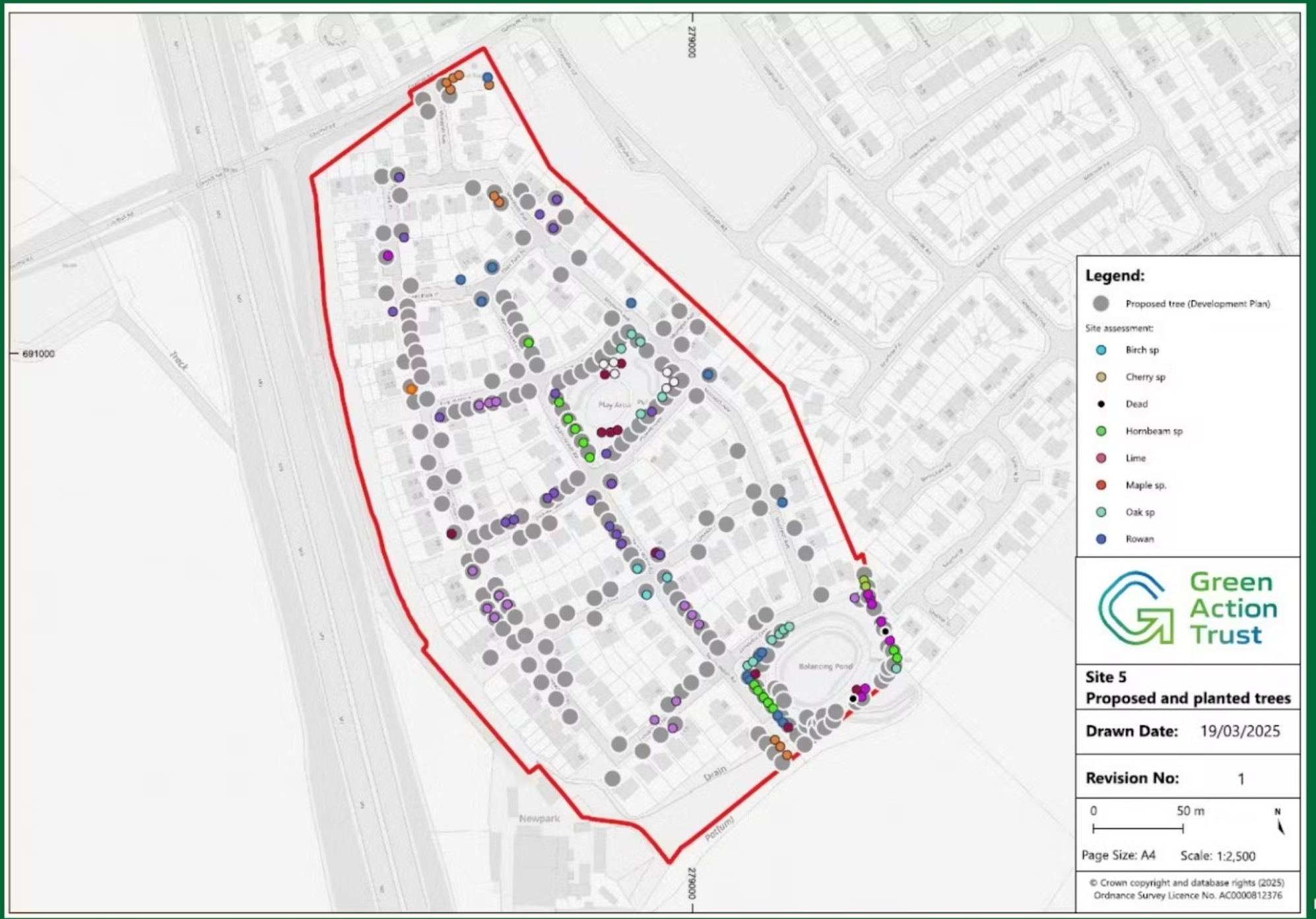

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5: Key Findings

- Achieving tree canopy cover of 20% or 30% is feasible.
- Requires tree canopy to be considered during early stages of design.
- Relies on trees being planted as shown in approved landscape plans.
- The consented number of trees were not planted in any development.

National Planning Framework 4 supports development proposals that are sited and designed to adapt to current and future risks from climate change (Policy 2: Climate mitigation and adaptation), enhance biodiversity, (Policy 3: Biodiversity) and enhance, expand and improve woodland and tree cover (Policy 6: Forestry, woodland and trees).

A minimum standard of 20 - 30% canopy cover within urban neighbourhoods clearly accords with these requirements.

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6: Recommendations

The following recommendations have been identified, to enable future development to deliver for increased urban canopy cover:

- Determine desired canopy cover level pre-design in agreement between developers and Planning Authority, through Local Development Plans and supporting guidance.
- Consider working across Local Authority boundaries to standardise guidance on a regional level.
- Require development proposals to include information on potential mature canopy cover (visually and through GIS) that will be achieved during development.
- Provide clear and easy to use guidance to developers for all scales of development to encourage increased canopy cover; this could potentially be tied in with biodiversity net gain and/or tree loss mitigation measures from development.

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- Implement site checks or evidence of delivery to ensure adherence to proposals/conditions of development.

- Plan around areas designated for tree planting, considering ground works, proximity of trees to buildings and other infrastructure and services locations. Understand the environmental conditions – evaluate soil conditions, climate, exposure etc, know that planting conditions often poor and if interventions are required (e.g. drainage).

- Consider the objectives of the greenspace and individual trees: recommend tree species to be planted to give desired cover e.g. favour those that provide high levels of ecosystem services, for example, trees with ability to filter/absorb pollutants may be selected to buffer roads.

- In order to maximise the climate benefits of trees within developments, including shading and water inception, trees require to be located throughout development rather than as dense plantation within one area.

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Oak trees within the University of Stirling grounds

Thanks for listening

Questions?

Email: guy.harewood@stir.ac.uk

Mob: 07387 136 793

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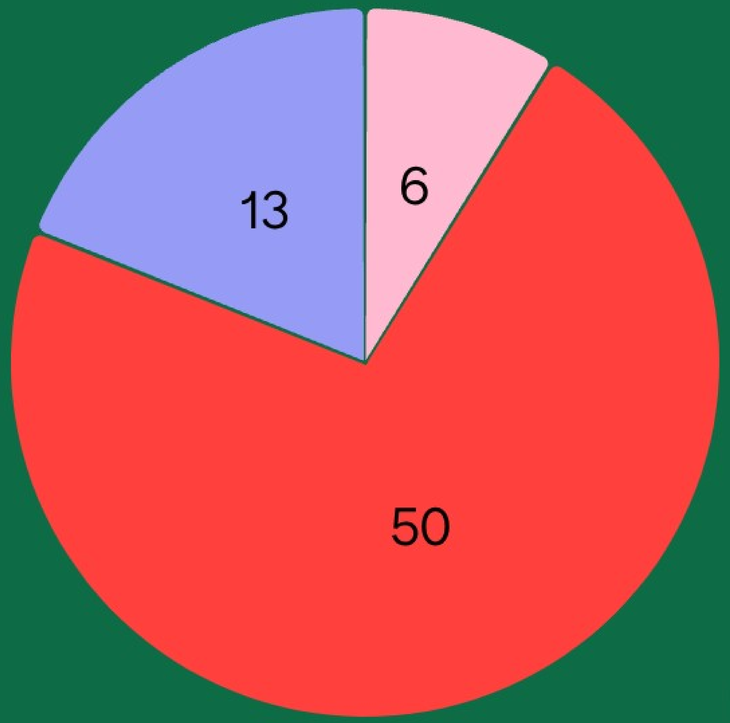
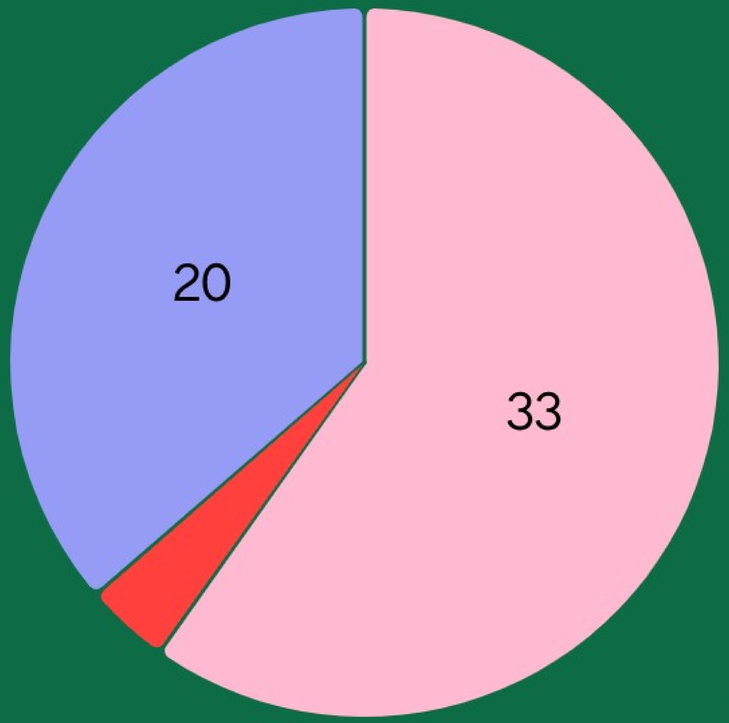
Do you have an urban canopy target within your local policies?



6	Yes
50	No
13	Don't know

2
69

Would you consider including an urban tree canopy target within your local planning policy or local development plan?



33	Yes
2	No
20	Don't Know

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Local Authority Perspective

Gillian Dick

Spatial Planning Manager – Research & Development

Glasgow City Council

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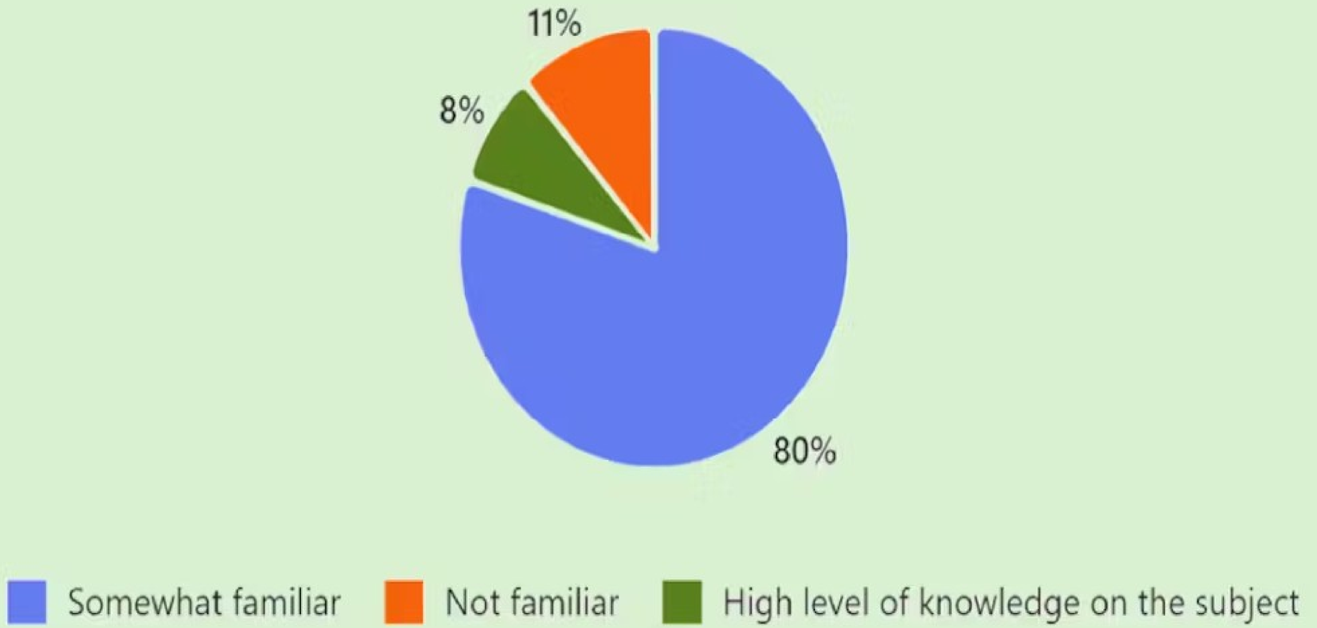
Q+A: please type your questions below or raise your hand

19 questions
0 upvotes

1

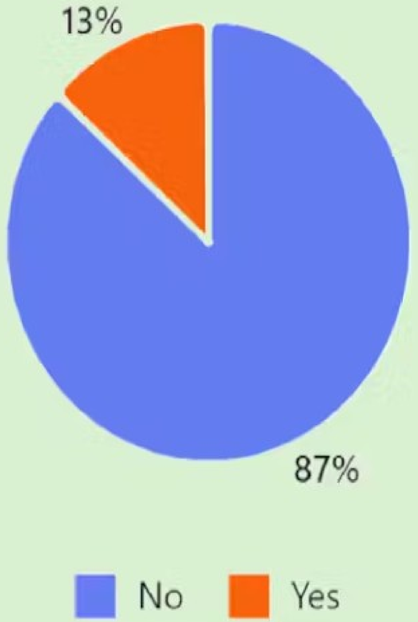
How familiar are you with the Forests, Woodlands and Trees related goals in NPF4?



Planning and Place-Based Approaches

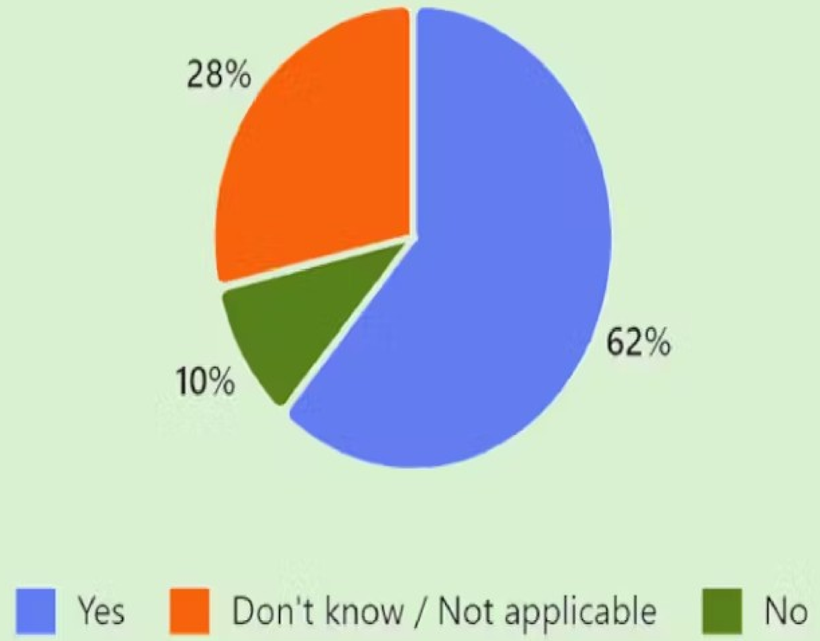
improvement service

Have you had any previous training on best practice regarding Forests, Woodlands and Trees?



Planning and Place-Based Approaches

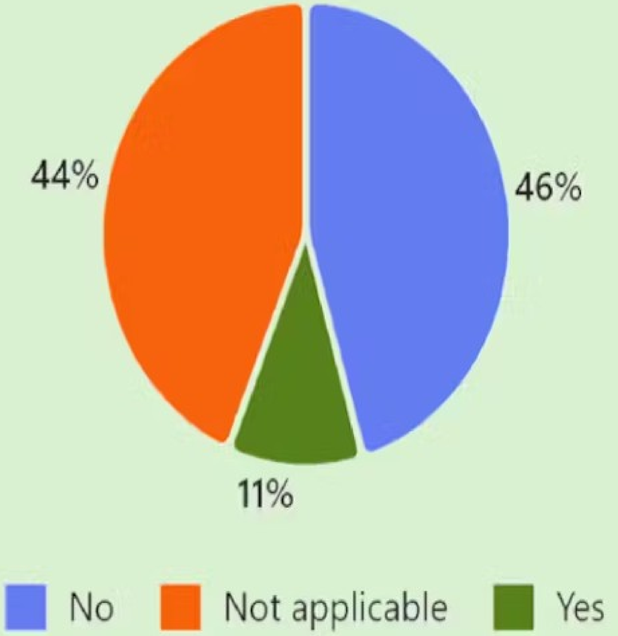
Does your local development plan explicitly reference forestry and/or urban forestry?



Planning and Place-Based Approaches

improvement service

Do you have any good examples of working with communities or local environmental groups?



Planning and Place-Based Approaches

improvement service

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Can you prioritise which topics you would like to have covered in future training sessions

1. Policy - Local Development Plans

2. Planning Applications - Development Management

3. Data / GIS / 3d Visualisation

4. Enforcement

5. Case studies from environmental groups

2 47

What other support would you like?

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Forests, Woodland and Trees

Urban Forestry
25th September 2025

Planning and Place-Based Approaches

improvement service