Tree & Woodland Strategy

The Elected Members of Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council in August 2019 supported the following Notice of Motion, brought before it,

"This Council notes the recent IPCC report on the impacts of climate breakdown. It requests an urgent report to assess the impact of the activities of Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council on greenhouse gas emissions to include exploring what mitigation measures can be put in place and the establishment of a working group to bring the issues of climate breakdown to the fore in the Council structures and actions, local communities and businesses, as well as formulating a climate adaption plan."

TREE & WOODLAND STRATEGY V.01 JANUARY 2023

The Working Group was to inform and shape the development of a Council Policy in the area of the Environment and Sustainability giving a commitment that the Council will carry out its activities and functions in a manner which minimises any potential negative environmental impact and also states the principles of sustainable development will be integrated throughout all Council activities.

This Strategy aims to support the Council's commitment to combating climate change. Northern Ireland is one of the least wooded regions in Europe with less than 9% woodland cover. This is lower than the Republic of Ireland (11%), the UK (13%) and European Union (38%). Within Northern Ireland, the Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council (LCCC) area has the lowest levels of tree cover. With trees playing a vital role in tackling climate change and supporting wildlife, it is vital that tree cover is increased within the Council area.

The Council values the importance of trees in our local environment and are committed to their protection. This is acknowledged through the Council's Corporate Plan which includes as a corporate action under Strategic Theme 4 'Where we live' to promote use of our natural environment, open spaces and waterways, with improved facilities.

I am therefore delighted that as the Chair of Leisure & Community Development Committee, this strategy is being brought forward to protect and enhance our natural assets for generations to come.

COUNCILLOR AARON MCINTYRE
Chair of Leisure & Community Development Committee

TREE & WOODLAND STRATEGY V.01 JANUARY 2023

CONTENTS

1	Strategy Overview	PG. 07
1.1	Introduction	PG.08 — 09
1.2	Executive Summary	PG.10
1.3	The Tree & Woodland Strategy for LCCC	PG.11
1.4	Trees in Lisburn & Castlereagh	PG.12
1.5	Tree Management Involves a Variety of Activities That:	PG.12
1.6	Health & Wellbeing	PG.14 — 17
1.7	Tree Planting	PG.18
1.8	The Trees in Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council	PG.19
1.9	Ecology & Trees	PG.19
1.10	Strategic Aims & Objectives	PG.20
1.11	Policy Background	PG.21
1.12	Trees & Development & Tree Preservation Orders	PG.22
1.13	Other Statutory Considerations	PG.22
1.14	Landscape & Ecological Considerations	PG.22
1.15	Trees & Climate Change	PG.23 — 25
1.16	The Need for Tree Planting	PG.26
1.17	Native, Naturalised & Non-Native Trees	PG.27
1.18	Sourcing of Nursery Stock	PG.27
1.19	Identification of Seed Sources/ Seed Provenance	PG.28
1.20	Description of Production Processes	PG.28
1.21	Design & Aftercare	PG.28
1.22	Ash Dieback	PG.29
2	Tree Management Actions	PG.30 — 31
2.1	Tree Inspection	PG.32 — 33
2.2	Inspection Criteria	PG.34
2.3	Inspection Procedures	PG.34
2.4	Assessment of Risk and Inspection Targeting	PG.035
2.5	Tree Maintenance Operations	PG.35
2.6	Identification & Generation of Work	PG.36
2.7	Tree Management Priorities	PG.36
2.8	Standards of Work	PG.36
2.9	Modern Arboricultural Practice	PG.36
2.10	Council Specifications	PG.37
2.11	British Standards	PG.37 — 39
2.12	Tree Planting	PG.40
2.13	Sustainability	PG.41
2.14	Environmental Sustainability	PG.41
2.15	Utilisation of Timber	PG.42
2.16	Social Sustainability	PG.42
2.17	Biosecurity	PG.43
2.18	Woodland Management	PG.43
2.19	Perceptions of Woodland Management	PG.43
2.20	Response to Emergencies	PG.43
2.21	Call Out Procedures	PG.43
2.22	Review & Monitoring	PG.43
3	Tree Management Policy	PG.44 — 45
3.1	Tree Inspection	PG.46
3.2	Management of Veteran Trees	PG.47
3.3	Young Tree Maintenance	PG.47
3.4	Nuisance Management	PG.47
3.5	Standards of Work	PG.47
3.6	Sustainability	PG.48 — 51
3.7	Woodland Management	PG.52
3.8	Response to Emergencies	PG.53
4	Appendices	PG.54 — 55
4.1	Appendix 1: Tree Cover Percentage by Ward	PG.56
4.2	Appendix 2: Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council Ward Map	PG.57
4.3	Appendix 3: Ancient Woodland Sites	PG.58 — 59

Strategy Overview

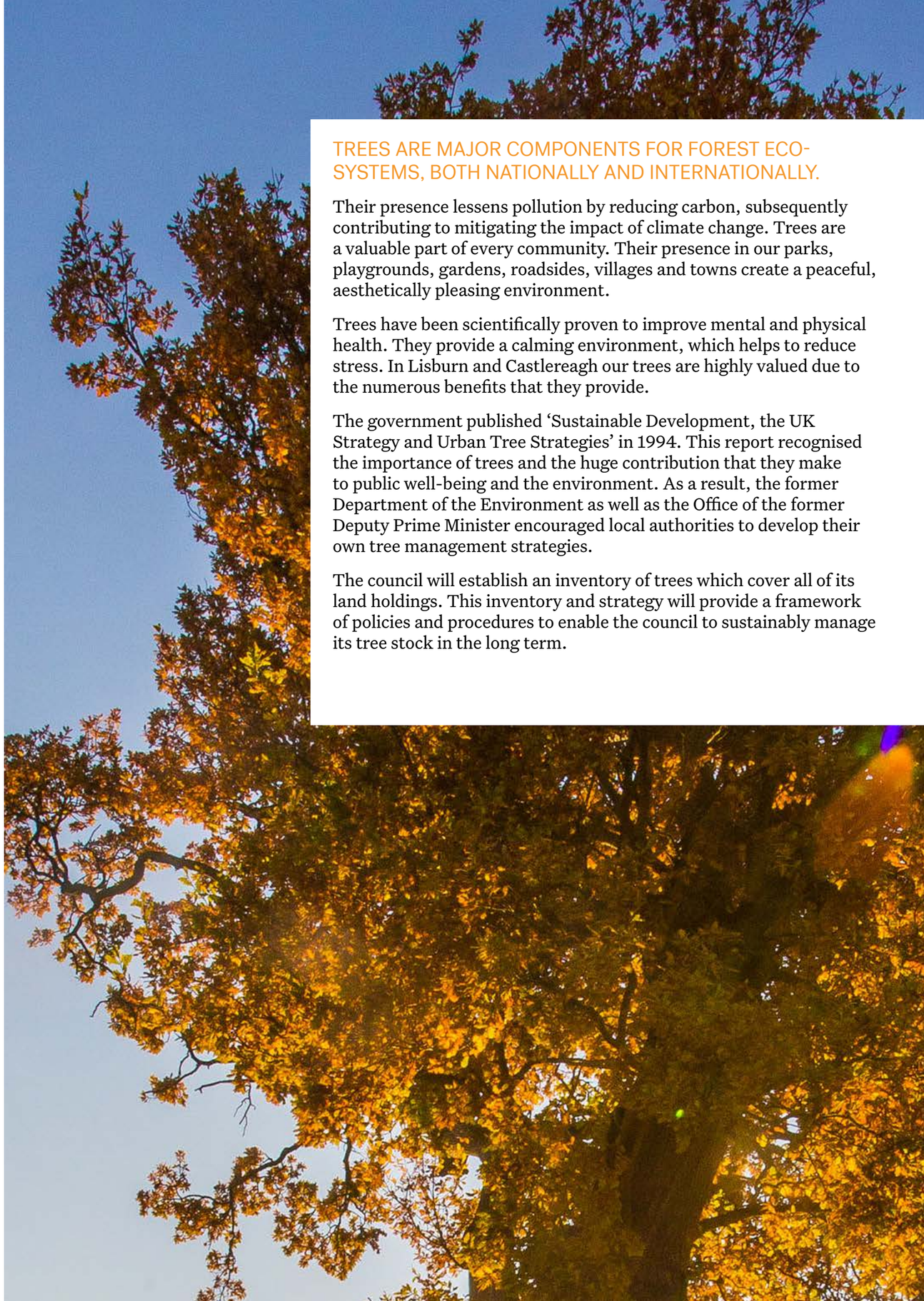
1

Part 1

Strategy Overview

1.1 Introduction

Trees are of huge environmental and ecological importance. They enhance their environment by providing oxygen and improving air quality and climate amelioration. Trees conserve water, and preserve soil, thus reducing flood risk. They are crucial for wildlife as they provide food and habitat for a wide range of flora and fauna.



TREES ARE MAJOR COMPONENTS FOR FOREST ECO-SYSTEMS, BOTH NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY.

Their presence lessens pollution by reducing carbon, subsequently contributing to mitigating the impact of climate change. Trees are a valuable part of every community. Their presence in our parks, playgrounds, gardens, roadsides, villages and towns create a peaceful, aesthetically pleasing environment.

Trees have been scientifically proven to improve mental and physical health. They provide a calming environment, which helps to reduce stress. In Lisburn and Castlereagh our trees are highly valued due to the numerous benefits that they provide.

The government published ‘Sustainable Development, the UK Strategy and Urban Tree Strategies’ in 1994. This report recognised the importance of trees and the huge contribution that they make to public well-being and the environment. As a result, the former Department of the Environment as well as the Office of the former Deputy Prime Minister encouraged local authorities to develop their own tree management strategies.

The council will establish an inventory of trees which cover all of its land holdings. This inventory and strategy will provide a framework of policies and procedures to enable the council to sustainably manage its tree stock in the long term.

Part 1

Strategy Overview

1.2 Executive Summary

THROUGH THE TREE & WOODLAND STRATEGY, THE IMPORTANCE AND VALUE OF THE TREE RESOURCE WILL BE IDENTIFIED AND PRESERVED. THIS WILL ENSURE ITS DEVELOPMENT AND CONSERVATION FOR THE RESIDENTS OF LISBURN AND CASTLEREAGH IN THE LONG-TERM.

Manage and maintain a healthy, balanced and sustainable tree population.

1.3 The Tree & Woodland Strategy for LCCC will:

Provide a framework to manage and maintain a healthy, balanced and sustainable tree population which can cope with predicted climactic changes and the impact of diseases, such as ash dieback.

Ensure the most efficient use of resources.

Decrease the risk to public safety from potentially hazardous trees.

Detail the Council's specific policy on levels and standards of tree management.

Increase public awareness of the value of trees in the environment.

Part 1

Strategy Overview

Enhance the quality of life by providing environmental, ecological and aesthetic benefits

1.4
Trees in Lisburn & Castlereagh

TREES IN LISBURN AND CASTLEREAGH CONTRIBUTE TO THE CHARACTER OF THE COUNCIL AREA. THEY ARE AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT OF THE URBAN AND RURAL LANDSCAPE.

They enhance the quality of life by providing environmental, ecological and aesthetic benefits. Trees in the Council area are all situated on land which is affected by human activity. These activities can have an impact on the health of trees and their environment; therefore, a management strategy is crucial.

1.5
Tree Management Involves a Variety of Activities That:

Maintain public safety.

Resolve conflicts between the tree and its immediate environment.

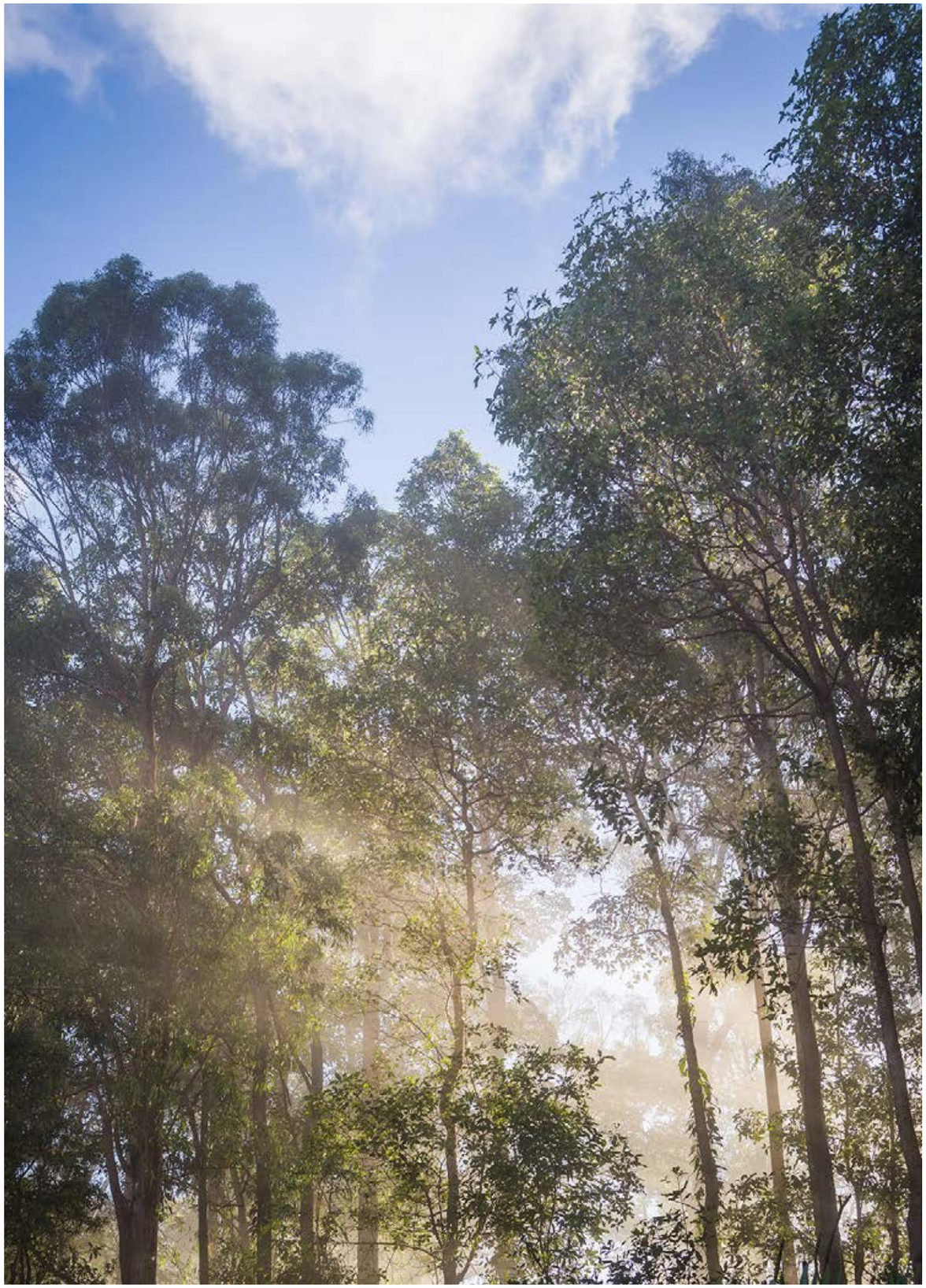
Enhance amenity value by promoting desirable growth characteristics.

Benefit ecology and wildlife.

Maximise the lifespan of trees and the benefits that they provide.

Woodland restoration.

TREE & WOODLAND STRATEGY V.01 JANUARY 2023



Research has shown that trees can benefit mental health.

1.6 Health & Wellbeing

TREES NOT ONLY IMPROVE OUR PSYCHOLOGICAL HEALTH WHEN WE ARE NEAR THEM, BUT THEY ALSO CONTRIBUTE TO KEEPING OUR BODIES HEALTHY.

These benefits include:

Improving air quality - Trees can help improve urban air quality on a local scale by forming a barrier between people and pollutants. Such pollutants are known to contribute to respiratory conditions such as asthma.

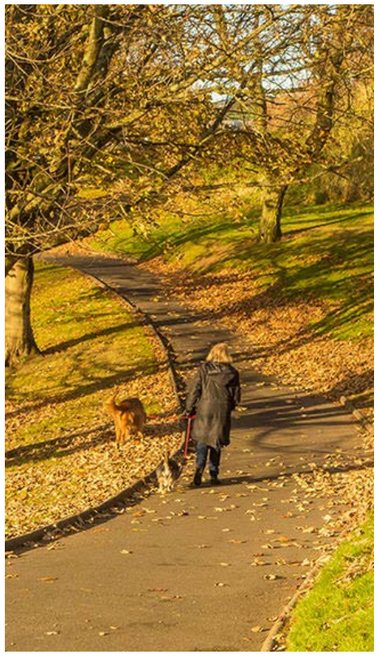
Reducing stress - Walking among trees reduces levels of cortisol, a hormone associated with stress. Research has shown that people living in greener surroundings experience lower levels of stress.

Alleviating depression – Research has shown that trees can benefit mental health. Nature based activities can help to improve mental health conditions like anxiety and depression.

Shading us from the sun – Damage to the ozone layer and rising temperatures due to climate change have resulted in higher instances of malignant melanomas. Therefore, the shade that trees can provide is hugely beneficial as it provides a protective barrier to UV rays, particularly in the middle of the day.

Encouraging physical activity – Parks and other green spaces provide attractive areas for people to exercise. Studies have shown that people who use these greens spaces are more likely to achieve the recommended level of physical activity.

MOAT PARK, DUNDONALD



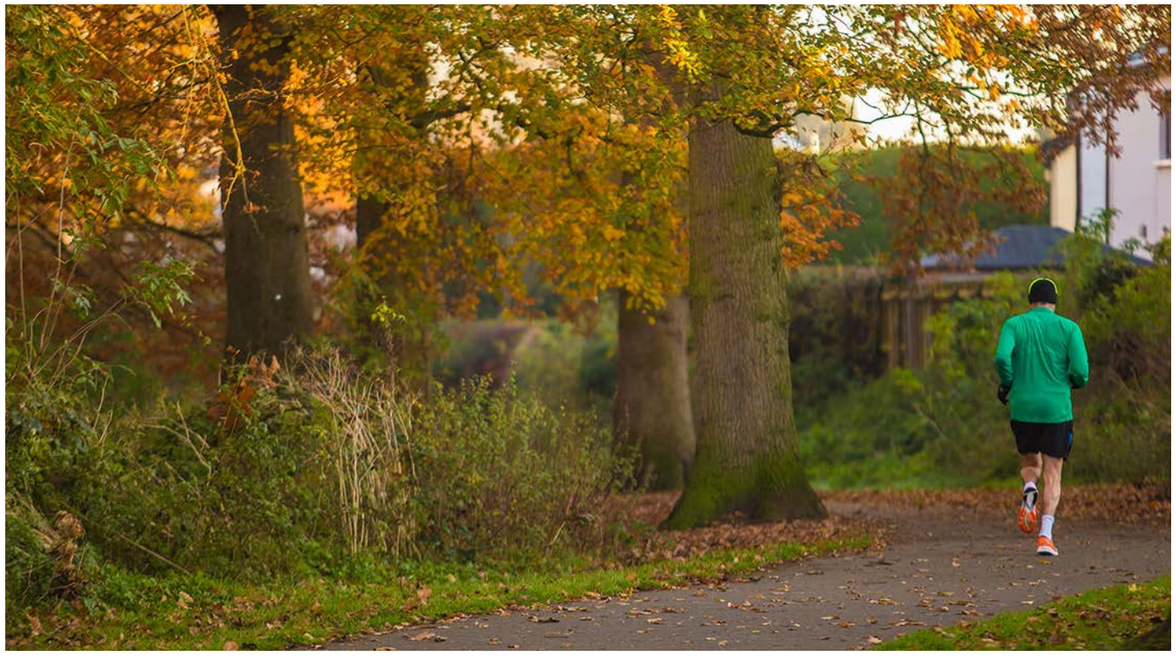
TREE & WOODLAND STRATEGY V.01 JANUARY 2023

Children who have access to green spaces spend less time in front of screens...This in turn reduces childhood obesity.

Reducing obesity – children in today's generation have a more sedentary lifestyle due to increased "screen time". However, children who live close to, or have access to green spaces are more likely to spend less time in front of screens and engage in physical activity. This in turn reduces childhood obesity.

Bringing people together – Trees strengthen the unique character of a place and encourage local pride. Woodlands can be used as an educational resource and to bring groups together for activities like walking and bird-watching. Children can play in trees and discover their sense of adventure.

MOIRA DEMESNE, MOIRA



Part 1

Strategy Overview

Over 3000 trees have been planted in available open spaces outside of woodlands.

1.7 Tree Planting

A LARGE AND SUSTAINED PROGRAM OF TREE PLANTING IS CRUCIAL TO MINIMISE THE IMPACT OF TREE DECLINE IN THE COUNCIL AREA. THIS WILL ALSO HELP TO MITIGATE THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE.

Initially a significant change in the council's tree population will be Evident following actions arising from the Council's Ash Die Back Management Plan. Eventually newly planted trees will develop and grow into mature trees. This will have a huge and positive impact on the landscape. Nine hectares of woodland have been created within the council area during 2022 and over 3000 trees have been planted in available open spaces which are outside of woodlands.

Of note is the new copse of 100 Oak trees established at Moira Demesne. This group, and future groups like it, offer a natural resource providing positive benefits for centuries to come.

Current tree planting initiatives through council area include:-

Council area wide tree planting initiatives. LCCC aims to plant 10,000 new native trees and 1000m of native hedgerows spread throughout the council area per year for the next ten years.

Establishment of 30 Hectares of new woodland throughout the council area by the end of 2023 in conjunction with stakeholders including government agencies and landowners.

CASTLE GARDENS, LISBURN

The council aims to manage and improve all of its tree assets.

1.8 The Trees in Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

LCCC MANAGES ITS ENTIRE TREE STOCK WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF MULTIPLE ORGANISATIONS AND PROFESSIONALS INCLUDING THE WOODLAND TRUST. THESE TREES ARE CATEGORISED AS INDIVIDUAL SPECIMENS, TREE GROUPS AND WOODLANDS.

The asset sites are spread over the council area and hold a vast array of species, ages and types. From individual specimen trees found in Wallace Park to the dense, mature woodland of Hillsborough Forest with over 15,000 trees, the council aims to manage and improve all of its tree assets.

The Tree & Woodland Strategy will outline the works and considerations necessary to effectively manage the Council's tree resource. Each activity will be outlined in detail. The standards for each activity will be outlined to meet with industry recommendations and codes of practice.

It is also necessary to outline how trees will be managed in the future. Consideration must be given to planned housing developments, road improvements and developments, as well as the effects of disease and climate change. The Tree & Woodland Strategy aims to ensure that these additional factors are managed in order to sustain and maintain the tree resource of LCCC.

The policies and procedures employed in this strategy will adhere to all relevant regulations and legislation. The strategy will be standardised so that it can be used by landowners as a guide for the management of their trees, particularly those who allow public access to their land.

1.9 Ecology & Trees

TREES ARE THE MAJOR COMPONENT OF WOODLAND AND FOREST ECOSYSTEMS BOTH NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY. TREES SUPPORT A HUGE RANGE OF FLORA AND FAUNA.

Trees are also closely connected to fungi. Some fungal species are pathogenic and thus harmful, but others have a symbiotic relationship with trees. Soil fungi such as mycorrhiza, in particular are vital for the tree's survival and well-being, converting organic matter into nutrients which the tree can absorb.

1.10
Strategic Aims & Objectives

This Tree & Woodland Strategy will outline a framework for Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council to manage its trees by achieving the following objectives:

Conserve and preserve existing trees, as well as maintaining the number and quality. Creation and renovation of woodland within the council area. Advance and expand ongoing tree planting on public and private land in order to address the current decline of trees and to attempt to mitigate the current and future impact of pests and diseases.

Restore a minimum of 20 hectares of woodland over the next decade.

The aim is to restore a minimum of 20 hectares of woodland over the next decade. This will be achieved through the removal of non-native understory species such as Laurel and Rhododendron.

Increase the percentage tree cover within the council area.

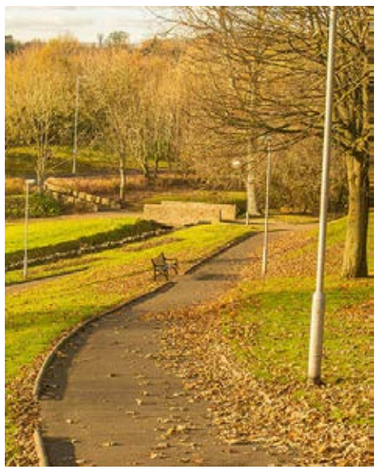
LCCC aims to plant 10,000 new native trees and 1000m of native hedgerows spread throughout the council area per year for the next ten years.

Establishment of 30 Hectares of new woodland throughout the council area by the end of 2023 in conjunction with stakeholders including government agencies and landowners.

Protect public safety by ensuring that trees are assessed and inspected in an organised and scheduled way.

Continue to manage and inspect the existing tree population on a 2 year cyclic basis. Prioritise tree surgery works identified on a risk based approach.

MOAT PARK, DUNDONALD



1.11
Policy Background

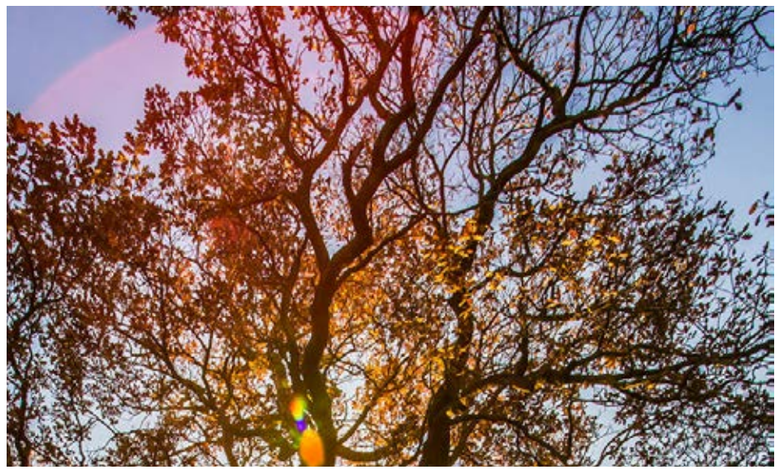
LISBURN AND CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL'S RESPONSIBILITIES

The council is responsible for the trees that it owns and must ensure that public safety is protected in order that the trees do not pose a risk.

A multi-disciplinary body called the National Tree Safety Group (NTSG) has produced national guidelines for the safe management of trees 'Common Sense Risk Management of Trees'. These guidelines consider the risk posed by certain trees, as well as recognising the benefits that trees provide on many levels. These guidelines have now been recognised as a benchmark in the industry and have been used in a number of litigation cases.

These measures are vital in order to provide the council with evidence and defence if proceedings are brought due to tree failure.

As landowners, LCCC are responsible for the trees that they own. It is the responsibility of the council to ensure that trees are inspected regularly. The council should also hold an accurate inventory of its trees. Inspections should be carried out at intervals dependent on the degree of risk posed by particular trees or groups of trees. Any maintenance work that is recommended must be carried out in a timely manner and this work must be documented. These measures are vital in order to provide the council with evidence and defence if proceedings are brought due to tree failure.



1.12
Trees & Development & Tree Preservation Orders

LCCC PLANNING DEAL WITH ALL TREE PRESERVATION ORDER ESTABLISHMENT AND MANAGEMENT AS WELL AS TREES IN RELATION TO ANY ASPECT OF PLANNING. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONSULT:

https://www.lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk/resident/planning

1.13
Other Statutory Considerations

Felling License - if trees are felled in woodlands, then a felling license is required. This will be issued by the Forestry Commission under Section 9 of the Forestry Act 1967. If an area of more than 5 cubic meters of growing trees are to be felled a license is mandatory.

1.14
Landscape & Ecological Considerations

THE VALUE OF TREES AND WOODLANDS IN OUR LANDSCAPE IS WIDELY KNOWN. IN ADDITION, THE ECOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE OF TREES AND WOODLANDS IS WELL DOCUMENTED.

When carrying out work on its trees, LCCC must have due regard to the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 and The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) (Amendment) Regulations 2007. This provides protection for nesting birds and bats. If tree works are to be carried out, then all necessary checks must be performed to avoid the disturbance of protected species. If appropriate these works should be postponed and expert advice sought.

Veteran trees should be protected and managed in order to maximize their habitat value and life span.

This Strategy has been devised to adhere all sustainability, biodiversity and environmental statutory requirements including the Duty for Sustainable Development and the Biodiversity Duty (Wild Life and Natural Environment Act (NI) 2011 (“WANE Act”) as well as any future legislative requirements on climate change and the environment.

The Strategy also supports and builds on the Council’s Local Biodiversity Action Plan dated January 2018.

Veteran trees should be protected and managed in order to maximize their habitat value and life span.

If tree planting is thoughtfully planned and considered it will provide effective cooling for buildings, reducing the need for air cooling.

MOIRA DEMESNE, MOIRA

1.15
Trees & Climate Change

CLIMATE CHANGE IS HAPPENING NOW. THE MAIN CAUSE IS EMISSIONS OF CARBON DIOXIDE AND OTHER GREENHOUSE GASES. BY THE END OF THE CENTURY IS IT THOUGHT THAT TEMPERATURES COULD RISE BY AS MUCH AS 3 TO 5 DEGREES C.

Climate change is known to be ‘the greatest long-term challenge facing the world today’. Trees will play a crucial role in our environment if the temperatures rise as anticipated.

Forest eco-systems play a vital role in addressing the global impact of climate change by absorbing carbon dioxide and other pollutants from the atmosphere, producing oxygen, retaining water and reducing atmospheric temperatures.

There will be a greater need for effective shade in towns and cities where temperatures are exacerbated by heat and light reflection from buildings. If tree planting is thoughtfully planned and considered it will provide effective cooling for buildings, reducing the need for air cooling. In areas next to public buildings, outdoor facilities, roads and pavements, bus stops and carparks shade will be necessary. Vulnerable members of society in areas such as care facilities and schools will also be protected by shade.

Another alarming result of climate change is flash flooding. The presence of trees and woodlands can retain large volumes of water, attenuate run-off and have a stabilising effect on the soil. This will limit erosion and reduce the risk of landslides.

It is inevitable that climate change will have a negative impact on the tree population. Drought conditions are harmful to shallow rooting trees such as hornbeam and beech. If these droughts are one-off events, then the trees will likely recover. However increased temperatures mean that this will be more frequent, and the trees will suffer damage. The impact of increased high winds, waterlogged soils, particularly if deciduous trees are in leaf, will have a detrimental effect on the tree population. In addition, increased temperatures in summer and winter will favour existing pathogens, causing more problems.

Tree owners must protect and maintain the current tree resource and expand it where possible. Landscape architects and tree managers should consider the effects of climate change when selecting trees for planting schemes.

WALLACE PARK, LISBURN

1.16
The Need for Tree Planting

OVER RECENT DECADES THE TREE POPULATION HAS CHANGED DRAMATICALLY. IN THE 1970S DUTCH ELM DISEASE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE LOSS OF THOUSANDS OF MATURE TREES FROM THE LANDSCAPE.

The aging mature tree population and the incidence of other problems such as ash dieback have also led to the decline of mature trees. A large proportion of trees in the rural hedgerows are ash, therefore the impact of ash dieback will have a continued effect on the landscape. Commercial and residential development continues to have an impact on the mature tree population.

In future years, the council will notably expand tree planting initiatives in order to meet the Tree & Woodland Strategy objectives and targets detailed in the action plan. In order to ensure that the required number of trees are available, tree officers will liaise with nursery suppliers regarding production methods, stock requirements and availability.

Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council has established an independent tree nursery in the Council area. The Nursery aims to provide tree stock to balance the dependence on imported trees to maintain and augment tree stocks. The nursery aims to be UK and Ireland Sourced and Grown Assurance Scheme (UKISG) accredited. UKISG is the benchmark for tree procurement at the Woodland Trust.

The Nursery aims to provide tree stock to balance the dependence on imported trees to maintain and augment tree stocks.

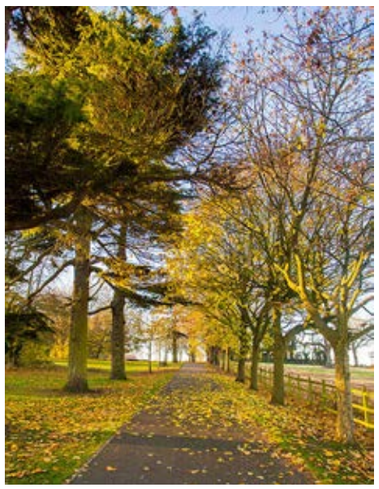
150,000 new trees have been sown since the start of 2022.

150,000 trees have been prepared for sowing.

By September 2023 250,000 1 year old saplings will be ready to plant throughout the council area.

150,000 trees to be produced for planting per year.

MOIRA DEMESNE, MOIRA



The council will promote the planting of native and naturalised trees.

1.17
Native, Naturalised & Non-Native Trees

CURRENTLY LCCC PLANT A BROAD RANGE OF NATIVE AND NON-NATIVE TREES.

As much as possible, the council will promote the planting of native and naturalised trees.

However, the planting of non-native trees may be necessary in some instances such as areas with environmental challenges. A robust and resilient tree population will be created by using a diverse range of species and the avoidance of mono-culture planting. This aims to withstand the impact of climate change.

1.18
Sourcing of Nursery Stock

BIOSECURITY IS CRUCIAL.

A range of measures have been established by the UK Government to maintain biosecurity including European Plant passports. The council endeavours to follow these control guidelines.

Plant health controls include:

Phytosanitary certificates.

Pre-notification.

Document checks.

Identity checks.

Physical checks.

MOIRA DEMESNE, MOIRA

1.19
Identification of Seed Sources / Seed Provenance

FOR THE MOST PART, SUPPLIERS WILL BE ENCOURAGED TO PRODUCE STOCK FROM BRITISH AND IRISH ORIGIN SEED SOURCES.

Due to climate change, the need for species from European sources may be required. In this instances, demonstrable bio-security measures must be in place involving effective quarantine procedures and certification.

1.20
Description of Production Processes

WHETHER SEEDS ARE SOURCED FROM WITHIN THE UK OR OTHERWISE, APPROPRIATE PRE-SOWING TREATMENTS WILL BE REQUIRED.

Rigorous handling and protection measures will be necessary to ensure that trees arrive on site in prime condition.

Container grown stock should be grown in suitable containers with adequate soil volume to optimise tree growth and an evenly formed root system.

The council will continue to engage with nursery suppliers in order to explore a range of procurement and partnership options. This will ensure that adequate volumes of healthy stock are available to support planting schemes.

The council will continue to engage with nursery suppliers in order to explore a range of procurement and partnership options.

1.21
Design & Aftercare

New tree planting schemes and designs must complement and enhance the character of the local landscape. Consideration must be given to the space available when selecting tree species and its planting density. This will ensure that these trees can develop into healthy, mature specimens. Aftercare must also be planned to promote tree development.

1.22
Ash Dieback

THE ASH IS ONE OF THE MOST COMMON NATIVE TREES IN LCCC, DUE TO THE DECLINE OF THE ELM TREE. THE ASH IS COMMONLY FOUND IN WOODLANDS, FIELD HEDGES AND ALONG ROAD CORRIDORS. A SUBSTANTIAL PORTION OF THE POPULATION ARE MATURE TREES WHICH ARE IN DECLINE. ASH DIEBACK SYNDROME IS CAUSED BY A NUMBER OF FACTORS.

Ash dieback (Hymenoscyphus fraxineus) was first reported in the UK in 2012 on imported nursery stock. It was subsequently observed in the wider environment in 2013. This disease is now widespread across the UK and is particularly advanced in southern and eastern counties of England. Ash dieback is present in Northern Ireland and has been noted in LCCC. Ongoing monitoring has revealed that this disease is well established in the Council's Ash population. Ash dieback was first discovered in Europe in 1992 and unfortunately has resulted in many countries suffering up to 90 percent mortality in their ash trees.

The Council is working to manage the disease within the Council area and is working closely with other councils to plan for the future.

The Council's first priority is to preserve public safety due to the risk posed by the disease on our road corridors and public spaces. Unfortunately, the management of this disease will inevitably result in long-term effects on the rural landscape. Some areas may lose all mature trees.

The Council is working to manage the disease within the Council area and is working closely with other councils to plan for the future.

SYMPTOMS OF ASH DIEBACK

Tree Management Actions

2

Part 2

Tree Management Actions

2.1 Tree Inspection

The safety of trees is nearly always the responsibility of the owner of the land on which they grow; but there are some exceptions, such as when a rental agreement requires the tenants of a property to manage the trees.

THE TREE OWNER OR MANAGER HAS A ‘COMMON LAW’ DUTY OF CARE TO: ‘TAKE REASONABLE CARE TO AVOID ACTS OR OMISSIONS WHICH THEY CAN REASONABLY FORESEE WOULD BE LIKELY TO INJURE THEIR NEIGHBOUR’.

The tree owner also has a duty under the Occupiers Liability Acts to take reasonable steps to ensure visitors or trespassers on their land are safe. In practice this means that if a tree fails and causes damage to a person or property then the tree owner may be liable. The chances of making a claim, however, would usually depend on whether the owner had been negligent; for example, if the tree was obviously unsafe through damage or disease, and they failed to act to prevent the incident occurring. Therefore if you own trees it is sensible to have them regularly inspected by a competent arboriculturist.

On this basis, it is assumed that a tree survey or tree inspection will normally have been conducted according to a clear brief, prepared in discussion with the client or employer, in order to take account of all relevant factors, including the safety of people and property.

Part 2

Tree Management Actions

This Tree & Woodland Strategy aims to strike a balance between public safety and the ecological and landscape value of trees.

2.2 Inspection Criteria

TREE INSPECTION SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT AND CHANGES IN THE TREE'S CONDITION DOCUMENTED. THESE CHANGES SHOULD BE ACTED UPON IF NECESSARY TO PREVENT INJURY OR DAMAGE TO PROPERTY.

Criteria to be considered are: age, size, species, location, health and condition, site usage, hazard risk and landscape and ecological value.

This Tree & Woodland Strategy aims to strike a balance between public safety and the ecological and landscape value of trees. In order to protect and retain trees as much as possible, the minimum necessary work should be carried out to protect the public.

The best time for tree inspection is from mid-summer to autumn. This is when trees are in full leaf. However due to the huge amount of trees in LCCC inventory, inspections must be carried out throughout the year.

Factors such as construction and extreme weather should also be considered.

2.3 Inspection Procedures

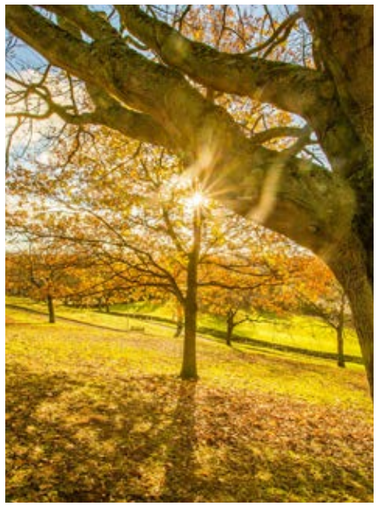
TREE INSPECTION PROCEDURES ARE IN PLACE TO MINIMISE THE RISK TO PUBLIC AND PROPERTY. THESE PROCEDURES ADHERE TO GUIDELINES AND INDUSTRY RECOMMENDATIONS.

Informal inspections can be carried out following contact by the public, site officers or other organisations.

Formal inspections are those carried out on a regular basis by council staff. These staff will be required to have undertaken basic tree inspection training.

Detailed inspections are to be carried out be appropriately qualified arboricultural consultants.

Resolution of conflicts can be achieved by Tree Maintenance Operations, but there is often a need to consider other measures such as modifying the use or management of the surrounding land.



MOAT PARK, DUNDONALD

2.4 Assessment of Risk & Inspection Targeting

Information about priority areas for planned inspections is provided to ensure that work is appropriately planned in accordance with the level of risk.

Cyclical inspections will also be undertaken on these priority areas. Trees that require more frequent inspection will be flagged up and monitored.

2.5 Tree Maintenance Operations

Generally, trees develop in balance with their environment both above and below ground. Conflicts with people and property can, however, result from natural processes of growth and dieback or from the effects of damage caused by severe weather, pests or diseases. Equally, human activities can lead to conflicts, if these activities affect the growth or structural integrity of trees, or increase or adversely modify their exposure to the wind by the removal of other trees or the demolition or construction of buildings.

Human activities can also bring people and other targets closer to trees. Any such conflict can have serious implications for the health and welfare of the tree(s) concerned and/or the safety of people and property. Resolution of conflicts can be achieved by Tree Maintenance Operations, but there is often a need to consider other measures such as modifying the use or management of the surrounding land. The need for Tree Maintenance Operations will sometimes become self-evident to tree owners and site managers in the course of their regular duties. In many circumstances, however, there will be a need for systematic surveys and inspections to be conducted by competent persons,including where appropriate external experts with skills in areas such as the recognition and interpretation of the origin and significance of symptoms caused by damage or physiological stress.

A client's initial desire for Tree Maintenance Operations is often based on particular circumstances, might not necessarily be appropriate in other respects. In particular, when specifying Tree Maintenance Operations, there is always a need to take account of the effects of the work on the long-term growth and the future management needs of the tree.

Equally, before work commences, it is important that its appropriateness is verified in the light of any change in circumstances that might have occurred in the meantime.

Part 2

Tree Management Actions

2.6 Identification & Generation of Work

Tree maintenance work comes from both internal and external sources:

Detailed inspections by trained arboricultural staff – as part of previously detailed inspection procedures.

Ad-hoc inspections by specialist arboriculturalists – resulting from enquiries from the general public.

Enquiries from council officers.

Cyclical maintenance.

Emergency works (high winds etc).

2.7 Tree Management Priorities

All enquiries are assessed and prioritised and work carried out accordingly. Factors to be considered include risk to life and property, risk of potential claims, proposed remedial work, safety, long term tree health, cost effectiveness.

2.8 Standards of Work

All works will be completed to the current industry standard as described in BS3998:2010 Tree Work Recommendations.

2.9 Modern Arboricultural Practice

Scientific research is used as a basis for modern arboricultural practice. This approach is used to minimise adverse effects on trees. The council is dedicated to following the latest arboricultural management practices. In some instances, the visual appearance of work rather than how it will affect tree health in the long term is judged incorrectly.

Scientific research is used as a basis for modern arboricultural practice. This approach is used to minimise adverse effects on trees.

2.10 Council Specifications

The Councils' specifications are drawn from the latest arboricultural practice. Institutions such as the Arboricultural Association and the Institute of Chartered Foresters provide regular updates to industry best practice. The Council incorporates the best practice feasible and re-evaluates their policy regularly.

2.11 British Standards

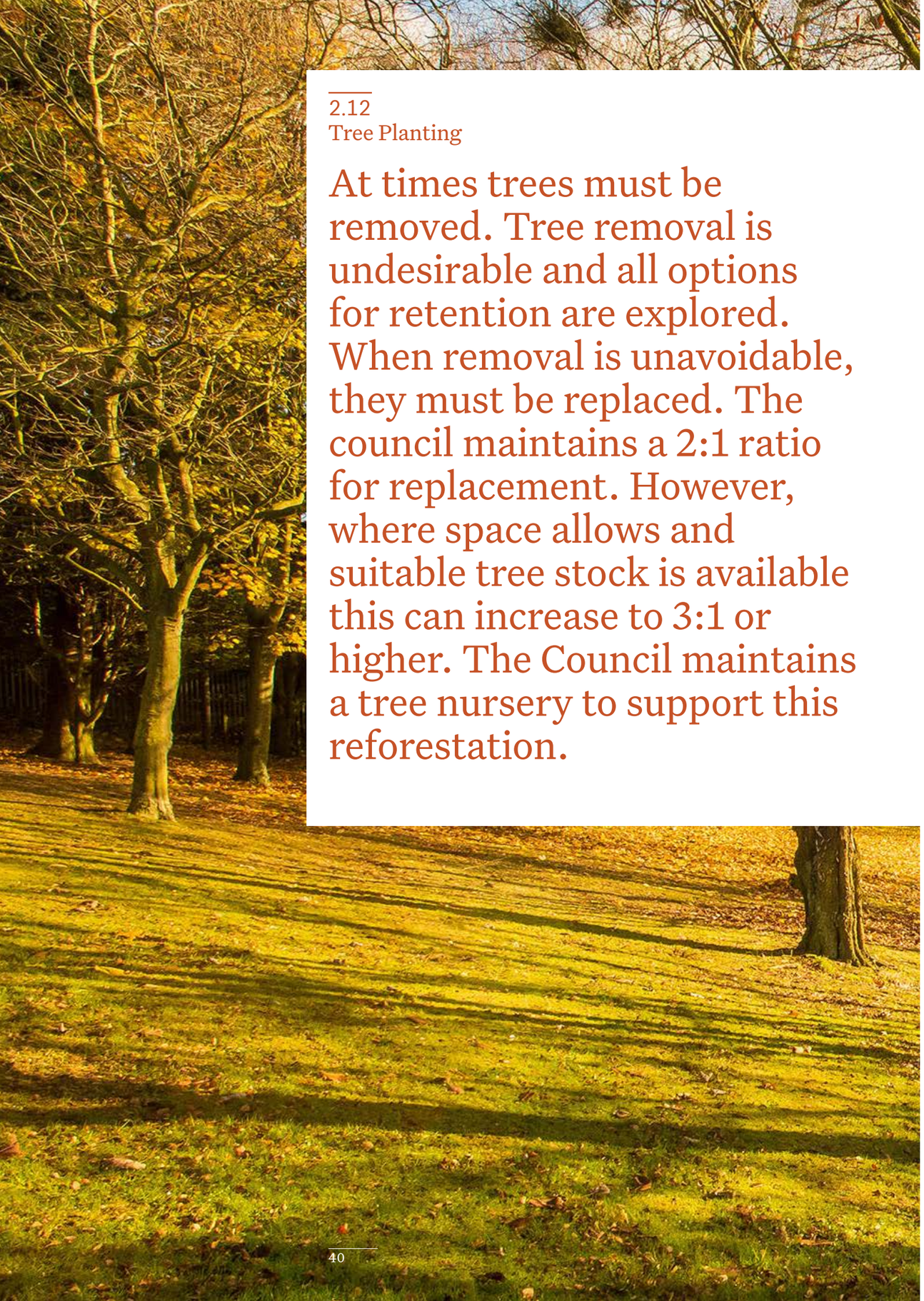
British standards provide professional guidance in tree management related matters. These standards include:

BS3998:2010 Tree Work Recommendations.

BS 5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations.

BS 8545:2014 Trees: from nursery to independence in the landscape - Recommendations.

MOAT PARK, DUNDONALD



2.12
Tree Planting

At times trees must be removed. Tree removal is undesirable and all options for retention are explored. When removal is unavoidable, they must be replaced. The council maintains a 2:1 ratio for replacement. However, where space allows and suitable tree stock is available this can increase to 3:1 or higher. The Council maintains a tree nursery to support this reforestation.

All tree populations should be managed sustainably in order to conserve or enhance its status.

2.13
Sustainability

Sustainably-managed trees and woodlands meet the needs of wildlife while supporting livelihoods, local amenity and providing many other ecosystem services, such as carbon storage and flood risk mitigation. Trees are so important for so many reasons that they should not be overexploited or poorly managed to the detriment of any of these finely-balanced interests.

2.14
Environmental Sustainability

All tree populations should be managed sustainably in order to conserve or enhance its status. If there are losses then trees should be replaced. If this is not done it will lead to a decline in the tree inventory. This has been recognized globally to be of huge importance.

The UK Forestry Standard 1998 outlines the governments approach to sustainable forestry.

BS3998:2010 Tree Work Recommendations.

Maintain or enhance the tree population.

Facilitate the removal of dangerous trees.

Promote bio-diversity and conserve the tree/forest ecosystem.

Conserve veteran trees.

Create a tree population with a balance of age and class.

Optimise the use of timber and products from tree management.

Part 2

Tree Management Actions

Trees and woodlands are used to provide a positive influence on public health and well-being.

2.15 Utilisation of Timber

The Council evaluates all forest/ tree product materials produced during their activities. Wood and materials are used where possible. For example timber from managed trees is often used to create features such as benches within the local area.

The Council also offer a Wood Bank providing free firewood to help address fuel poverty.

Use and re-cycling of wood waste. Woodchip produced from Council activities is re-used as mulch, path surfacing and landscape material through the Council area.

2.16 Social Sustainability

Trees and woodlands are used to provide a positive influence on public health and well-being

Inspection to ensure public safety.

Well planned tree planting.

Selection and retention of established trees.

The Council has an established Tree & Woodland Strategy, with the guidance of the Woodland Trust and other arboricultural professionals.

2.17 Biosecurity

The Council adheres to Government guidelines to control and prevent invasive pathogens.

2.18 Woodland Management

The Council has an established Tree & Woodland Strategy. This policy has been drawn up with the guidance of the Woodland Trust and other arboricultural professionals in the industry.

2.19 Perceptions of Woodland Management

Woodland management can be often seen to be very drastic and devastating, but this process is often necessary in order to achieve long term goals and benefits.

2.20 Response to Emergencies

LCCC has policies and protocols in place for dealing with emergency situations relating to its trees.

The Council Parks & Amenities Service Unit has a Storm Protocol in place to deal with tree related events during storms. This policy takes a realistic view of risk and gives priority to highly frequented areas.

2.21 Call Out Procedures

The Parks & Amenities Service Unit has a tree related emergency response team who can follow a set protocol and manage events as they occur. The protocol includes contact details of suitable arborist companies who are able to deal with these issues.

2.22 Review & Monitoring

The implementation of policies will be monitored to ensure that the aims and objectives of the strategy are achieved. The strategy itself should be monitored and reviewed.

Tree Management Policy

3

Part 3

Tree Management Policy

3.1 Tree Inspection

All sites within the Council area containing trees are scheduled for regular inspection. These include:

Areas of high public use - for example Country Parks, car parks.

Areas of low public use - for example woodland areas away from frequented areas.

High risk trees - for example Ancient and veteran trees with health issues in public areas.

MOIRA DEMESNE, MOIRA

TREE & WOODLAND STRATEGY V.01 JANUARY 2023

The Council will undertake all work which assists the establishment of young trees with significant life expectancy.

3.2 Management of Veteran Trees

The Council will, where public safety is not compromised, undertake all work which will:

Conserves trees with high ecological value.

Preserves trees with significant local historical and/or aesthetic value.

3.3 Young Tree Maintenance

The Council will undertake all work which assists the establishment of young trees with significant life expectancy. This enables new tree planting to reach its full potential.

3.4 Nuisance Management

The Council may undertake remedial work where it is considered that its trees are causing an actionable nuisance as assessed by the responsible council officer.

The Council will aim to undertake works expediently through its procurement arrangements.

3.5 Standards of Work

The Council has shaped its policy relating to standards of work to ensure that it achieves high standards of forestry and arboricultural maintenance. The standards of work on the relevant British Standards.

British standards provide professional guidance in tree management related matters. These standards include:

BS3998:2010 Tree Work Recommendations.

BS 5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations.

BS 8545:2014 Trees: from nursery to independence in the landscape - Recommendations.

Part 3

Tree Management Policy

3.6 Sustainability

ANY TREE POPULATION, REGARDLESS OF SIZE AND CHARACTER, SHOULD BE MANAGED SUSTAINABLY TO CONSERVE OR ENHANCE ITS STATUS.

As a minimum standard, any losses should be replaced with new trees on a one for one basis.

Failure to achieve this will result in the decline and deterioration of the tree population.

The importance of this principle has been recognised on a global scale because of indiscriminate logging of primary forests in various parts of the world which do not include plans to conserve, protect or regenerate the forest environment.

The impact of non-sustainable forest management continues to be a major concern today and consequently, the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) has been set up as an international non-governmental organisation with the aim of developing an independent system for the certification of timber and timber products from sustainable sources.

This provides a market mechanism to reward sustainable forest management and allows consumers of wood products to make a choice and influence the management of forests. The UK Forestry Standard was published in 1998 and sets out the government's approach to sustainable forestry.

This encourages woodland owners to achieve woodland certification in accordance with the UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS) 2018. This is an independent certification standard for verifying sustainable forest and woodland management in the United Kingdom.

The UKWAS standard is currently the central component of the forest certification program operated in the UK by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). Sustainable woodland management plans are now a pre-requisite to obtaining woodland management grants through the Countryside Stewardship Scheme, administered by the Forestry Commission. Sustainable management is therefore essential both on a global and local scale and should be adopted by all local authorities responsible for managing both individual tree populations and woodlands.

Sustainable management is essential both on a global and local scale and should be adopted for managing both individual tree populations and woodlands.

Sustainable systems of management should:

Maintain or enhance the tree population.

Facilitate the removal of dangerous or potentially hazardous trees.

Promote bio-diversity and conserve the tree/forest eco-system.

Conserve veteran trees with significant ecological, historical and amenity value.

Establish a tree population with a balanced diversity of age-classes.

Optimise the use of timber and other products of tree management.

CASTLE GARDENS, LISBURN

Part 3

Tree Management Policy

The Council adopts a policy of ongoing management in all its woodland areas.

3.7 Woodland Management

TREES IN WOODLAND AREAS HAVE TRADITIONALLY BEEN, AND CONTINUE TO BE, PLANTED AT RELATIVELY CLOSE SPACING, APPROXIMATELY TWO METRES APART. THIS ENABLES THE NEW WOODLAND TO DOMINATE SURROUNDING VEGETATION AND ESTABLISH MUCH QUICKER.

Initially, the young trees provide shelter for each other, but eventually start to compete for light, space, soil moisture and nutrients.

This triggers a natural selection process where the stronger trees start to dominate. At this point the forester will start thinning works to provide the space for the best trees to continue to develop. If management works are not implemented at this stage, competition between trees forces them to become tall and drawn.

This ultimately will cause the trees to become unstable and dangerous, particularly in windy conditions. There is a significant public safety implication if woodlands/plantations are not managed through their life, particular if public access is provided through the woodland or it adjoins an area of high public use for example a plantation on a highway verge.

The Council therefore adopts a policy of ongoing management in all its woodland areas. If these woodlands are to be retained in the county's landscape in the long term, such management should include periodic re-stocking in order to accord with the sustainability policy detailed in the sustainability section of this strategy.

This form of management will eventually provide a wide diversity of age-structure within the Council's woodlands. This will enable the Council's tree managers in the future to adopt management systems which provide a high proportion of mature tree cover at any one time.

All operations must meet the guidance issued by the responsible officer, the requirements of the law, current codes of practice and industry guides.

3.8 Response to Emergencies

THIS INCLUDES THE SAFE PREPARATION AND UNDERTAKING OF EMERGENCY/URGENT TREE WORKS TYPICALLY AS A RESULT OF TREE FAILURE, VEHICULAR ACCIDENT OR WEATHER-RELATED EMERGENCY.

The use of equipment and all operations must meet the guidance issued by the responsible officer, the requirements of the law, current codes of practice and industry guides.

The complexity of the situation will have a significant impact on the work required.

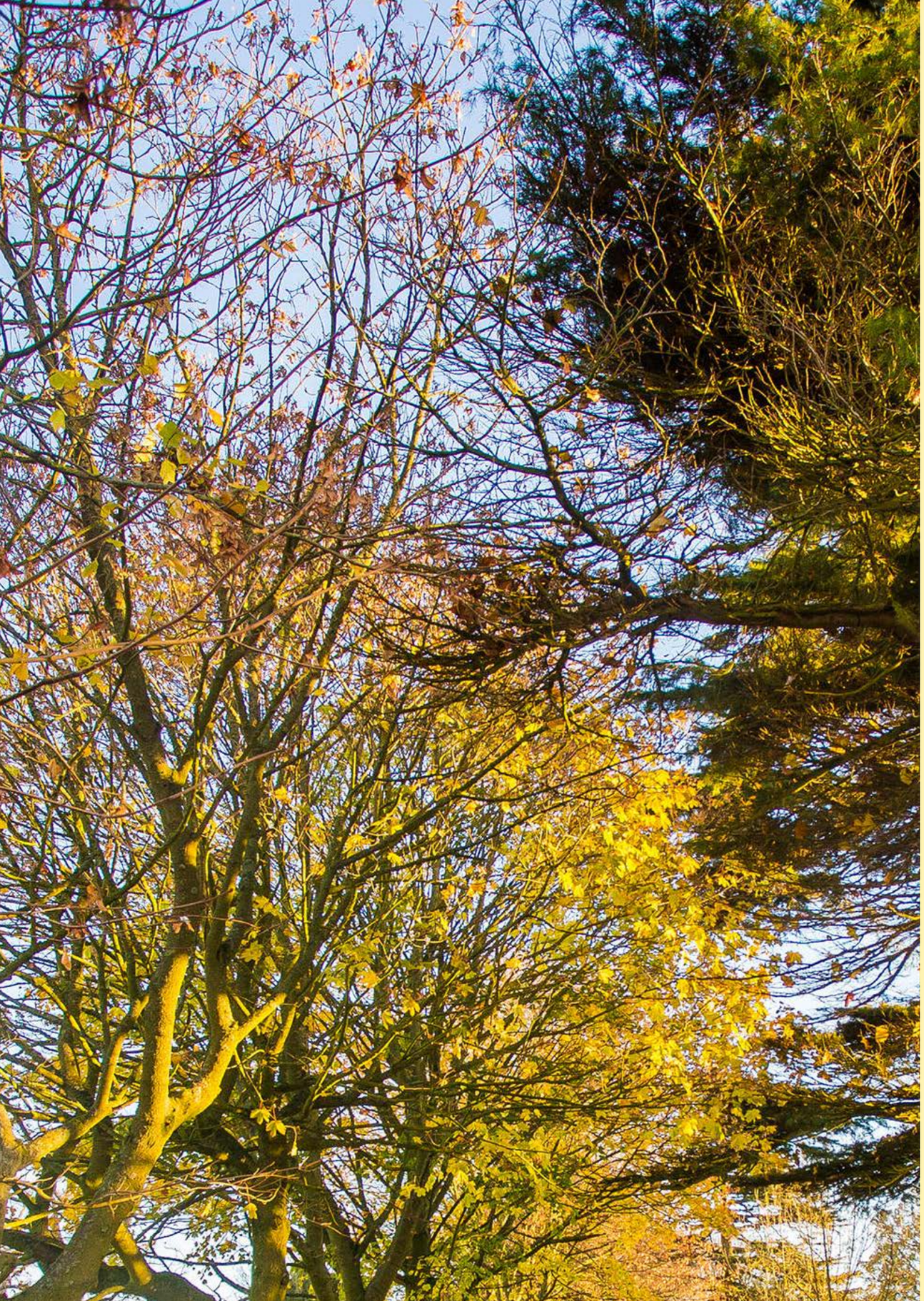
Traffic management systems may be your responsibility or be implemented by the highways authority and/or police.

As a minimum an emergency tree work operations team must be appropriately equipped and have the appropriate qualifications and experience.

ARBORISTS WORKING ON DISEASED ASH

FELLING OPERATIONS WILL BE MORE COMPLEX AND COSTLY THAN USUAL

TREES AFFECTED BY ASH DIEBACK QUICKLY BECOME BRITTLE AND MAY DROP BRANCHES OR FALL OVER



Appendices

4

Part 4

Appendices

Appendix 1
Tree Cover Percentage by Ward

WARD	% CANOPY COVER
Glenavy	5.33%
Stonyford	6.67%
White Mountain	4.67%
Maghaberry	4.67%
Ballinderry	7.33%
Moira	7.30%
Lagan	5.00%
Maze	8.00%
Blaris	12.00%
Hillsborough	11.33%
Knockmore	11.00%
Ballymacoss	12.90%
Ballymacash	7.90%
Lisnagarvey	7.00%
Old Warren	12%
Lagan Valley	18.40%
Hillhall	4.30%
Drumbo	6.33%
Ravernet	8.33%
Ballymacbrennan	7.00%

WARD	% CANOPY COVER
Dromara	6.33%
Hilden	14.30%
Harmony Hill	16.00%
Wallace Park	16.00%
Magheralave	14.30%
Derriaghy	16.50%
Lambeg	15.70%
Beechill	23.10%
Newtownbreda	13.30%
Galwally	8.60%
Cairnshill	3.30%
Knockbracken	5.00%
Carryduff West	9.70%
Carryduff East	3.67%
Dundonald	10.33%
Carroweagh	8.70%
Graham's Bridge	16.30%
Enler	14.00%
Ballyhanwood	4.70%
Moneyreagh	6.00%

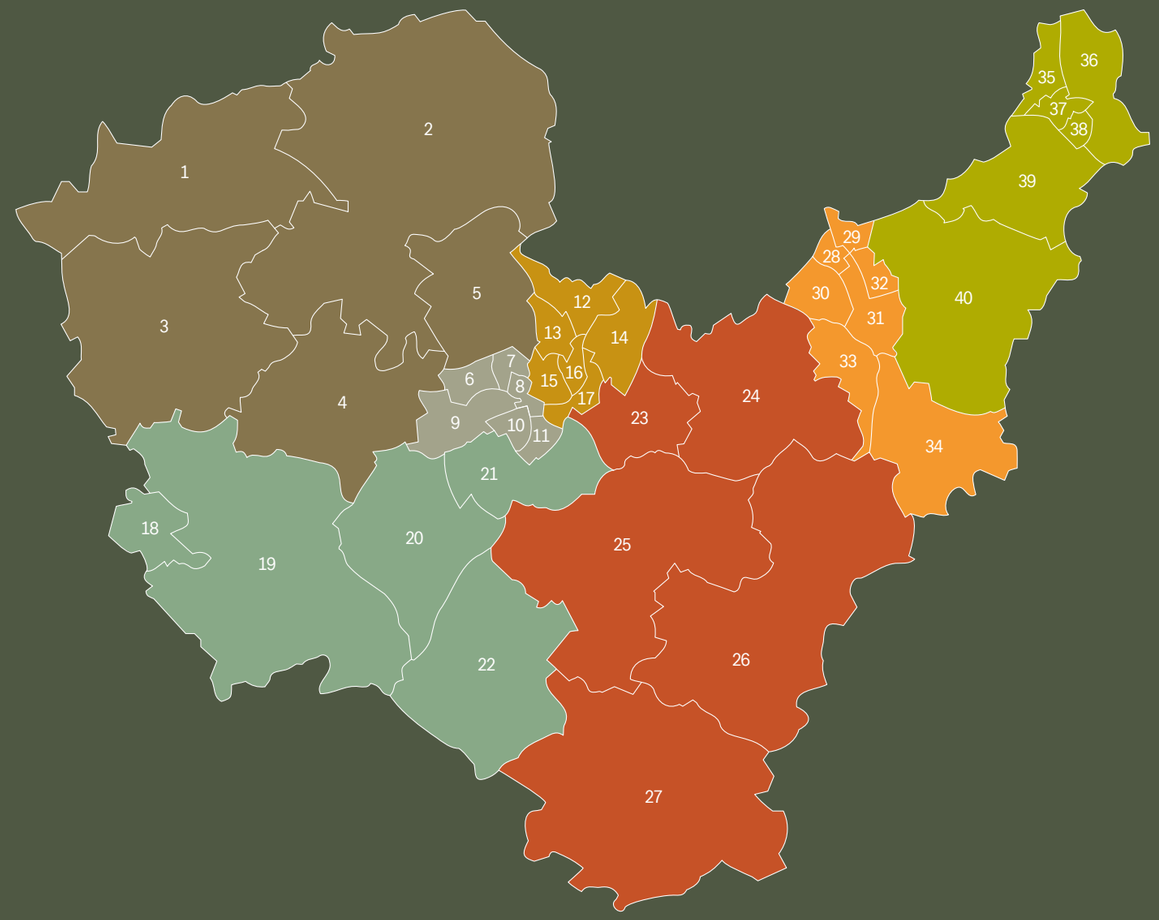
Appendix 2
Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council Ward Map

KILLULTAGH
1. Glenavy
2. Stonyford
3. Ballinderry
4. Maghaberry
5. White Mountain

LISBURN SOUTH
6. Ballymacoss
7. Ballymacash
8. Lisnagarvey
9. Knockmore
10. Old Warren
11. Lagan Valley

LISBURN NORTH
12. Derryvaghey
13. Magherlave
14. Lambeg
15. Wallace Park
16. Harmony Hill
17. Hilden

DOWNSHIRE WEST
18. Moira
19. Lagan
20. Maze
21. Blaris
22. Hillsborough



DOWNSHIRE EAST
23. Hillhall
24. Drumbo
25. Ravernet
26. Ballymacbrennan
27. Dromara

CASTLEREAGH SOUTH
28. Newtownbreda
29. Galway
30. Beechill
31. Knockbracken
32. Cairnshill
33. Carryduff West
34. Carryduff East

CASTLEREAGH EAST
35. Dundonald
36. Carrowreagh
37. Graham's Bridge
38. Enler
39. Ballyhanwood
40. Moneyreagh

Appendix 3
Ancient Woodland Sites

ANCIENT WOODLAND IN OUR LISBURN CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL AREA IS CLASSIFIED INTO THREE CATEGORIES:

PAWS
— Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites, sites with a long history of woodland cover where the original (natural) woodland was cleared and replaced by a plantation native or exotic.

ASNW
— Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland where native tree species have not obviously been planted and are still found.

L-EW
— Long Established Woodland not yet ancient.

The total ancient woodland within the Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council (LCCC) area is 168.24 hectares of which 73% (122.06h) are classified as PAWS, 14% (24.28h) as L-EW and 13% (21.9h) as ASNW.

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council is made up of seven District Electoral Areas (DEAs) and forty wards; below the amount of hectares of the fore mentioned three categories in each DEA are identified and split into which ward they are located in.

LISBURN NORTH 0.8%
LAMBEG (Glenmore plantation) 1.05h ASNW
HARMONY HILL (Richmond Court) 0.29h ASNW
TOTAL: 1.34h all ASNW

LISBURN SOUTH 0.6%
LAGAN VALLEY (Hillsborough Rd) 0.69h ASNW
BALLYMACASH (Ballymacash) 0.32h L-EW
TOTAL: 1.01h (0.69h ASNW/ 0.32h L-EW)

KILLULTAGH 3.8%
STONEYFORD (Tullyrusk Rd) 0.74h PAWS
GLENAVY (Ballyshannon/Lurgan Rd) 0.86h ASNW
BALLINDERRY (Upper Ballinderry) 0.77h ASNW
MAGHABERRY (Ballinderry Rd) 3.96h ASNW
TOTAL: 6.33h (5.59h ASNW/ 0.74h PAWS)

DOWNSHIRE WEST 74.5%
LAGAN (Broadwater) 1.72h ASNW, 2.9h L-EW & 0.16h PAWS
MOIRA (Moira Demesne) 9.49h L-EW
HILLSBOROUGH (Hillsborough Castle/Forest) 95.59h PAWS, 7.92h L-EW & 7.6h ASNW
TOTAL: 125.38h (95.75h PAWS, 20.31h L-EW & 9.32h ASNW)

DOWNSHIRE EAST 13.5%
RAVERNET (Larchfield estate) 3.13h PAWS & 1.54h L-EW
BALLYMACBRENNAN (Larchfield estate) 10.1h PAWS, 1.94h ASNW & 1.87h L-EW
DRUMBO (Ballylessen Rd) 3.02h ASNW, 0.87h PAWS & 0.24h L-EW
TOTAL: 22.71h (14.1h PAWS/ 4.96h ASNW/ 3.65h L-EW)

CASTLEREAGH SOUTH 6.8%
BEECHILL (Purdysburn) 11.47h PAWS
TOTAL: 11.47h all PAWS

CASTLEREAGH EAST 0%
No Ancient Woodland

For more information.

+44 (0)28 9244 7558

Parks-Amenities-Distribution@lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk

Parks and Amenities Service Unit
Civic Head Quarters
Lagan Valley Island
Lisburn BT27 4RL

Lisburn &
Castlereagh
City Council