



**BARNET
TREE
POLICY
2023-28**



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BARNET · ZERO ·

BARNET
LONDON BOROUGH

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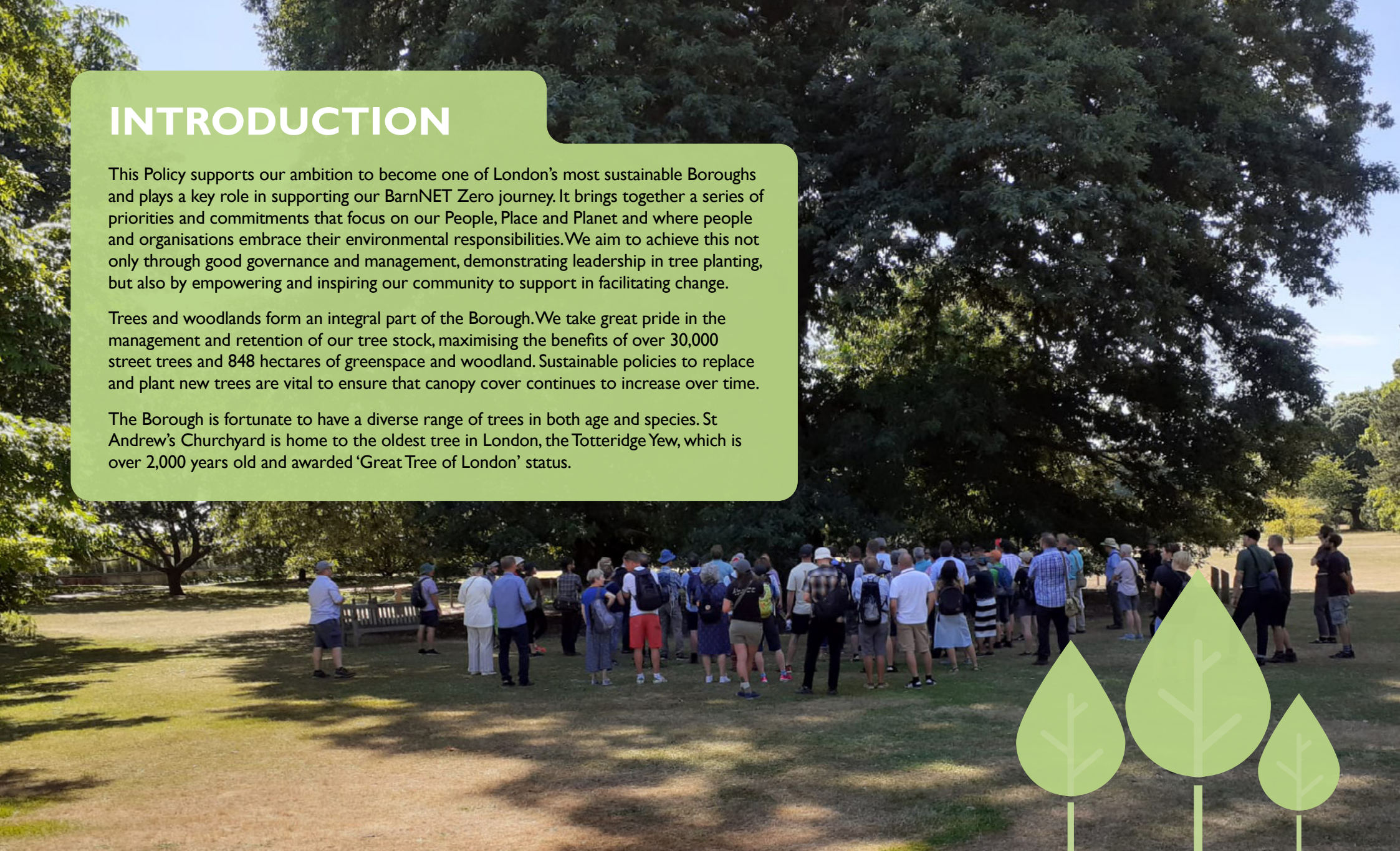


INTRODUCTION

This Policy supports our ambition to become one of London's most sustainable Boroughs and plays a key role in supporting our BarnNET Zero journey. It brings together a series of priorities and commitments that focus on our People, Place and Planet and where people and organisations embrace their environmental responsibilities. We aim to achieve this not only through good governance and management, demonstrating leadership in tree planting, but also by empowering and inspiring our community to support in facilitating change.

Trees and woodlands form an integral part of the Borough. We take great pride in the management and retention of our tree stock, maximising the benefits of over 30,000 street trees and 848 hectares of greenspace and woodland. Sustainable policies to replace and plant new trees are vital to ensure that canopy cover continues to increase over time.

The Borough is fortunate to have a diverse range of trees in both age and species. St Andrew's Churchyard is home to the oldest tree in London, the Totteridge Yew, which is over 2,000 years old and awarded 'Great Tree of London' status.



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KEY AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The Council recognises the positive impact that urban trees have on the environment and the lives of people in Barnet and aims to protect its current trees and woodlands.

This policy document has been prepared in response to National, Regional and Local policy frameworks, it outlines how the

council manages its responsibilities and legal obligations in relation to health and safety, risk management and resident concerns, whilst maintaining a healthy, diverse and extensive tree stock.

In order to realise our ambitions, the following objectives have been adopted:

The key aims and objectives for the Policy are:



1. Support the Councils commitment to Climate Change initiatives and support delivery of the Sustainability Strategy targets.



4. Support and enhance opportunities for community engagement.



2. Increase street tree canopy cover to improve ecosystem services (air quality, shade, flood risk, public health) and resilience to pests and disease.



5. Preservation of existing mature and maturing trees through good tree management and policies.



3. Guarantee the replacement of every street tree that is removed to achieve a sustainable urban forest.



6. Utilise new and improved methods of tree planting and aftercare.

This Policy will be an adaptable one; being updated as and when required to remain current, in line with changes to national and local policy, procedures, best practice and Government guidance.



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I. THE IMPORTANCE OF TREES

Barnet significantly contributes to the natural greenspace and canopy cover of Greater London. In this modern day of increased development and urbanisation, it has become clear that trees play an essential role within our ever evolving landscape removing airborne pollutants and reducing surface temperatures within urban environments.

Not only do they contribute to the overall aesthetics of our towns and cities, but research has highlighted that the presence of trees is associated with a range of crucial benefits to our health and wellbeing. In order to maximise these benefits it is essential that sustainably managed greenspace and trees are accessible to the local population and that these assets are protected and well managed.

Investing correctly in trees, woodlands, greenspaces, town centre and urban greening projects is vital given the changing climate. Trees are one of the few assets that appreciate in value with age as their amenity and contribution to health, wellbeing and the landscape increases.



SIGNIFICANT BENEFITS

The benefits of trees are well documented. They contribute many social, environmental, economic and health benefits to an urban Borough such as Barnet. Ensuring appropriate retention, maintenance and planting of trees within the Borough is vital to provide these benefits, enable climate change proofing to meet the Council's environmental aims and to make Barnet a desirable place to live and work.

Environmental

- Improving air quality storing and converting Carbon Dioxide (CO²) into Oxygen (sequestration).
- Deposition and dispersion of Nitrogen dioxide (NO²).
- Reduce the urban heat island affect, providing shade in urban areas.
- A natural flood defence, intercepting rainfall and decreasing surface runoff.
- Increased biodiversity providing ecosystems and habitat for wildlife.
- Provide green corridors to improve connectivity for wildlife.

Socio-economic

- Benefits to human health and wellbeing.
- Parks and open space provide safe places to visit and socialise.
- Absorb sound and reduce noise levels.
- Provide shelter, security and privacy.
- Reduce frequency of road traffic collisions.
- Increase property values.
- Accessible educational resource.
- Help build stronger community cohesion.
- Create attractive neighbourhoods and town centres.



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i-TREE ECO REPORT

As part of refreshing our Tree Policy, we commissioned an 'i-Tree Eco Report' by Treeconomics, an early action from the Sustainability Strategy. This assessment provides data on the distribution, species and canopy of trees in Barnet and their benefit to our local ecosystem. The analysis from this survey has been used to support the development of an updated Policy, guide resources and inform a strategy for tree planting.

Tree Population

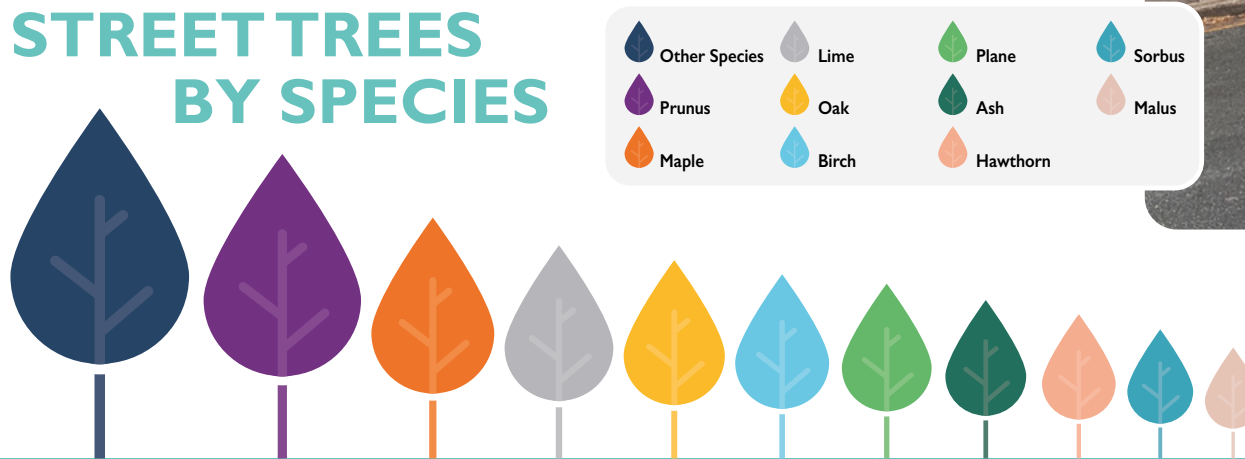
There are over 50,000 individual trees recorded within the Borough.

The tree population is generally spread evenly across Wards, although higher populations of trees can be seen in larger wards with more significant greenspace.

The cost of replacing all of Barnet's urban street trees currently stands at £85.1 million, with Oak, Maple and Plane costing £40.3 million to replace. The cost of replacing Barnet's trees highlights the requirement for an effective management strategy.



STREET TREES BY SPECIES

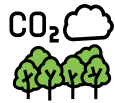


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Species Diversity

235 different species with the most common being Prunus followed by Maple and Lime.



Annual Benefits

Economic valuation of our natural capital can help to ensure appropriate funding and protection for this vital resource as society meets the twin challenges of climate change and biodiversity loss.



Over 50,000 tonnes of carbon is stored with the trees and woodlands of Barnet, with a calculated value of £48 Million.



Trees within parks and streets remove 690 tonnes of carbon dioxide annually from the air as a result of carbon sequestration. Woodlands remove an additional 627 tonnes of carbon dioxide per year.



Trees in streets and parks account for the removal of 16 tonnes per year of harmful atmospheric gases such as carbon monoxide (CO), ozone (O3), nitrogen dioxide (NO2), sulphur dioxide (SO2) and particulate matter.



It is estimated that the trees in streets and parks intercept 21,800m³ of rainfall per year, allowing this water to be re-evaporated from the canopy preventing excess runoff and lowering flood risk.



These environmental services from the tree population account for £3.24 million worth of benefits per year.

KEY INFORMATION FROM THE i-TREE REPORT:

Carbon Sequestration	31,900 tonnes (parks & streets)	£0.64 million p.a.
	20,600 tonnes (woodlands)	£0.57 million p.a.
Pollution Removal	16 tonnes (parks & streets)	£1.03 million p.a.
	4 tonnes (woodlands)	£0.95 million p.a.
Avoided stormwater runoff	21,900m ³ (parks & streets)	£19,800 p.a.
	32,600m ³ (woodlands)	£29,500 million p.a.
Total Annual Benefits		£3.24 million p.a.



CANOPY COVER

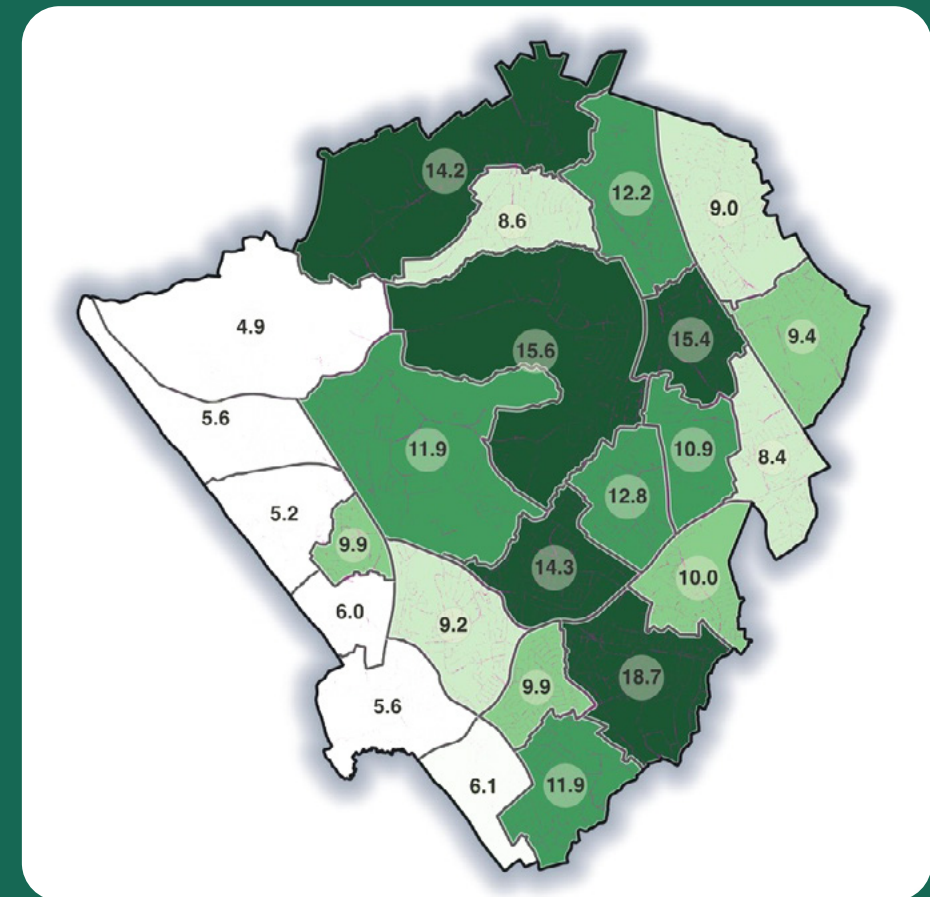
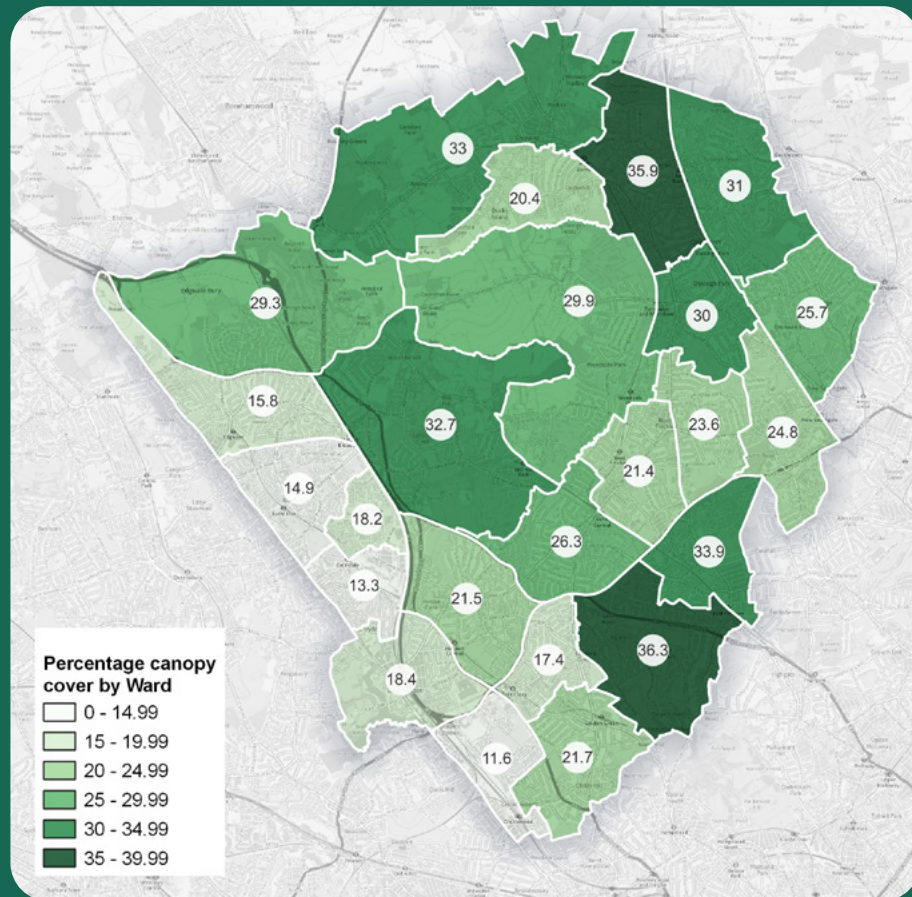
Determining Canopy Cover is essential for understanding the beneficial impact trees provide and will improve Air Quality, Carbon Storage and Sequestration, Urban Heat Island temperatures and Flood Risk, collectively known as Ecosystem Services (ES).

The more tree canopy present, the more ES they provide and an increase in canopy cover is a policy target for both central government (DEFRA) and GLA.

As part of i-Tree Eco Report, detailed Bluesky data taken from aerial photography mapping all trees over 3m in height was accessed to determine the canopy of each ward in Barnet.

The images display overall canopy including parks, cemeteries, private gardens etc.

The second image details only street tree canopy cover.



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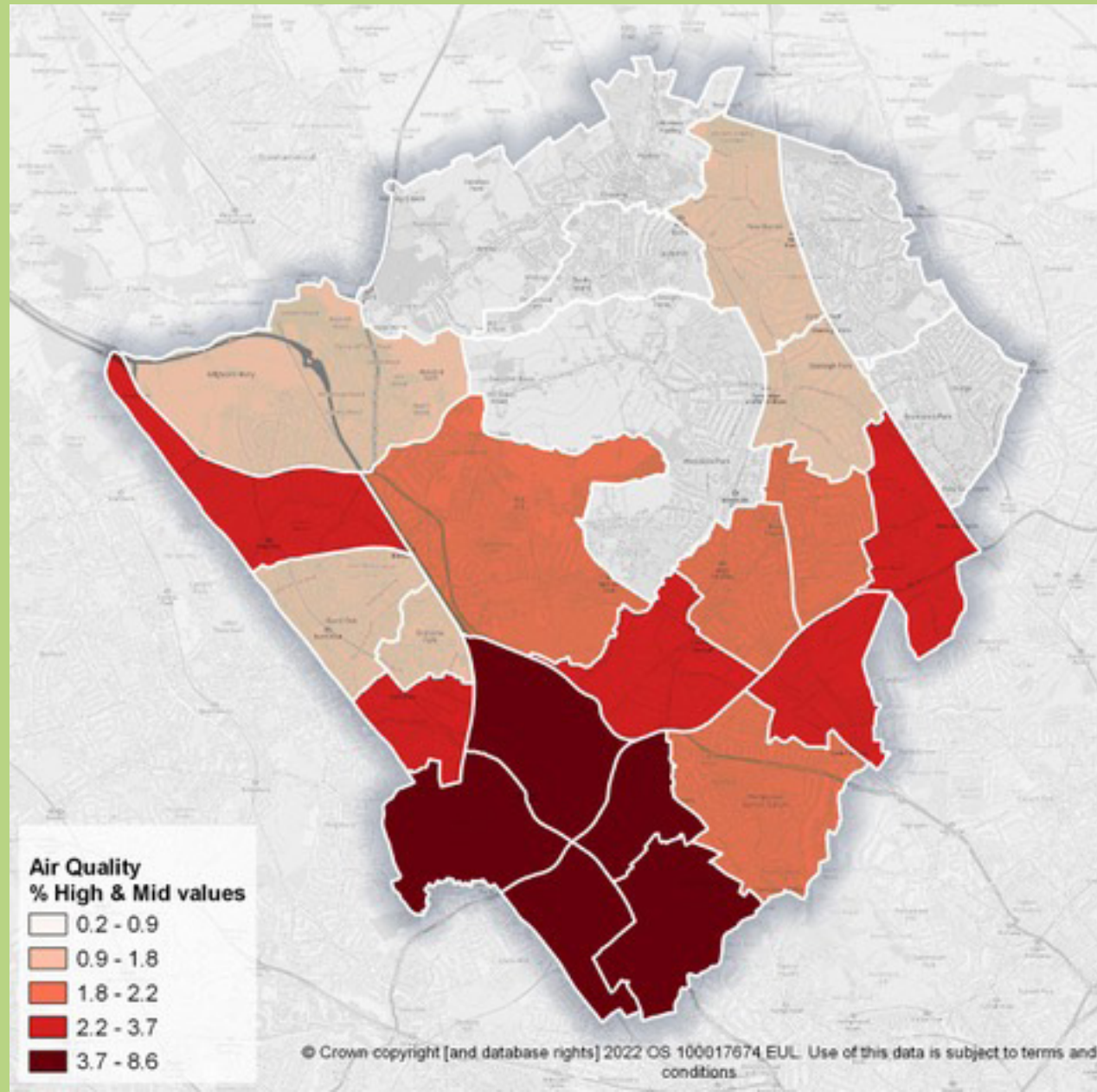


AIR QUALITY

Air pollution is one of the most prevalent environmental threats to human health in the UK. Long-term exposure is related to between 28,000 & 36,000 deaths a year in the UK (OHID, 2022). Trees can alleviate and mitigate air pollution by utilising the chemical components of the pollutant or by reducing the amount of particulate matter through interception from the leaves and branches until it is washed away by rainfall.

The GLA measures Nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) concentrations annually to identify areas which have concentrations higher than the European Limit Value. The worst affected areas in Barnet are located in the south and west of the Borough where the M1, A1, A5 and A406 are located (GLA, London Atmospheric Emissions Inventory (LAEI) 2021) and efforts have been made to plant several thousand street trees in these areas since 2014.

Atmospheric Carbon dioxide (CO₂) is utilised during photosynthesis and oxygen is released by the tree during this process reducing the amount of greenhouse gases. Trees act as 'carbon sinks' and store carbon in their structure, roots and soil.



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CARBON STORAGE AND SEQUESTRATION

In order to tackle climate change, it will be necessary for societies globally to significantly reduce the production and consumption of activities that emit greenhouse gases. There is also an important role for initiatives which capture and remove greenhouse gases from the atmosphere.

Trees, and other forms of natural capital, capture and store, or sequester, carbon dioxide (CO₂), which is the most prevalent greenhouse gas in the United Kingdom.

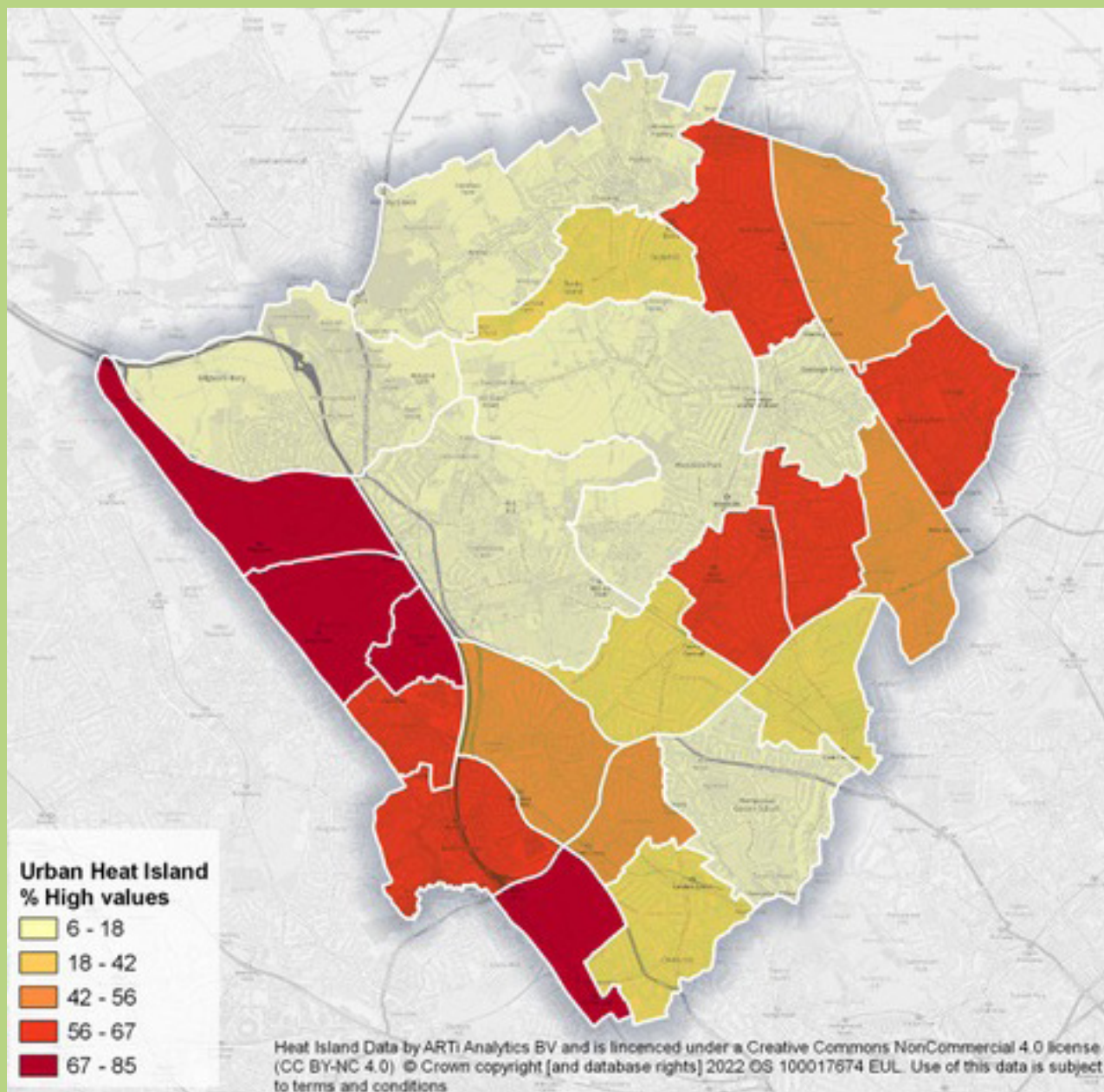
Barnet's tree population sequesters 687 tonnes of carbon each year, valued at £635,000 which is stored with the urban forest. The total amount of carbon stored by trees within the borough is 31,900 tonnes, which has been removed from the atmosphere and stored within the tree stock. This highlights the importance of maintaining a healthy and varied tree population, as this will increase the annual sequestration and overall storage of carbon over time.

TEMPERATURE

Urban areas frequently demonstrate higher mean average temperatures than surrounding rural areas. Heat is absorbed by road surfaces and buildings during the day and released during the evening. Greater London temperatures can vary by up to 10°C at night time due to heat captured during the day being released in the evening. This coupled with a lack of ventilation leads to the creation of an Urban Heat Island (UHI).

Temperatures can increase rapidly during the summer months presenting health risks to many people. By providing immediate shade locations during the day and restricting direct sunlight on roads and building surfaces, they reduce the raised temperatures experienced during the night.

Cooling strategies, in particular the planting of trees in identified locations can be very effective in reducing the UHI effect.



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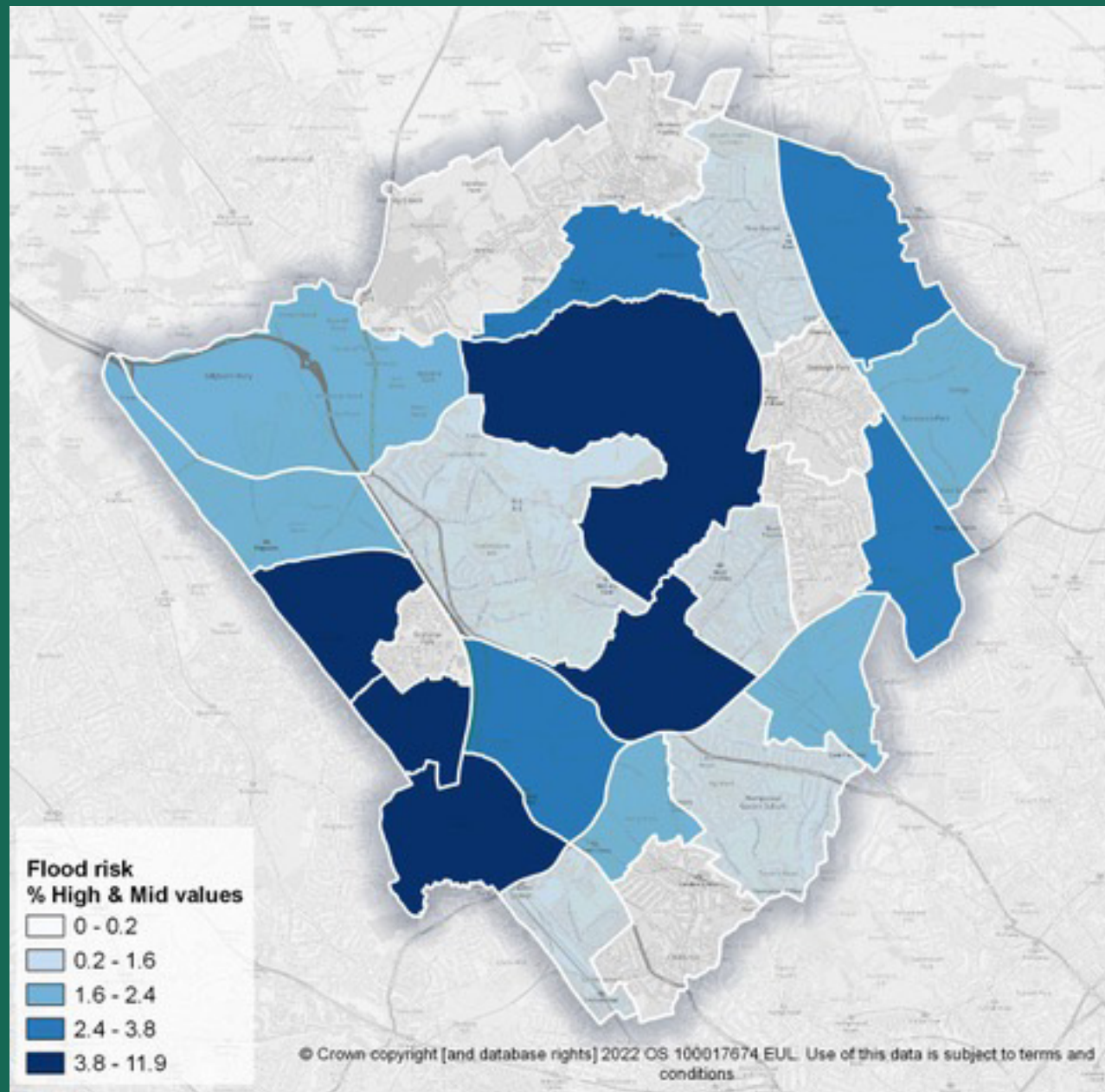
FLOODING

The interception of rainfall by trees has a significant impact on drainage capacity and lag time resulting in reduced localised flooding. Including engineered SuDS (Sustainable Drainage Systems) into planting schemes, flexible paving material around existing mature tree pits and new developments has the potential to increase the water holding capacity of root zones.

Delaying the release of stormwater into the drainage system alleviates the risk of localised flooding and reduces the pressure on the ageing tunnel network. SuDS also reduce the pressure on natural watercourses and river systems.

Impermeable surfaces and an increase in hardstanding for parking in gardens have led to an increase in surface run off after rainfall which contributes to localised flooding and is a source of pollution for streams, rivers, and lakes.

The urban canopy of Barnet's trees intercepts rainfall, reducing surface runoff and it is estimated that urban trees intercept 21,800m³ of runoff per year throughout the Borough.



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BIODIVERSITY

Trees contribute hugely to biodiversity in urban areas providing habitat for a range of wildlife, from microbes to birds and bats. Habitat potential will be considered especially in greenspaces and 'bee friendly' trees have been planted in Barnet's parks for many years.

Dead standing timber and veteran trees are found in many of the borough's parks and this will continue where considered safe to do so. Logs from felled trees can be stacked to form habitat piles in less formal parks and open spaces providing shelter for deadwood species and fungi.

Street tree planting and urban trees can play a role in improving wildlife links and connectivity between greenspaces along streets. They can also support biodiversity by providing habitats for birds, mammals, invertebrates, lichens and bryophytes.

Barnet has started work on the production of a Biodiversity & Local Nature Recovery Strategy and trees and woodland management will be a major consideration in this framework.

The Environment Act 2021 places a mandatory requirement for development to deliver 10% Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) as defined by DEFRA as a term used to quantify enhancements to the natural environment following development or land management, with the aim of leaving it in a measurably better state than its current baseline condition.

The DEFRA Metric considers habitat condition, distinctiveness and strategic significance of habitats, including urban trees, to calculate its Biodiversity Unit value. This must be considered on all relevant development. The Biodiversity Unit calculation is used to inform the appropriate level of compensation required through the Planning process.



2. TREE PLANTING

Tree planting provides a symbolic and important contribution to our work to address the climate emergency, helping to raise awareness of the issue and inspire others to take action, while providing a significant range of benefits in helping us adapt to a changing climate.

Since 2017 we have planted more than 4,500 trees across Barnet, delivering our first Borough wide strategic tree planting programme. Planting locations focused on targeting areas of poor air quality, urban heat island temperatures, avenue and landscape trees within parks and replacing street trees and green infrastructure planting.

External funding was also sought and received from DEFRA, GLA and the Forestry Commission. This became the main focus on new tree planting.

We want to continue our commitment and investment in tree planting and as part of this Policy, aim to plant 1,000 trees per year over the next 5 years to deliver greater benefits for the environment and our communities.



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The Councils Corporate Plan recognizes that we need to work together to take action to respond to the challenges of the climate and nature emergency, to reduce the inequalities gap, improve health and wellbeing, and deliver value for money. This is underpinned through an approach focused on 'People, Place and Planet', the action plan below provides an overview of our aims, commitments and actions we will take to support delivering this Policy.

Our aim is to...

Support the Councils commitment to Climate Change initiatives and support delivery of the Sustainability Strategy targets.

Our tree planting strategy for the next five years will focus on five priorities,

- **Maintaining and increasing street tree canopy cover**
- **Focus on areas with poor air quality**
- **Addressing urban heat and shade**
- **Reducing flood risk**
- **Targeting areas of multiple deprivation (IMD)**

Our aim for the next five years is to increase the number of street trees and canopy cover across the Borough. Planting will be concentrated along Barnet's streets and residential areas, working toward a more sustainable urban forest, supporting environmental improvements. This works towards the targets set by both the GLA and our Sustainability Strategy.



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Our aim is to...

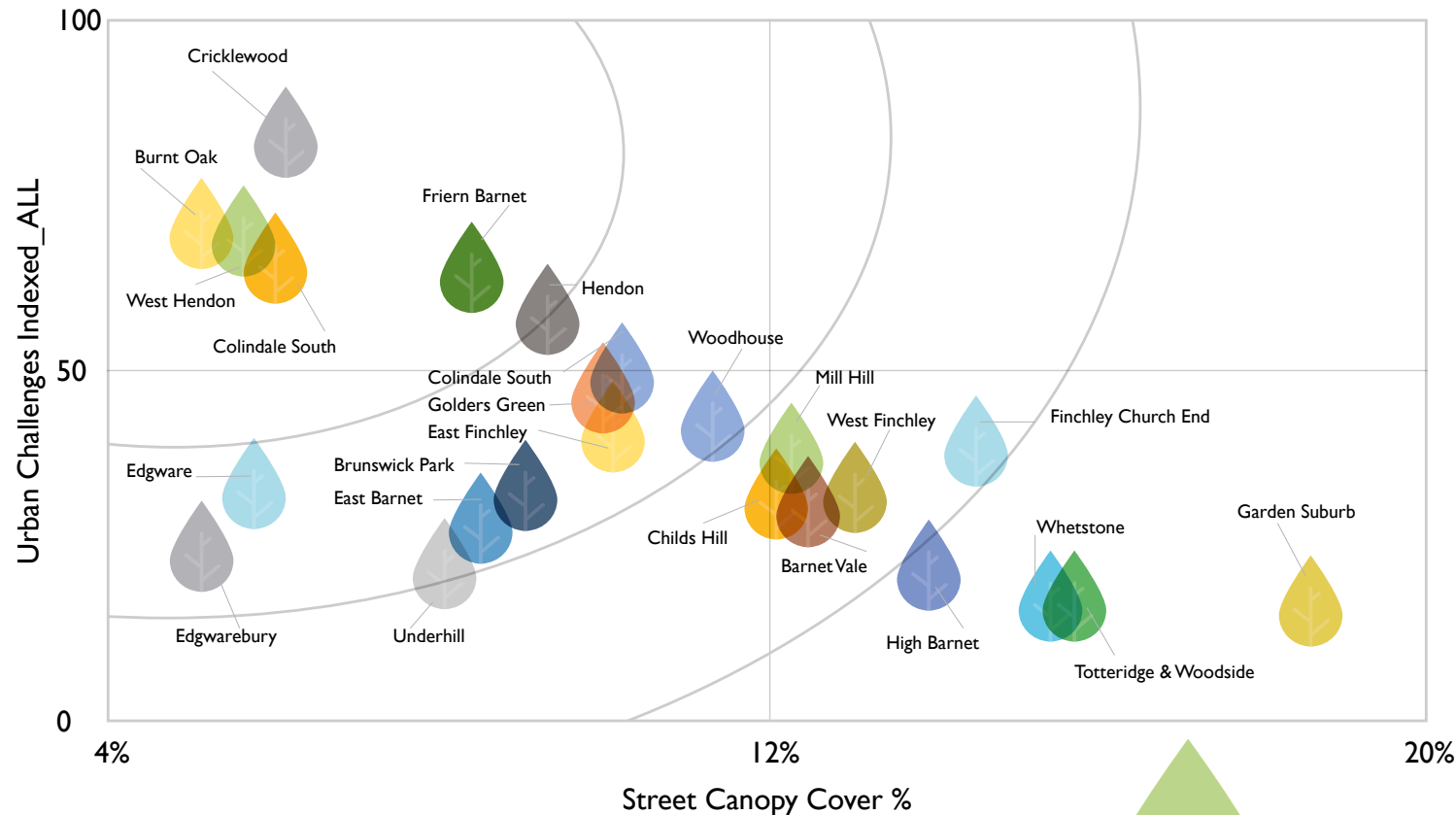
Increase street tree canopy cover to improve ecosystem services (air quality, shade, flood risk, public health) and resilience to pests and disease.

The Tree Equity Model has identified potential plantable locations within Barnet's streets (hard landscapes) that could accommodate a new tree pit, taking account of size, accessibility and spacing.

In determining a tree to be planted, consideration will be given to the chosen species, available space, location and constraints of the site. Barnet adopts the principal of responsible planting, identified in the London Plan as 'Right Place, Right Tree' (GLA, 2021).

Planting will prioritise larger growing shade providing trees scaling down to smaller ornamental trees where larger trees are not suitable. This will also be the case where trees have been removed for subsidence reasons or where there may be a risk of this. The council plants a diversity of tree species to mitigate against pests and disease that can threaten entire genus of trees (Dutch Elm disease, Oak Processionary Moth, Ash Dieback etc).

Tree Equity Model



Adopting the matrix of Street Tree Canopy Cover (X Axis) and Air Quality, Urban Heat Island, Flood Risk and IMD, (Y Axis), a Tree Equity diagram has been produced for all wards in Barnet.



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Our aim is to...

Guarantee the replacement of every street tree that is removed to achieve a sustainable urban forest.

Trees are inspected as part of a cyclical programme. Where a tree has been identified for removal this is typically due to disease or decay.

Replacement planting will follow a three year cycle where 50% of trees removed during any financial year will be replaced in the first year, with 25% in the second year and the final 25% in the third year. Priority will be given to main roads, streets where major tree removal is necessary or where substantial mature trees have been removed.

Where a tree is removed, replacement planting is on a one to one ratio. If the original site is inappropriate to re-plant then a more suitable location within the immediate area will be designated.

Once planted, a management plan is developed for each tree to ensure its longevity and successful establishment. The planting season is from November to March each year.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Our aim is to...

Support and enhance opportunities for community engagement.

Our Policy goals and objectives cannot be achieved by the Council alone and require us to continue working with a range of partners to deliver a series of environmental and social benefits. Whilst the Council is a major landowner, we also want to explore how we can work with schools, housing, businesses, private residents and community organisations to compliment Council activities.

There is already a diverse network of community and volunteer groups that the Council interacts with. We have successfully co-produced the design of a Memorial Woodland (Mill Hill Park) and through a future planting programme we want to enhance and increase opportunities to work together.

Case Study - Trees for Streets is a charitable enterprise that hosts and promotes local street tree sponsorship schemes on behalf of local councils.

Groups of residents also have the opportunity to organise crowdfunding to raise funds to sponsor trees which can be planted along residential roads to improve the local area and increase community engagement and awareness.

A Tiny Forest is a dense, fast growing native woodland planted in an area the size of a tennis court, approximately 200m². They allow people and wildlife to profit from the benefits of forest cover within a local, urban setting such as shade and biodiversity, as well as increased carbon capture and reduced flood risk.

Barnet Council worked alongside environmental charities to plant a Tiny Forest in a greenspace at Henlys Corner adjacent to the A1/A406 junction. The project brought the community together as school groups and volunteers gathered to plant 600 trees of 15 different native species.



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“This Tiny Forest will help people of all ages connect with nature, act as an outdoor classroom for young people learning about the natural world, and bring the community together. It will help create a stepping stone for wildlife that find urban areas often difficult to move through, supporting biodiversity” Earthwatch

Planting of fruit trees in open spaces allows the public to pick, forage and cook local produce. 50 fruit trees have been planted on the Watling estate in Burnt Oak in winter 2022. Further orchard planting is planned providing free fruit for the residents of Barnet.

The Council’s website is a main point of contact for community engagement, and will be updated to reflect information and opportunities.

Our website will also act as a single location, where information on trees, including this Policy are set out in a clear, easy to access format. This will enable the Council to produce information for residents or landowners on important aspects of planting and maintenance.

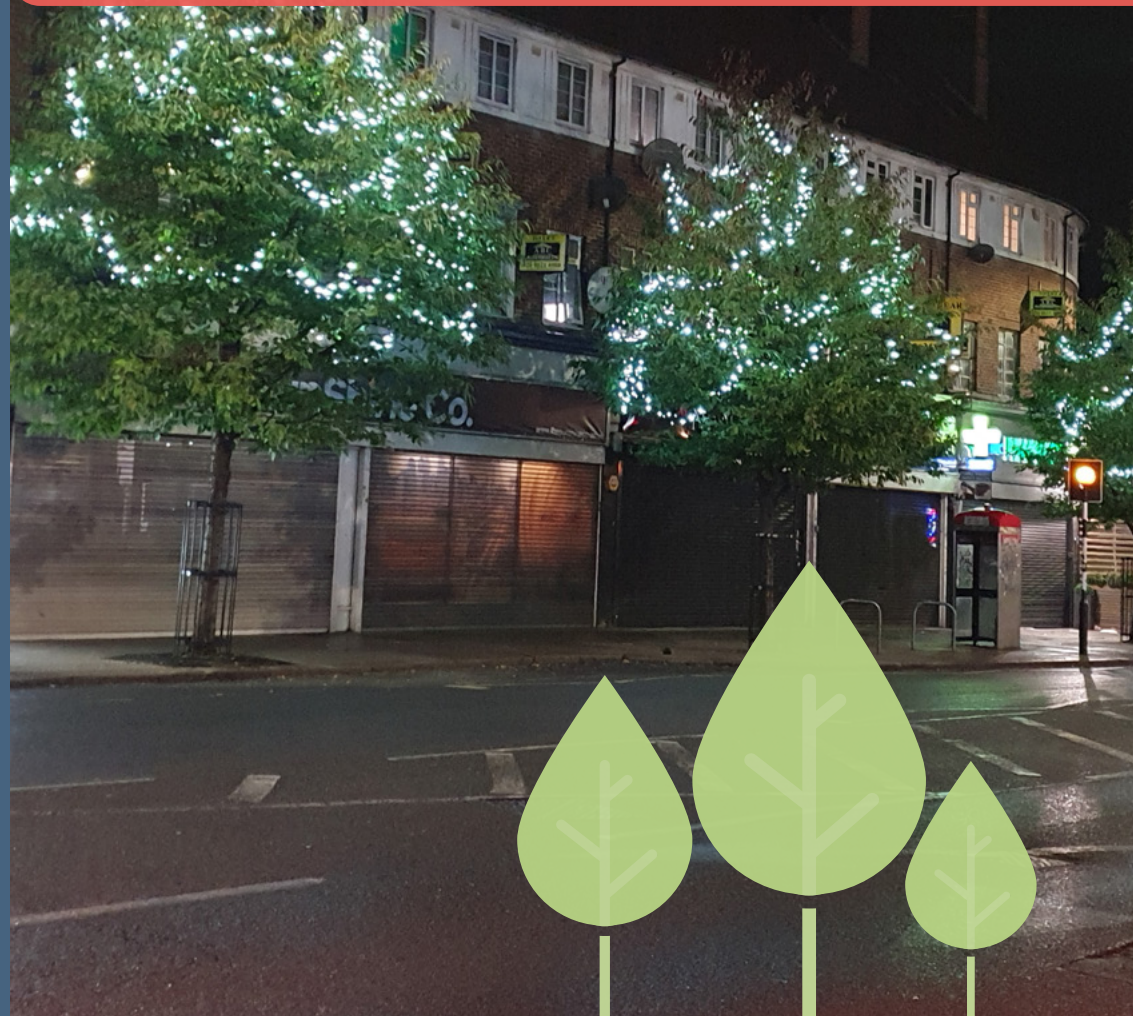
We will also provide information on tree locations and species, enabling access to location, species, size, inspection date, photographs and ecosystem services value.

Publication of council tree data provides a vital resource to anyone interested in the local environment. It will also, when linked with other data, help to create a national picture of the urban environment and the wide range of environmental, social and economic benefits that trees bring to towns and cities.

The council remains committed to working with communities and resident groups as we deliver the aims of this policy.

FUNDING

Funding for future tree planting will be achieved through a mixture of Barnet council funding and accessing government grants (for example: Urban Tree Challenge Fund, Local Authority Treescape Fund, Grow Back Greener, Green & Resilient Fund, Woodland Creation Acceleration Fund and others).



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3. TREE MANAGEMENT

SUSTAINABLE URBAN FOREST

It's important to achieve significant canopy coverage, but sustaining that canopy cover is the real challenge to maximise the benefits of the urban forest.

The total leaf area within Barnet is estimated at 1,280 ha. The most dominant trees in terms of leaf area are Maple and Oak at 15.4% and 14.9%, respectively. The ten most dominant tree species account for 69% of the total leaf area across Barnet.

Barnet has an ageing tree population, so continuing to plant new trees and replace those that are lost is an important step toward providing a greater age range for the future tree population within the Borough.

The size class distribution within the i-Tree Eco Report is an important measure of ensuring there are enough young trees planted that will grow to an older age and provide increased benefits to the residents of Barnet. This is supported by the Borough's planting targets.



CYCLICAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

Our aim is to...

Preservation of existing mature and maturing trees through good tree management and policies.

The council takes a proactive approach to publicise tree works. Appropriate signage is used to raise awareness of tree removal giving ten working days notice containing telephone contact details to enable customer contact. Tree work considered urgent or in the interest of public safety will be carried out within 24 hours. Under these circumstances, no notice will be given prior to the works being carried out.

Planned maintenance on street trees is currently carried out as a three year cyclical programme following tree surveys that identify any necessary works on a ward by ward basis. This work concentrates on maintaining trees in their immediate environment with due regard to encroachment, shape, future growth of the tree and subsidence risk management.

Removal of healthy trees is undertaken in exceptional circumstances and normally occurs when remedial pruning cannot be undertaken (subsidence risk) or engineered solutions cannot be implemented (direct damage by tree roots). Surveys are undertaken by Tree Officers, qualified and experienced in Arboriculture with access to internal diagnostic equipment, used on valuable mature trees where visual tree assessment is inconclusive in regard to tree safety.

The council will manage its Duty of Care with regard to Personal Injury risk by undertaking proactive tree surveys on a ward by ward basis on a three yearly cyclical programme. This is in line with recommendations made in the Common Sense Risk Management of Trees (National Tree Safety Group, 2011) and recent judicial rulings. As well as proactively managing risk, the council can effectively target its resources (financial, personnel and contractors).



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RISKS

As part of developing this policy, an assessment of risks has been carried out, with the key risks as follows:

- An ageing and declining tree stock, particularly amongst ornamental flowering trees resulting in the removal of 500 street trees per annum on average within Barnet.
- New developments to accommodate a rising population and pressure for land space, impacting on tree planting
- Constraints to available space to plant new trees due to underground services and vehicle crossovers.
- Stresses from the current climate and consequent pests and diseases.
- Conflict between tree roots and the built environment causing direct damage to hard standing (footways and drives) and the potential for indirect damage to buildings (subsidence).

All risks will be managed within the Council's risk management policy. A key part of this is the council's inspection programme, where a three year inspection cycle is followed to manage natural risk and external pressures.



BIOSECURITY

The incidence of pest and disease introductions has had a significant effect on the UK tree population over the last 50 years, e.g. Dutch Elm disease, Ash dieback and Oak Processionary Moth to name a few.

The council takes appropriate measures to prevent or reduce the risk of the transmission of emerging pests, diseases and invasive species detrimental to the health of trees.

In regards to planting, tree stock should be sourced from a domestic nursery that retains its trees for a minimum of one year within the UK before sale. This is detailed in the Plant Health Management Standard (2109) is known to Planning and can be passed on to any landscapers planting trees on development sites as an informative during the application process and can be added as a landscape condition.

The LTOA (London Tree Officers Association, 2014) issued a mission statement which outlines that proactive management is required to protect the tree stock throughout London. It outlines the key pests and diseases which could significantly impact important tree species in the city and provides actions to proactively manage the risk. The council has contributed to the LTOA survey of London Plane trees as part of European wide strategy for the control of Canker Stain.

Oak Processionary Moth (OPM) was first identified in the UK in 2006. Public health is considered a risk associated with the caterpillars releasing tiny hairs, these may cause itching skin rashes, sore throats, breathing difficulties and eye problems but these are rare and more likely to occur with contractors employed to remove nests.

In 2022, Barnet became part of the core zone which refers to the geographical area of the established OPM population with control no longer administered by the Forestry Commission. Further details can be found within the **Forestry Research OPM Manual** on their website. Routine spraying of known infected oak trees in identified risk locations is undertaken by Barnet during the Spring.

The Council will ensure adequate resources are available to control and contain the outbreak of known new pests and diseases, and continue to ensure proportionate resources are dedicated to the control of existing pests and diseases



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REFUSAL OF WORKS

Tree work will not normally be carried out if it is outside of this Policy.

Work to trees will normally be refused if it is requested for the following reasons:

- Interference with satellite dish TV reception
- Perception that a tree is too large
- Obstruction of view or light
- Seasonal nuisance (leaf fall, fruit litter, allergies to pollen, nuisance caused by insects or birds)
- Perception that the tree will cause damage in the future
- To replace a healthy mature tree to create space for the planting of new trees.

Works may be carried out to trees outside of the cyclical pruning cycle for the following reasons:

- The tree is found to be in an unreasonable condition in the context of the neighbouring properties by the Tree Officer
- The tree was missed from the cyclical maintenance programme.



HIGHWAYS

Our aim is to...

Utilise new and improved methods of tree planting, pit design and aftercare.

Street trees and their roots can cause damage to footways made of traditional materials such as asphalt, paving and kerbs. The Council's Highways team has implemented innovative methods to reduce this, using alternative materials such as bound rubber crumb or Flexipave, which is designed to provide a firm finish for pedestrian traffic combined with permeability for air and water to penetrate to the roots.

The material is often constructed using recycled rubber tyres and is highly flexible allowing tree growth and movement without the usual cracking and distortion typically associated with asphalt surfacing.

As well as reducing trip hazards within the footway, bound rubber crumb has the additional benefit of acting as a sustainable underground drainage system (SuDS), effectively directing excess runoff from the footway and hardstanding into nearby tree pits and away from the drainage network.

Removal of street trees will be the last consideration once engineering options have been exhausted and signed off by a senior manager

Collaborative ongoing work with Highways in the Network Recovery Programme (NRP) where Tree Officers inspects streets designated for NRP prior to works commencing. Any trees that meet the usual criteria for removal (dead, dying or mechanically unsound) are removed by the Tree Team. Highways then create a planting pit edged with hardwood and tree planting takes place following completion of footway works.

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VEHICLE CROSSOVERS

Our aim is to protect existing healthy trees, where trees are potentially impacted by vehicle crossover applications, the Highways team consults the Tree Team following payment by the applicant. The Council's Tree Team will then assess the amenity value of the tree.

A site visit is necessary to make a decision on whether the tree is considered an amenity and should remain, or whether removal and replacement would be the best and most sustainable solution.

The agreement to remove healthy trees to allow vehicle access is rarely given.

The Council decision will be final and any costs associated with tree removal and replacement of a tree will be borne by the applicant.

Capital Asset Value for Amenity Trees (CAVAT) is a leading method of tree valuation in the UK and will be used to calculate the value of a tree, if removal is agreed, the sum will be paid by the applicant.

PRIVATELY OWNED TREES

Where trees on private land are posing an imminent threat to public safety, the council is authorised to serve a notice on the tree owner to make the tree safe.

If this notice is not complied with, works can be undertaken by the council and costs recovered from the property owner (Local Government Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1976 s.23 and The Highways Act 1980 s.154). All branches and timber will remain the property of the owner and will be left on site.



PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Tree Preservation Orders, Conservation Areas and Development are managed by colleagues in our Planning Department

www.barnet.gov.uk

In addition to planting new trees, it is important we protect and maintain the existing trees and woodland we have. This involves using our planning powers to minimise the impact of development on trees and woodlands.

If trees are impacted by developments that are located on council maintained streets, parks or Barnet Homes estates, the Council's Tree Team will be consulted by Planning at the earliest opportunity and will be consulted before any pre-application advice given, and prior to any approval being granted for development, in accordance with planning policy DM01.

Policy DM01 of the Adopted Barnet Development Management Policies (2012) states where trees are located on or adjacent to a site, the Council will require the submission of a tree survey within planning applications indicating the location, species, size and condition of trees, in accordance with BS 5837: 2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction.

Trees should be retained wherever possible and any proposed removal will need to be justified in the survey. The planning department will consult with the Tree Team where trees on public land are potentially affected.

Any agreed tree removal associated with development will need to be adequately compensated using CAVAT which will determine the value of the tree to be removed. Costs for tree removal will also be sought from the developer.

The council's policy is to not allow anyone to pay for the removal and replacement of a tree, except when the agreed CAVAT value is sought as part of the development process. Any unauthorised tree removal or reckless damage leading to tree loss may be referred for legal action and in such case the CAVAT value of the tree will be sought in compensation.



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4. ACTION PLAN

Aim	Our Commitments...
<p>Support the Councils commitment to Climate Change initiatives and support delivery of the Sustainability Strategy targets</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver a strategic planting programme to increase street tree canopy cover, planting 1,000 trees per annum. • Connect our trees and woodlands, increasing opportunities to secure investment. • Work with partners to deliver a Nature Recovery Strategy delivering woodland management plans.
<p>Increase street tree canopy cover to improve ecosystem services (air quality, shade, flood risk, public health) and resilience to pests and disease</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plant an average of 500 street trees each year following the Tree Equity Model • Plant the right trees in the right places - utilising intelligence supplied by the i-Tree report to optimise the benefits of climate change resilience, flooding, cooling, shading and air quality. • Maintain the highest biosecurity standards in our tree planting programme.
<p>Guarantee the replacement of every street tree that is removed to achieve a sustainable urban forest</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plant an average of 500 street trees each year where trees have been removed due to disease/decay.
<p>Support and enhance opportunities for community engagement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide information on the Councils website in relation to tree management, maintenance and tree planting opportunities • Share information on initiatives that promote tree planting and woodland creation for landowners, investors, and communities. • Encourage local businesses and groups to help us fulfil our BarNET Zero ambitions by participating in community tree planting initiatives and events. • Support our Friends of Parks groups in the production of any 'self-guided walks' which indicates trees/wildlife of interest. • Explore the creation of community orchards in Barnet and aspire to have one well managed climate change-resilient community orchard in the Borough by 2025. • Encourage residents to assist in watering new trees.



4. ACTION PLAN continued

Aim	Our Commitments...
<p>Preservation of existing mature and maturing trees through good tree management and policies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managing existing trees from pests, diseases and risk through co-ordination and delivery of our tree maintenance programme, fulfilling our statutory responsibilities. • Ensure that our tree asset and risk management data is up to date and captured in our management database to provide a robust and accurate record of all Council owned trees. • Inspect trees we own where residents have expressed concern and promptly responding once we have thoroughly examined the circumstances. • Continue to adopt CAVAT (Capital Asset Value for Amenity Trees).
<p>Utilise new and improved methods of tree planting, pit design and aftercare</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Source local and UK grown tree stock to reduce further biosecurity risks from new diseases and pests. • Share information with other public land managers on new pests and diseases found in the borough. • Work with our Highways Service and external hardware suppliers in developing root management systems. • Liaise with other council departments to advise on the best species to plant when not directly planted by the Tree team, especially for regeneration schemes /private developments. • Strengthen our relationship with internal and external partners – integrating an approach to tree planting and design that provides a sense of place and character when we plan for new development.

Measures - We will measure the success of our actions through recording the following:

- The number of new and replacement trees planted each year, aiming to reach 5,000 over the life of this policy.
- The numbers of trees planted in each ward per year, aiming to improve environmental services in those wards with lower levels.
- Increasing canopy cover across the borough, targeting wards with lower levels of cover.
- The amount of external investment secured to support this policy.
- Levels of community and resident participation, such as trees for streets sponsorship numbers of participants in community tree planting and woodlands events.
- Completion of 3 year cyclical maintenance schedule.

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USEFUL LINKS

NATIONAL AND REGIONAL

[25 Year Environment Plan - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

[Homepage - Forest Research](#)

[Trees and woodlands | London City Hall](#)

[CAVAT \(ltoa.org.uk\)](https://ltoa.org.uk)

[Tiny Forest \(earthwatch.org.uk\)](https://earthwatch.org.uk)

LOCAL

[Barnet Corporate Plan 2023 to 2026 | Barnet Council](#)

[Home | Barnet Open Data](#)

[Trees in Barnet | Barnet Council](#)

[Protected Trees | Barnet Council](#)

[Streetscape Design Guide | Barnet Council](#)



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