5.
Targets, Priorities and Actions

5.1

Taking Care of Existing Trees and Woodlands

This section deals with the practical management of the trees and woodland resource. For much of the urban forest, this can mean seeking to engage and influence other land owners.

T1. Establish Comprehensive Tree & Woodlands Inventory

A tree and woodland inventory is a vital tool for understanding the full extent of tree assets across the district. It provides a baseline overview of the structure of the urban and rural treescape - including the number of trees, species diversity, and age distribution - which is essential for informed planning, management, and future monitoring.

To be effective, inventory methodology must reflect the nature of the assets being assessed. Individual trees, such as those covered by risk management protocols or Tree Preservation Orders, can often be recorded in detail. In contrast, woodland areas or large tree groups are more efficiently assessed using sampling techniques, which provide reliable data for larger populations at a lower cost. Sample inventories are particularly useful when working across mixed ownerships, where access may be limited. In such cases, a combination of remote sensing and targeted site visits can effectively gather the required information without extensive on-the-ground surveys.
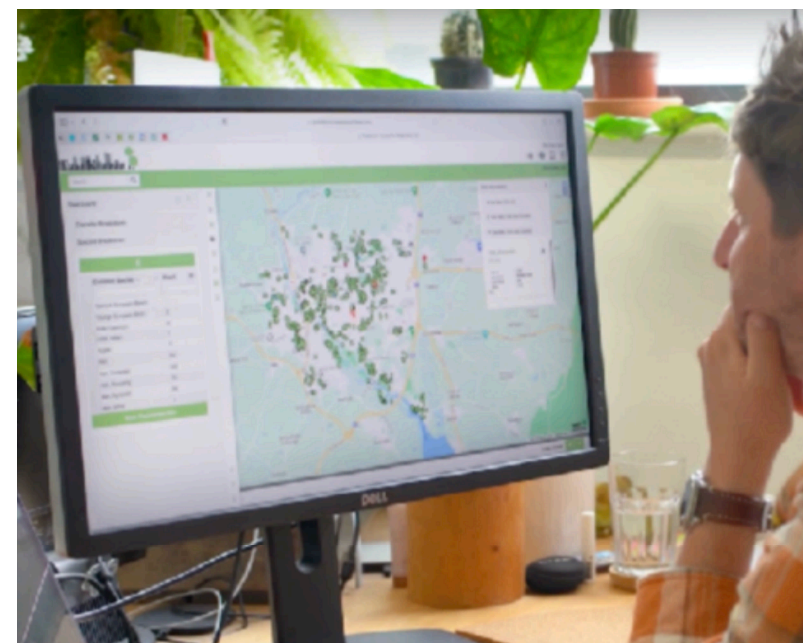

Figure 6. Treekeeper tree inventory management system developed by Davey Resource Group.

Link to corporate policies	Actions	Links
Green Infrastructure Study for Bolsover Green Space Quantity and Accessibility Report	1. Set up a digital inventory system for tree and woodland survey data by March 2026. 2. Add all BDC-owned and community reported tree and woodland assets by March 2026. 3. Launch a phased tree and woodland data collection programme, starting with BDC-owned land. 4. Seek to achieve a systematic and comprehensive tree and woodlands inventory in a district-wide GIS system by December 2029.	

Priority	Key Performance Indicators showing current position (🟧)			
	Low	**Moderate**	**Good**	**Optimal**
High	No inventory.	Complete or sample-based inventory of publicly owned trees.	Complete inventory of publicly owned trees and sample-based privately owned trees that is guiding management decisions.	Systematic, comprehensive inventory of the entire treescape, supported by mapping in a district-wide GIS system.

T2. Ensure Operational Plans Exist for Key Woodland Assets

Woodland assets require clear and proactive management to support their long-term ecological value and public benefit. At present, some woodlands may lack formal oversight, relying instead on reactive maintenance such as hazard reduction or trail upkeep. Moving toward consistent, strategic management across all sites is essential to safeguard these valuable resources.

Operational or management plans provide a framework to guide day-to-day decision-making and long-term objectives. At a basic level, they ensure public access is safe and infrastructure is maintained. However, at their most effective, these plans go further- embedding biodiversity goals, climate adaptation measures, and community engagement while balancing ecological health with recreational use.

Each key woodland should ideally have a tailored management plan that reflects its unique character, pressures, and potential. Plans should address issues such as invasive species control, habitat restoration, woodland structure, species diversity, and visitor impact.

Figure 7.

Link to corporate policies	Actions	Links
Green Infrastructure Study for Bolsover Bolsover Green Space Strategy	1. Collate all existing management plans and establish whether currently operational by June 2026. 2. Develop management plans for all remaining key woodland assets by June 2027. 3. Build resource within the Council to enable implementation of these management plans by December 2029. 4. Seek external funding to optimise the impact of implementing these management plans to sustain and enhance ecological integrity in addition to facilitating appropriate public use.	

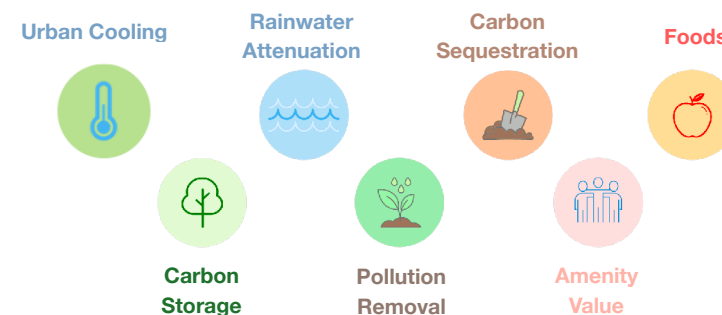| Priority	Key Performance Indicators showing current position (🟧)			
	Low	**Moderate**	**Good**	**Optimal**
High	No management plans in place. Implementation is not in effect.	Management plans in place for some key woodland assets. Implementation is only reactive management efforts to facilitate public use (e.g., hazard abatement, trail maintenance).	Management plans are in place for all key woodland assets. Implementation of plans is becoming established to begin to enhance ecological integrity and facilitate appropriate public use.	Management plans are in place for all key woodland assets. These plans are implemented in full to sustain and enhance ecological integrity while supporting appropriate public use.

T3. Promotion of Tree Benefits

Trees and woodlands provide vital benefits that, although sometimes difficult to quantify, are increasingly recognised for their role in climate resilience, biodiversity and human well-being. Promoting these contributions is crucial for their protection and integration into local strategies.

One of the key roles of trees and woodlands is their contribution to climate change mitigation and adaptation. Trees and woodlands moderate extremes of heat, filter air pollution, and provide shade, making spaces more liveable and enjoyable during hotter summers. Yet, despite their numerous benefits, trees are often overlooked and undervalued.

Recognising and valuing the services that trees provide enables more informed decisions around planting and management - benefiting both current and future generations. It also supports better communication of the importance of trees to the public, planners, and developers, helping to promote the protection of existing trees as well as encouraging new planting.Tools such as i-Tree Eco can be used to quantify the benefits of trees—also known as Ecosystem Services (ESS)—while providing valuable insights into the structure and composition of the urban forest.

About i-Tree:

i-Tree Eco is an application designed to use field data from individual trees, complete inventories, or randomly allocated plots across the sample area to analyse the forest structure and ecosystem services provided.

Urban Cooling

Rainwater Attenuation

Carbon Sequestration

Foods

Carbon Storage

Pollution Removal

Amenity Value

Link to corporate policies	Actions	Links
Bolsover Green Space Strategy Nature Recovery Plan	1. Publicly promote the benefits of the District's trees using canopy cover data from the baseline assessment (Chapter 4), and share this via the BDC website. 2. Secure internal or external funding to carry out a sample-based survey of public and private trees across the District. 3. Use survey data to assess ecosystem services and identify high-performing tree species and publish on BDC website alongside Canopy Cover data.	

Priority	Key Performance Indicators showing current position (■)			
	Low	**Moderate**	**Good**	**Optimal**
Medium	No comprehensive information available about tree benefits.	Some information available on key tree benefits assessed through canopy cover assessment.	Sound information available on tree benefits across the district assessed through a sample-based inventory survey.	Comprehensive information on tree benefits across the district, assessed via a sample-based survey and supported by detailed individual tree records.

T4. Tree Protection Policy Development, Monitoring & Enforcement

Urban trees are sometimes seen as a nuisance or a financial burden - dropping leaves on lawns, blocking drains, or causing damage to foundations and underground pipes with their roots. When poorly managed, they may also be perceived as a safety risk. As a result, some individuals may seek to remove trees from public spaces or private land. However, healthy trees should be retained and protected wherever possible.

Some private trees are protected by conservation areas and Tree Preservation Orders (TPO's). Trees may also be protected as part of planning conditions associated with planning approval. One tool used to assess whether a tree should be protected is TEMPO (Tree Evaluation Method for Preservation Orders). Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) and Conservation Areas (CAs) are two key mechanisms through which the council fulfils its duty to protect trees and hedges. In addition, trees and hedgerows may also be protected through conditions attached to planning permissions.

Bolsover's TPO review area map and conservation areas are currently available on the council website. To improve public awareness and engagement, building upon this map, adding more detail is a key action.
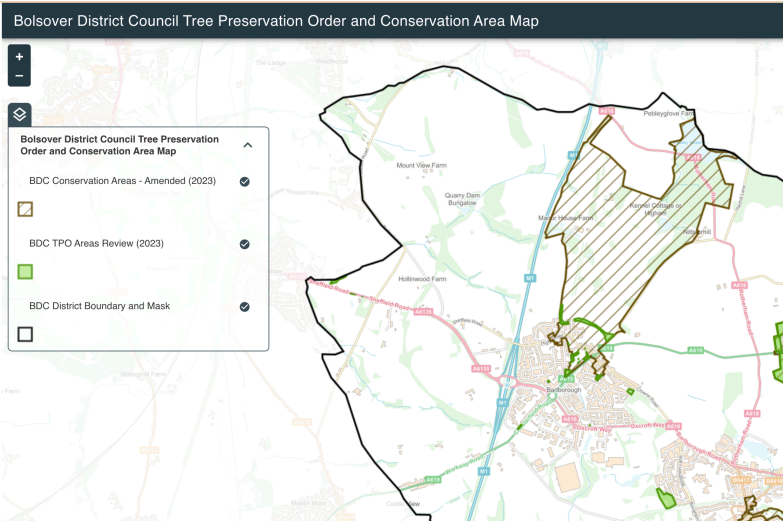

Figure 8. Bolsover District Council TPO and Conservation Area Map

Link to corporate policies	Actions	Links
Bolsover Green Space Strategy Green Infrastructure Study for Bolsover Green Space Quantity and Accessibility Report	1. Implement a monitoring and review programme of contraventions of TPO's to ensure enforcement is pursued by BDC by June 2026. 2. Protect where appropriate existing trees & consented landscape schemes to ensure appropriate tree retention and long-term management by June 2026. This could take place as part of pre-application planning enquiries. 3. Provide tailored training for BDC's enforcement team on trees, hedges & woodlands by June 2026.	

Priority	Key Performance Indicators showing current position (■)			
	Low	**Moderate**	**Good**	**Optimal**
High	No tree protection policies or TPOs, with no monitoring or enforcement.	Policies and TPOs in place to protect public trees and employ industry best management practices, but inconsistently monitored or enforced.	Policies and TPOs in place to protect public and private trees, generally monitored and enforced.	Integrated district-wide policies and TPOs to protect public and private trees, consistently enforced and backed by strong deterrents.

T5. Secure Resources to Support Existing Tree & Woodland Assets

Securing consistent annual funding is essential - not only to maintain and grow local investment, but also to diversify the overall funding base for tree and woodland initiatives. There are three broad funding routes to consider:

1. External government funding, directed at different stakeholders, including:

   - England Woodland Management Planning Grant & Woodland Tree Health Grant offer support for surveying, planning, & maintaining existing woodlands.

2. Funding from major NGOs and charitable sources, such as:

   - Sylva Foundation, Forestry Commission, and Woodland Trust offer funding to enhance ancient or long-established woodland sites.

3. Levies and planning obligations, secured through the development process:

   - Section 106 and biodiversity net gain contributions can be used to improve existing woodland, particularly where it forms part of local ecological networks or green infrastructure plans.

Link to corporate policies	Actions	Links
Climate Change Strategy Green Infrastructure Study for Bolsover	1. Scope and implement Section 106 funding for impact mitigation by June 2026. 2. Carry out Tree Planting Opportunity Mapping to assist in funding bids by June 2026. 3. Create a dedicated officer role/responsibility for bid/funding applications by June 2026. 4. Secure sufficient staff funding to enable proactive management of existing tree and woodland assets by June 2027.	

Priority	Key Performance Indicators showing current position			
	Low	Moderate	Good	Optimal
High	Little or no dedicated funding to deliver emergency, reactive or proactive management.	Funding only for emergency, reactive management, not delivering proactive management based on this Tree & Woodland Strategy.	Funding from public and private sources sufficient for some proactive management based on this Tree & Woodland Strategy.	Sustained funding from public and private sources to fully implement this Tree & Woodland Strategy.

Taking Care of Existing Tree & Woodlands Summary

Target	Current Performance Level				Priority
	Low	**Moderate**	**Good**	**Optimal**	
T1 Establish Comprehensive Tree & Woodlands Inventory	Low				High
T2 Ensure Operational Plans Exist for Key Woodland Assets	Low				High
T3 Promotion of Tree Benefits		Moderate			Medium
T4 Tree Protection Policy Development, Monitoring and Enforcement		Moderate			High
T5 Secure Resources to Support Existing Tree & Woodland Assets		Moderate			High