

Bolsover District Council

Tree & Woodland Strategy

2026-2036

Acknowledgements

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Foreword

Trees and woodlands are more than just part of our landscape; they're part of our identity. These natural assets are vital to supporting biodiversity, improving air quality, reducing flood risk and promoting better physical and mental wellbeing for the residents and workers of our local communities and the people that visit Bolsover District.

Since 2020, we've been working to increase the number of trees within the District as part of our efforts to respond to climate change given trees are an effective way to take carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere. This has seen us use Woodland Trust funding to secure the planting of over 25,000 trees across the District with our partners and over 1,000 volunteers.

But we want to embed this positive work within the Council's work going forward and our new Tree and Woodland Strategy sets out a clear and ambitious vision for the next decade. It plans for a greener, healthier and more connected Bolsover by protecting, managing and expanding our trees and woodlands for the benefit of present and future generations.

Achieving this vision means more than planting new trees, as important as this is. It also requires thoughtful, long-term management of the trees and woodlands we already have and strong community involvement. For this reason, the strategy focuses on three main themes:

- 1) Taking care of our existing trees and woodlands, ensuring they are well managed, protected and monitored.
- 2) Expanding tree and woodland cover, with particular attention to areas with the lowest canopy cover and greatest need.
- 3) Fostering community pride, by supporting volunteers from schools, community groups and landowners to take an active role in caring for local green spaces.

By adopting this Strategy, we are committing to making a difference to climate resilience, nature recovery and long-term environmental stewardship. If we do this, the Bolsover of 2036 will be greener and healthier than today.

However, delivering the Strategy's targets will require collective effort and so we will be looking to work with our partners, landowners and local communities and volunteers. If you want to join us in this important endeavour, please let us know.

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1. Introduction

1.1 Introduction

Bolsover District is a local government district in Derbyshire, England, situated between the cities of Sheffield, Nottingham, and Derby. It encompasses a diverse mix of historic market towns, rural villages, and former coal-mining communities. The district is known for its rich industrial heritage, scenic countryside, and historic landmarks such as Bolsover Castle, which attract visitors and contribute to the area's cultural identity.

In recent years, Bolsover District has undergone significant economic and social transformation, with a focus on regeneration, infrastructure improvements, and investment in local businesses. The district benefits from its strategic location, with strong transport links to major urban centres, providing opportunities for business development, tourism, and community growth. The largest settlements include the towns of Bolsover and Shirebrook, as well as the growing towns of South Normanton and Clowne. Several major transport routes, including stretches of motorway, also run through the district from north to south. However, despite these urban connections, the majority of Bolsover District is rural, characterised by a patchwork of farms, small villages, open fields, and woodlands, all crisscrossed by hedgerows and tree-lined roads. Trees, woodlands, and open green spaces are integral to the identity of the district, shaping both the landscape and the well-being of its residents.

Recognising the vital role of trees and woodlands in a healthy, sustainable environment, Bolsover District Council has developed this Tree and Woodland Strategy through its Woodland Trust-funded Bolsover Community Woodlands project to protect and enhance the district's natural assets for future generations. The strategy assesses the extent and condition of existing tree and woodland cover, identifies where additional planting would bring the greatest benefits, and promotes accessible, biodiverse, and climate-resilient green spaces. A strategic approach is essential to balancing development pressures with conservation efforts, ensuring that trees and woodlands are properly managed and expanded in ways that support both people and wildlife.

Trees provide a wide range of benefits to people and the natural environment, collectively known as ecosystem services (ES). These include capturing and storing carbon, reducing surface water flooding, improving air quality by filtering pollutants, providing shade and cooling urban areas, supporting biodiversity, and enhancing mental health and well-being. Woodlands also provide recreational opportunities, strengthen community connections with nature, and create vital habitats for wildlife. They also form an integral part of Bolsover's cultural and historic identity and contribute to the character of conservation areas and listed settings.

At a time when climate change, biodiversity loss, and environmental degradation pose increasing challenges, investing in tree planting and woodland management is more critical than ever. Expanding and maintaining Bolsover's green infrastructure will help to mitigate the effects of climate change, improve ecological connectivity, and enhance the quality of life for residents. Delivering further on the council's ambition to see many more trees planted across Bolsover District will significantly increase woodland cover, improve the character and amenity of towns and parks, and ensure that Bolsover remains a thriving, green, and resilient place to live, work, and visit.

1.2 Benefits of Trees

There are far more benefits to trees than many of us appreciate. These benefits are known as ecosystem services. The framework for understanding ecosystem services was standardised by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Commission on Ecosystem Management. The Common International Classification of Ecosystem Services (CICES) identifies over 100 distinct services, and work continues to measure and assign value to them.

In addition to environmental benefits, trees deliver significant social and economic value. They enhance the appearance of communities, create spaces for recreation, support mental wellbeing, and can even increase property values¹, and health improvements. Research continues to identify and quantify these wider societal benefits, helping to assign meaningful economic value to them.

Climate adaptation - temperature regulation: Urban green infrastructure can reduce peak summer temperatures by up to 7°C.² This particular adaptation has long been adopted by municipalities in warmer locations and forms a key tenet of green infrastructure thinking. Current research extends into examining the cooling effectiveness of individual species.

Contribution to heritage landscapes: Trees and woodlands enhance the setting of historic assets, including listed buildings and conservation areas. They frame views, create avenues, and maintain traditional field patterns, reinforcing the district's cultural identity.

Noise attenuation: Trees, hedges and woodlands act as natural barriers to sound, reducing noise pollution from traffic, industry, and urban activities contributing to a more peaceful environment.³

Increased property or rental value: A series of international studies have shown that trees increase property prices by between 5% to 18%.⁴

Increased consumer spending: Consumers are willing to spend more in shopping areas with large, well cared for trees. This has been measured as an increase of 9% to 12%.⁵

Reduced stress and improved mental health: Forest Research recently valued this particular benefit of forests and woodlands nationally at £185m.⁶ More trees immediately around the home (less than 100 meters) are associated with a reduced risk of being prescribed antidepressant medication. This association is especially strong for deprived groups.

Improved concentration and academic achievement: Greener schools have higher test scores, even after taking income into account. Middle school students get a boost from school greening. Planting trees within 250m of schools has the greatest effect.⁷

Improved recovery times from illness: Patients placed in rooms with views of nature experienced shorter stays in the hospital than patients in rooms that faced other buildings.⁸

¹ Doick, K. J., et al. (2018)

² Doick, K. Hutchings, T. (2012)

³ Oliveira, J.D.D, Biondi, D. And Reis, A.R.N.D. (2022)

⁴ Wolf, K.L. (2007)

⁵ Wolf, K.L. (2005)

⁶ Forest Research. (2021)

⁷ Kuo, M., et al. (2021)

⁸ Ulrich. R. (1984)

The Benefits of Trees



2.

Stakeholder Engagement & Consultation

2.1 Stakeholder Engagement

The initial preparation of this Tree and Woodland Strategy involved two Stakeholder sessions. The first covered internal Council stakeholders, including both officers and elected members. The second covered external stakeholders, including representatives from local community groups but also organisations active across Bolsover District.

BDC Internal Stakeholder workshop – Monday 9th December 2024

This workshop was structured in two sessions.

The first brought all officers together with involvement in tree planting and management in order to get a comprehensive picture of the roles and responsibilities across the Council and the collective resources available to support the delivery of the emerging strategy. This session identified limited permanent staff resources across the Council to support tree planting and management initiatives, particularly once the Woodland Trust funding for the Bolsover Community Woodlands project comes to an end. Limited resources available to monitor Tree Preservation Orders was another key limitation.

The second brought together elected members from across the District that have an interest in tree planting and management. This session identified the key ambitions of the Council for the Tree and Woodland Strategy, identifying the three priorities of ‘Taking care of our existing Trees and Woodlands’; ‘Expanding our Tree and Woodland coverage’; and ‘Fostering Community Pride’.

External Stakeholder workshop – Thursday 30th January 2025

This workshop brought together representatives of local community groups and organisations active in tree planting and management across the District. It identified the following priorities:

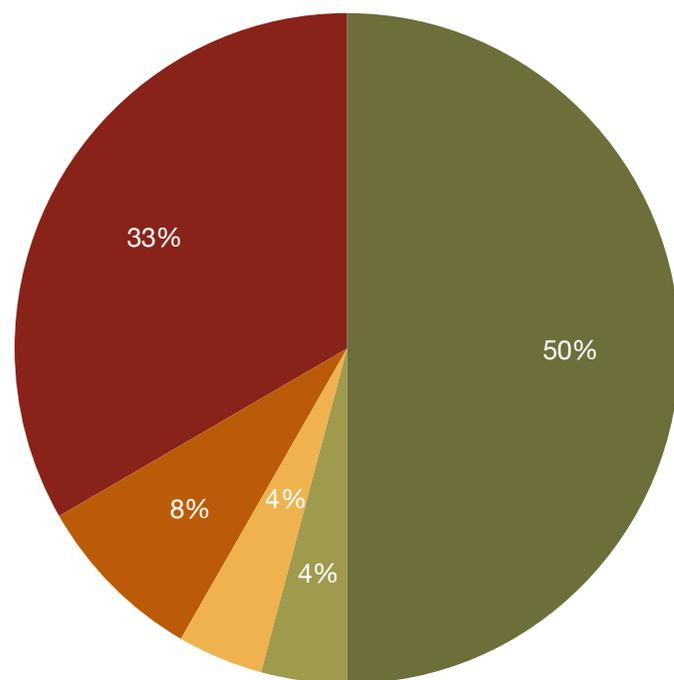
- Define a clear **timeline for tree planting targets** in Bolsover.
- Investigate **policy mechanisms** such as SPDs to support urban canopy growth.
- Establish **best practice guidelines** for woodland creation under 1 hectare.
- Develop a **woodland condition assessment** framework.
- Explore **expanding buffer zones** around ancient woodlands.
- Identify **funding and support** for community-led tree projects.
- Strengthen **partnerships with key stakeholders**, including landowners, conservation groups, and local authorities.
- Investigate the **feasibility of a local tree nursery** and opportunities for community involvement in tree planting and care.

2.1 Stakeholder Engagement

Conclusions from Stakeholder Engagement

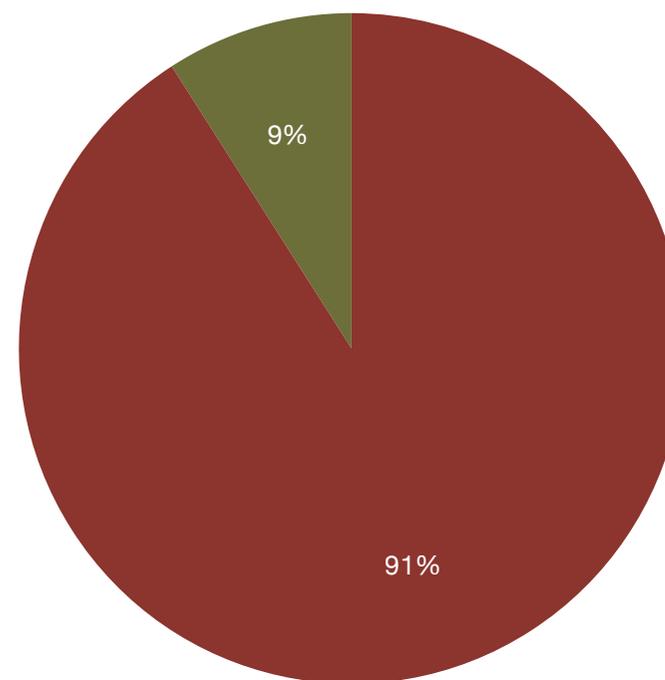
The feedback from this stakeholder engagement informed the development of the vision, targets, priorities and actions outlined in this strategy. The external workshop was followed up by a survey of all external stakeholders and the findings of this survey are set out below.

Q1. Trees and woodlands are an important part of Bolsover?



- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

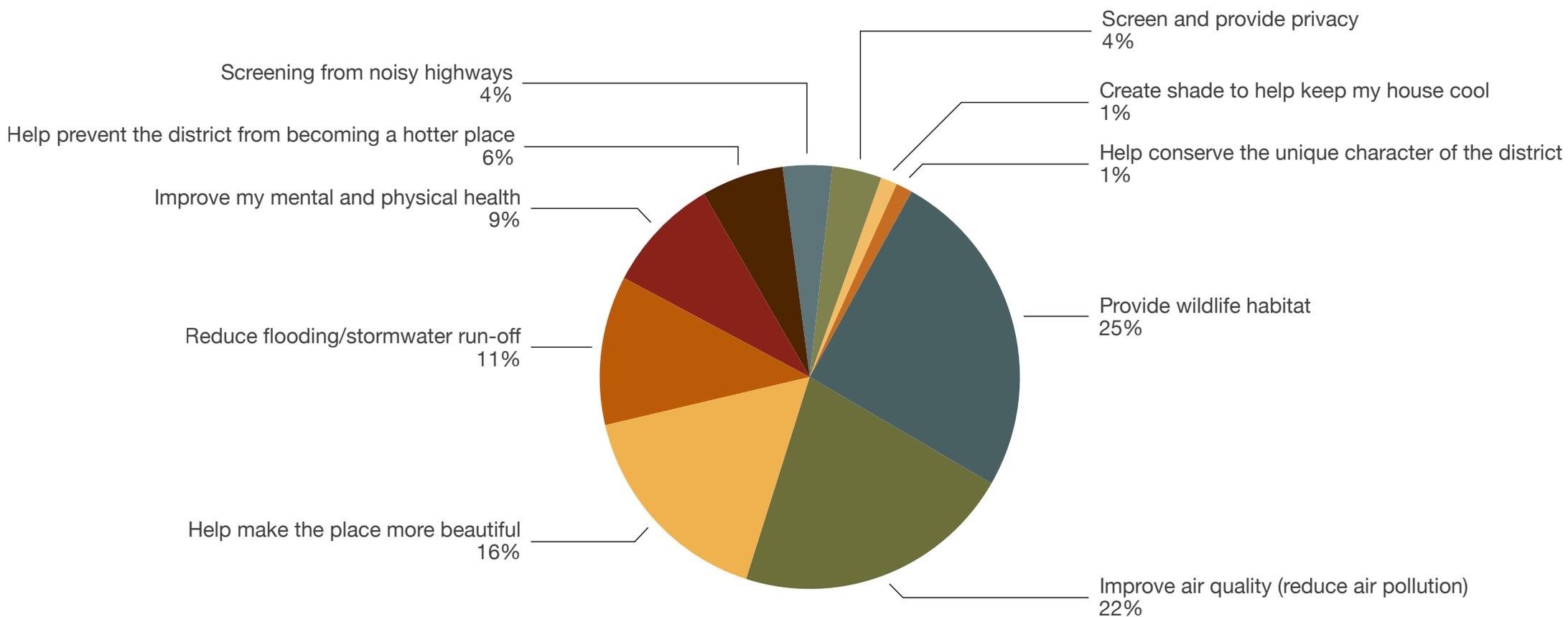
Q2. In your neighbourhood there are.....?



- Too few trees
- The right amount of trees
- Too many trees

2.1 Stakeholder Engagement

Q3. What benefits of tree and woodlands matter most to you?



2.2 Public Consultation

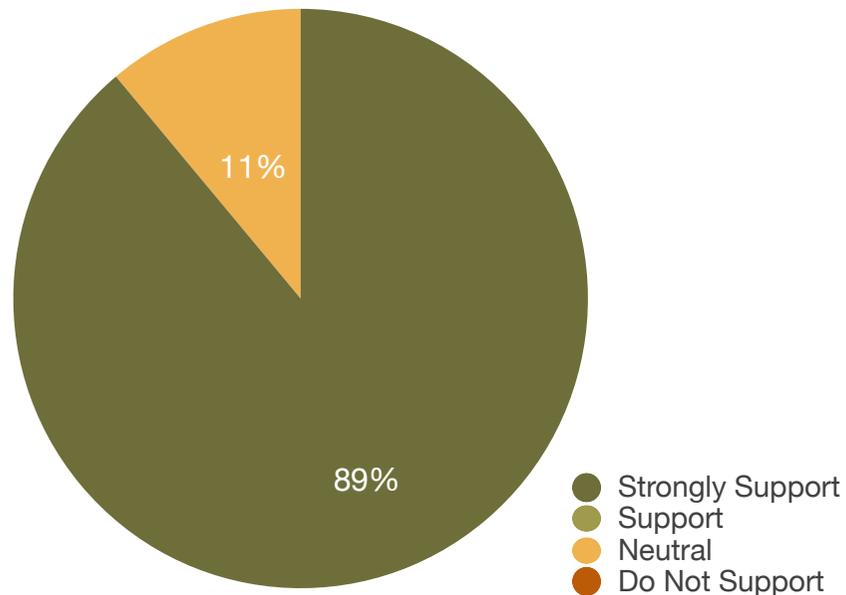
In addition, a consultation exercise was held on a consultation draft version of the Strategy between Friday 14th November and Monday 15th December 2025. This consultation sought views on the draft Strategy with questions structured around the following part of the Strategy:

- The Tree & Woodland Strategies vision
- Taking care of existing trees
- Expanding tree and woodland coverage
- Fostering community pride in tree and woodlands

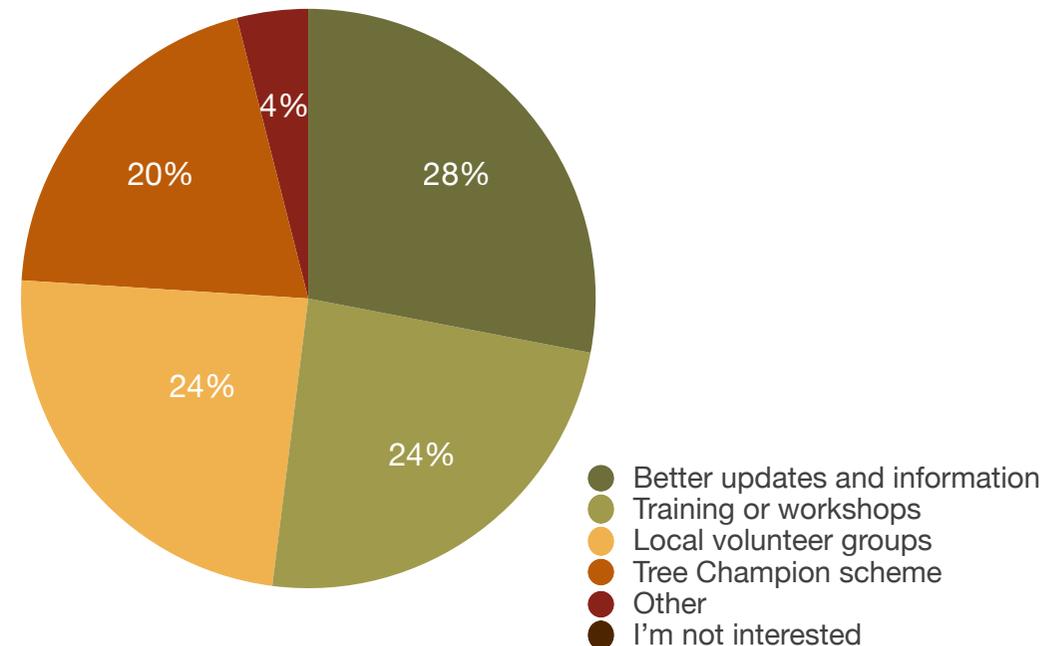
Conclusions from Consultation Exercise

The feedback from this consultation exercise has helped shape the final version of the Strategy and a summary of the key findings of this exercise are set out below.

Q1. Do you support the vision?

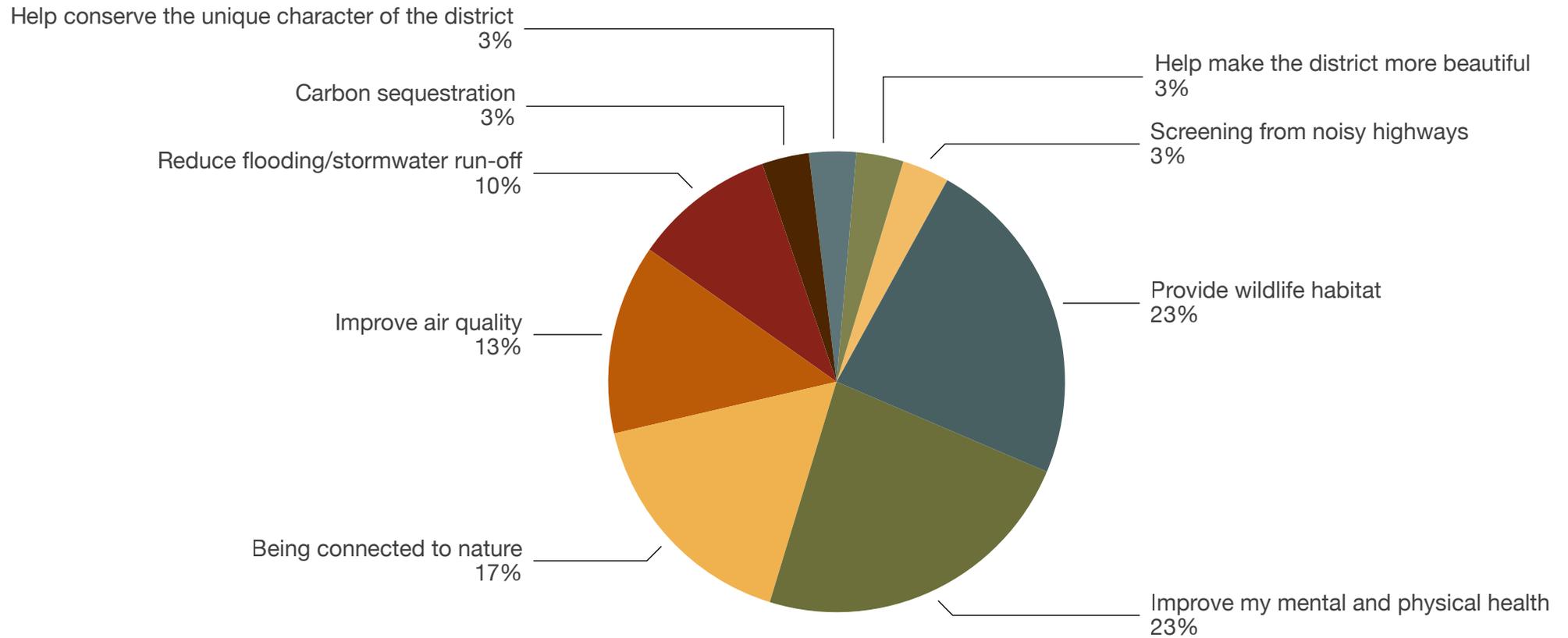


Q2. What would help you get involved in tree and woodland care?



2.2 Public Consultation

Q3. What benefits of tree and woodlands matter most to you?



2.2 Public Consultation

Feedback from the public:

- There was strong support for the preparation of a Tree and Woodland Strategy and it was stated that trees and woodland are important both for their own intrinsic value and their biodiversity, recreational and climate benefits;
- Respondents strongly emphasised the need to protect existing trees, woodlands and hedgerows, especially where these may be affected by new development;
- Many participants called for better long-term management of trees and woodlands, such as regular maintenance, addressing overcrowded woodland, and dealing with non-native species;
- There was a consensus that tree planting should complement other biodiversity and habitats, such as wildflower meadows and allowing natural regeneration;
- Respondents stressed that trees should be placed where they will not cause future problems for homes, roads or access, and must be given sufficient space to grow;
- Participants asked for stronger monitoring and enforcement to prevent unnecessary removal of trees and hedgerows by developers or homeowners;
- There was broad support for greater community involvement, with an emphasis on working closely with local groups and providing clear guidance to residents who wish to take part.

Feedback from organisations:

- Some landscapes are valued for their lack of trees and woodland and so it is important to ensure that landscape character is taken into account when creating new woodlands;
- Greater acknowledgement of the role that trees and woodlands contribute to historic landscapes should be made in the Strategy;
- Guidance on buffers around ancient woodland needed strengthening, with recognition that larger buffers may be required for bigger developments and certain impact types;
- Species selection, provenance and biosecurity required clearer direction to ensure a resilient treescape and to avoid introducing pests and diseases, especially near ancient woodland;
- Many existing woodland management plans were stated to be old and require updating;
- The Derbyshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy and Environment Act should be referenced more clearly;
- The role of farmers and private landowners were under-represented, despite their central importance for hedgerow management, habitat connectivity and delivery of new planting.

2.3 Community Groups & Stewardship

Community and stakeholder engagement is essential to the success of tree and woodland initiatives. Involving local residents, businesses and organisations fosters shared responsibility, ensuring green spaces are valued, cared for and sustained for future generations. Community-led tree planting and woodland management enhance biodiversity, strengthen climate resilience and support social wellbeing. Across Bolsover District, a range of community groups are already actively involved in forestry, biodiversity and wider environmental initiatives.

The Woodland Trust has played a pivotal role in enhancing Bolsover's green spaces through significant funding and collaboration. In 2021, Bolsover District Council secured a large grant from the Trust's Emergency Tree Fund. This funding supported the establishment of the Bolsover Community Woodlands project, a key part of the Council's efforts to respond to climate change and promote biodiversity. During its capital phase, the project saw the planting of over 25,000 trees across more than ten projects across the District and engagement with over 1,000 volunteers on these tree planting projects and other environmental activity days.

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust manage over 40 nature reserves, support sustainable land management practices, and advocate for wildlife-friendly policies. Through habitat conservation, species protection, and community engagement, the Trust works to enhance biodiversity across Derbyshire's woodlands, wetlands, and meadows. Their initiatives play a crucial role in tackling climate change, improving air and water quality, and connecting communities with nature.

Bolsover Woodlands Enterprise is a social enterprise managing and protecting woodlands across Derbyshire while providing skills development and opportunities for adults with learning disabilities. Through hands-on woodland and green space management, participants undertake tasks such as tree planting, woodland maintenance, footpath upkeep, scrub clearance and grassland management, including seed collection. The

organisation also operates a woodworking shop using locally milled timber from its conservation work. By combining environmental stewardship with social inclusion, it enhances biodiversity, supports sustainable forestry and creates meaningful employment and personal development opportunities.

Bolsover Community Woodlands Trust is a local organisation committed to the creation, maintenance, and preservation of community woodlands within the Bolsover district. By involving residents in tree planting and woodland management activities, the Trust enhances local green spaces, supports biodiversity and provides opportunities for environmental education and recreation. Their efforts contribute to the well-being of the community and the health of the local environment, fostering a sense of stewardship and connection to nature among residents.

Bolsover Community Voluntary Service (CVS) supports and empowers local voluntary and community organisations within the Bolsover district. By providing expertise, guidance, resources, and training, Bolsover CVS enhances the capacity of local groups to deliver effective services and initiatives. Their work in recruiting volunteers, organising events, coordinating activities and facilitating community and stakeholder engagement ensures a vibrant and resilient community sector, and encourages active citizenship.

Derbyshire's Heartwood Community Forest plays a key role in supporting woodland creation and community engagement across the county. It offers opportunities for funding and partnership that extend to Bolsover District, helping deliver strategic planting projects and strengthen links with regional woodland networks.

Parish and Town Councils are key local organisations that lead community engagement and represent their local communities. They also organise community environmental events and manage a large number of Bolsover District's green spaces.

3. Vision

3.2 Vision

“To create a greener, healthier, and more connected Bolsover by nurturing and expanding our trees and woodlands, fostering community pride in them, enhancing biodiversity, protecting heritage landscapes, and taking care of our trees and woodlands for the benefit of current and future generations.”

The aim of our strategy is to create a clear and actionable roadmap for the long-term growth, enhancement, and management of Bolsover District's tree and woodland assets. By building on tangible, measurable goals, the strategy seeks to ensure that future efforts are directed toward making the vision a reality, and supporting an environment that benefits trees and woodlands and the local community, whilst making the whole of Bolsover District more climate resilient.

In order to achieve this, this document presents a structured delivery plan under three core themes:

- Taking care of our existing Trees and Woodlands
- Expanding our Tree and Woodland Coverage
- Fostering Community Pride in our Trees and Woodlands

This vision is the result of early workshops to understand how Bolsover District's tree and woodland assets are perceived, how those involved want to see it improve, and what the future for the district's tree and woodland assets could look like. The vision aims to reflect the language and emotion of the early conversations to help shape this document into something unique for Bolsover.

Targets under each core theme are supported by a priority grading, a set of actions with target dates and a key performance indicator assessment framework that shows the Council's current performance position.

The strategy covers a 10 year period between 2026 - 2036, and progress will be reviewed periodically to facilitate the delivery of the targets and actions.



4.

Understanding Existing Trees & Woodlands

4.1 Tree and Woodland Baseline

Total Canopy Cover

A canopy cover study was carried out by Treeconomics using Google Environmental Explorer (refer to Appendix 5.2) which found Bolsover currently has almost 2,800 hectares of tree canopy cover, covering 17.5% of the district. There is a large variation across the wards, with the lowest canopy cover found in Bolsover East ward, and the highest in Langwith ward.

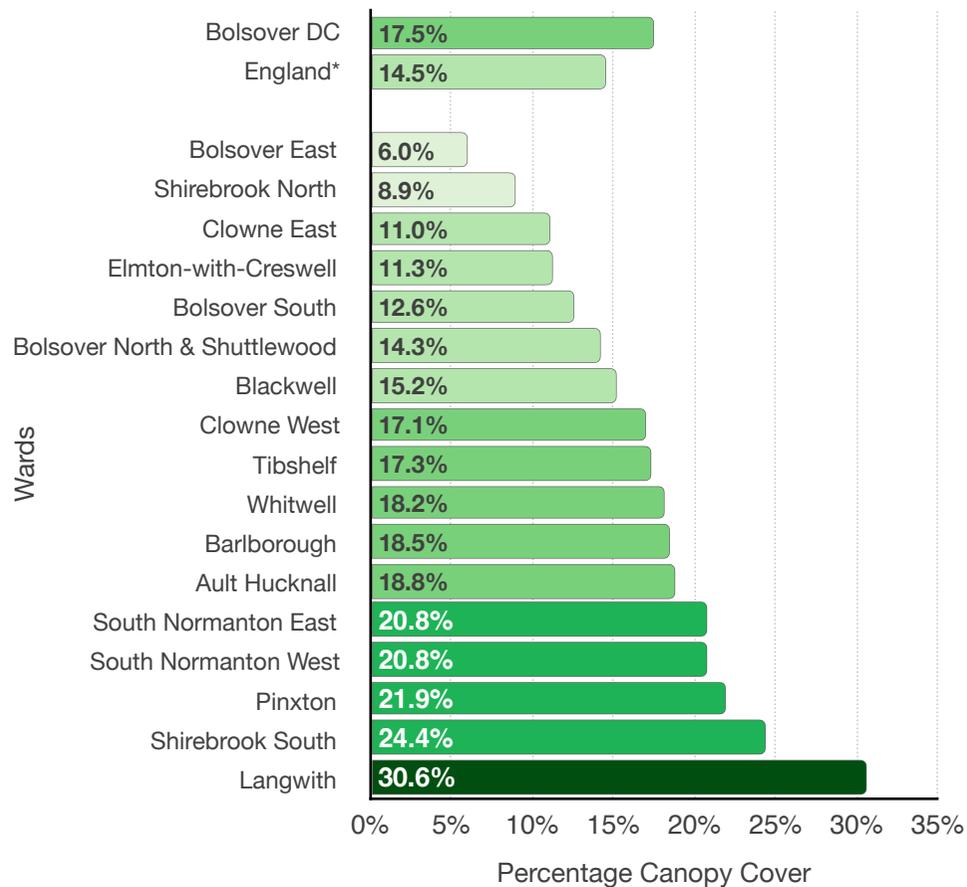


Figure 1. Canopy Cover by Ward

Source: Google Environmental Insights Explorer 2024.
*Doick., (2017).

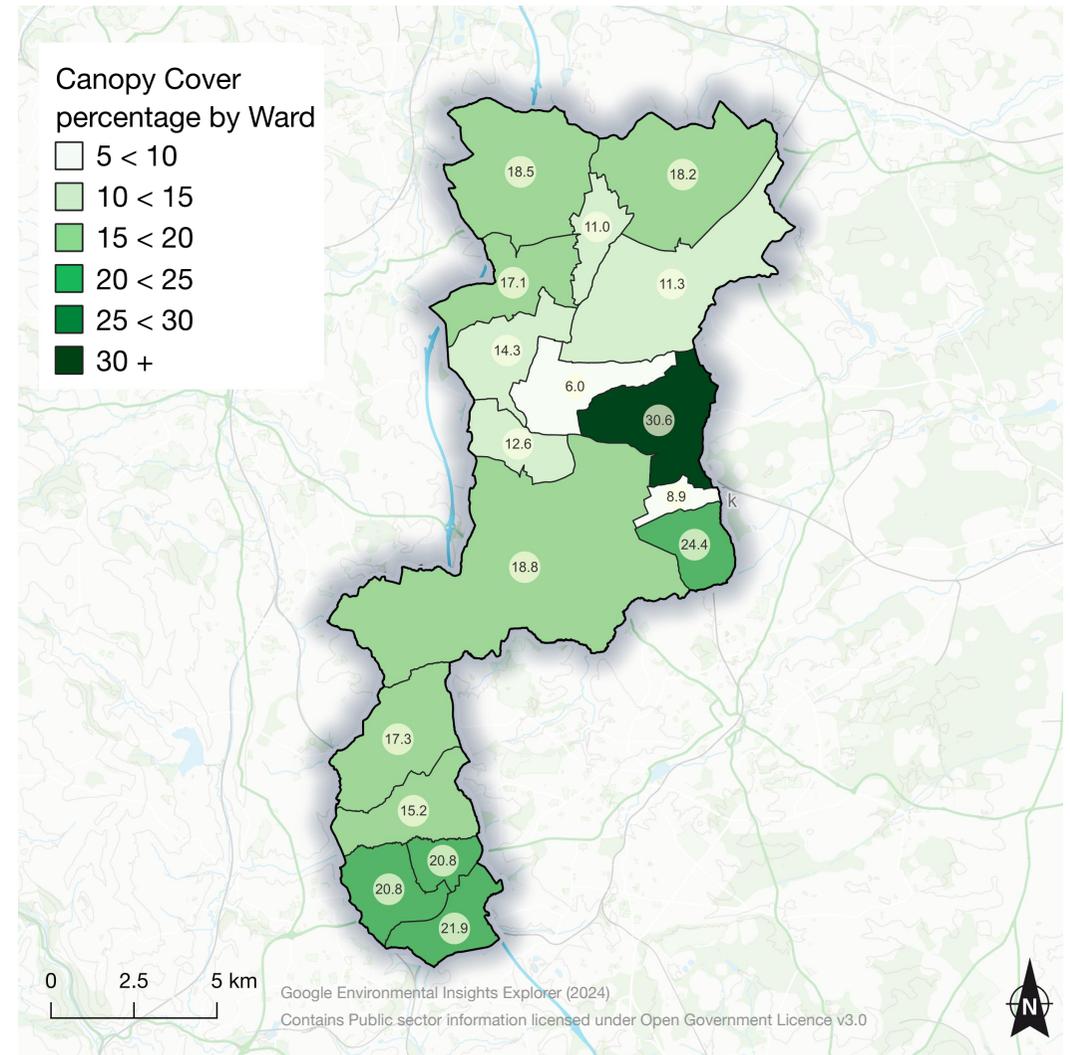


Figure 2. Map of Percentage Canopy Cover by Ward Across Bolsover District

4.1 Tree and Woodland Baseline

Woodland Overview

Native broadleaved woodland covers 1,468 ha, which is 9.1% of the total area of Bolsover District, and 52% of all canopy cover.

Some 197 ha of conifer woodland can be seen in Bolsover, predominantly in Langwith ward. Much of the forestry in Bolsover dates back to post-war industry, and some plantations are identified within Bolsover’s Local Nature Reserve Action Plan as potential sites in which to target thinning and felling to encourage the regeneration of more native broadleaf woodland in a bid to boost native biodiversity. This would preferably be achieved through a Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site (PAWS) restoration scheme.

Tree Classification*	Area in hectares
Broadleaved	1,468
Wooded Strip	374
Built-up Area	251
Coniferous	197
Riparian	161
Unclassified	125
Field Boundary	109
Hedge	95
Wood Pasture and Parkland	18
Shrub	1.5
Orchard	0.4
Total Woodland	2,798

Table 1. Area of canopy under each classification.

*Methodology in Appendix I

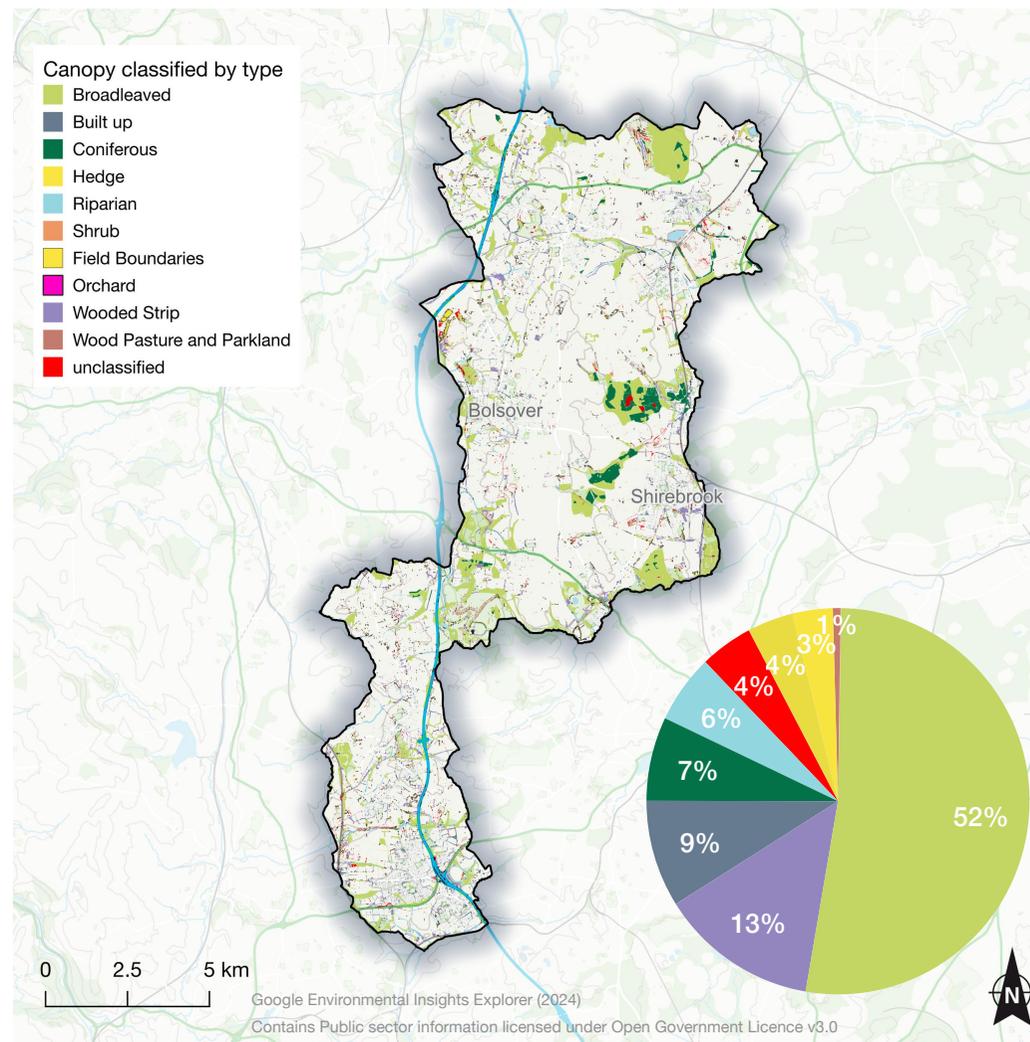


Figure 3. Map of Canopy Type Across Bolsover District

4.1 Tree and Woodland Baseline

Ancient Woodland

Ancient woodlands are woodlands which have been around since 1600. They fall into two categories; ancient semi-natural woodland, and plantations on ancient woodland sites. Only 2.5% of land in the UK is categorised as ancient woodland. In Derbyshire, some 4,920 ha of ancient woodland remains, with 633 ha in Bolsover District; 158 ha of ancient semi-natural woodland, and 476 ha of plantations on ancient woodland sites. Ancient woodland therefore accounts for 4% of land cover, and around 22.6% of all woodland in Bolsover District. There are 1,646 residential properties within 300m of Ancient Woodlands out of a total of 36,864 residential properties within Bolsover. This figure rises to 4,699 if the distance is increased to 500m.

Linear green features

Linear features such as hedges, wooded strips, and trees along waterways, roads and railways are an important part of any green landscape. They connect larger green spaces, enabling species to move more freely. Though they may not have the biodiversity of a woodland, they are important habitats in their own right, and often buffer other habitats from human disturbances. They also protect against soil degradation, and promote rainwater infiltration which can be of significant benefit to agriculture. Bolsover DC has more than 1,500 km of linear green features.

Challenges to Woodland Health:

While Bolsover’s woodlands provide significant environmental and cultural benefits, they face increasing threats from pests and diseases. Ash Dieback is a particular concern, with the potential to cause widespread loss of ash trees, impacting biodiversity, landscape character, and heritage settings. Other risks include climate change stressors, invasive species, and soil degradation. Proactive management and species diversification are essential to build resilience against these challenges.

Ancient Woodland	Derbyshire County	Bolsover District
Ancient Semi-Natural	2,879 ha	158 ha
Planted Ancient Woodland	2,042 ha	476 ha

Table 2. Area of ancient woodland under each classification.

Linear Features	Derbyshire County	Bolsover District
Field Boundaries		
Hedge	-	460 km
Wooded Strip	-	433 km
Tree Canopy	-	284 km
Other	-	266 km
Unknown	-	54 km
Wall	-	12 km
Rights of Way		
Footpaths	4,498 km	220 km
Bridleways	614 km	52 km
Byway open to all traffic	60 km	0.6 km
Restricted Byway	70 km	0.6 km

Table 3. Length of linear features under each classification.

4.2 Tree Equity & Public Access

Tree Equity in Built-up Areas

Tree equity is the idea that all communities have equitable access to the benefits of trees where they live. Trees and green space may be abundant in some neighbourhoods, but absent in others, meaning that some areas may not only be less aesthetically pleasing than others, but also suffer more from the challenges of urban living, such as poor air quality, the urban heat island effect, and surface flooding risk.

The Woodland Trust have created a Tree Equity Score map of the UK, which ranks Lower Super Output Areas (LSOA's) with an index based on canopy cover, Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD), air pollution, heat disparity, and at-risk age category (figure 4)

Despite the large amount of green space across Bolsover, in built up areas, tree equity scores range from 51 in one LSOA in the town of Bolsover, to 86 in one LSOA in Shirebrook. This is because tree canopy ranges significantly at LSOA level, from 22% down to as little as 3% in some areas, and because of the impact of some IMD scores which are taken in to account as part of the Tree Equity Score.

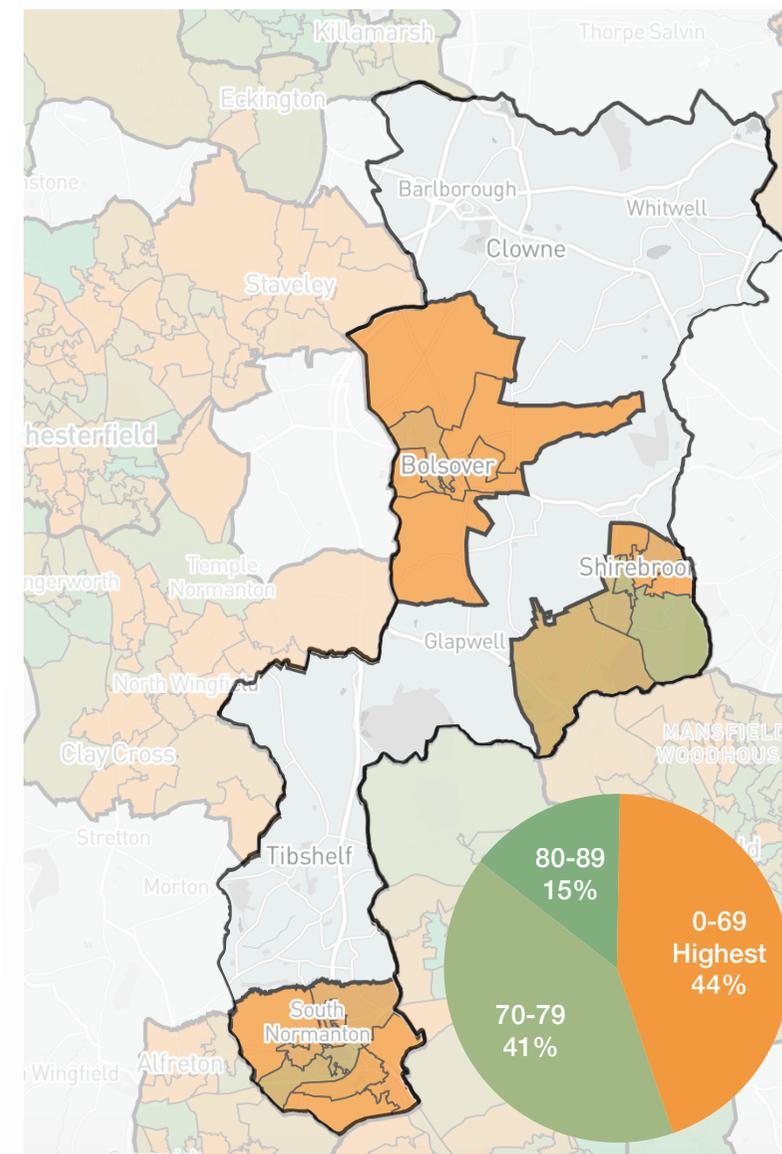
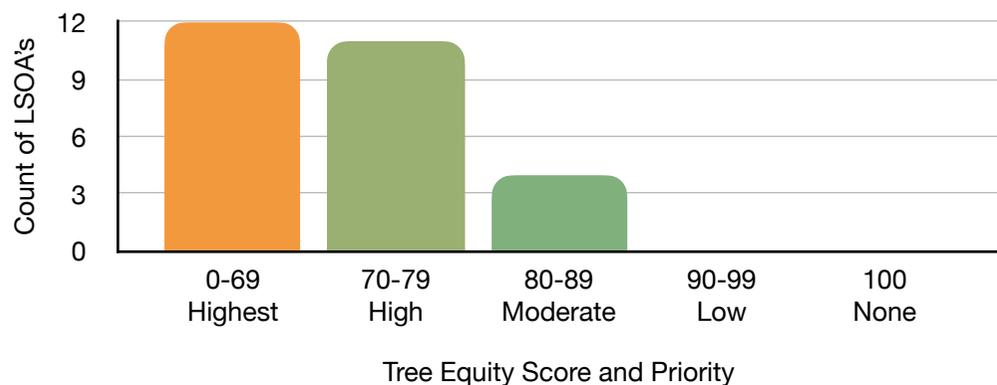


Figure 4. Tree Equity Score of the built up areas of Bolsover District. (Green indicates a better score, orange indicates a worse score)

4.2 Tree Equity & Public Access

Public Access to Greenspace

Public accessibility to green space is crucial to green equity. There are several standards which have been suggested, for example, in urban spaces the 3-30-300 'rule' suggests that everyone should be able to see 3 trees from their home, live in an area with 30% canopy cover, and be within 300m of a public park or green space⁹. For Rural areas like Bolsover District, The Woodland Trust aspires that everyone should have access to a wood of at least 2 ha within 500m of their home; and a wood of at least 20 ha within 4km of their home¹⁰.

There are 162 woodlands over 2 ha within Bolsover; 81% of residential properties are within 500m of at least one of these.

There are 20 distinct large areas of woodland over 20 ha within Bolsover, and all residential properties are within 4km of one of these large woodlands. 64% of all residential properties are within 1km of at least one of these (figure 5).

Rights of Way	Derbyshire County	Bolsover District
Footpaths	4,498 km	220 km
Bridleways	614 km	52 km
Byway open to all traffic	60 km	0.6 km
Restricted Byway	70 km	0.6 km

Table 4. Public access routes across Bolsover District

⁹ Konijnendijk, C., 2021

¹⁰ Woodland Trust, 2014

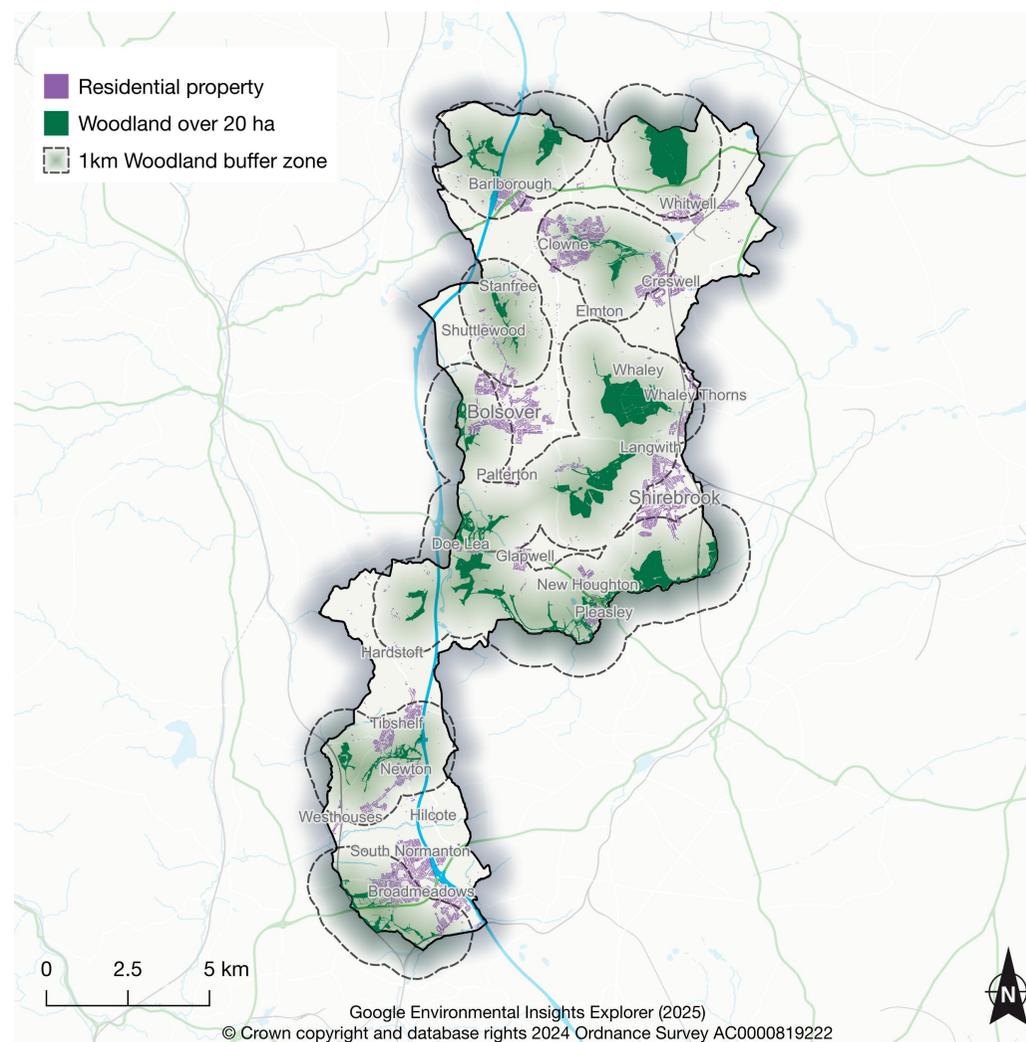


Figure 5. Map showing woodland areas over 20 ha and residential properties. The buffer zone indicates properties that are within 1km of these woodland areas.

4.3 Ecosystem Service Valuation

Ward	Total Carbon Storage (t)		Annual Carbon Sequestration (t)		Annual Avoided Runoff (m ³)		Annual Air Pollution Removal (kg)				Total Annual Benefits
	Tonnes	Value	Tonnes	Value	m ³	Value	NO ₂	SO ₂	PM2.5	Value	
Ault Hucknall	56,949	£57,011,203	2,268	£2,270,121	173,334	£225,473	13,354	2,164	3,209	£317,820	£2,780,153
Barlborough	20,759	£20,781,249	827	£827,486	63,182	£82,188	4,868	789	1,170	£115,849	£1,013,398
Blackwell	8,228	£8,236,476	328	£327,967	25,042	£32,574	1,929	313	464	£45,916	£401,652
Bolsover East	3,013	£3,016,314	120	£120,106	9,171	£11,929	707	114	170	£16,815	£147,091
Bolsover North & Shuttlewood	7,294	£7,301,739	290	£290,747	22,200	£28,878	1,710	277	411	£40,705	£356,069
Bolsover South	4,441	£4,446,343	177	£177,048	13,518	£17,585	1,041	169	250	£24,787	£216,826
Clowne East	2,956	£2,959,258	118	£117,834	8,997	£11,704	693	112	167	£16,497	£144,308
Clowne West	9,386	£9,395,787	374	£374,130	28,567	£37,159	2,201	357	529	£52,379	£458,186
Elmton-with-Creswell	15,229	£15,245,141	606	£607,044	46,351	£60,293	3,571	579	858	£84,987	£743,430
Langwith	21,860	£21,883,608	870	£871,380	66,534	£86,547	5,126	831	1,232	£121,995	£1,067,155
Pinxton	8,182	£8,190,856	326	£326,151	24,903	£32,394	1,919	311	461	£45,662	£399,427
Shirebrook North	1,224	£1,225,692	49	£48,806	3,727	£4,847	287	47	69	£6,833	£59,771
Shirebrook South	8,650	£8,659,831	344	£344,825	26,329	£34,249	2,028	329	487	£48,276	£422,297
South Normanton East	4,276	£4,280,183	170	£170,432	13,013	£16,928	1,003	162	241	£23,861	£208,723
South Normanton West	9,029	£9,038,733	360	£359,912	27,481	£35,747	2,117	343	509	£50,388	£440,774
Tibshelf	12,739	£12,752,441	507	£507,788	38,772	£50,435	2,987	484	718	£71,091	£621,873
Whitwell	20,844	£20,866,544	830	£830,882	63,442	£82,525	4,888	792	1,174	£116,325	£1,017,558
Bolsover District Total	215,059	£215,291,398	8,564	£8,572,659	654,563	£851,455	50,429	8,173	12,119	£1,200,186	£10,498,691

Table 5. Ecosystem services provided by the canopy cover in each ward

*Methodology in Appendix II

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.

5.1 Targets, Priorities & Actions: Tree and Woodland Structure

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.

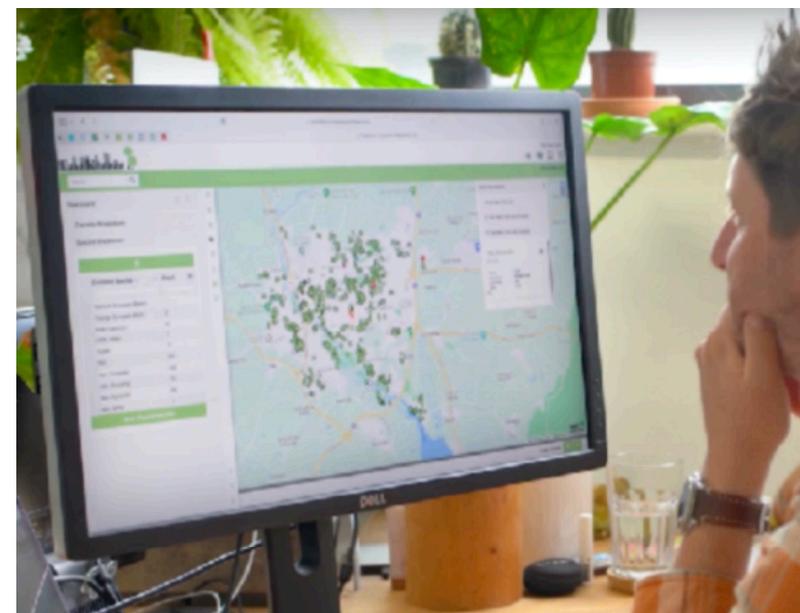


Figure 6. Treekeeper tree inventory management system developed by Davey Resource Group.

Link to corporate policies
Green Infrastructure Study for Bolsover Green Space Quantity and Accessibility Report

Actions
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Set up a digital inventory system for tree & woodland survey data by May 2026. 2. Publicly launch a tree & woodland data collection programme, calling for submissions by May 2026. 3. Add all BDC-owned and community reported tree & woodland assets by October 2026. 4. Ensure inventory system incorporates TPOs & is available in GIS mapping format by October 2026.

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.

5.1 Targets, Priorities & Actions: Existing Tree and Woodlands

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.



Link to corporate policies

Green Infrastructure Study for Bolsover
Bolsover Green Space Strategy

Actions

1. Establish whether existing woodlands have management plans & if so whether they are currently operational by October 2026.
2. Ensure BCW tree planting projects have operational management plans by October 2026.
3. Establish priority list for existing woodlands needing management plans & approach landowner by October 2026.
4. Develop ongoing programme to increase the number of existing woodlands with operational management plans by October 2027.

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.

5.1 Targets, Priorities & Actions: Existing Tree and Woodlands

T3. Promotion of Tree Benefits

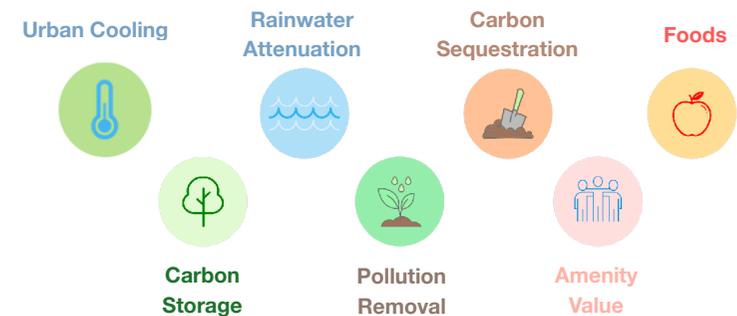
Trees and woodlands provide vital benefits that, although sometimes difficult to quantify, are increasingly recognised for their role in climate resilience, biodiversity and human well-being. Promoting these contributions is crucial for their protection and integration into local strategies.

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.



Link to corporate policies

Bolsover Green Space Strategy
Nature Recovery Plan

Actions

1. Review and update Council website information to support the promotion of tree benefits by May 2026.
2. Prepare communication plan for forthcoming year for launch during National Tree Week by October 2026.
3. Review success of communication plan implementation and improve measures each October.

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.

5.1 Targets, Priorities & Actions: Existing Tree and Woodlands

T4. Tree Protection Policy Development, Monitoring & Enforcement

Policy SC10 of the Bolsover District Local Plan (March 2020) recognises trees, woodlands and hedgerows as important visual and ecological assets, requiring development proposals to protect and retain them while supporting appropriate new planting in line with landscape, wildlife and historic interests.

Some trees are protected by Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) or by virtue of their location within designated conservation areas. Trees and hedgerows may also be safeguarded through planning conditions attached to development approvals. In addition, tree felling is regulated under the Forestry Act 1967, and a Forestry Commission licence is generally required unless specific exemptions apply (e.g. small-scale felling below the volume threshold, trees within domestic gardens, or works carried out by statutory undertakers).

For new development, Natural England and the Forestry Commission currently advise a minimum 15m buffer zone from woodland boundaries to prevent root damage and deterioration, with larger buffers potentially requiring up to 30m where impacts such as pollution or construction dust extend further.

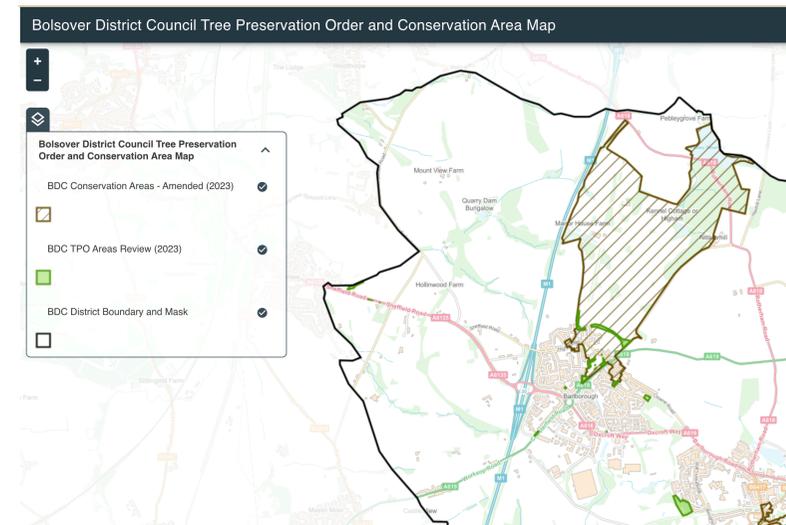


Figure 8. Bolsover District Council TPO and Conservation Area Map

Link to corporate policies

Bolsover Green Space Strategy
Green Infrastructure Study for Bolsover
Green Space Quantity and Accessibility Report

Actions

1. Complete review of existing TPOs and establish priority list for action by May 2026.
2. Secure tailored training / support for staff to implement findings of the review of existing TPOs by October 2026.
3. Address priority list of TPO actions by March 2027.
4. Carry out biennial monitoring survey of all TPOs to underpin effective enforcement action from July 2028.

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.

5.1 Targets, Priorities & Actions: Existing Tree and Woodlands

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.



SYLVA
FOUNDATION



Forestry Commission



WOODLAND
TRUST

Link to corporate policies

Climate Change Strategy
Green Infrastructure Study for
Bolsover

Actions

1. Develop list of potential funding sources to support existing tree and woodland assets by October 2026.
2. Establish list of priority projects and appropriate funding sources to inform project development by May 2027.
3. Secure funding for proactive management for at least two priority tree and woodland assets by October 2028.
4. Secure funding for proactive management for at least ten priority tree and woodland assets by October 2033.

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.

5.1 Targets, Priorities & Actions: Existing Tree and Woodlands

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

5.2

Expanding Tree and Woodland Coverage

This section considers the physical structure of the trees and woodland from various perspectives.

5.2 Targets, Priorities & Actions: Expanding Tree & Woodland Cover

E1. Increase Overall Land Dedicated to Canopy Coverage Across Bolsover District

Tree Canopy Cover (TCC) is the proportion of land covered by tree leaves and branches when viewed from above. It's a simple, cost-effective way to measure tree presence and is widely used to assess ecosystem services such as air quality, carbon storage, and cooling.

There are many methods of assessing canopy cover at this scale, including i-Tree Canopy, i-Tree Eco, Sentinel satellite data, and Bluesky National Tree Map, etc. These methods are not directly comparable with each other as they use different metrics and definitions of what constitutes canopy cover. Therefore, it is important to be consistent in the chosen method over time, allowing for reliable tracking of canopy change and helping to inform long-term planning, target setting, and the evaluation of tree strategies.

A canopy cover study by Treeconomics using Google Environmental Explorer found that Bolsover has almost 2,800 hectares of tree canopy, covering 17.5% of the district. Canopy cover varies significantly by ward, from lowest in Bolsover East to highest in Langwith. The Council is working towards 20% canopy cover, supporting the Government's target to increase England's tree and woodland cover to 16.5% by 2050 under the Environment Act 2021.

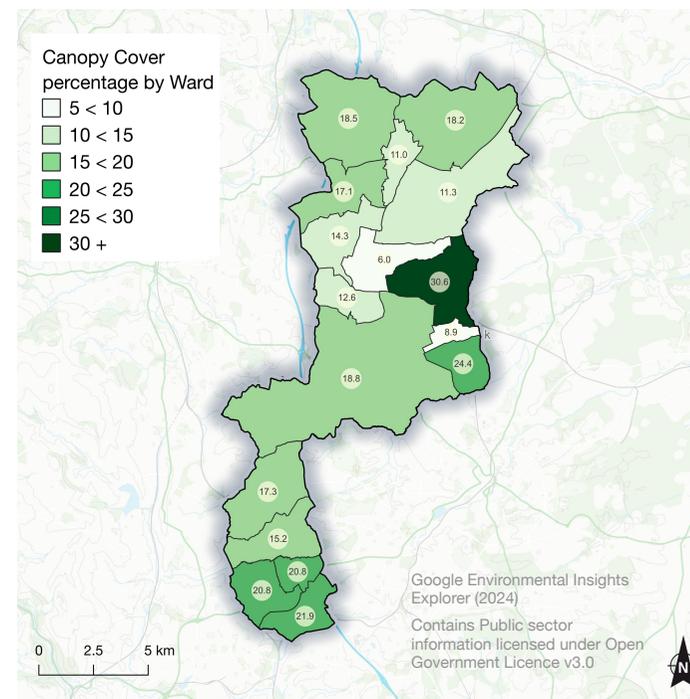


Figure 9. Map of Percentage Canopy Cover by Ward Across Bolsover District

Link to corporate policies	Actions
Green Infrastructure Study for Bolsover Bolsover Green Space Strategy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop / commission canopy coverage study review every five years from March 2031. 2. Assess progress made against KPI every five years from October 2031. 3. Prepare action plan to address any under-performance on progress against KPIs every 5 years from October 2031.

Priority	Key Performance Indicators showing current position (■)			
	Low	Moderate	Good	Optimal
Medium	The existing canopy cover equals 0–25% of the target	The existing canopy cover equals 25-50% of the target	The existing canopy cover equals 50-75% of the target	The existing canopy cover equals 75-100% of the target

5.2 Targets, Priorities & Actions: Expanding Tree & Woodland Cover

E2. Expand Tree Canopy Cover in Wards with Low Coverage

Expanding canopy cover in wards with low coverage is essential to promote equitable access to green infrastructure, while supporting climate resilience and biodiversity. Tree equity means all communities have fair access to the benefits of trees where they live. While E1 shows canopy cover varies widely across wards, improving tree equity should reflect local landscape character and historic context, and support delivery of Derbyshire's Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

Data from canopy assessments (e.g. i-Tree or Bluesky National Tree Map) can be used to identify gaps and monitor progress over time. Engagement with local communities will also be key to identifying suitable planting sites and ensuring trees are valued, protected, and maintained.

Tree Equity Score UK (produced by the Woodland Trust) currently only includes urban areas. Canopy cover should be assessed alongside other data sets, such as air quality and indices of multiple deprivation, to ensure that areas not covered by the map are not overlooked. This target aims to ensure that the planting and management of the urban forest focus on areas where it will most benefit local people.

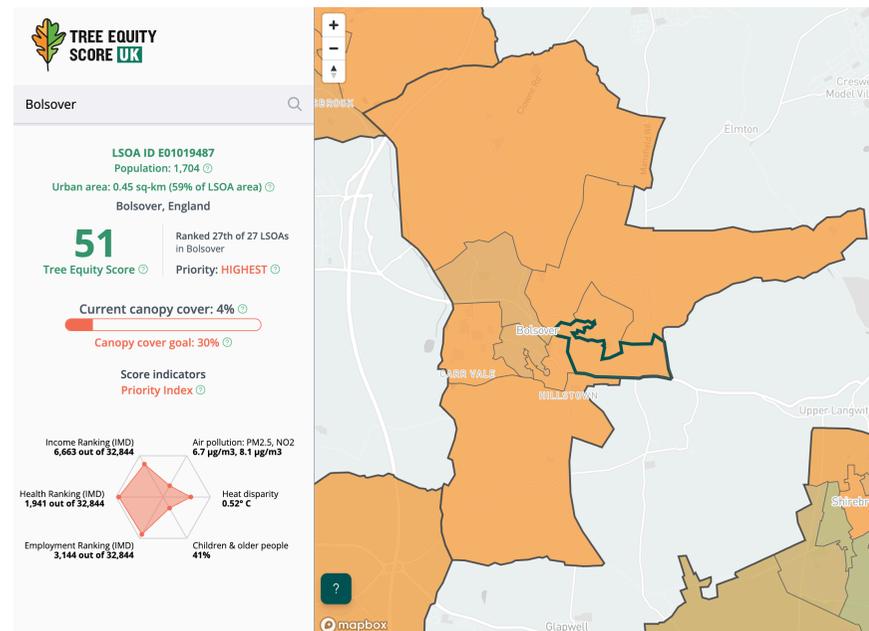


Figure 10. Bolsover District Council Tree Planting

Link to corporate policies

Green Space Quantity and Accessibility Report
Green Infrastructure Study for Bolsover

Actions

1. Establish list of wards with low tree canopy coverage & identify zones for potential tree planting by October 2026.
2. Secure or compile Tree Equity data for all areas of the District by May 2027.
3. Establish priority list of projects for wards with low canopy coverage by October 2027.
4. Work with partners to increase the number of wards with 17.5% or greater tree canopy coverage to twelve by May 2035.

Priority	Key Performance Indicators showing current position (■)			
	Low	Moderate	Good	Optimal
High	6 or less of the 17 wards exceed the district average tree canopy cover of 17.5%.	Between 7 and 11 wards of the 17 wards exceed the district average tree canopy cover of 17.5%.	Between 12 and 16 wards of the 17 wards exceed the district average tree canopy cover of 17.5%.	All 17 wards exceed the district average tree canopy cover of 17.5%.

5.2 Targets, Priorities & Actions: Expanding Tree & Woodland Cover

E3. Establish Community Planting Across all Parishes

Community-led tree and woodland planting offers an accessible and meaningful way to engage residents in climate action, biodiversity, and the enhancement of local green spaces. By encouraging community planting projects, the Council can promote a sense of shared responsibility and environmental stewardship.

These projects can take many forms - from small-scale village green plantings to larger woodland creation schemes. When communities are involved from the start, they're more likely to value and care for the trees in the long term, ensuring higher survival rates and greater public support.



Figure 11. Community Tree Planting, Creswell

Link to corporate policies	Actions
Bolsover Green Space Strategy Nature Recovery Plan	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Write to all Parish / Town Councils to invite expressions of interest for community-orientated planting projects in their area by April each year. 2. Establish community-orientated planting programme for forthcoming winter planting season by October each year. 3. Develop support information pack about planting and funding opportunities for Parish Councils & Community Groups by October 2027. 4. Establish priority list for parishes without a community tree or woodland planting project by October 2027.

Priority	Key Performance Indicators showing current position (■)			
	Low	Moderate	Good	Optimal
Medium	0 to 5 Parishes with at least one community tree or woodland planting project	6 to 9 Parishes with at least one community tree or woodland planting project	10 to 13 Parishes with at least one community tree or woodland planting project	14 of 14 Parishes with at least one community tree or woodland planting project

5.2 Targets, Priorities & Actions: Expanding Tree & Woodland Cover

E4. Expand Existing Key Woodland Assets

Bolsover District Council is committed to enhancing its existing woodland assets to bolster biodiversity, improve climate resilience, and provide accessible green spaces for residents. This will include plans to expand and interconnect these areas of existing woodland assets through strategic tree establishment and habitat restoration, alongside the creation and enhancement of associated woodland habitats such as woodland glades, rides and 'edge' habitats, which will create a more natural woodland that supports higher biodiversity.

This initiative aligns with the Council's ambition to plant many more trees across the district. Collaborations with partners like the Woodland Trust, Bolsover Woodlands Enterprise and Natural England are key to achieving these goals, ensuring that the expansion of woodland areas contributes to environmental sustainability and community well-being. This work will draw upon the guidance within Natural England's Green Infrastructure Framework on incorporating trees into developments and urban areas.



Figure 12. Bolsover District Council Tree Planting

Link to corporate policies

Nature Recovery Plan
Green Infrastructure Study for Bolsover

Actions

1. Map existing key woodland assets and identify zones for potential woodland expansion by October 2026.
2. Approach landowners of key woodland assets to explore potential for woodland expansion by May 2027.
3. Explore potential for external funding for significant woodland expansion by May 2027.
4. Develop expansion plans for 6 to 10 key woodland assets by October 2031.

Priority	Key Performance Indicators showing current position (■)			
	Low	Moderate	Good	Optimal
High	0 to 5 key woodlands assets with expansion plans	6 to 10 key woodlands assets with expansion plans	11 to 15 key woodlands assets with expansion plans	16 to 20 key woodlands assets with expansion plans

5.2 Targets, Priorities & Actions: Expanding Tree & Woodland Cover

E5. Secure Resources for New Tree and Woodland Planting

Delivering new woodland creation at scale will require dedicated, long-term resourcing. To secure these resources, the Council will pursue a range of funding mechanisms:

1. External government funding, directed at different stakeholders, including:
 - England Woodland Creation Offer (EWCO) – for shelterbelts and rural trees.
2. Funding from major NGOs and charitable sources, such as:
 - Woodland Trust’s MOREwoods and The Northern Forest and Tree Packs, which support tree planting and woodland expansion.
3. Levies and planning obligations, secured through the development process:
 - Seeking funding through Section 106 agreements and biodiversity net gain obligations. Best practice recommends that developments offset or exceed tree loss using meaningful, fully funded metrics.



Link to corporate policies

Climate Change Strategy
Green Infrastructure Study for
Bolsover

Actions

1. Develop list of potential funding sources to support new tree and woodland planting by October 2026.
2. Establish list of priority projects and appropriate funding sources to inform project development by May 2027.
3. Secure funding for proactive management for at least two priority new tree and woodland planting projects by October 2028.
4. Secure funding for proactive management for at least ten priority new tree and woodland planting projects by October 2033.

Priority	Key Performance Indicators showing current position (■)			
	Low	Moderate	Good	Optimal
High	Little or no dedicated funding.	Funding only for emergency, reactive management.	Funding sufficient for some proactive management based on tree & woodland management plan.	Sustained funding from public and private sources to fully implement the strategy.

5.2 Targets, Priorities & Actions: Expanding Tree & Woodland Cover

Expanding Tree & Woodland Coverage Summary

Target	Current Performance Level				Priority
	Low	Moderate	Good	Optimal	
E1 Increase Overall Land Dedicated to Canopy Coverage Across Bolsover District					Medium
E2 Expand Tree Canopy Cover in Wards with Low Coverage					High
E3 Establish Community Planting Across all Parishes					Medium
E4 Expand Existing Key Woodland Assets					High
E5 Secure Resources for New Tree and Woodland Planting					High

5.3

Fostering Community Pride in Trees and Woodlands

This section considers the various communities that are required for a successful, long term approach to management of trees, hedges and woodlands. This covers not only the local residents, but local government in all its forms, NGOs and commercial entities.

5.3 Targets, Priorities & Actions: Fostering Community Pride

C1. Establish More Tree Wardens / Champions across District

Tree Wardens and Tree Champions play a vital role in supporting the stewardship of trees at the local level. Across the UK, many councils and communities have successfully empowered volunteers to become active participants in protecting, planting, and promoting trees in their neighbourhoods. Bolsover District has an opportunity to expand this model and build a stronger network of local advocates.

Partnering with national initiatives such as the Tree Council's Tree Warden Scheme or developing a bespoke district-wide programme can foster civic pride and strengthen long-term care for trees. Promoting the role through parish councils, schools, community groups, and residents' associations will help build capacity and encourage inclusive participation.



Figure 13. Tree Council Tree Warden Scheme

Link to corporate policies	Actions
Bolsover Green Space Strategy Green Infrastructure Study for Bolsover	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish list of registered Tree Champion volunteers by May 2026. 2. Establish winners of annual Tree Champion competition and hold a Tree Champion volunteer celebration event by October 2026. 3. Establish a Tree Council endorsed Tree Warden Scheme for Bolsover District by May 2027. 4. Establish at least one Tree Warden for each ward by May 2030.

Priority	Key Performance Indicators showing current position (■)			
	Low	Moderate	Good	Optimal
High	0-10 Tree Wardens/Champions across the Bolsover District located within in up to 3 wards.	11 to 20 Tree Wardens / Champions across Bolsover District located within up to 8 wards.	21 to 30 Tree Wardens / Champions across Bolsover District located in up to 13 wards.	Above 30 Tree Wardens / Champions across Bolsover District with at least one tree warden located in each ward.

5.3 Targets, Priorities & Actions: Fostering Community Pride

C2. Community Involvement and Neighbourhood Action

Collaborating with smaller community groups such as volunteers, schools and charity groups can encourage further community involvement with projects in small neighbourhoods and wider district areas, which would benefit the whole district. Neighbourhood activities often help the community members to connect more with their trees and woodlands, and encouraging communities to get involved will reduce the likelihood of conflict or opposition to tree planting.

Creating an interactive Stewardship Mapping and Assessment Project (STEW-MAP) such as those completed in Paris and New York may be a useful tool for engaging the public. It is a research methodology, community organising approach and partnership mapping tool developed by the USDA which shows who is responsible for the local environment. It has never been done in the UK and could be an invaluable tool to engage local residents and establish a network of UF management teams across the District.

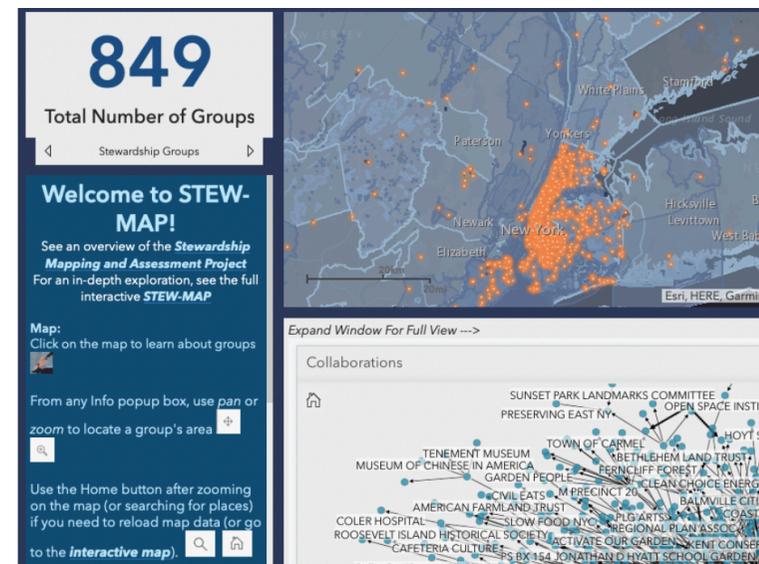


Figure 14. Example Stew Map, showing which organisations work in which areas, their size, focus and overlap with others.

Link to corporate policies

Bolsover Green Space Strategy
Nature Recovery Plan

Actions

1. Establish list of existing active Friends or Neighbourhood Groups by May 2026.
2. Establish informal network of active Friends or Neighbourhood Groups by October 2026.
3. Establish formal network of active Friends or Neighbourhood Groups with public engagement activities by October 2028.
4. Establish process of involvement and oversight of Strategy implementation from formal network of active Friends or Neighbourhood Groups by October 2030.

Priority	Key Performance Indicators showing current position (■)			
	Low	Moderate	Good	Optimal
Medium	Little or no citizen involvement or neighbourhood action in 6 or less wards.	Citizens & 'friends groups' active in 7-11 wards which collaborate on an 'ad hoc' basis with local authorities or NGOs on tree and woodland management to support local strategies and plans.	Neighbourhood groups active in 12-16 wards which collaborate and contribute to tree & woodland goals more frequently, but lack coordination or guidance from Bolsover District or its partner NGOs.	Active neighbourhood groups in all 17 wards working regularly and in a coordinated approach with a tree officer representative for each ward. Community-wide engagement led or coordinated by Bolsover and partner NGOs.

5.3 Targets, Priorities & Actions: Fostering Community Pride

C3. General Appreciation of Trees as a Community Resource

In order for the strategy to be considered a true success, the most powerful legacy is that the residents love, respect, appreciate and care for its trees. Community initiatives could provide an invaluable opportunity to promote the progress made by the district in terms of urban greening and green infrastructure.

Widely publicising events all year round - making good use of digital communications and social media - such as National Tree Week (usually in late November to early December), Arbor Day, planting days (winter time) and outdoor events, will bring focus onto Bolsover's trees and woodlands, encouraging participation from those that live and work locally.



Figure 15. National Tree Week encourages people to appreciate, learn about, & participate in activities related to trees.

Link to corporate policies

Bolsover Green Space Strategy
Nature Recovery Plan

Actions

1. Develop public survey of views on public and private trees across the District by October 2027.
2. Re-run this consultation exercise annually.
3. Review feedback and report findings through monitoring framework and reporting lines.

Priority	Key Performance Indicators showing current position (■)			
	Low	Moderate	Good	Optimal
Medium	General ambivalence about trees, which are perceived as neutral at best or as the source of problems. Actions harmful to trees may be taken deliberately.	Trees generally recognised as important and beneficial.	Trees widely acknowledged as providing environmental, social, & economic services – resulting in some action or advocacy in support of the treescape.	Treescape valued for its community benefits, with strong public and political support driving policies that sustain its long-term viability.

5.3 Targets, Priorities & Actions: Fostering Community Pride

C4. Utilities Cooperation

Effective cooperation with utility providers - both above and below ground - is essential for safeguarding trees, hedges, and woodlands across Bolsover District. This includes working with companies responsible for electricity, gas, water, telecoms, fibre-optics, and rail infrastructure, as well as insurers in relation to subsidence claims.

Utility companies are legally required to manage vegetation that may interfere with their infrastructure - typically through pruning, root protection, and site clearance. However, inconsistent practices can cause unnecessary harm to trees and habitats. While national standards guide some activities, stronger local collaboration can help align these actions with Bolsover’s environmental goals.

Promoting best practice and building partnerships will protect green infrastructure while supporting utility operations - key to achieving the Tree and Woodland Strategy’s broader aims.



Link to corporate policies
Green Infrastructure Study for Bolsover

Actions
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. List and map all relevant highways and utilities organisations and establish points of contact by October 2027. 2. Host a workshop specifically for utilities companies & highways contractors to establish areas for cooperation by October 2027. 3. Review findings of workshop and identify opportunities and threats to inform review of the Strategy by May 2028.

Priority	Key Performance Indicators showing current position (■)			
	Low	Moderate	Good	Optimal
Medium	Utilities take actions impacting treescape with no council coordination or consideration of the treescape resource.	Utilities use best practices, acknowledge potential municipal conflicts, and engage with tree and woodland managers on an ad hoc basis — and vice versa.	Utilities are included in informal council teams that communicate regularly and collaborate on a project-specific basis.	Utilities support tree and woodland goals by taking part in formal interdepartmental or interagency teams for all municipal projects.

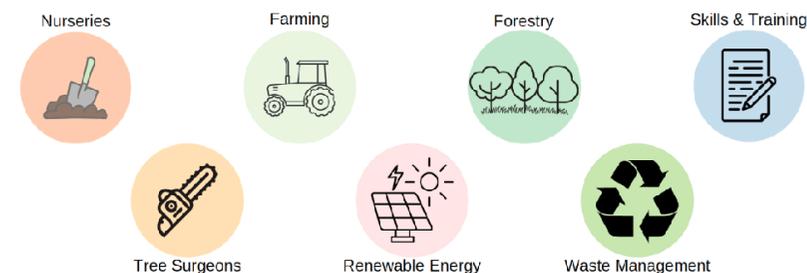
5.3 Targets, Priorities & Actions: Fostering Community Pride

C5. Green Industry Cooperation

The 'green industry' includes a broad range of professions involved in tree and vegetation management. Engaging with it offers Bolsover District a valuable opportunity to influence how forest resources—especially on private land—are managed. Close cooperation can promote best practices in planting, maintenance, and protection, supporting long-term sustainability.

Key sectors for targeted collaboration include:

- Farming – Encouraging agroforestry, hedgerow management, and tree planting to enhance biodiversity and resilience.
- Forestry – Supporting sustainable woodland management and responsible harvesting practices.
- Tree Surgery & Arboriculture – Promoting professional tree care and preservation.
- Renewable Energy (Wind & Solar) – Ensuring that tree and vegetation management aligns with both environmental and energy goals.



Link to corporate policies

Green Infrastructure Study for Bolsover

Actions

1. List and map all relevant farming, forestry and other green industry organisations and establish points of contact by October 2027.
2. Host a workshop specifically for farming, forestry and other green industry organisations to establish areas for cooperation by October 2027.
3. Review findings of workshop and identify opportunities and threats to inform review of the Strategy by May 2028.

Priority	Key Performance Indicators showing current position (■)			
	Low	Moderate	Good	Optimal
Medium	Little or no cooperation among segments of green industry or awareness of district-wide treescape goals and objectives.	Some cooperation among green industry as well as general awareness and acceptance of district-wide goals and objectives.	Specific collaborative arrangements across segments of green industry in support of district-wide goals and objectives.	Shared vision and goals and extensive committed partnerships in place. Solid adherence to high professional standards.

5.3 Targets, Priorities & Actions: Fostering Community Pride

Fostering Community Pride in Tree & Woodlands Summary

Target	Current Performance Level				Priority
	Low	Moderate	Good	Optimal	
C1 Establish more Tree Wardens / Champions	Low				High
C2 Community involvement & neighbourhood action		Moderate			Medium
C3 General appreciation of trees as a community resource		Moderate			Medium
C4 Utilities cooperation	Low				Medium
C5 Green industry cooperation	Low				Medium

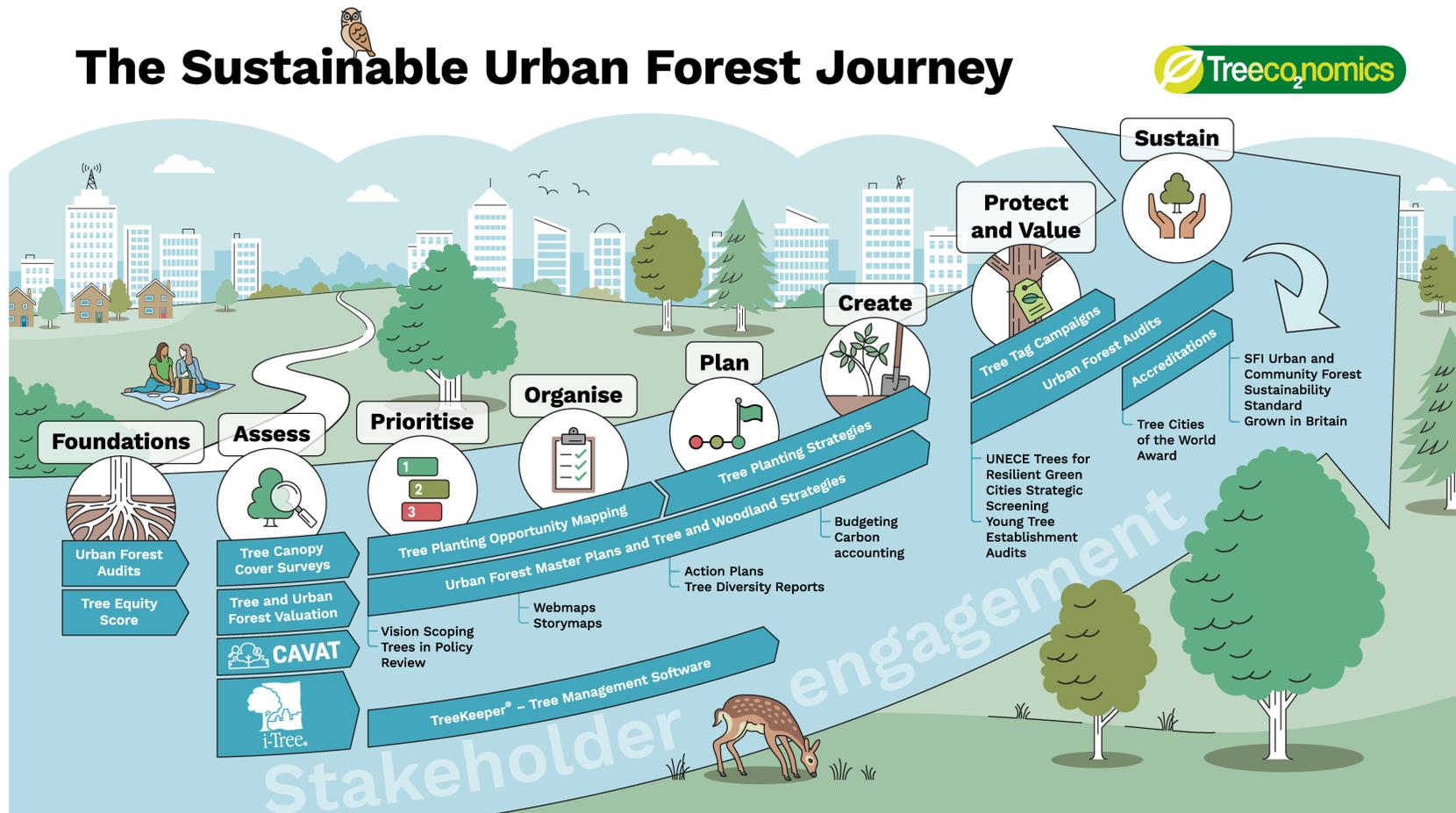
6. Delivery Plan

6.1 Delivery Plan

To deliver this strategy, targets have been prioritised based on a number of factors; whilst in theory, 'Optimal' is the desirable state for each target, the priority for each has been determined, taking into account the greatest needs across the District, current performance of the KPI's, the resources and time required to complete actions, and relative importance compared with other targets and actions. This prioritisation aims to provide a structured pathway for future development and allow for the management and allocation of resources over the lifetime of this document.

Priorities and actions are live, and are expected to be updated and developed as the strategy is reviewed.

Suitable timeframes have been established for actions where appropriate to ensure timely delivery of actions. These provide accountability and structure to the approach, and will work alongside the priorities to provide structure to the delivery approach.



6.2 Action Approach

To simplify the delivery approach, actions have been collated under similar themes. This removes duplicate actions from multiple targets, and clearly indicates which targets these actions can contribute to achieving.

Action Theme	Description	Linked Targets	Priority
Undertake Tree Planting Opportunity Mapping exercise	Mapping of potential plantable space in soft and hard landscapes which is to include: tree equity and planting priority assessment; the exclusion of known sites with existing constraints against tree planting; and potential sites for woodland expansion.	T5, E1, E2, E4	High
Develop Woodland Management Plans where required	Collate existing woodland management plans and identify sites where new management plans are required. Build resource within the Council to enable implementation of these management plans. Collaborate with partners and community groups to identify potential sites for woodland expansion (may be informed by Opportunity Mapping).	T2, E4	High
Implement a comprehensive Tree Inventory Management System	The district wide system is to include all BDC-owned and community-reported tree and woodland assets, and include GIS capabilities.	T1	High
Implement TPO contravention monitoring and review programme	Program is to track and monitor cases of TPO and conservation area violations to ensure consistent enforcement of penalties. Training will be provided for BDC's enforcement team on trees, hedges & woodlands.	T4	High
Support the development of the Tree Wardens and other community groups	Promote the work of the existing tree champions/tree wardens/community planting projects across the District. Create (and publish) a map of community groups/ tree wardens, and work with wards with no wardens or champions to recruit and connect them.	C1	High

Action Theme	Description	Linked Targets	Priority
Undertake funding review and initiate applications when/where appropriate	<p>Scope and implement Section 106 funding for impact mitigation and ensure Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) contributes to tree and woodland expansion projects in line with targets (E1-E4). Create a dedicated officer role/responsibility for bid/funding application, and establish an ongoing bid writing process which enables BDC to secure funding for each coming planting season. Amongst other things, funding will be used to support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Staff to enable proactive management of existing tree and woodland assets including - woodland expansion and further bid writing - The development and implementation of woodland management plans - The undertaking of a sample-based survey of public and private trees across the District 	T5, T2, T3	Medium/high
Community outreach and knowledge sharing	<p>Communicate openly with the public surrounding this plan, the urban forest as a whole, and the wider environment. BDC will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Publish on BDC website the consultation feedback received during the preparation of this Strategy to act as a baseline for the general appreciations of trees as a community resource. - Organise annual community workshop and community group to coordinate delivery of District goals, launch May 2026. BDC and Tree Wardens to provide support to community groups. - Coordinate existing community volunteers delivering/ attending community events to engage with community members and encourage new volunteers to attend an introduction/ welcome to the tree wardens group. - Promote the impact of new tree establishment and care for existing trees across the District on the BDC website and at community events on an ongoing basis. - Increase awareness and define the role of trees regarding meeting climate resilience targets/retrofitting opportunities, linking to wider industries (e.g. building, energy). - Publicly promote the benefits of the District's trees using canopy cover data from the baseline assessment, and share this via the BDC website. 	C2, E4	Medium/high

Action Theme	Description	Linked Targets	Priority
Tree Establishment planning and support	Further enhance canopy cover through coordinated tree establishment and proactive care for existing trees. Launch annual planning sessions with delivery partners to coordinate tree establishment, and organise an annual tree establishment planning workshop with all community groups and BDC to co-ordinate projects across the District. Support parish partners to plan tree or woodland planting projects and secure funding.	E1, E3	Medium
Initiate utilities collaboration	Appoint one member of BDC to be a point of contact for all utilities companies, list and map all relevant highways and utilities organisations and points of contact, and host a workshop specifically for utilities companies and highways contractors to share the outcomes of this Strategy and BDC's plans for the next 5 years.	C4	Medium
Initiate green industry cooperation	BDC to work with and set guidelines for tree care professionals and other small scale green industry starting by creating an internal list for BDC colleagues of representatives and contact details for each relevant organisation.	C5	Low

6.3 Action Delivery Summary

A summary of the targets within this document, and the delivery dates for the associated actions.

Code	Target	Priority	KPI level	Action to be delivered by end of year...							
				Year	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 8	Year 10	
T1	Establish Comprehensive Tree & Woodlands Inventory	High	Low	A1, A2, A3, A4							
T2	Ensure Operational Plans Exist for Key Woodland Assets	High	Low	A1, A2, A3	A4						
T3	Promotion of Tree Benefits	Medium	Moderate	A1, A2, A3*							
T4	Tree Protection Policy Development, Monitoring and Enforcement	High	Moderate	A1, A2	A3	A4					
T5	Secure Resources to Support Existing Tree & Woodland Assets	High	Moderate	A1	A2	A3				A4	
E1	Increase Overall Land Dedicated to Canopy Coverage Across Bolsover District	Medium	Optimal					A1, A2, A3			
E2	Expand Tree Canopy Cover in Wards with Low Coverage	High	Moderate	A1	A2, A3						A4

Code	Target	Priority	KPI level	Action to be delivered by end of year...							
				Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 8	Year 10	
E3	Establish Community Planting Across All Parishes	Medium	Moderate	A1*, A2*	A3, A4						
E4	Expand Existing Key Woodland Assets	High	Low	A1	A2, A3			A4			
E5	Secure Resources for New Tree and Woodland Planting	High	Moderate	A1	A2	A3			A4		
C1	Establish more Tree Wardens / Champions	High	Low	A1, A2	A3			A4			
C2	Community involvement & neighbourhood action	Medium	Moderate	A1, A2		A3		A4			
C3	General appreciation of trees as a community resource	Medium	Moderate	A2*, A3*	A1						
C4	Utilities cooperation	Medium	Low		A1, A2	A3					
C5	Green industry cooperation	Low	Low		A1, A2	A3					

**An asterisk indicates actions that are to be repeated annually or are ongoing throughout the lifetime of the Strategy*

7.

Monitoring & Review Plan

7.1 Monitoring & Review Plan

Ongoing monitoring and periodic review are essential to the success of Bolsover District Council's Tree and Woodland Strategy. This approach ensures that progress is transparently tracked, emerging challenges are addressed, and strategic actions remain aligned with both local priorities and wider environmental goals.

Monitoring Framework

Monitoring of the strategy will be led by the Council's Climate Change and Communities Scrutiny Committee, or a delegated scrutiny group. Oversight will focus on the implementation of targets and actions.

Each of the targets has defined Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), current performance baselines, and time-phased actions scheduled across the strategy's 10-year lifespan.

The Council's relevant teams and officers will be responsible for updating progress data annually, including:

- Status updates on each action (completed, in progress, delayed)
- Performance level shifts (e.g., low → moderate)
- Identification of risks, dependencies, or delays
- Emerging opportunities or partnerships

A performance dashboard summarising each target's status may be developed to support transparency and public engagement.

Review Schedule

To ensure the strategy remains relevant and responsive, two major review points are planned:

Year 5 (2031): A comprehensive mid-term review will assess progress across all targets, evaluate delivery effectiveness, and recommend any required strategy adjustments.

Year 10 (2036): A full end-of-strategy appraisal will measure long-term outcomes, assess impact against KPIs, and inform the development of the next tree and woodland strategy.

These formal reviews will include:

- Reassessment of priority levels based on new evidence
- Review of current performance levels across all targets
- Stakeholder consultation and community feedback
- Policy and funding landscape analysis

Reporting and Communication

Findings from monitoring activities and strategy reviews will be reported to:

- Internal council leadership and officers
- Scrutiny committee members
- Local communities and stakeholders, through summary reports or public briefings

Key updates may also be included in Council sustainability and climate reports to ensure alignment with wider environmental objectives.

Ensuring Accountability

Clear accountability for each action lies with the relevant service area or officer team. High-priority and high-risk targets (especially those rated "low" in current performance) will receive focused attention, with escalation routes in place for delayed or blocked actions. The Council remains committed to adaptive management, refining approaches as needed to respond to environmental, social, and legislative change over the course of the strategy.

8.

Appendices

8.1 Bibliography

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8.2 Glossary

Abbreviations

BAP - Biodiversity Action Plan

BSI - British Standards Institution

CAVAT - Capital Asset Valuation for Amenity Trees

ES - Ecosystem Services

ISA - International Society of Arboriculture

LPA - Local Planning Authority

NFI - National Forest Inventory

NGO - Non-Governmental Organisation

NTSG - National Tree Safety Group

NTM - National Tree Map

RTC - Relative Tree Canopy

SSSI - Site of Special Scientific Interest

TAWS - Tree & Woodland Strategy

TES - Tree Establishment Strategy

TPO - Tree Preservation Order

TDAG - Trees and Design Action Group

Glossary of Terms

Arboriculture- The selection, production, planting, maintenance, and removal of all woody plants for amenity purposes.

Biodiversity- A measure of biological variation, whether represented by gene, species, habitats or ecosystems.

Biosecurity- A set of precautions to reduce the risk of accidentally introducing or spreading alien invasive species, including potential pests and pathogens.

Canopy Cover- A 2-dimensional metric quantifying the area of ground covered by tree canopy when viewed from above, where tree canopy is the collective branches and foliage of the tree.

Carbon sequestration- Processes that remove carbon from the atmosphere.

Carbon storage - The amount of carbon bound up in the above-ground and below-ground parts of woody vegetation.

Community forestry- Addresses the social benefits of the urban forest: community pride, community planting and care projects, reduction of violent crimes and a sense of safety.

Conservation- Use, management and protection of natural resources that insures use and enjoyment for future generations

Ecosystem- A unit of ecology consisting of a more or less discrete community of species, interacting with each other and their physical environment.

Ecosystem services- The ways in which humanity relies on ecosystems for the continued provision of clean air, drinking water, an equitable climate, the productivity of agriculture, forestry and oceans, control of flooding, soil erosion, coastal erosion, carbon sequestration etc.

Environment- The prevailing conditions which reflect the combined influence of climate, soil, topography and biology (other plants and animals) present in an area.

GIS (Geographic information system)- A collection of computer hardware, software, and geographic data for capturing, storing, updating, manipulating, analysing and displaying all forms of geographically referenced information.

8.2 Glossary

Green infrastructure (GI)- An interconnected network of waterways, wetlands, woodlands, greenways, parks, forests, and other open spaces that support native species, maintain natural ecological processes, sustain air and water resources and contribute to health and quality of life. Includes parks, parkways, riparian buffers, residential landscaping, street trees, rain gardens, green roofs, and window boxes.

Green roof- A specially designed roof that incorporates plants. Depending on the structural capacity of the building, depth and type of soil, and desired maintenance. Green roofs can be planted with anything from sedums to trees.

Green space- Any vegetated land or water within an urban area that serves as recreation or open space. This includes neighbourhood and regional parks, gardens, cemeteries, playing fields, bike and walking paths, and urban landscaping.

Greenway/green corridor- Corridor composed of natural vegetation. Greenways can be used to create connected networks of open space that include traditional parks and natural areas.

Habitat- Food, water, shelter and space that supports plant or animal life.

Impervious surface- A hard surface (such as a car park or rooftop) that prevents infiltration of water into the ground, causing water to run off the surface.

Infiltration- The downward movement of water from the land surface into the soil.

Inventory, Tree- Gathering of accurate information on the health and diversity of the community forest which can include: listing and description of trees and planting sites.

Microclimate- The climate of a site as modified by local site factors.

Native species- Species present in a defined region for a certain amount of time without having been brought by humans (cf. exotic), for instance in Britain since the English Channel was flooded around 6,000 years ago.

Non-native species- A species that due to direct or indirect human activity occurs in locations beyond its known historical or potential natural range. Refers to species from another continent, region, ecosystem, or habitat.

Pollution- Substances introduced into the environment by human actions that contaminate the environment.

Stormwater runoff- Precipitation that falls on impervious surfaces (such as roofs and roads). Because it is not absorbed by soil and vegetation, it flows into storm drains.



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