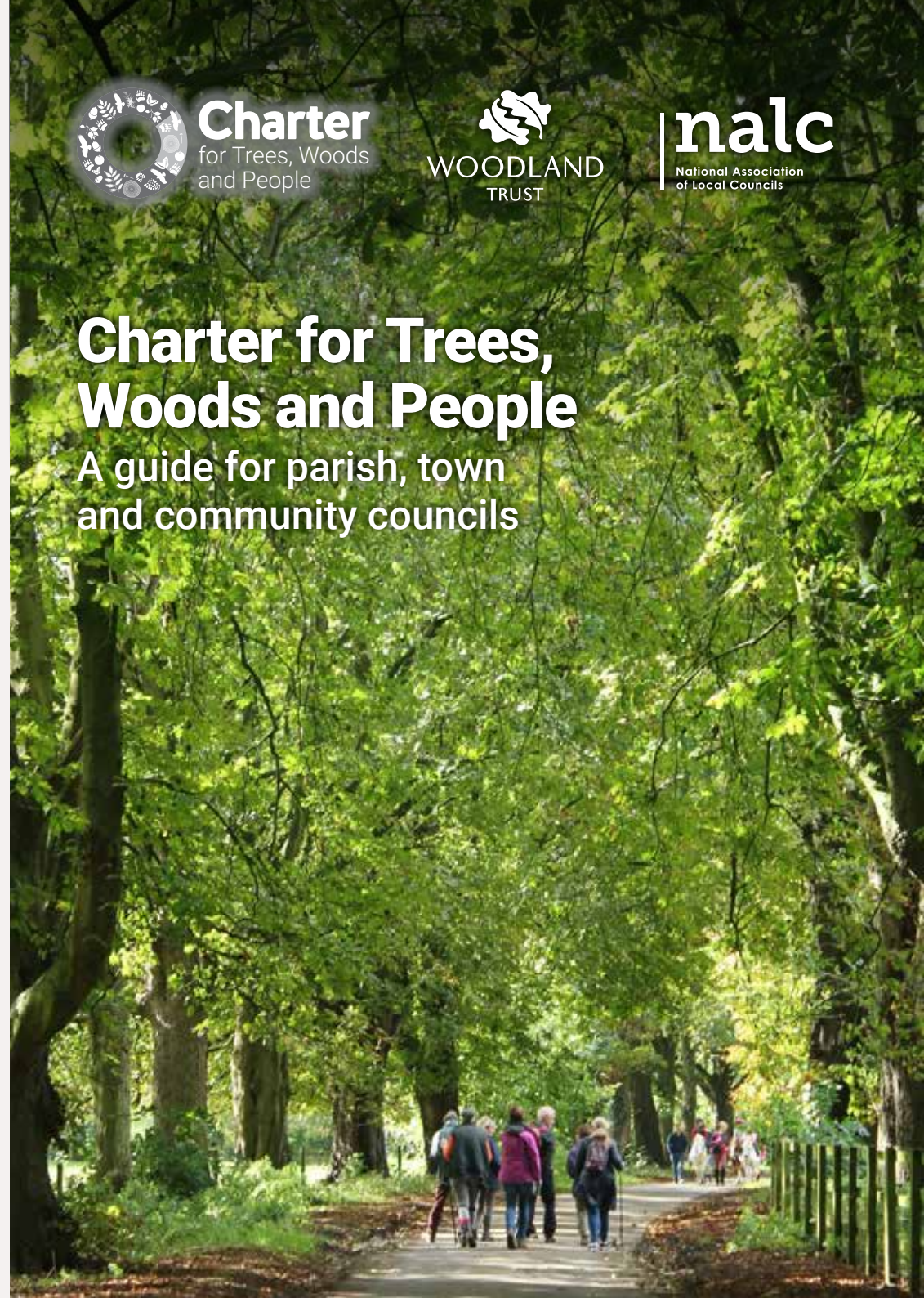




Charter for Trees, Woods and People

A guide for parish, town
and community councils



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WTML/ALAN ROWELL

Introduction

In 2017 more than 70 organisations came together to call for a better relationship between trees and people in the UK with the creation of the new Charter for Trees, Woods and People.

Throughout the year hundreds of parish, town and community councils joined in to add their support for the new Tree Charter. Councils gathered stories about their local trees, participated in the National Association of Local Councils Tree Charter survey, planted hundreds of Tree Charter Legacy Trees as a sign of commitment to trees in the future, and collected thousands of signatures of support for the charter.

This toolkit provides guidance on applying the 10 Principles of the Tree Charter for local councils. It offers guidance on how the Tree Charter can be used, in conjunction with strategies such as neighbourhood planning and the Tree Warden Scheme, to support local council practice regarding trees.

87% of councils discuss issues around trees during council meetings.

22.8% of councils have guiding policies concerning trees.

Response taken from NALC's Tree Charter Survey

Just the beginning

This is just the beginning of an exciting new time for trees in the UK. By embracing the Tree Charter, parish, town and community councils have placed themselves at the centre of the conversation about policy and practice regarding trees. By adopting and enacting the 10 Principles of the Tree Charter, councils will become a leading force for good practice for trees in the UK.



WTML/MATT LARSEN DAW



WTML/MATT LARSEN DAW

The 10 Principles of the Tree Charter

The 10 Principles of the Charter for Trees, Woods and People offer the bedrock for better policy and practice regarding trees in the UK. Composed by the experts developing the Tree Charter, each principle is accompanied by evidence, articles and calls to action.

In this toolkit, we give a brief introduction to each principle and explain what, in practice, they mean for your council. We hope these principles will inform and inspire councils to enact the Tree Charter, partly through strategies such as neighbourhood planning and the Tree Warden Scheme (see page 26-27) but also through defining their own initiatives and activities.

You can find more resources, information and evidence about each principle on the Tree Charter website: **treecharter.uk**

WTML/MATT LARSEN DAW

Principle: Sustain landscapes rich in wildlife

Each tree is a world within itself, teeming with life. A fallen branch is a feast for beetles, fungal-rich woodland soil is a wildflower bed. A hedgerow is a living network, where a host of creatures share their home. Forests are full of opportunities for people, but their natural wealth is the wildlife. Our future good means thinking in the round, adapting plans to what is on the ground. New urban and transport projects should make routes for our native wildlife to move forward too. Take heed of nature's needs.



WTML/AMY LEWIS

Landscapes must have a rich diversity of trees, hedgerows and woods if they are to provide the homes, food and safe routes necessary to support the UK's wildlife. Through planting projects and good management, councils can support tree diversity in the environments under their care.

Councils in England have a biodiversity duty. Ensure your council has proper knowledge of this duty.

98% agreed the wildlife habitats trees provide were of benefit to their community.

Response taken from NALC's Tree Charter Survey

Take action

- Learn more about the wildlife that depends on woods and trees: www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/visiting-woods/trees-woods-and-wildlife
- Help track the effects of weather and climate change on wildlife near you: www.naturescalendar.org.uk
- Create a local nature action plan with this guide from RSPB: www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/give-nature-a-home-in-your-garden
- The Wildlife Trust's ideas for helping UK wildlife: www.wildlifetrusts.org/how-you-can-help
- For support regarding hedge management, check out: www.hedgelink.org.uk
- Orchard Network works to conserve orchard and fruit tree heritage: www.ptes.org/campaigns/traditional-orchard-project/orchard-network

Principle: Plant for the future

When we enjoy the company of a treasured tree or the beauty of a favourite wood we often owe thanks to those with the foresight and confidence to invest in the future. We must show that same generosity of spirit, that same sense of hope for the future, and plant more now. Line streets with living greenery, let trees allow shifting colour into every life. More orchards for communities, more hedges for wildlife, more forests for timber and jobs. Nurture people's pride in their local trees and empower them to care for their future.

Right tree, right place, bright future.



WTML/MATT LARSEN DAW

New trees can enhance streets, private gardens, hospitals and schools, in both rural and urban settings. Councils are perfectly placed to set up community orchards and work with local schools to get children involved in planting activities. Councils can introduce guiding policies or neighbourhood plan policies on planting. Aspire to replace every tree which is felled in your community. Some, local authorities have adopted 2 for 1, or even 3 for 1, replacement policies.

Remember to plan your planting activities responsibly. Make sure you understand how large the trees

you plant will become – both above and below ground – and plan for the cost of maintenance.

Around a third of councils said they were already involved in planting activities within their community, often in partnership with volunteer conservation groups, schools, national charities or other bodies.

Response taken from NALC's Tree Charter Survey

Take action

- Use neighbourhood planning to create positive planting policies. Read the three strategies on page 25 and visit the Woodland Trust's website for more information: www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/get-involved/campaign-with-us/in-your-community/neighbourhood-planning
- Get free trees to plant in your community: www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees
- Think about the type of tree you are going to plant. Learn more about the UK's trees at: www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/visiting-woods/trees-woods-and-wildlife/british-trees
- Learn how to plant a tree that will thrive: www.rhs.org.uk/Advice/profile?pid=237
- Plant a tree to help green a town or city: www.treesforcities.org/get-involved
- Plant a tree and help increase tree cover in Scotland: www.treesforlife.org.uk/plant-trees
- Create a new community orchard with The Orchard Project: www.theorchardproject.org.uk
- Find out more about the Hedgerow Campaign: www.treecouncil.org.uk/Our-Work/Hedge-Tree-Campaign
- Gather seeds to grow local trees with known provenance. Find out more at: www.treecouncil.org.uk/Take-Part/Seed-Gathering-Season
- Check out The Tree Council's grant schemes for community groups and schools: www.treecouncil.org.uk/Grants



Principle: Celebrate the power of trees to inspire

Stories have always grown on trees. Artists are drawn to their intricacies. Woods are rooted in memories, but it's the leaf mould of tales told that nourishes future growth. The poetry of trees is always living, for every older work sends out new shoots. We grow attached to trees in books and learn to look for them in life. We feel connected to trees we know and love to see them painted well. Celebrate Tree Charter Day each year to strengthen this cultural legacy and help our living traditions thrive.



WTML/MATT LARSEN-DAW

Trees are woven into the fabric of our local stories. They inspire our art, literature, folklore, place names and traditions. Councils can be a prominent voice in promoting local tree heritage at village fetes and local events. Get creative and run a competition to find your community's favourite tree. Allow submissions in the form of photography, paintings or poetry.

Every year, on the last Saturday of November, National Tree Charter Day provides an opportunity to remind local residents of the Tree Charter Principles and the fact that your community is part of a UK network of Charter Branch Local Councils devoted to shaping a future in which trees and people stand stronger together. This Saturday always falls during National Tree Week, marking the start of planting season, so it is a perfect time to organise a community planting, to get the community together for a tree dressing event, or simply to meet

and review the progress in delivering the Tree Charter Principles locally.

80% of local councils listed beauty as a key benefit of trees.

"Trees and woods make the village."

Response taken from NALC's Tree Charter Survey

Take action

- Explore the Tree Trails map to discover art and heritage sites around the UK: www.treecharter.uk/legacy.html
- Find a local National Tree Charter Day event or register yours: www.treecouncil.org.uk/Take-Part/Near-You
- Celebrate Apple Day in October: www.commonground.org.uk/apple-day
- Organise a local Tree Dressing Day in December: www.commonground.org.uk/tree-dressing-day
- Take part in National Tree Week: www.treecouncil.org.uk/Take-Part/National-Tree-Week



Principle: Grow forests of opportunity and innovation

Forests, woods and trees all flourish under the stewardship of skilled professionals. Trees reward us with fuel for enterprise, craft and invention, green energy and fires. Consider the source of wooden products and choose the home-grown from well-managed forests. Teach the rising generation that with responsible management a wooded land is a thriving nation.



WTML/COLIN VARDELL

A thriving tree economy can provide jobs, forest products, environmental benefits and economic opportunities for your community. You can lead your community in better understanding and respecting the role of tree professionals and the importance of responsible sourcing of forest products. As well as ensuring that local community publications and developments use materials from certified sources (eg FSC – Forest Stewardship Certification), you can help to build understanding in your local community of the meaning and importance of these choices.

When installing signage or benches, make the craftspeople that created them and the source of the wood part of the story when informing local residents. Where possible, use local sources of timber and local businesses to create and install.

Local woods can offer opportunities for small businesses and vocational training. You can play a role in linking landowners to schools, universities, businesses and

individuals who can benefit from woodland while helping to ensure it is well managed for the future.

Take Action

- Learn more about sourcing FSC certified products: www.fsc-uk.org/en-uk/about-fsc
- Advice and support on managing small woods: www.smallwoods.org.uk
- The Royal Forestry Society programme for schools, Teaching Trees: www.rfs.org.uk/learning/teaching-trees
- Support UK-grown timber: www.growninbritain.org
- Advice, training and database of tree professionals from The Arboricultural Association: www.trees.org.uk

Principle: Protect irreplaceable trees and woods

Ancient woods have been continuously wooded since before records started: they are living descendants from Britain's prehistory. A tree may be a village's oldest inhabitant, a founding figure in a region's identity, a natural monument in the nation's story. Thorn-bushes and hedgerows harbour our history. Old orchards are habitats for some of our rarest species and living museums of disappearing ways of life. A country that cares for its future cares for its past: we need laws and commitment to protect these irreplaceable natural treasures.



Councils can work to prevent any further loss of our precious ancient woodland and important trees. Monitor the Tree Preservation Orders in your area. Appoint a volunteer tree warden or hire a tree officer who can focus on your local threats. Introduce a guiding policy or neighbourhood plan policy to highlight your commitment to your ancient and important trees.

Local council members described their most important role regarding trees and woods as 'protection'.

"Local councils are best placed to reflect the interests, needs and concerns of their residents. Residents of this parish value and respect the trees, woods, and open spaces available to them and the Parish Council works to ensure their preservation."

Response taken from NALC's Tree Charter Survey

Take action

- Explore recruiting a Tree Council tree warden:
www.treecouncil.org.uk/Take-Part/tree-wardens/scheme-details
- Use your neighbourhood plan to protect ancient woodland, and aged and veteran trees. Read our strategy advice and visit the Woodland Trust's website for more information: www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/get-involved/campaign-with-us/in-your-community/neighbourhood-planning
- Search the www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/visiting-woods/ancient-tree-hunt to identify and record the important trees in your area.
- Support the Woodland Trust's call for better ancient woodland protection:
www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/get-involved/campaign-with-us/our-campaigns/protect-ancient-woodland

Principle: Plan greener local landscapes

The trees that touch us most are those that live among us, along our street, in the local park, beside our school or place of work. Like us, they grow and change, need space to breathe and support to thrive. Trees give places their distinctive character. Local community networks have a vital role to play in caring for woods and trees. Trees provide long-lasting good, so well-informed planning reaps long-term rewards. Take guidance on planting, felling and replanting from skilled professionals. Good landscapes of the future depend on care for trees today.



Councils should consider the future of their local trees when making planning decisions. Adopt a guiding policy, ideally formalised into a neighbourhood plan, to increase tree cover in new developments and to prevent wanton felling. Ensure the value and benefits of veteran trees are considered before supporting new developments which would result in their loss or deterioration. Guarantee an accurate survey of all existing trees and hedgerows on site is conducted, in accordance with British Standards 'Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations' (2012) by a competent arborist. Work to ensure protective measures are put in place during the development process to safeguard the health of trees and hedgerows on site.

"Key responsibility: Making sure that the value of trees is recognised in the planning system."

Response taken from NALC's Tree Charter Survey

Take action

- If you belong to a council in England, explore including a tree policy in your neighbourhood plan. Read the tree strategies on page 25 and visit the Woodland Trust's website for further information: www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/get-involved/campaign-with-us/in-your-community/neighbourhood-planning
- Visit Trees and Design Action Group for guides to inform your decisions and neighbourhood planning policies around trees, including Trees in Hard Landscapes and Trees in the Townscape: www.tdag.org.uk/guides-resources.html
- For guidance and support regarding tree risk management, visit the National Tree Safety Group's website: www.ntsgroup.org.uk

Principle: Recover health, hope and wellbeing with the help of trees

Peace grows quietly in tree-lined places, where bees, fresh scents and birdsong revive our jaded senses. Sprays of greenery ensure cleaner air and clearer minds, and fitter bodies, more inclined to take a walk or meet a friend. Spirits lift and stress recedes when we stroll through healing glades. Parks and woodlands keep us well and help to quell fears of illness, ageing, loss – we breathe more freely under trees. Healthcare and tree-care go hand in hand: harness the therapeutic power of trees.



Councils can work to promote the physical and mental health benefits of trees. Often councils are already involved in looking after open spaces for the public. Put extra effort into making sure these spaces are well maintained and accessible to all.

You can also play a role in helping local residents understand the benefits of time among trees. Initiate or support activities and events that encourage people of all ages to spend time among trees.

“Key responsibility: Better communication of how trees benefit us all.”

“The therapeutic value of trees to one’s emotional and mental wellbeing cannot be overestimated.”

Responses taken from NALC’s Tree Charter Survey

Take action

- NHS Forest is opening up healthy green spaces for communities: www.nhsforest.org
- Learn more about the role of trees in healthcare: www.networks.sustainablehealthcare.org.uk/resources
- Create outdoor experiences for children and young people with Learning through Landscapes: www.ltl.org.uk



Principle: Make trees accessible to all

Trees offer shared experience to every age, religion and race. In woods people can work together, sharing experiences and learning from each other and their natural surroundings. Those who no longer move with ease can still find pleasure among the trees. Cheerful voices ring through leaves, from makeshift pitches and games of make-believe. There should be room for us all beneath spreading canopies.



WTML/MICHAEL HEFFERNAN

Every person in society should be able to enjoy the benefits of trees regardless of age, wealth, ethnicity or disability. If there are members of your community who spend less time in woodland or green spaces with trees you could undertake local consultation to understand what barriers they may face and how these could be overcome. In some cases you may find it is simply that people were not aware what opportunities exist on their doorstep, and you can play a role in making this information accessible to all.

Promote awareness of local opportunities to access woods and trees

Clear information about local accessible woods and green spaces with trees should be available to all in society, including details of public transport links and structured opportunities for volunteering, socialising and exercising among trees.

Look for opportunities for local residents to get involved in planting,

managing or monitoring local trees and woods. This is a great way to enable and encourage people to spend time among trees, but also builds understanding and a sense of ownership in the community for trees and woods locally.

Working with the schools in your area can help ensure that everybody has the chance to build a connection with trees early on. Highlight the opportunities that exist for schools to plant trees, learn about trees and woods, and take the classroom out into woods or among trees. Encourage local schools to sign up as Tree Charter Branch Schools and play their part in making the Tree Charter Principles a reality for future generations.

“We have just agreed to a bird box building scheme with the local Brownies.”

Response taken from NALC's Tree Charter Survey

Take action

- Make use of Tree Charter Schools resources: www.treecharter.uk/education.html
- Inspire children with Going Wild's great ideas for enjoying time in woods: www.goingwild.net
- Ideas for getting everyone involved in a community orchard: www.theorchardproject.org.uk/guides-and-advice
- The Tree Council's Tree Futures grant scheme offers help for schools and communities: www.treecouncil.org.uk/Grants

Principle: Combat the threats to our habitats

Pests, diseases and climate change pose serious threats to our precious trees. Enlightened management of woods will help ensure their future health: planting strong seeds and saplings, selecting species suited to the site, keeping forests mixed in age and kind, regular thinning, combatting invasive plants, and controlling infections and pests at the earliest sign.



Through good management at a local level, councils may take the lead in ensuring our trees and woods are able to face increasing threats from pests, diseases and climate change. Appoint a volunteer tree warden to regularly monitor your trees, and ensure risks are highlighted to the wider community so that others can help keep an eye out for problems. Ensure tree surveys are routinely conducted by experts, as and when required. Ensure you have up-to-date records of the trees in your locality so that you can identify if issues start to affect tree health, or if malpractice by landowners or contractors damages local hedges or trees. If you are concerned that woodland, trees or hedges are not being managed appropriately for safety and the health of the habitat, you can report this to the local authority tree officer.

“Key responsibility: Ensuring trees are safe and that woodland is managed sustainably.”

Response taken from NALC's Tree Charter Survey

Take action

- Free woodland management tools and guidance from Sylva Foundation: www.sylva.org.uk/myforest/woodlandmanagement
- Find out how to recognise, manage and treat tree pests and diseases: www.forestry.gov.uk/pestsanddiseases
- FSC's advice and opportunities for promoting responsible sourcing of forest products in schools: www.fsc-uk.org/en-uk/get-involved/teachers
- The Ecological Site Classification (ESC) decision support system matches key site characteristics with the ecological requirements of tree species and, crucially, includes climate change projections for 2050 and 2080: www.forestry.gov.uk/esc

Principle: Strengthen our landscapes with trees

From roots that bind and enrich the soil to leaves that shade and shelter, from locking carbon into timber and purifying air and water, trees make our landscapes better. Rising water swells and floods, so strengthen riverbanks with roots. Bare hills need trees to keep the soil stable, to slow the flow of nature's deluge, to shelter sheep or shade the cattle. The right tree in the right place earns its keep again and again. As farmers and landowners benefit from woods, the country will be strengthened in the years ahead.



WTML/MATT LARSEN DAW

Trees absorb carbon, clean our air, reduce flooding risk, improve soil stability and shade waterways, thereby making our landscapes more resilient, economically valuable and better for people and wildlife. Council members should learn about the benefits of trees and work to promote them. Opportunities to improve the local landscape can be identified in neighbourhood plans, put forward to the local authority in consultations for local plans, and promoted to landowners to influence their decisions around planting and management.

Take action

- Advice on choosing the right tree for the right place: www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/advice
- I-Tree Eco offers a tool to calculate the value of your local trees' contribution to ecosystem services: www.itreetools.org/eco
- Map your local trees and help build a picture of their value to the landscape: www.treezilla.org
- Identify the best tree species for a site based on its characteristics and climate change projections: www.forestry.gov.uk/esc

Embedding the Tree Charter – three strategies

Local councils can employ a range of strategies to look after the trees in their care and help realise the 10 Principles of the Tree Charter. Here are three suggestions.

Neighbourhood planning

If you are a parish or town council in England, neighbourhood planning is a powerful tool at your disposal which can help you enact the 10 Principles of the Tree Charter.

Background

Neighbourhood planning was introduced by the Localism Act of 2012. Neighbourhood plans allow parish and town councils in England to produce general planning policies for the development and use of the land in their neighbourhoods. Along with national and local policy, successful neighbourhood plans become part of the development plan of an area and will be a material consideration in all planning decisions.

For councils in Scotland and Wales:

At the moment, there is no exact equivalent to neighbourhood planning for Scottish and Welsh community and town councils. In Scotland, there is a Community

Planning system which aims to connect public bodies and local communities to improve local service delivery. In Wales, the Place Plans scheme aims to involve councils in the development of planning guidance for local communities. Both initiatives, however, lack the formal and statutory weight of neighbourhood planning as it exists in England.

There is no fixed approach or model for your plan

Plans can cover a range of policy matters, including policies around trees. Plans can stretch over a few streets or a large area, and equally can be a few pages or hundreds. There is no right or wrong way to form your plan, as long as it truly reflects the wishes of your whole community and is in general conformity with local and national policy.

The flexibility of neighbourhood planning makes it an ideal strategy for councils to enact the Tree Charter. The 10 Principles of the Tree Charter can be used as direct inspiration for the policies you adopt into your plan. Policies may cover everything from the protection of ancient woodland to planting or canopy cover.

Your proposals will ultimately have to pass independent inspection. Local plans need to comply with the Localism Act and the 2012 Neighbourhood Planning Regulations. See how you can build on the policies set out in the National Planning Policy

Framework, adapting them to meet the specific needs of your local community.

Burden of evidence

Importantly, because neighbourhood plans enjoy statutory weight, you will need good evidence in support of what you decide to include. You need to seek the views of as many of the people that live and work in your neighbourhood as possible. Use questionnaires, workshops, community information sessions, model building and social media as tools to gather evidence of your community's support for your proposals.

Get to know your local trees

Before considering trees in your plan it is critical to understand your existing tree cover. Some useful resources include:

- **Ancient Woodland Inventory** – Held by Natural England (NE), and currently lists woods over 2ha in size (with exceptions in some counties in the South East of England: see *A review of the revision of the Ancient Woodland Inventory in the South East (NERR042)*, Natural England, 2011).
- **Ancient Tree Inventory** – This is the definitive record of ancient and veteran trees across the UK. Thus far over 158,000 ancient, veteran and notable trees have been recorded across the UK, although it is estimated that at least 500,000 of these special trees might exist. Map yours and add them to the inventory.

• **The Wood-Pasture and Parkland (PWPP) BAP Priority Habitat Inventory for England** - Owned and managed by NE and can be accessed as a provisional layer on MAGIC (DEFRA's mapping system).

• **Local Environmental Record Centre** – Not for profit organisations that collect, collate and manage information on the natural environment for a defined geographic area, a font of useful information.

• **Access standards** – Does your community have good enough access to woodland?

More information

- Visit www.mycommunity.org.uk/take-action/neighbourhood-planning for more information and resources regarding neighbourhood planning.
- For specific information about trees and neighbourhood planning, visit the Woodland Trust website: www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/get-involved/campaign-with-us/in-your-community/neighbourhood-planning
- For guidance and support regarding tree risk management, visit the National Tree Safety Group's website: www.ntsgroup.org.uk

Tree wardens

The Tree Warden Scheme is a national initiative coordinated by the Tree Council to enable local people to play an active role in conserving and enhancing their local trees and woods.

Tree wardens are volunteers, appointed by parish councils or other community organisations, who gather information about their local trees, get involved in local tree matters and encourage projects.

Sustain strong local networks of tree expertise

A durable culture of expertise in tree management and protection can connect and empower local communities and local authorities in maintaining a healthy tree population. Local volunteers, dedicated local authority staff and specialist tree and landscape consultants should work together to ensure informed decisions are made about their trees and woods.

Charter for Trees, Woods and People: Plan Greener Local Landscapes – article 2

The Tree Council's tree wardens are a mixture of volunteer enthusiasts and experts involved in looking after UK trees. A tree warden is a useful role parish councils may employ to gather information about their local trees. They can be a great point of contact regarding planting and tree management. They can ascertain what further advice may be needed and identify threats to your local

trees which may need to be brought to the attention of another tier of government.

You can take the lead in encouraging and supporting a local resident to become a tree warden, help them to connect with the local authority, raise their profile in the community and create a forum for regular updates and proposals on local trees and woods to the local councils.

For more information about how the Tree Council supports its tree wardens visit the Tree Council website at: www.treecouncil.org.uk/Take-Part/Tree-Wardens



Tree guidance document

Councils may consider drafting a tree guidance document to clarify and improve their current management practices regarding trees. This document can serve as a point of reference for the public, councillors and officers, to ensure councils have a consistent, structured and transparent approach to the management of their trees.

Numerous examples of such 'parish tree policies' are available online, through a quick engine search. A good tree guidance document will have an introduction, explaining its purpose and the benefits that trees bring so that their importance is understood, before covering the council's current management practices regarding tree surveys, tree felling, hedge and tree maintenance, dispute management policies, Tree Preservation Orders and tree officer/

warden contact information. Your guidance document may also include your council's aspirations around trees. For instance, it may include a replacement policy and your tree cover ambitions.

Such a document can be a useful overview of your council's activities and a chance to review your council's aspirations. You can measure your council's progress and ambitions against the 10 Principles of the Tree Charter. Draw on the information in this document to identify what opportunities and issues apply to your local community, and consider what plans you might propose in a tree guidance document to improve the local situation for trees, woods and people.





Suggested content for your tree guidance document

1. A brief overview of the characteristics of your local treescape
2. Benefits of trees
 - Health and wellbeing
 - Air quality
 - Preventing flooding
 - Beauty
 - Heritage
3. A list of significant tree features in the community (mapped if possible)
 - Ancient and veteran trees
 - Ancient woodland
 - Mature woodland
 - New planting
 - Established hedgerows
 - Woodland walks
 - Memorial trees and woods
4. Key contacts for tree enquiries and issues
 - Tree warden
 - Tree officer
 - Trusted local arborists and nurseries
5. Local council responsibilities and policies
 - Inspections
 - Management of trees and woods
 - Maintaining safe access to public woodland
 - Annual celebrations (eg Tree Charter Day, Walk in the Woods Month)
6. Tree care and management guidelines for residents
7. Explanation of key terms
 - Tree Protection (previously referred to as Tree Preservation Orders) Orders (what a TPO is, how to request one and where to get information about TPOs in the community)
 - Conservation area (if applicable)
 - Native / non-native tree species
 - Deciduous / evergreen

Appendix: Summary of the Tree Charter

Sustain landscapes rich in wildlife

- 1) Understand and protect the role of trees in supporting wildlife
- 2) Strengthen important habitats with new planting
- 3) Create transport networks for wildlife as well as people
- 4) Sustain precious and vulnerable woodland habitats
- 5) Farm the land to provide for wildlife as well as people
- 6) Allow the natural cycle of life
- 7) Be respectful neighbours to our wildlife
- 8) Let nature do what it does best

Plant for the future

- 1) Increase canopy cover across the UK
- 2) Plant the right tree in the right place
- 3) Take a landscape view
- 4) Plant with purpose
- 5) Plant for beauty
- 6) Plant more hedges and replenish those that become damaged
- 7) Plant more orchards
- 8) Plan ahead
- 9) Involve everyone in planting trees

Celebrate the power of trees to inspire

- 1) A national day for trees, woods and people

- 2) Preserve our woodland culture
- 3) Celebrate trees and woods in art and literature
- 4) Recognise trees as living heritage
- 5) Consider our future tree heritage
- 6) Respect and strengthen local identity
- 7) Bring beauty to our landscapes
- 8) Celebrate and preserve our rich orchard heritage
- 9) Provide common roots for multicultural communities

Grow forests of opportunity and innovation

- 1) Promote careers working with trees and woods
- 2) Create opportunities for sustainable forestry across the landscape
- 3) Empower the custodians of our woods and trees
- 4) Source timber and forest products responsibly
- 5) Encourage innovation in timber use
- 6) Support small woodland businesses
- 7) Promote UK-grown timber products
- 8) Support UK fruit producers
- 9) Encourage and support sustainable woodland management

Protect irreplaceable trees and woods

- 1) Prevent any further loss of the UK's precious ancient woodland
- 2) Identify and protect important tree heritage



- 3) Empower custodians of our tree heritage to restore important landscapes
- 4) Identify and map important trees and woods
- 5) Clarify responsibilities for the care of important trees and woods
- 6) Give legal protection to historic orchards
- 7) Protect and manage established hedgerows for the future
- 8) Conserve the unique qualities of ancient woodland
- 9) Safeguard our future tree heritage

Plan greener local landscapes

- 1) Increase tree cover in new developments
- 2) Sustain strong local networks of tree expertise
- 3) Recognise the full value of trees and woods
- 4) Plan for the future when making

- decisions about trees and woods
- 5) Take a strategic approach to tree management, planting and protection
- 6) Share learning and good practice about the benefits of trees
- 7) Prioritise sustainable timber as a building material
- 8) Ensure compensation for any loss of trees or woodland

Recover health, hope and wellbeing with the help of trees

- 1) Develop an action plan to harness the health benefits of trees
- 2) Create health opportunities through cross-sector partnerships
- 3) Create healthier environments with trees
- 4) Create spaces that heal
- 5) Promote the benefits of green surroundings
- 6) Give children a daily dose of trees

Make trees accessible to all

- 1) Help children build a connection with trees in school
- 2) Support landowners to open their woods to people
- 3) Involve communities in planting and managing trees and woods
- 4) Identify and overcome barriers to accessing woods and trees
- 5) Promote awareness of local opportunities to access woods and trees
- 6) Promote diversity and inclusivity in forestry and arboriculture
- 7) Support the creation of community woodland groups
- 8) Foster a love of trees and woods across society

Combat the threats to our habitats

- 1) Bring all woods into management
- 2) Provide clear good practice guidelines on planting and management
- 3) Ensure diversity of trees across the landscape
- 4) Let woods breathe
- 5) Actively manage orchards for the future
- 6) Act fast on pests and invasive species
- 7) Invest in research to find solutions to tree diseases
- 8) Ensure an early warning system for tree disease and pests
- 9) Maintain a disease-free supply chain for trees and timber

Strengthen our landscapes with trees

- 1) Champion the positive impact of trees in the landscape
- 2) Take a joined-up approach to land management
- 3) Value trees for all of the benefits they bring
- 4) Maximise the role of trees in flood prevention
- 5) Improve waterways with trees
- 6) Promote the role of trees on farms
- 7) Recognise and support custodians of valuable landscapes



Contacts

National Association of Local Councils

109 Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3LD

t: 020 7637 1865

e: nalc@nalc.gov.uk

w: www.nalc.gov.uk

NALC is the national membership body for local councils in England, working with county associations to support, promote and improve these councils. For the Tree Charter project NALC has coordinated with networking organisations in Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland to ensure a UK reach for the survey and promotion of the Charter Branch network.

The Woodland Trust

Kempton Way, Grantham, Lincolnshire NG31 6LL

t: 01476 581 111

e: charter@woodlandtrust.org.uk

w: www.woodlandtrust.org.uk

w: TreeCharter.uk

Join the online conversation as part of the Tree Charter Branch Facebook group: www.facebook.com/groups/treecharterchampions

The Woodland Trust is the UK's largest woodland conservation charity with over 500,000 members and supporters and more than 1,000 sites, covering over 26,000 hectares, all over the UK. The Trust's vision is a UK rich in native woods and trees, for people and wildlife.

We're standing up for woods and trees. We protect and campaign, plant trees, and restore ancient woodland for the benefit of wildlife and people. To realise our vision we need to rekindle people's love for woods and trees and show them the benefits trees can bring to our lives and communities.

Special thanks to

One Voice Wales (www.onevoicewales.org.uk)

Scottish Community Councils (www.communitycouncils.scot)

Northern Ireland Environment Link (www.nienvironmentlink.org)