

# The Forest of Avon Plan

A Tree and Woodland  
Strategy for the West  
of England



# Acknowledgements

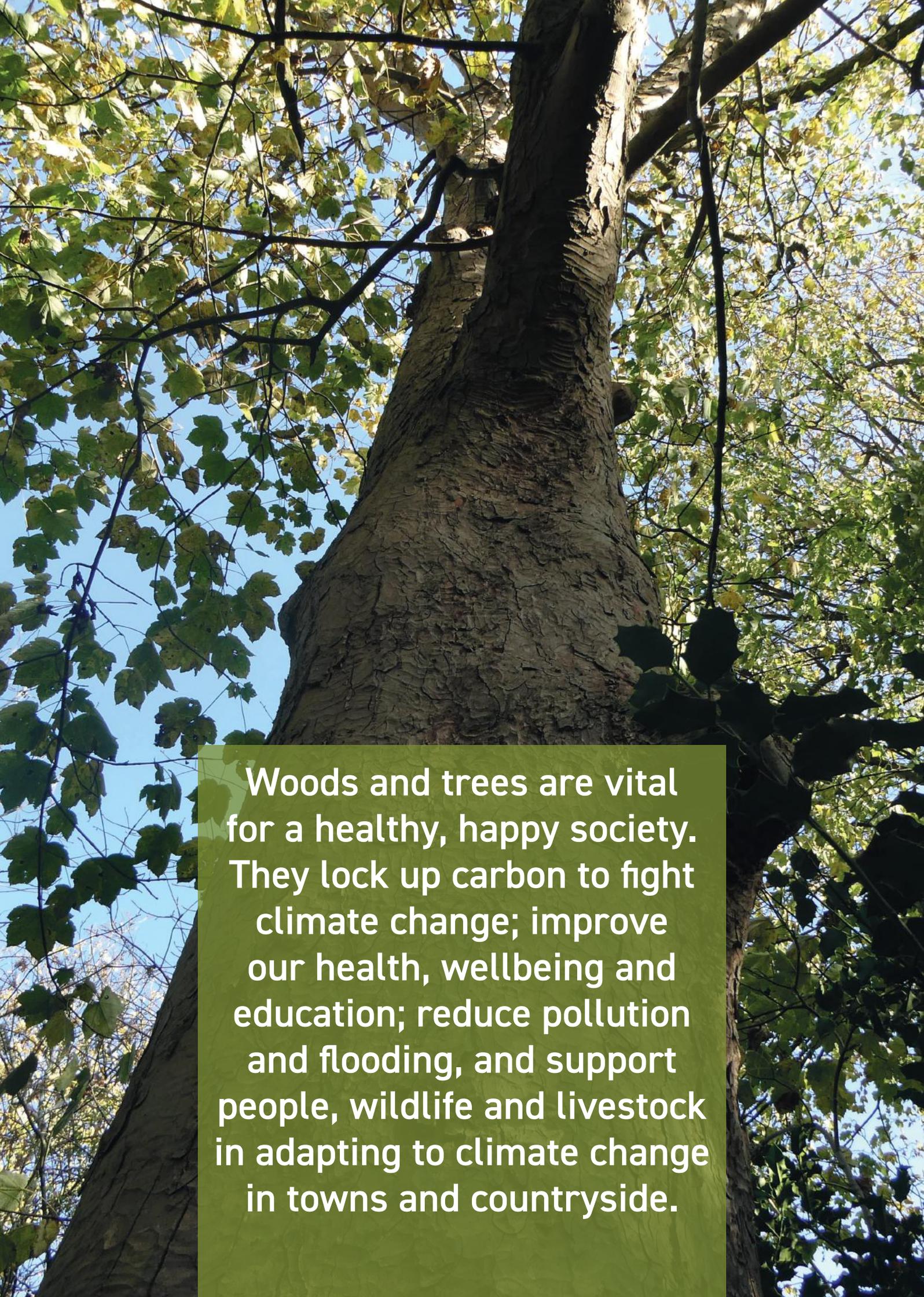
We would like to thank Avon Wildlife Trust, Bath and North East Somerset Council, Bristol City Council, Bristol Water, the Forest of Avon Trust, North Somerset Council, South Gloucestershire Council, Wessex Water, West of England Combined Authority, and the Woodland Trust for their support in resourcing this Strategy.

We would also like to thank the following organisations for their input to and comments on this Strategy, without whose expertise this would not have been possible: Avon Wildlife

Trust, Bath and North East Somerset Council, Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership, Bristol Avon Rivers Trust, Bristol City Council, Bristol Tree Forum, Bristol Water, Cotswolds AONB, Environment Agency, Forestry Commission, Mendip Hills AONB, National Trust, National Farmers Union, Natural England, North Somerset Council, South Gloucestershire Council, Wessex Water, West of England Combined Authority and Woodland Trust.



While the Information in this document is considered to be correct at the date of publication, changes in circumstances after the time of publication may impact on the accuracy of the Information.

A low-angle photograph of a large tree trunk, showing the rough, textured bark. The tree is surrounded by dense green foliage, with some leaves showing signs of autumn. The sky is a clear, bright blue. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent green rectangular background in the lower half of the image.

**Woods and trees are vital for a healthy, happy society. They lock up carbon to fight climate change; improve our health, wellbeing and education; reduce pollution and flooding, and support people, wildlife and livestock in adapting to climate change in towns and countryside.**

# Executive Summary

Trees and woodlands are a crucial part of the West of England's environment and provide an array of services to our society and economy, such as supporting wildlife, sequestering carbon, providing natural flood management, producing timber and other wood products, cooling our urban spaces, and improving our health and wellbeing.

As the severity of the climate and ecological emergencies are recognised, and the Covid-19 pandemic underscored the importance of the natural environment to our health and wellbeing, there is increasing demand for new trees and woodlands in our region, backed by an ambitious regional target to double West of England's semi-natural tree and woodland cover by the middle of the century. However, to maximise the benefits that trees and woodlands can provide, we need to ensure that we plant the right tree in the right places, aligning to our regional ambition, and that we care for them properly, as well as enabling natural regeneration of woodland. It is also imperative to manage well what we already have.

A strong and improving evidence base for the natural environment is developing, including the West of England Nature Recovery Network (NRN) and woodland opportunity mapping, and the West of England Joint Green Infrastructure Strategy (JGIS) provides a prospectus for increasing investment in green infrastructure within the region. Additionally, the upcoming England Tree Strategy and Environment Bill will facilitate funding for trees and woodland across England, and there is increasing interest from the private sector in financing nature-based solutions.

The West of England is also fortunate to have one of England's Community Forests – the Forest of Avon, which covers all of the West of England with the exception of the two Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs). This Strategy will, therefore, act as the updated Forest of Avon Plan, as well as being consistent with Cotswolds and Mendip Hills AONB Management Plans.

The Forest of Avon Plan: A Tree and Woodland Strategy for the West of England will guide collective action to deliver an agreed vision for better managed and connected trees and woodland making a vital contribution to a thriving natural environment, society and economy in the West of England. It will also ensure that action for trees and woodland facilitates delivery of the NRN and JGIS.

This Strategy has been produced through the West of England Nature Partnership, with content commissioned from the Forest of Avon Trust, in response to a key Strategic Project (S5) in the West of England JGIS. WENP is a cross-sector partnership working to restore the natural environment in the West of England through embedding the value of nature in decision-making across spatial planning, public health and economic development.

The Strategy sets out:

- A collective vision and agreed targets for Trees and Woodland in the West of England, which will help to guide policy development in the region;
- A five-year Action Plan that provides an initial set of actions and projects that will accelerate the delivery of our vision and help to achieve our targets;
- Strategic Woodland Areas in which tree planting and woodland creation would strengthen the woodland network in the West of England;
- The Funding and Delivery Mechanisms that we will need to utilise to achieve our vision.
- The existing evidence base for Trees and Woodlands;
- Identified challenges to protecting and managing our existing trees and woodland, and to establishing new trees and woodland, and potential solutions to these challenges;

A set of principles has been developed to guide tree planting, woodland creation and the management of new and existing woodland across the West of England. The intention is that through use of these principles, as well as supporting guidance and best practice, new and existing trees and woodland can be established and managed in a way that maximises the multiple benefits that they provide.

Finally, priorities for trees and woodland have been identified for each of the Green Infrastructure Areas in the West of England, helping landowners and delivery bodies to ascertain what the most appropriate actions for trees and woodland are in their area.

Our ambitious vision reflects the scale of action that is needed to meet the challenge that is presented by the climate and ecological emergencies. Delivering this vision would provide significant benefits to the region, including an estimated additional £540 million worth of carbon sequestration, air quality improvements and hazard regulation. This is in addition to benefits from increasing biodiversity, health and wellbeing benefits, improving water quality, and goods and services such as timber and recreation. The value of the quantified benefits alone far exceeds the estimated costs of delivery.

This Strategy is a starting point on the journey towards achieving the vision, and the Action Plan contained in this document sets out some of the immediate work that is needed to accelerate its delivery. By working together and drawing upon the commitment and expertise of individuals, local and regional government, charities, businesses and many others, transformative change is within reach.



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**At a time of significant challenges and opportunities, a Tree and Woodland Strategy enables us to set out how we can deliver transformational change**

# 1. Introduction

The West of England is noted for its high-quality environment, which underpins the area's attractiveness as a place to live and work.

As set out in the [West of England Joint Green Infrastructure Strategy \(JGIS\)](#)<sup>1</sup>, trees and woodlands are a critical component of this, whether in gardens, streets, parks, or the wider countryside. They make a huge contribution to biodiversity and public health, help mitigate climate change by providing cooling and retaining flood water, absorb carbon, reduce soil erosion, and make a significant contribution to our economy.

Recent declarations of climate and ecological emergencies in the region highlight the urgent need to increase tree cover and create woodlands to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change, and to reverse the historical loss of biodiversity. As this Strategy was being written, Covid-19 reiterated the importance of local trees, woodlands and other green spaces to people's health and wellbeing, as well as the importance of forestry and farming in providing the nation with essential supplies. At the same time, our trees are under significant threat, notably from Ash dieback disease and a changing climate<sup>2</sup>.

In the West of England, the action required to address these challenges is reflected in the West of England Nature Recovery Network (NRN) ambition to double woodland cover in rural areas and double tree canopy cover in urban areas by

2060<sup>3</sup>, which has also been adopted in the JGIS.

The UK Government has made a manifesto commitment to plant 30,000 hectares of woodland per year to 2025, which the Committee on Climate Change (CCC) has recommended should continue until 2050. The England Tree Strategy (ETS) Consultation Draft<sup>4</sup> sets out the need for transformational change in the scale and connectivity of new trees and woodland; in protecting and improving the health of our existing trees; in engaging people in trees and woodlands; and in supporting our economy. The Government is also working to create a national Nature Recovery Network, and the Environment Bill will introduce a mandate for at least 10% Biodiversity Net Gain for new developments. Meanwhile, the recently passed Agriculture Act will introduce 'payment for public goods', meaning that agricultural subsidies should be directed towards activities (such as tree planting) that produce public goods that are not rewarded through the market.

There is a need for a coordinated approach that considers the suite of new policy and legislation, and the role of trees and woodlands in relation to this.

The scale of ambition, the need to take a long-term natural capital approach to trees and woodlands, and the potential benefits of having an agreed, strategic approach to trees and woodlands in the region underpinned the inclusion of a strategic action in the JGIS for the production of a West of England Tree and Woodland Strategy<sup>5</sup>. The aspiration for a coordinating strategy also draws upon the strategic, partnership-based approach of the Forest of Avon and the need for an updated version of the Forest of Avon Plan, which this document also acts as.

1 West of England authorities and WECA. West of England Joint Green Infrastructure Strategy 2020-2030, 2020 S.2., p.10.

2 Brown, I. et al. (2016). *UK Climate Change Risk Assessment Evidence Report: Chapter 3, Natural Environment and Natural Assets*.

3 West of England Nature Partnership: Towards a Nature Recovery Network for the West of England, 2019, p.26.

4 Defra 2020, available at: <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/forestry/england-tree-strategy/>

5 West of England authorities and WECA, West of England Green Infrastructure Strategy 2020-2030, 2020, Action Plan, S.5.

## 1.1 Structure of this document

This document is structured as follows:

<b>Section 1: Introduction</b>	Explains why a Tree and Woodland Strategy for the West of England is needed now and sets out the policy context to the Strategy.
<b>Section 2: A Strategy for the West of England's Trees and Woodlands</b>	Sets out an agreed vision for trees and woodlands in the region, and how we can act in partnership to deliver this vision.
<b>Section 3: Trees and Woodlands in the West of England</b>	Outlines the evidence base for trees and woodlands, and explains the challenges faced in protecting our existing trees and woodlands and establishing new ones.
<b>Section 4: Principles for Tree and Woodland Establishment and Management</b>	Provides a set of principles that, if taken into account when planting trees, creating new woodland and managing existing trees and woodland, can ensure the array of benefits provided by trees and woodlands in the West of England are maximised.
<b>Section 5: Tree and Woodland Priorities by Landscape Character Area</b>	Sets out priorities for new and existing trees and woodland in each Landscape Character Area in the West of England, informing strategic delivery of trees and woodland in the region and ensuring that the right trees are delivered in the right places.

## 1.2 What do Trees and Woodlands do for Us?

Trees are nature's 'do it all' and provide a huge range of interrelated benefits (ecosystem services) that contribute to all aspects of our quality of life, including:

- Improving our mental health and wellbeing
- Providing habitat and food for wildlife, thereby helping to tackle the ecological emergency
- Producing timber and other wood products with a low carbon footprint
- Providing sustainable employment and recreational opportunities
- Sequestering (when growing) and storing carbon, thereby mitigating climate change
- Improving water quality
- Reducing flood risk
- Providing shade and cooling to combat hotter summers
- Reducing soil erosion
- Shading and protecting stock from the elements
- Adding to the beauty and aesthetic of landscapes
- Producing fruit and nut crops
- Reducing air pollution

More details on some of the benefits provided by trees and woodlands are outlined in Section 3.1.

# £717m

Provisional figures from the Environment Agency's Natural Capital Tool estimate that woodland in the West of England is worth £717 million in carbon sequestration, air quality improvements and hazard regulation alone.

# 600,000 trees

Recent studies show that Bristol's 600,000 trees remove 14,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide a year, worth £920,000 annually, and remove 100 tonnes of harmful air pollution, worth £1.6 million annually<sup>6</sup>.



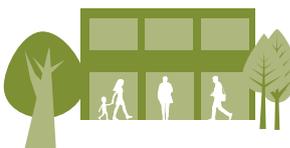
North Somerset's trees absorb 249,000 m<sup>3</sup> of water a year, reducing flooding at a value of £377,000 annually<sup>7</sup>.

# £3.63m

Summer cooling of businesses by trees and greenspace is worth at least £3.63 million annually in the West of England<sup>8</sup>.



Energy use can be 10% lower in buildings sheltered by trees.



Green environments increase businesses' patronage by 30-50% and willingness to spend by 10-50%<sup>9</sup>.



Green environments improve productivity by 15%, reduce staff turnover by 18% and reduce the amount of sick leave taken by 10-23%<sup>10</sup>.

6 Forest of Avon Trust on behalf of Replant Bristol partners, iTree Eco 6 Bristol Study, 2018.  
 7 North Somerset Council, iTree Eco 6 North Somerset Study, 2018.  
 8 Economics for the Environment Consultancy (EFTEC) and others, Scoping UK Urban Natural Capital Account, June 2018, p.4.  
 9 Literature Review, Greater Manchester Combined Authority: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u8RzZ3kdwUs>  
 10 Literature Review, Greater Manchester Combined Authority: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u8RzZ3kdwUs>

### 1.3 Why Take Action Now?

With increasing recognition of the scale of the climate and ecological emergencies, the need for a green recovery from the Covid-19 crisis, increasing public and private interest in tree planting, ambitious national and regional targets for increasing tree cover and woodland creation, and a rapidly developing evidence base, coordinated action on trees and woodland in the West of England is needed now:

- There is wide public and political support for tree planting and woodland creation, linked to Government policy and funding flowing from the 25-year Environment Plan. Climate and ecological emergencies have also been declared, with a growing expectation for ambitious and transformational action in response.
- A body of researched evidence and practice clearly demonstrates the importance of trees, woodlands and green spaces for public health, with evidence of strong demand for access to these spaces made clear during the Covid-19 crisis. There is strong public support for environmental action as part of a 'green recovery' from the pandemic<sup>11</sup>.
- A strong and improving evidence base is developing, including the evidence supporting the West of England Joint Green Infrastructure (JGIS) and NRN mapping, enabling us to better inform the creation of new woodlands, thereby maximising their benefits and attracting more funding.
- New funding and delivery mechanisms for trees and woodland are available or will shortly become available, including the Defra Nature for Climate programme, the Environmental Land Management (ELM) Scheme, Biodiversity Net Gain, and an expected increase in private financing for nature-based solutions.
- Demand for timber and wood products is strong, with the UK importing 82% of its timber needs, and prices for softwoods and hardwoods rising over the last few years.
- There is increasing availability of and interest in funding from individuals and organisations to plant trees and create woodlands, in part linked to achieving net zero carbon. Partnerships such as Replant Bristol and charities such as Avon Needs Trees have been successful in drawing down funding for tree planting from local businesses and individuals.
- The recent endorsement of the West of England JGIS by the five West of England authorities, to secure investment in GI planning and provision, provides a strong incentive for investment in trees and woodland as part of well-planned GI.
- There is national support for the Forest of Avon Community Forest, as overseen by the Forest of Avon Trust (FoAT). The FoAT, together with the West of England Nature Partnership (WENP), the Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership, local authorities and others, can share expertise, mobilise resources and support and direct a wide range of tree planting.

**There is increasing availability of and interest in funding from individuals and organisations to plant trees and create woodlands, in part linked to achieving net zero carbon.**

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<sup>11</sup> Statement by Lord Goldsmith on Building a Clean and Resilient Recovery from COVID-19 in Support of Climate Action and the Sustainable Development Goals, 8 July 2020.

## 1.4 Why do We Need a Strategy?

With the need for action demonstrated above, there is already significant demand for tree planting and woodland creation. However, without an agreed strategy, there is a danger that trees and woodland are delivered in a way that does not optimise and secure in perpetuity the huge potential benefits to people and nature. In certain cases, trees could be planted in areas or ways that are detrimental, such as obstructing a historic view or destroying existing high-quality habitat.

At a time of significant challenges and opportunities a Tree and Woodland Strategy enables us take stock of what we have and where we are, and to set out how we can deliver transformational change using new funding mechanisms and work-streams, building on the best evidence available.

Recognising the above, producing a Tree and Woodland Strategy is a key Strategic Project (S5) in the West of England JGIS Action Plan. Commissioned through WENP, the Strategy also aligns with the four pillars of the England Tree Strategy Consultation Document.

The Tree and Woodland Strategy for the West of England:

- Provides a clear vision for trees and woodland in the region (including the Forest of Avon) and demonstrates to national partners that the West of England supports and can deliver on national priorities.
- Sets out a short-term action plan to accelerate work towards the Vision, which includes key activities and responsibilities.
- Indicates priorities for tree planting and woodland creation, and tree and woodland management, across the West of England to inform the actions of partners.

- Will inform the creation of local strategies (at local authority level) for blue/green infrastructure, including for trees and woodland.
- Helps align partner activity to deliver more using existing and new resources, through shared principles and partnership working.
- Inspires, empowers and informs individuals, communities, businesses and small landowners to act locally to plant trees and create new woodlands, using an agreed set of principles.
- Identifies landscape scale and partnership projects that require funding.
- Encourages regional bodies to support identified projects by making the case for investment in trees and woodland.

These aims align with the principles of the previous version of the Forest of Avon Plan<sup>12</sup> and the West of England JGIS.

Reflecting national support for Community Forests and the Forest of Avon, **this document serves as both a Tree and Woodland Strategy for the West of England and the updated Forest of Avon Plan.** Section 5: *Tree and Woodland Priorities by Landscape Character Area* updates the Community Forest approach to cover the whole of the West of England.



<sup>12</sup> Forest of Avon Plan 2002, a long-term plan, approved by national and local partners, to guide the creation of the Forest of Avon Community Forest, part of England's Community Forests.

## 1.5 Policy Context

### National Policy

**Defra's 25 Year Environment Plan**<sup>13</sup> (25 YEP) recognises the importance of ecosystem services provided by trees and reiterates the Government's support for Community Forests, including the Forest of Avon (p48), and working strategically and in partnership to increase tree canopy cover.

**The Environment Bill** seeks to enshrine much of the 25 YEP in law, with improved legal protection for existing trees and woodlands, including a duty on local authorities to consult on the felling of street trees. It also requires local authorities to develop Local Nature Recovery Strategies, informed by the mapping of Nature Recovery Networks (as exemplified by the West of England Nature Recovery Network mapping), and mandates developments to achieve at least 10% Biodiversity Net Gain<sup>14</sup>.

**The National Planning Policy Framework** (NPPF) also recognises the importance of trees – overall, trees contribute towards 11 of the 13 objectives of the NPPF – and requires that planning authorities produce plans to enhance the natural and local environment<sup>15</sup>.

**The Climate Change Act 2008**, as amended in 2019, commits the UK to a net zero emissions target by 2050.<sup>16</sup> The Nature for Climate programme announced in the March 2020 Budget is a practical expression of this, and the Forest of Avon Trust (through England's Community Forests) has received funding through this programme to deliver c.350 ha of woodland in the West of England.

**An England Tree Strategy** will be published shortly and will set out policy priorities to deliver the government's target to plant 30,000 hectares per year across the UK by 2025; and to expand tree cover, support woodland management and increase public engagement with trees and woodlands. This is reflected in the England Tree Strategy Consultation document<sup>17</sup>.

**The Agriculture Act** introduces the concept of 'payment for public goods', meaning that agricultural subsidies should be directed towards public goods (such as tree planting) that are not rewarded through the market<sup>18</sup>. Trees and woodlands will be key to delivering many of these public goods, including 'protecting or improving the environment', 'mitigating or adapting to climate change', 'reducing or protecting from environmental hazards', and 'protecting or improving the quality of soil'.

The UK is committed to delivering the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, which are universal goals adopted by all UN Member States in 2015 to 'end poverty, protect the planet and improve the lives and prospects of everyone, everywhere'. Trees and woodland will be important in delivering many of the 17 SDGs, including 'good health and wellbeing', 'climate action' and 'life on land'.



13 'A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment', 2018.

14 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environment-bill-2020>

15 National Planning Policy Framework, available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>

16 Climate Change Act 2008, available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/27/contents>

17 Consultation on this document ended September 2020.

18 Agriculture Act 2020, available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2020/21/contents/enacted/data.htm>

## West of England Context

The **West of England Joint Green Infrastructure Strategy (JGIS)**, published in June 2020, aims to provide a consistent approach to Green Infrastructure (GI) for the West of England, and to secure investment in GI planning and provision similar to that of other infrastructure. It provides an agreed way for the four local authorities in the West of England and the West of England Combined Authority (WECA) to help balance the need to address the declared Climate and Ecological Emergencies, and the future location of housing, population, jobs and infrastructure within a growth area. The JGIS includes a strategic action to produce a West of England Tree and Woodland Strategy.

The JGIS also embeds the concept of a [West of England Nature Recovery Network](#) (NRN), which is a vision for a joined-up network of marine and terrestrial habitats where nature and people can thrive. The NRN maps ecological networks for three habitat types: woodland, grassland and wetland. The NRN is being used across the region to prioritise action to restore nature in a way that creates a resilient and coherent ecological network in the region, and to inform strategic projects that will restore nature in the West of England.

In June 2020, WECA started work on a new [Spatial Development Strategy](#) (SDS) to direct new development in the WECA region, covering Bath & North East Somerset, Bristol and South Gloucestershire Councils. The Spatial Development Strategy will set out the vision for how people will live, work and play in the West of England over the next 20 years and will help deliver the region's commitment to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030. It puts clean, inclusive growth at the heart of the longer-term spatial vision for the area, drawing upon the JGIS. The SDS will influence where homes and jobs in each local area will be delivered and will be important in shaping future decisions on development.

The West of England, outside the Cotswolds and Mendip Hills AONBs, is designated as the

**Forest of Avon Community Forest**, part of the national programme of England's Community Forests. The current Forest of Avon Plan (2002) is now outdated and Defra has reiterated its support for Community Forests in both the 25 Year Environment Plan and draft England Tree Strategy. Therefore, as well as being a Tree and Woodland Strategy for the West of England, this document will act as the updated Forest of Avon Plan, reflecting the opportunity the Forest of Avon presents for co-ordination, delivery and national funding.

## Local Context

Bath and North East Somerset Council, Bristol City Council, North Somerset Council and South Gloucestershire Council are all in the process of producing new **Local Plans** or updating existing ones. These will draw upon the West of England JGIS, the national policy context, including the Environment Bill, and declarations of climate and ecological emergencies to provide forward planning response to the need for action to restore the natural environment.

In addition, the four local authorities are producing a variety of strategies that will include further detail on priority areas for tree planting and woodland creation (such as green infrastructure strategies, and local tree and woodland plans). The Forest of Avon Plan: A Tree and Woodland Strategy for the West of England will help inform and guide this work and ensure that there is a consistent approach across the West of England, providing a basis for engagement across sectors and targeted action.

In response to the [Colchester Declaration](#), the two AONBs that partly lie within the West of England – Cotswolds AONB and Mendip Hills AONBs – are in the process of producing **Nature Recovery Plans**, which will set out a strategy and actions to restore nature in their respective AONB. WENP is providing a link between work at the West of England level, including the Tree and Woodland Strategy, and the AONB Nature Recovery Plans.



**Our vision is of more, better  
managed and connected trees  
and woodland making a vital  
contribution to a thriving  
natural environment, society  
and economy**

## 2. A Strategy for the West of England's Trees and Woodlands

### 2.1 The Vision

National and local policy and priorities, a strong evidence base including Nature Recovery Network mapping, combined with community and business interest and need, make this the time for transformative action for trees and woodlands in the West of England.

**Our vision is of more, better managed and connected trees and woodland making a vital contribution to a thriving natural environment, society and economy in the West of England.**

Drawing upon our record of collaborative working and project delivery, we will work together towards an aspiration of doubling the West of England's semi-natural tree and woodland cover, including open wooded landscape and mosaic habitats<sup>19</sup>, by 2050 – equivalent to an additional 8,000 ha of tree and woodland cover.

This is an ambitious vision that reflects the scale of action that is needed to meet the challenge presented by the climate and ecological emergencies, and which is consistent with national, regional and local goals. Its delivery will require coordinated action from organisations and communities across the region.

The aspiration to double tree and woodland cover would provide significant benefits to the region, including an estimated additional **£540 million worth of carbon sequestration, air quality improvements and hazard regulation**<sup>20</sup>. This is in addition to the as-yet unquantified benefits from increasing biodiversity, providing health and wellbeing benefits, improving water quality, and providing goods and services such as timber and recreation. The value of the quantified benefits alone far exceeds the costs of delivery<sup>21</sup>.



<sup>19</sup> A mosaic habitat is one that is heterogeneous in terms of vegetation composition and structure, including tall trees, scrub, herbs and grasses, as well as wet areas, which benefits biodiversity. For a woodland, this may mean incorporating glades, meadows and scrubby areas. We also include wood pasture in this definition.

<sup>20</sup> As estimated by the EA Natural Capital Accounting Tool

<sup>21</sup> Assuming costs of establishment per hectare of £12,000, the total cost of establishing 8,000 ha of woodland would be £96 million. £12,000/ha is at the higher end of planting costs, and this calculation does not consider natural regeneration, which will likely be cheaper. Even if we assume all the land had to be bought at an average price of £25,000/ha (a 'typical' agricultural land value in the West of England, although this will be lower if planting on marginal land), the value of the quantifiable benefits still exceed the costs of land purchase and planting by a factor of two.

**To help achieve this vision, we aim to work towards the following ambitions for the West of England:**

- Establish 580ha of native woodland to close connectivity gaps in the Nature Recovery Network by 2050.
- Plant one tree for every person in the West of England (that is 1.1 million trees, or around 650ha) by 2030, and repeat this in the decades up to 2040 and 2050.
- Establish at least 1,000ha of new woodland habitat through natural processes by 2050.
- Support the creation of open wooded landscapes and mosaic habitats, including wood pasture and areas where natural processes are allowed to unfold ('rewilding').
- Contact all woodland owners to support them in managing their woodlands and creating new woodland, with at least 1,000 more hectares of woodland having approved management plans (including approved low intervention wildlife plans) and/or felling licences by 2030.
- Ensure all woodland SSSIs are in favourable condition by 2030.
- Improve the presence and management of trees in farmed areas, including through hedgerows, orchards, and agroforestry.
- Plant individual and small groups of trees in 6,000 streets and green spaces, within 500m of where people live, by 2050.
- Ensure all new developments have green (and where possible, tree-lined) streets.
- Be operating an accredited pathway to work in woodland management and planting by 2025.
- Develop a single evidence base identifying the priority areas for woodland creation in the West of England.

Although not formally adopted targets, these outline our ambition and will inform a partnership approach towards delivery. Improvements in the evidence base and future delivery will inform iterations of these ambitions.

**In working towards the vision, the guiding principle will be the right tree established<sup>22</sup> and cared for in the right place.**

We will be further guided by consideration of the following:

- The critical contribution that trees and woodlands make to the region's ecological network and the benefits they provide to wildlife.
- The role that woodland and trees play in climate change mitigation (sequestering carbon) and adaptation (increasing resilience to increased flooding, heat and other impacts of a changing climate).
- The contribution that strategically located trees and woodlands can make to natural flood management.
- The benefits that woodlands and trees can provide to people's health and wellbeing, and to culture.
- The economic value that is created through production of timber, recreation, agroforestry and other products and services derived from trees and woodland.
- The use of management techniques to maximise the value of woodlands across all ecosystem services, including tackling pests, disease and invasive species.

These ideas are the basis for the Principles for Tree and Woodland Establishment and Management, as set out in Section 4.

<sup>22</sup> I.e. planted or established through natural regeneration.

We also need to recognise that nature does not see borders. Therefore, it is imperative that we **continue to coordinate with neighbouring regions (Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Somerset) to join up our work**. The South West Local Nature Partnership (LNP) Network and working closely with the Cotswolds and Mendip Hills AONBs are existing examples of cross-border working, which should be supported and built upon.

By working together and drawing upon the commitment and expertise of individuals, government, charities, businesses and many others, transformative change is within our reach.

## 2.2 Delivering the Vision

### Action for Trees and Woodlands to Date

Local authorities, the Forest of Avon Trust, the Woodland Trust, Forestry England, Avon Wildlife Trust and many other partners in the West of England have a successful track-record of caring for existing trees and woodlands, and establishing new ones. This enables us to make an effective early start and sustain action in the long-term.

Examples of previous and ongoing work in the West of England include:

- The work of the [Forest of Avon Trust](#), which draws upon business, charitable and other funding to deliver woodland projects and activities. Since 2010 the Trust has produced approved Woodland Management Plans for 850 ha of local woodland, many of which have been implemented through grant funding.
- Charities such as Avon Wildlife Trust, the Woodland Trust and the National Trust, as well as governmental organisations including Natural England, securing and managing many of the region's our best-quality ancient woodland for wildlife.
- Urban tree initiatives including [One Tree per Child](#) in Bristol, which has supported the planting of 60,000 trees since 2015; the Defra Trees for Learning programme run by the Forest of Avon Trust, which planted 10,000 trees with primary children across the West of England between 2015 to 2019; and 77 Woodland Trust tree packs distributed to schools and communities across the area by 2018.
- [Bristol's Greenstreets](#) project, funded by the Forestry Commission's Urban Tree Challenge Fund, which will plant 590 street trees in the areas of lowest canopy cover in the city in 2020, as part of an ongoing approach to street tree planting in Bristol.
- Commitments from local authorities to plant more trees and better manage existing trees, including Bath and North East Somerset Council's ambition to plant 100,000 trees by May 2023; North Somerset Council's commitment to plant 50,000 trees by 2021 as part of its 'Rewilding' programme; and South Gloucestershire Council's Tree Asset Management Plan 2018, which comprehensively sets out how the Council manages its tree assets and how it will maximise the value of existing trees and increase tree cover.
- Community organisations including [Bristol Tree Forum](#), [More Trees BaNES](#) and [Chew Valley Plants Trees](#) campaigning for trees and/or working locally to get more trees planted; and the charity [Avon Needs Trees](#) buying land to create new, permanent woodland throughout the Bristol-Avon catchment area.
- The Forest of Avon Community Forest team, which, through partnership working, helped plant one million trees in the West of England from 1992 to 2005 and established local community groups working for trees, many of which are active today.
- Successful fundraising campaigns, including [One Tree per Employee](#) run by Replant Bristol partners, providing private sector funding for tree planting.

## Five-Year Action Plan for Tree and Woodlands

The track record of partnership working in the West of England demonstrates that by working together and aligning our priorities, we will achieve more and better. This five-year action plan provides a suggested initial set of actions that would accelerate the delivery of our vision and help to achieve our aspirations.

The lead partners and timescales in the tables below are suggestions to inform action. None of the actions below are intended to be commitments for the suggested lead partners.

<b>Priority: Coordinate the work of existing partners and engage new ones</b>			
<b>Objective: Maximise influence, capacity and funding</b>			
<b>Ref</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Lead(s)</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
1.1	Formally adopt or endorse the Forest of Avon Plan: A Tree and Woodland Strategy for the West of England, through WECA, local authorities, the Forest of Avon Trust, and other partner structures where appropriate.	WECA, LAs, FoAT	June 2021
1.2	Promote the Tree and Woodland Strategy across the West of England through existing networks.	All	Ongoing
1.3	Ensure key partners are represented within WENP and other relevant structures.	WENP	Ongoing

<b>Priority: Ensure that the Tree and Woodland Strategy is used to inform and guide relevant plans and strategies</b>			
<b>Objective: Maximise future delivery and funding</b>			
<b>Ref</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Lead(s)</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
2.1	Collectively and individually respond to and influence national policy and strategies, including the Environment Bill, England Tree Strategy and Agriculture Act.	WENP	Ongoing
2.2	Ensure the Tree and Woodland Strategy, including the Principles and the Priorities by Landscape Character Area, is used to guide regional and local plans, policy and strategies including Local Plans, Local Green/Blue Infrastructure Strategies, and the SDS.	WENP, WECA, LAs	Ongoing
2.3	Work with the Mendip Hills AONB and Cotswolds AONB to use the evidence and priorities in the Tree and Woodland Strategy to help guide AONB Nature Recovery Plans.	WENP, AONBs	2021
2.4	Work with Forestry England (FE) and the Forestry Commission (FC) to integrate the Tree and Woodland Strategy into the work of the forestry sector in the West of England.	WENP, FoAT, FC, FE	2021-22
2.5	Facilitate the use of the Tree and Woodland Strategy to inform neighbourhoods, communities, groups of landowners etc. to develop localised action plans and strategies.	LAs, FoA Trust	2021-25

<b>Priority: Develop new mechanisms to support tree and woodland establishment and management</b>			
<b>Objective: Maximise funding and incentives to deliver tree and woodland establishment and management targets</b>			
<b>Ref</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Lead(s)</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
3.1	Develop and apply new funding mechanisms to deliver nature-based solutions, including through trees and woodlands.	WENP, WECA, LAs, Businesses	Ongoing
3.2	Integrate Tree and Woodland Strategy principles and priorities into existing and future public and private funding mechanisms, including Biodiversity Net Gain and the Environmental Land Management (ELM) Scheme.	WENP, WECA, LAs, Businesses	Ongoing
3.3	Provide support for new and existing tree nurseries, and review Local Plan policies to increase the supply of suitable young trees for planting and ensure strong biosecurity practices are in place (this could include a community focused tree collection and growing project developing the model of the Forest of Avon / TCV Tree Life Centre).	WECA, LAs, Businesses	2021-25
3.4	Develop the FoAT website to allow it to better coordinate a greater range of funding for trees, woodlands and volunteering, reflecting local authority and other partner priorities across the West of England.	FoAT	2021
3.5	Develop a strategy for ensuring in-perpetuity protection of newly created woodlands, building on national protections.	WENP, WECA, LAs, FoAT	2022

<b>Priority: Support the Forest of Avon Trust in co-ordinating and supporting tree and woodland establishment and management</b>			
<b>Objective: Ensure capacity and expertise is available to coordinate and support activity, deliver on-the-ground projects, and champion the Tree and Woodland Strategy</b>			
<b>Ref</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Lead(s)</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
4.1	Explore increasing the FoAT's capacity to provide an effective coordination role for delivery of the Strategy's vision. This should reflect funding received through Trees for Climate.	FoAT, WENP, WECA, LAs	2021

**Priority: Co-ordinate and support existing tree and woodland activity aligned to the Tree and Woodland Strategy**

**Objective: Maintain an overview of existing tree and woodland activity, co-ordinating action and contributing expertise as necessary and ensuring application of the Tree and Woodland principles**

Ref	Action	Lead(s)	Timescale
5.1	Develop and deliver the Forest of Avon Trees for Climate planting programme, working with West of England partners and being guided by this Strategy.	FoAT	2021-25
5.2	Work with partners to embed the ambitions and priorities of the Tree and Woodland Strategy into existing and future projects.	WENP, BACP, WECA	2021-25
5.3	Utilise the Principles for Tree and Woodland Establishment and Management, and existing national guidance to clearly communicate best practice for woodland creation to landowners.	FoAT	2021-25
5.4	Continue local authority/partner planting programmes, where not included in 5.1 (e.g. Green Streets and One Tree per Child Bristol).	FoAT	Ongoing
5.5	Continue to support Woodland Trust MOREwoods project and Tree Packs, and Bathscape Woodland Advisory Service.	FoAT	Ongoing
5.6	Support and engage with community-based tree planting groups, such as More Trees B&NES and Chew Valley Plants Trees, and local charities, such as Avon Needs Trees.	FoAT	Ongoing
5.7	Support BART (and other organisations) in delivering trees and woodland for riparian habitat, improving water quality and providing natural flood management (NFM).	BART	Ongoing

<b>Priority: Improve our evidence base for trees and woodland</b>			
<b>Objective: Ensure we understand and effectively address existing issues, support effective decision making, and facilitate efficient funding of new trees and woodland</b>			
<b>Ref</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Lead(s)</b>	<b>Timescale</b>
6.1	Agree a common approach to canopy measurement in the West of England and use this to inform monitoring of woodland creation and management (see 6.2).	WECA, LAs	2021
6.2	Create a monitoring framework for woodland creation and management.	WECA, LAs	2022
6.3	Commission a short study to better quantify the contribution that trees and woodlands could make to ecosystem services, including carbon sequestration and NFM, in the West of England.	WECA, LAs	2021
6.4	Review and apply Woodland Trust guidance on natural regeneration as a means of establishing and buffering woodland and the long-term management interventions required.	WECA, LAs	2021
6.5	Commission a study to fully understand the impact of projected climate change on trees and woodlands (or, if possible, on the natural environment more widely) in the West of England.	WECA, LAs	2022
6.6	Commission a study to fully understand the timber demands of the West of England and how local woodlands could meet these needs; and, if required, fund an officer post to develop and support local timber markets <sup>23</sup> .	Forestry Commission, WECA, LAs	2022

<sup>23</sup> Previously granted funding by LEADER for a FoAT-based role, but the match funding requirement was too stringent.

**Priority: Identify, develop and fund/submit projects to deliver key priorities**

**Objective: Have projects ready for funding as it becomes available and to drive specific funding bids, ensuring delivery of strategic priorities**

Ref	Action	Lead(s)	Timescale
7.1	Identify, develop, and fund or submit engaging projects that facilitate delivery of the vision and priorities of the Tree and Woodland Strategy, including those listed in Section 2.2.3.	All	2021-25
7.2	Work with partners to further develop, invest in and deliver woodland in the Strategic Woodland Areas identified in this Strategy, making use of existing project pipelines in the form of the JGIS pipeline, NRN Prospectus and BACP Action Plan.	WENP	2021-25
7.3	Drawing on existing resources, set out a funded programme for the West of England to tackle ash dieback, including addressing health and safety concerns and providing for the long-term managed decline of ash trees and their replacement. Funding allocation for co-ordinator role.	LAs, WECA	2021
7.4	Work with woodland owners to maintain existing permissive access and deliver targeted improvements linked to improving the West of England's access network (requires staff post and budget).	FoAT	2021-25

**Priority: Communicate with the wider public and businesses regarding charitable funding for trees and woodland**

**Objective: Maximise charitable giving for new trees and woodlands, and management of existing woodland**

Ref	Action	Lead(s)	Timescale
8.1	Utilise and expand the FoAT website to drive additional awareness and funding for partner project delivery.	FoAT	2021
8.2	Run specific campaigns to generate funding for tree planting and woodland creation by engaging the business sector, their employees and the wider public.	FoAT, Woodland Trust	2021-22



By working together,  
transformative change is  
within our reach

## Suggested Flagship Projects

Below are a number of suggested flagship projects that would demonstrate the region's commitment to the vision outlined in this document, engage a large number of people in trees and woodlands, and provide the capacity needed to take advantage of the opportunities to deliver the vision.

Project	Description
<b>Great Avon Wood</b>	Using funding through the Trees for Climate programme, (potentially matched with business and private investment), acquire a large site (or sites) for woodland creation, with trees established through natural regeneration and a range of low input techniques. As well as helping to tackle climate change, this will be an exciting new woodland site for nature and people. It will also provide opportunities for community planting and care, and tree dedications.
<b>Landscape Trees: The Next Generation</b>	Developing the approach of the North Somerset Iconic Landscapes project, Big Tree Hunt and Stewardship Schemes, this project would identify important landscape trees and work with landowners to conserve these and address the loss of field trees from key areas of the landscape. Based around a staff post, utilising existing grant funding.
<b>Wood Life Centre</b>	A display space for local woodland products and a work/meeting area for FoAT and other staff, providing a focal point for tree and woodland activity in the region. This reflects long-held plans for Bower Ashton Woodyard in Bristol but could be based elsewhere
<b>A Thousand Green Streets</b>	Canopy planting project that brings street and larger trees to communities throughout the West of England, with an initial focus on areas of low tree cover and higher socioeconomic deprivation, where benefits to people's health and wellbeing are likely to be greatest. Funding allocations for coordinator role.
<b>Community Orchard Project</b>	Building on the FoAT School Orchard Project, plant 600 orchards, including local varieties in school grounds, greenspaces and on private land by 2050, working with owners to revitalise traditional orchards. Funding allocations for coordinator role.
<b>One Tree per Person</b>	A roll out of One Tree per Child, Trees for Learning and other planting initiatives, to engage and involve communities in areas of low tree canopy cover in planting trees in gardens, streets, green-spaces and school grounds, delivering benefits for wellbeing, nature engagement and sense of place. Links with A Thousand Green Streets. Would require investment in staff posts.
<b>Green Shoots</b>	Training and apprenticeship project, comprising awareness raising and practical skills for secondary school pupils (including those at risk of exclusion), with a pathway for these and other young people to be placed with tree planting organisations and gain practical skills, including certification. Co-ordinated through staffing at FoAT.
<b>Woodland Wellbeing</b>	Roll out of the FoAT's Woodland Wellbeing programme to engage diverse groups including people with mental health needs, people with dementia and adults with learning disabilities in their local woodlands, providing a range of wellbeing benefits. Staff post with FoAT.

## Strategic Woodland Areas

Although the whole of the West of England has a role in delivering the vision for trees and woodland, there are certain areas in which action is likely to be especially effective.

WENP has developed a [Nature Recovery Network \(NRN\) Prospectus](#), which brings together strategic programmes and projects in the region that would make a significant contribution to the NRN. Additionally, building on the West of England JGIS, a strategic pipeline of GI programmes and projects is being developed in the region, including projects in the NRN Prospectus.

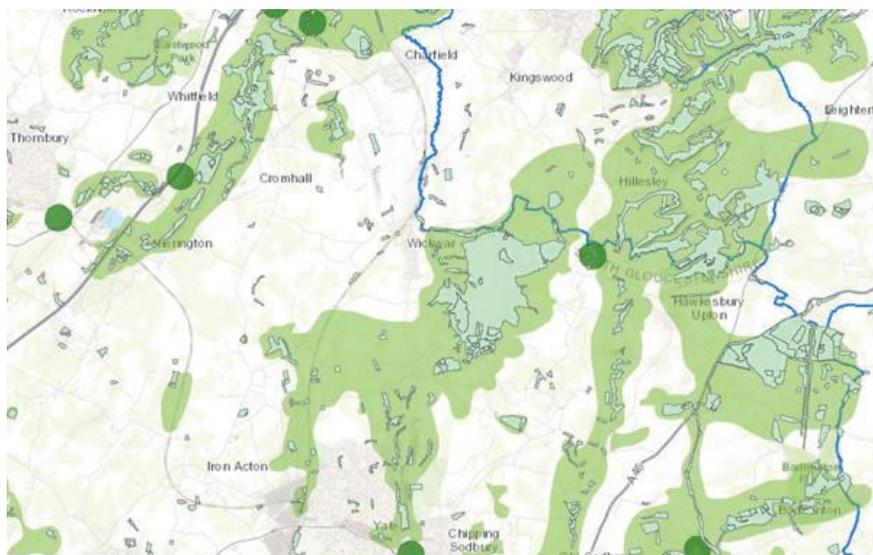
Using the evidence base outlined in Section 3 of this document and building on the NRN Prospectus and JGIS pipeline, areas have been identified in which a focus on woodland creation, expansion and restoration could make key contributions to the West of England's strategic network of woodland. These may be areas in which high-quality ancient woodland is already present but is fragmented and where a focus on connectivity could enhance the benefits of investment in trees and woodland; areas that have been identified as being suitable for large-scale afforestation; and/or areas in which existing work can be built on.

These are not the only areas in which we are suggesting that effort is made to increase tree and woodland cover, and as the evidence base improves new strategic areas may become apparent. The national evidence base is continually improving and the England-wide approach to the NRN is producing more relevant information.

Section 5 of this document outlines priorities for trees and woodlands for every Landscape Character in the West of England, organised by Strategic GI Area, which are consistent with these strategic projects. The Relevant GI Area(s) for each Strategic Woodland Area are stated below, facilitating cross-reference between the Strategic Woodland Areas and more detailed Tree and Woodland Priorities.

Areas have been identified in which a focus on woodland creation, expansion and restoration could make key contributions to the West of England's strategic network of woodland.





**Figure 1** Lower Woods and surrounding woodland in the West of England and Gloucestershire. Existing woodland, as per the National Forest Inventory, is shown in light green/blue; the NRN woodland strategic network in green; and woodland connectivity opportunities as green circles. Lower Woods is the large area of woodland in the centre of the picture.

## Lower Woods

Relevant Strategic GI Area(s) for Tree and Woodland Priorities:

- (14 - Cotswold Scarp and Dip Slope)**
- 18 - The South Gloucestershire Vales**

Lower Woods is the most extensive area of ancient woodland in the West of England (and one of the largest in the South West) and is one of our most important habitats. It is a haven for rare and threatened flora, such as orchids and herb-paris, and fauna including the white admiral and silver-washed fritillary butterflies, woodcock and spotted flycatcher. The woodland also incorporates and is surrounded by important grassland habitats, making the area an important part of the strategic grassland network.

However, Lower Woods is isolated from other large areas of woodland, with particularly poor connectivity to the West. The nearest significant areas of ancient woodland are on the slopes of the Cotswold Scarp to the East, with connectivity between Lower Woods and these woodlands critical. A lack of connectivity between Lower Woods and other woodland potentially compromises the viability of the woods for populations of specialist species – nightingales have already been lost from Lower Woods in the 2010s.

Creation of woodland and/or other supporting habitat between Lower Woods and the Cotswold Scarp in particular would improve the connectivity of Lower Woods to woodland in the West of England and Gloucestershire, as well as potentially providing natural flood management in a priority area as identified by the Environment Agency. However, any woodland creation would need to be mindful of the landscape character of the Cotswold AONB as well as the presence of species-rich grassland in the area. The use of tree-lined field boundaries, well-managed hedgerows and wood pasture may be appropriate to connect these areas of woodland, building on existing connectivity.

**North Somerset Woodlands**

Relevant GI Area(s) for Tree and Woodland Priorities:

- 1 – Clevedon, Portishead and Gordano**
- 4 – Woodland and Parkland Uplands:**
- 5 – North Somerset Open Plateau, Wooded Slopes**
- 8 – Yeo Valley and Spring Line Villages**
- 9 – Nailsea, Backwell, Long Ashton and Environs**

There is an existing network of woodlands in North Somerset and West Bristol, including Leigh Woods, Ashton Court, Prior’s Wood, and King’s Wood and Urchin Wood SSSI. The area is especially important in enabling populations of bats, including the rare and protected Greater and Lesser Horseshoe species, to forage and migrate across the wider landscape. These woodlands are also an important resource for people, being located close to the urban centres of Bristol, Nailsea, Portishead and Clevedon.

However, there does remain some fragmentation and much of the woodland is not well-managed, reducing its value to nature and the provision of other ecosystem services. There

is also a gap in the woodland network between this area and the Mendip Hills AONB.

Strategically placed woodland creation and tree planting, including the use of woodland corridors and hedgerows, and improvements in woodland management in key sites, could make this a resilient network of woodland, provide additional woodlands for local communities, and sequester and store significant quantities of carbon. The following priorities have been identified as especially important:

1. Strategic woodland creation/expansion and improvements in management along the Failand Ridge to consolidate an important part of the network and better connect ancient woodlands.
2. Strategic woodland creation and expansion to strengthen the woodland network and better connect Brockley Wood and King’s Wood to the Failand ridge.
3. Strategic woodland creation and expansion, including use of hedgerows and tree-lined fields, between King’s Wood and woodland in Mendip Hills AONB, to connect the woodland network in North Somerset with woodland in the AONB.



**Figure 2** North Somerset Woodlands, with the three priority areas for strengthening the woodland network highlighted on the map. Existing ancient woodland is shown in dark green, other existing woodland in medium green, and the NRN strategic woodland network in light green.

**Mendip Hills – Cotswolds AONB link**

Relevant GI Area(s) for Tree and Woodland Priorities:

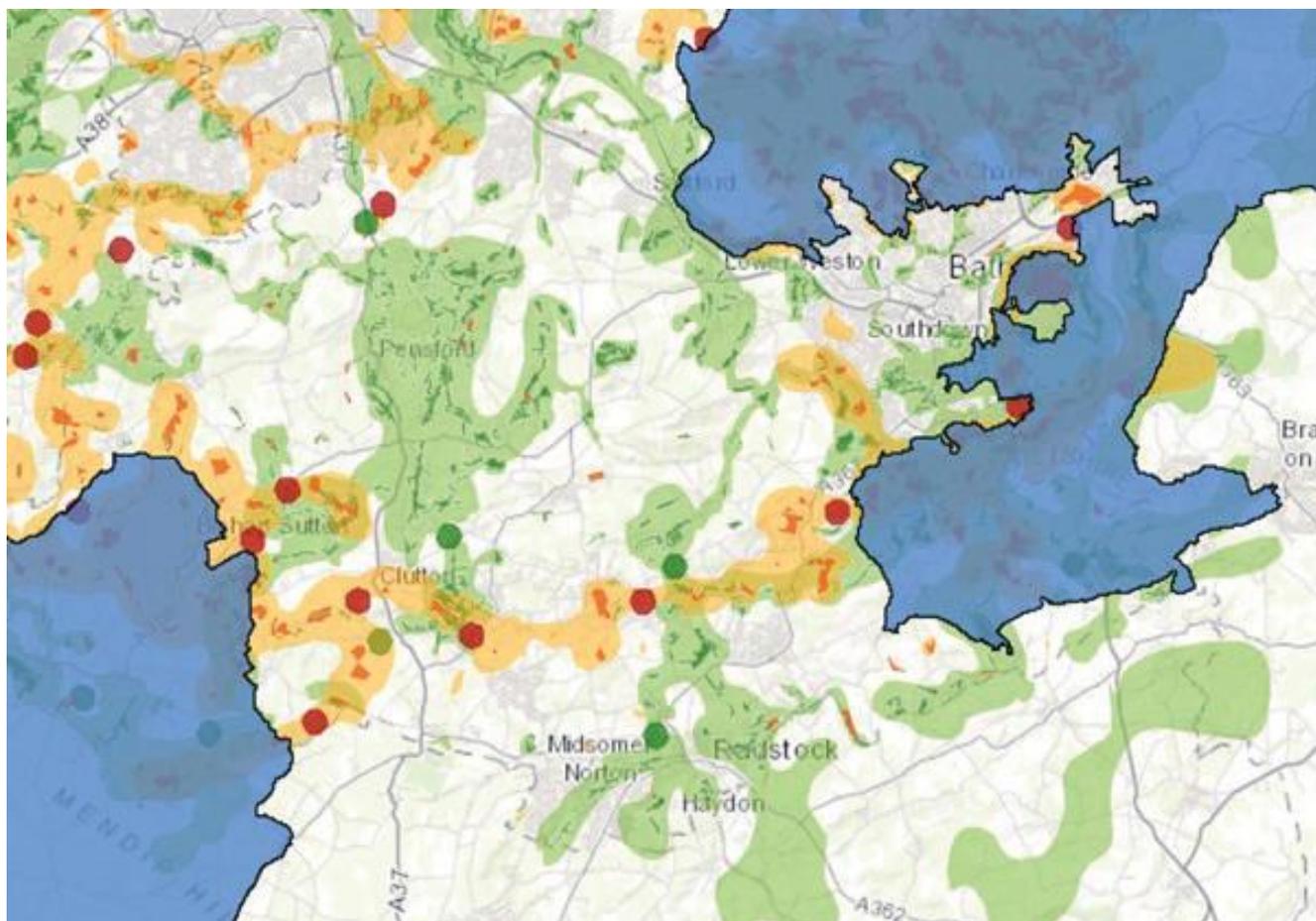
- 7 – Clevedon, Portishead and Gordano**
- 11 – Cam, Wellow and Somer Valley around Norton Radstock**
- 21 – Keynsham and Environs**

The Cotswolds AONB and Mendip Hills AONB are important areas for both wildlife and people in the West of England, and are critical in connecting habitats in the West of England to the wider landscape. However, there is a lack of high-quality habitat in the area between the two AONBs, and low levels of woodland cover.

The area between the Cotswolds and Mendip Hills AONBs has been identified as a priority programme in the GI pipeline, is included in the Bath and North East Somerset (B&NES) Council GI Strategy, and is a Natural England focus area for increasing landscape ‘permeability’ between protected areas.

Strategic woodland creation, building on the existing pockets of ancient woodland, alongside creation and restoration of other habitat types, could provide an ecological link between the two AONBs, as well as providing recreational opportunities and improved access to nature in the area. This should include more ‘open’ wooded landscapes, such as wood pasture. A landscape sensitivity assessment for trees and woodlands will be conducted as part of the B&NES Landscape Character Area review, which will need to be considered when identifying potential areas for new woodlands.

**Figure 3** Mendip Hills – Cotswolds AONB link. The two AONBs are shown in blue, and the area between the two is defined as the AONB link. The NRN grassland and woodland strategic networks are shown in orange and green, respectively, and grassland and woodland connectivity opportunities as red and green circles, respectively.



**Bathscape**

Relevant GI Area(s) for Tree and Woodland Priorities:

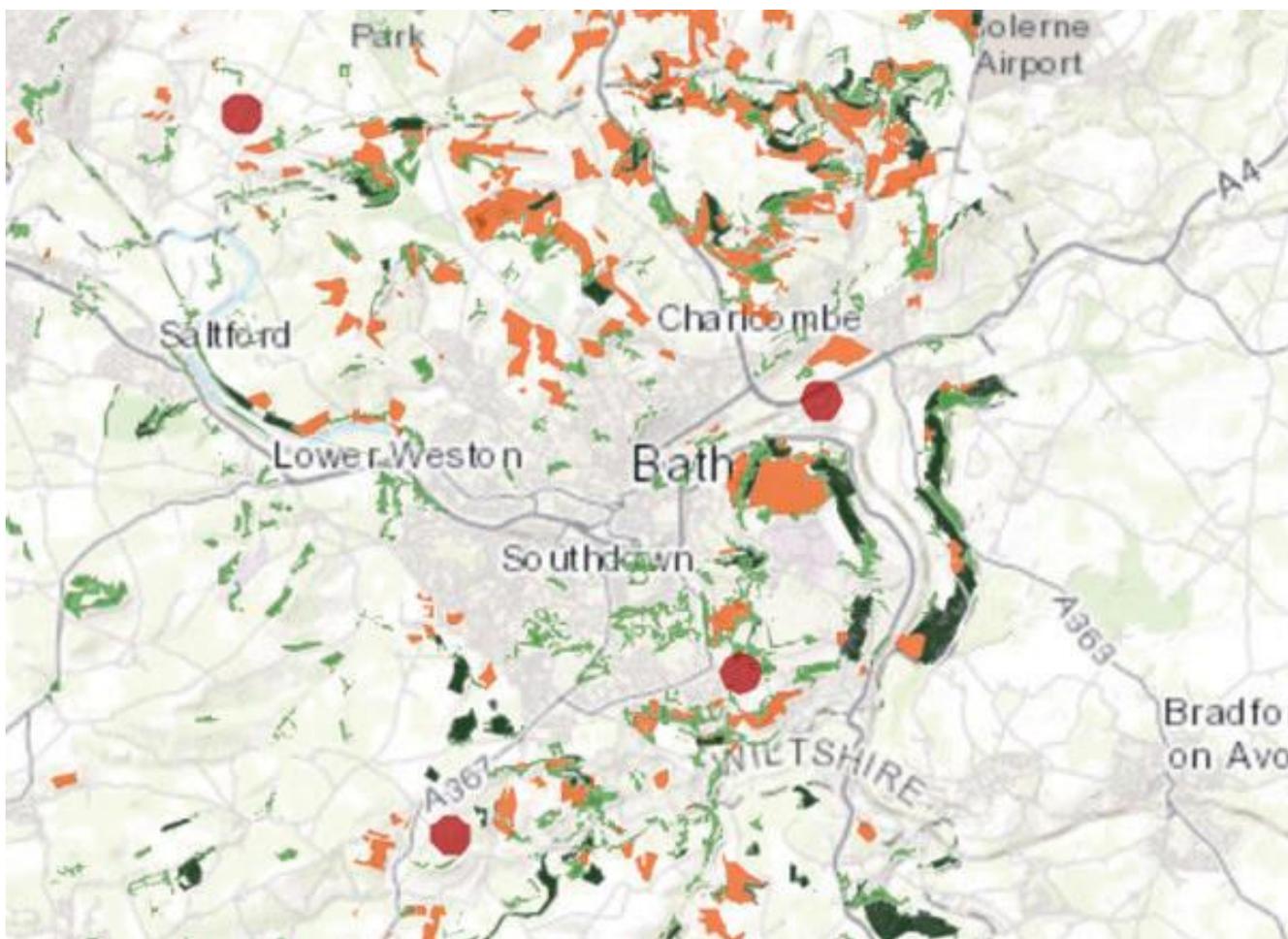
**13 – Bath and Environs – Bathscape**

Bathscape is the natural landscape surrounding the historic city of Bath, which includes areas of woodland of high value to nature and the residents of the city and surrounding areas, as well as large areas of high-quality grassland.

In 2018, the Bathscape Scheme was launched to promote better management and use of Bathscape, making it more accessible and helping to ensure it is appreciated and actively enjoyed by more people in Bath. The scheme includes improving the management of 80 ha of woodland, as well as improving 100 grasslands and creating 12 new flower-rich meadows.

Woodland creation and tree planting could build on the Bathscape scheme to better connect the woodlands surrounding Bath with the wider landscape. However, it is imperative to preserve existing high-quality grasslands and to ensure that tree planting or woodland creation does not sever the grassland network, as well as being mindful of landscape character and views in the Cotswolds AONB and the Bath World Heritage Site. Ideally, any new woodland would incorporate mosaic habitats and grassland sites.

**Figure 4** Bathscape and its environs, which includes areas of high-quality woodland and grassland. Existing ancient woodland is shown in dark green, other existing woodland in lighter green, existing grassland in orange. Opportunities for grassland connectivity are shown as red circles.



### Funding and Delivery Mechanisms

In order to deliver the vision for trees and woodland in the West of England, significant funding is needed to unlock the benefits that trees and woodland can provide for wildlife, people, communities, landowners and business. It is also important to understand how the availability of different funding sources will affect landowner decisions on the establishment and management of trees and woodland.

There are a number of new grant schemes and funding mechanisms in development that will need to be drawn upon to provide this funding. These include funding under Defra's Nature for Climate programme, the new Environmental Land Management (ELM) Scheme, Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG), Private Finance, and Carbon Trading and Offset Schemes. Additionally, the growing demand for timber and other wood products means that forestry will also be a financially viable route to creating new woodlands for many landowners.

These can provide many of the resources to get new woodlands established. There are, however, fewer sources of funding to manage non-productive woodlands, address tree disease and plant larger street/urban trees. There are significant challenges not only to address these issues but also in finding the capacity to bid for funding, and to co-ordinate and deliver the action required.

Some of the key, strategic opportunities for funding the ambitions for trees and woodland in the West of England are set out below. All of these opportunities will need to be actively pursued in a coordinated manner across the West of England, using the Forest of Avon Trust, and existing partnerships such as WENP and Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership (BACP), to coordinate action.

Additional funding options for the creation and management of woodland are set out in Appendix I: Potential grants and sources of income for woodland creation and management.

### Defra Nature for Climate funding

In the March 2020 budget, the Government announced a £640 million 'Nature for Climate' fund to support woodland creation and peatland restoration, as part of the UK's response to achieving net zero carbon emissions before the year 2050. The fund will increase tree planting in England, with the Government aiming to work with the devolved administrations to boost tree-planting rates to 30,000 hectares every year over the next five years, the equivalent of 30 million more trees.

In 2020, England's Community Forests, including the Forest of Avon, were successful in a bid for a five-year Trees for Climate woodland creation programme for over 5,000 ha of trees and woodland to be delivered by partners by 2025.

Utilising this funding, the Forest of Avon Trust will work with all four local authorities in the West of England, private landowners and communities to deliver c.350 ha of woodland through a five-year planting programme, guided by this Strategy. This will be achieved through a grant programme run by the Forest of Avon Trust. The first year of funding will be focused on smaller planting schemes close to where people live, totalling 17 ha.

More widely, other organisations and partnerships are now also bidding for Nature for Climate funding, as well as other government funding sources such as the Green Recovery Challenge Fund and forthcoming Nature Recovery Fund. It is essential that these offers are co-ordinated in the West of England to avoid confusion amongst planting partners.

### Environment Land Management (ELM) Scheme

The ELM Scheme will replace the schemes currently available under the Common Agricultural Policy, paying farmers for work that enhances the natural environment, including tree and hedge planting. This is built around

the concept of funding public goods, such as biodiversity, flood management, and carbon sequestration, with public money. The ELM Scheme will consist of three components, all of which are relevant to increasing woodland cover, improving woodland management and/or tree planting:

- The Sustainable Farming Incentive will encourage farmers to adopt environmentally sustainable farming and forestry practices, such as better hedgerow management;
- Local Nature Recovery, which will pay for actions that deliver locally-targeted environmental actions such as creating, managing or restoring habitats;
- Landscape Recovery, which will focus on landscape and ecosystem recovery through larger-scale projects, such as the creation of a new woodland or restoring peatland.

The ELM Scheme will therefore be an important vehicle for engaging landowners and land managers to deliver woodland creation, tree planting, and hedgerow creation, and to better manage existing woodlands and hedgerows. It will provide a mechanism for mobilising public money to deliver the desired outcomes of the Tree and Woodland Strategy and for the delivery of the West of England Nature Recovery Network.

It may be necessary to define regional priorities and targets for the ELM Scheme, which would be relevant for Local Nature Recovery and Landscape Recovery. A West of England Agriculture Group has been set up under the auspices of WENP and BACP, which will explore this prioritisation.

### **Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)**

The draft Environment Bill requires new developments to achieve 10% Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG), as measured by the DEFRA Biodiversity Metric. BNG is an approach to development that leaves biodiversity in a better state than before. Where a development has an impact on biodiversity it requires developers

to provide an increase in appropriate natural habitat and ecological features over and above that being affected. Using this approach, it is hoped that the current loss of biodiversity through development will be halted and ecological networks can be restored.

BNG should be delivered 'on-site' (i.e. within the development), but any residual impacts on biodiversity that cannot be addressed on site can be offset 'off-site'. Delivery of on-site BNG provides an opportunity to integrate trees, hedges, woodlands and other habitats into developments. Any off-site delivery of BNG may provide funding for delivery of habitat, including trees and woodland, outside of the development site and potentially in strategic locations across the West of England. A 30-year commitment to managing habitat created under BNG will be required, funded through the BNG agreement.

BNG Guidance and an Implementation Plan has been produced for the West of England, commissioned by the four UAs and WECA, and the UAs and WECA are considering options to take BNG forward individually and jointly. Strategic priorities for delivering BNG in the West of England will be considered in this process, and the Tree and Woodland Strategy will help to inform these priorities.

**The ELM Scheme will be an important vehicle for engaging landowners and land managers to deliver woodland creation, tree planting, and hedgerow creation, and to better manage existing woodlands and hedgerows.**

### Productive woodlands

Demand for timber and wood products is strong, with the UK importing 82% of its timber needs, and prices for softwoods and hardwoods rising over the previous decade<sup>24</sup>. There will, therefore, likely be demand and funding for productive forestry in the West of England. Due to the impact of grey squirrels on broadleaved woodland and the ease of growing coniferous species, among other factors, coniferous forests (softwoods) currently provide the most viable method of timber production, but there may also be funding available for productive broadleaved woodland (hardwoods).

Coniferous forests generally have lower biodiversity than native broadleaved woodland. However, appropriate management techniques, such as continuous cover regimes, can increase the biodiversity value of productive forests, and incorporation of native, broadleaved species into productive forestry in a way that enhances ecological connectivity could enable timber production to contribute towards nature's recovery. Productive forestry can also contribute towards carbon sequestration and, if appropriately placed, natural flood management.

There is also scope for the management of semi-natural woodlands to produce other wood products while improving their value to biodiversity, such as through coppicing, although demand for products produced through such techniques will likely be lower than for timber.

### Regional Funding

There is regional and local funding available in the West of England for Green Infrastructure (GI), through mechanisms such as the WECA Investment Fund. For the Investment Fund, projects are invested in based upon 'their contribution to supporting clean and inclusive economic growth and fit with the emerging Local Industrial Strategy'. Given the demonstrable economic benefits of GI projects, including those

that incorporate trees and woodland, this is a potential funding source for funding projects.

The JGIS Pipeline sets out multifunctional GI programmes and projects within the West of England that contribute towards delivering the eight GI Outcomes outlined in the West of England JGIS. This pipeline is being used to identify the greatest opportunities for investment in multi-beneficial GI projects that deliver a regional benefit aligned to the JGIS. Three projects are currently being promoted through the WECA Investment Fund, all of which are likely to incorporate trees and woodlands. Further opportunities may arise to promote GI projects through the Investment Fund.

**There is an increasing recognition from businesses and other organisations of the reliance of their operations on the natural environment, and the value of investing in the natural environment to ensure the sustainability of the benefits and functions (ecosystem services) it provides.**

### Private Finance

There are mature markets for private investment that are capable of funding nature-based solutions in the UK if there are sufficiently scaled models for matching private finance with the delivery of NBS. Additionally, the Government's [Green Finance Strategy](#) recognises the need to unlock private finance for investing in the natural environment, and is supporting a pilot scheme to funnel more private sector investment into the natural environment.

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<sup>24</sup> Forestry Commission, (2020). Timber Price Indices: Data to March 2020

Trees and woodlands can provide many of the ecosystem services for which there is private demand, including carbon sequestration, natural flood management, biodiversity, and improvements in water quality. Urban trees can provide additional services such as cooling, shade, improvements in health and wellbeing, and increases in productivity. It is likely that much of the private demand for trees and woodland will come through the need to sequester carbon, but there is potential for trees and woodlands to deliver multiple (or 'stacked') ecosystem services.

However, to access private funding, there need to be mechanisms and structures in place to match demand for investment with supply from landowners or land managers. Mechanisms for aggregating demand and supply will also facilitate strategic interventions and solutions in locations that maximise the benefits provided, including in the Strategic Woodland Areas.

**Blending public and private investment will, therefore, be key to delivering our ambitions for trees and woodland**, enabling landowners to plant trees and create woodlands at a commercially attractive rate. To maximise the opportunities provided by private investment, regional priorities for the delivery of nature-based solutions will need to be agreed.

The Broadway Initiative's paper on 'Accelerating private investment in nature-based solutions' sets out these opportunities and challenges in more detail, and identifies potential solutions to facilitate private investment in nature-based solutions<sup>25</sup>. Some of these solutions are being pursued in the West of England as outlined below.

Wessex Water, Avon Wildlife Trust and Wiltshire Wildlife Trust are working in partnership to develop a **Bristol Avon Catchment Market**, which is an environmental marketplace bringing buyers of environmental services together with sellers of nature-based solutions to deliver better, more cost-effective outcomes for the

environment. The aim is to accelerate green recovery in the catchment by kickstarting a market for landscape-scale, nature-based solutions. A substantial 'cornerstone' investment is needed to kickstart the market, with options for such an investment being explored.

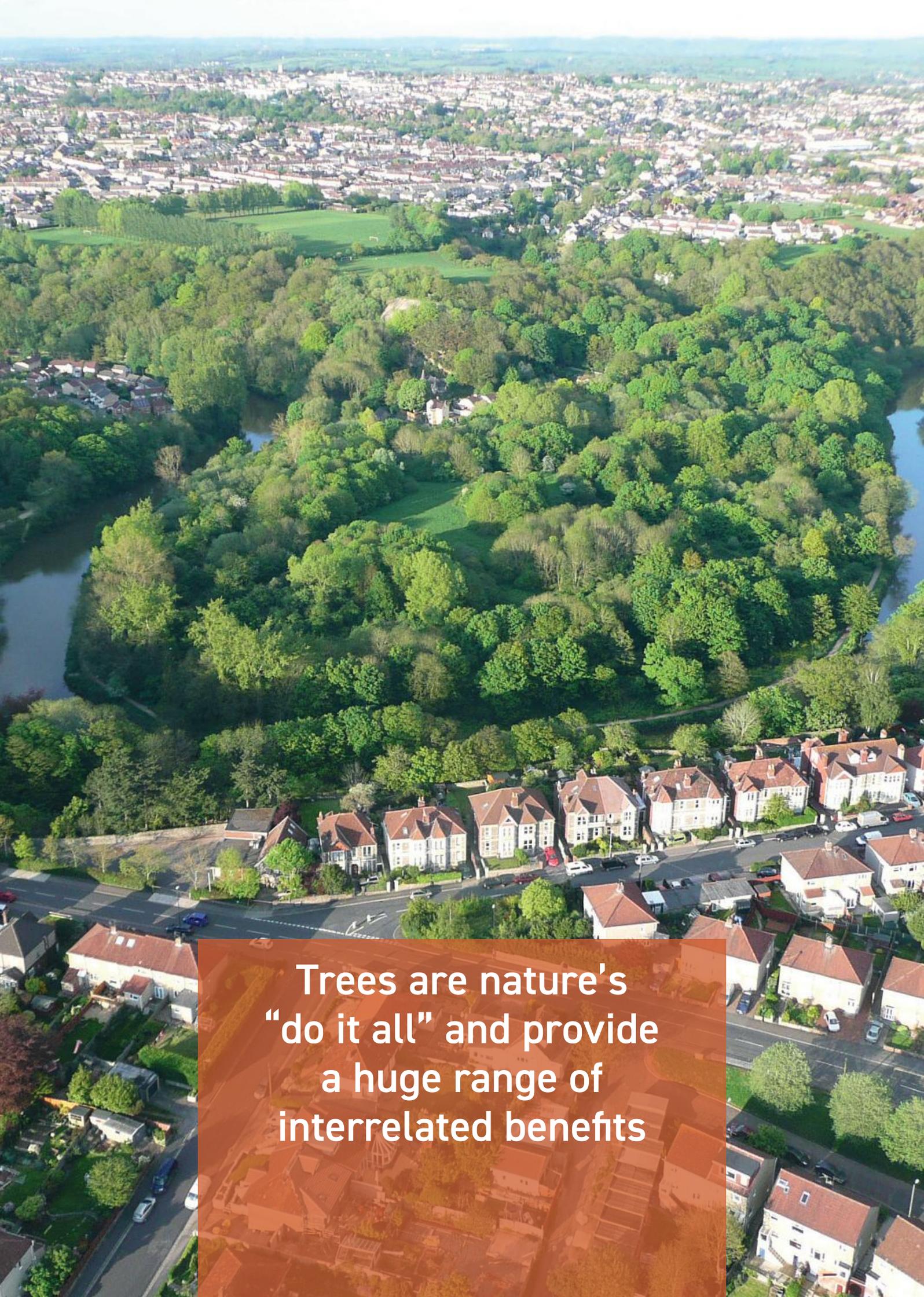
Avon Wildlife Trust is also developing a '**Wilder Carbon**' model, which will bring together funding from private organisations and charitable donations to sequester carbon through nature-based projects.

In addition, [Landscape Enterprise Networks \(LENs\)](#), which is a regionally focussed approach that 'harnesses commercial interest in how landscapes function to drive investment and innovation around strategic assets' such as habitats, soils, access infrastructure and aquifers, is being developed in the Bristol Frome Catchment. LENs aims to respond to the reliance of businesses on the landscapes around them and to harness this commercial interest to deliver environmental outcomes.

In the context of the tree and woodland strategy, these mechanisms should be used to identify shared interests between businesses in tree planting and woodland creation (e.g. in the creation of woodland for carbon sequestration or for natural flood management), and to design and fund interventions that meet these needs.



25 Broadway Initiative, (2020). Accelerating private investment in nature-based solutions



Trees are nature's  
“do it all” and provide  
a huge range of  
interrelated benefits

## 3. Trees and Woodlands in the West of England

### 3.1 Benefits of Trees and Woodlands

Trees are nature's 'do it all' and provide a huge range of interrelated benefits, contributing to all aspects of our quality of life and delivering across the eight GI outcomes contained in the JGIS.



#### Nature

GI Outcome:  
Ecological Connectivity

From ancient woodlands to hedgerows and urban parks, trees are a vital element of ecosystems, providing food, habitat and nesting sites for a huge number of species. Sixteen species of bird on the BTO's red list are woodland species, including the lesser-spotted woodpecker, wood warbler and woodcock<sup>26</sup>; rare populations of greater and lesser horseshoe bats are dependent on trees and hedgerows for foraging; and countless species of insects rely on trees and woodland.

New trees and woodland will be vital in addressing the ecological emergency, alongside improving the management of our existing trees and woodland. Dynamic, complex and shifting ecosystems where natural processes, such as natural regeneration of trees and scrub, are allowed to evolve will need to play a part in this.



#### Health and wellbeing

GI Outcome:  
Health and Wellbeing

Trees, and the natural environment more generally, provide a range of benefits to both our mental and physical health. In urban areas, trees mitigate asthma and breathing conditions by filtering air borne pollution, provide cooling and shade during heatwaves, and lower stress levels. Trees also contribute to safer communities: research suggests that housing associated with trees and greenery suffer from less crime and their inhabitants feel safer<sup>27</sup>. There is even evidence that trees benefit hospital patients' recovery times: less time is spent in wards with views of trees<sup>28</sup>.

Woodlands provide recreational opportunities for people in both cities and the countryside, increasing physical activity levels and otherwise improving both physical and mental health. Visiting forest environments can help lower blood pressure and pulse rate, reduce cortisol levels, and suppress sympathetic nervous activity<sup>29</sup>. Additionally, children growing up in green spaces have a lower risk of psychiatric disorders later in life<sup>30</sup>.

<sup>26</sup> <https://www.bto.org/our-science/publications/psob>

<sup>27</sup> Branas et al, 2018. Citywide cluster randomized trial to restore blighted vacant land and its effects on violence, crime, and fear.

<sup>28</sup> Forest of Avon Trust website, <https://forestofavontrust.org/about-detail/the-benefits-of-trees>

<sup>29</sup> <https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/news/contribution-forests-human-health-and-well-being/>

<sup>30</sup> Engenmann et al, 2019. Residential green space in childhood is associated with lower risk of psychiatric disorders from adolescence into adulthood



## Economy

GI Outcome:  
Resilient Economy

Aside from their value from contributions to health and wellbeing (it is estimated that universal access to good-quality greenspace would save the NHS £2.1 billion a year<sup>31</sup>), trees provide numerous other economic benefits that make them worthwhile investments:

- Green environments increase businesses' patronage by 30-50% and willingness to spend by 10-50%<sup>32</sup>.
- Green environments improve productivity by 15%, reduce staff turnover by 18% and reduce the amount of sick leave taken by 10-23%<sup>33</sup>
- Quality of life is a factor in the relocation of 57% of business executives<sup>34</sup> and people pay 3-7% more to live on tree-lined streets<sup>35</sup>, and so trees can support inward investment.

Woodlands also reduce flash flooding, thereby reducing the economic (and social) impacts of flooding events, and can provide a range of other sustainable products (such as timber and fuel) that support a thriving local economy. Additionally, woodlands offer recreational opportunities, such as walking routes, mountain biking trails and activity centres, which can bring in both direct (e.g. renting of mountain bikes) and indirect (e.g. cafés) employment.

Provisional figures from the Environment Agency's Natural Capital Tool estimate that woodland in the West of England is worth £717 million in carbon sequestration, air quality improvements and hazard regulation alone.

With strong demand for housing, trees are also vital in ensuring that people have high-quality places to live and in mitigating the impacts of new development.



## Mitigating and adapting to climate change

GI Outcome:  
Resilience to climate change

Trees and woodlands will be crucial in both mitigating (by sequestering and storing carbon) and adapting to climate change. The UK Committee on Climate Change (CCC) recognises the role that trees and woodlands will play in reaching net zero, and recommends that at least 30,000 ha of woodland should be created annually to do so. Locally produced wood can also provide a low- or zero-carbon source of fuel by offsetting fossil fuels, and timber can act as a lower-carbon construction material than steel and concrete.

Trees and woodlands will also be critical in adapting to climate change: providing corridors for species to travel through to adapt to a warmer climate, keeping rivers cool, providing shade and cooling in hotter urban areas, and reducing the severity of flooding events caused by climate change.



## Water Management

GI Outcome:  
Sustainable water management

Trees and woodlands are crucial to delivering an improved water environment. Well managed riparian habitat that includes trees is critical for both in-river wildlife (for example, through the shading of rivers) and terrestrial wildlife (through providing ecological corridors), and for improving water quality. Suitably placed trees and woodlands can also act to mitigate flood risk and reduce the run-off of soil and nutrients from agricultural and other settings, further improving water quality.

31 Natural England. An estimate of the value and cost effectiveness of the expanded Walking the Way to Health Initiative scheme 2009 (TIN055). <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/35009>. 2009.

32 Literature Review, Greater Manchester Combined Authority: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u8RzZ3kdwUs>

33 Literature Review, Greater Manchester Combined Authority: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u8RzZ3kdwUs>

34 Forest of Avon Trust website, <https://forestofavontrust.org/about-detail/the-benefits-of-trees>

35 Forest of Avon Trust website, <https://forestofavontrust.org/about-detail/the-benefits-of-trees>



## Soil and agriculture

GI Outcome: Sustainable food production

From hedgerows to agroforestry, trees are a vital component of sustainable agricultural systems: protecting soil (trees and other vegetation can reduce soil erosion and soil loss<sup>36</sup>), shading livestock, and increasing yields.

In addition to their role in supporting wider agricultural systems, fruit and nuts from trees forms a crucial part of a healthy diet, with traditional orchards also forming a priority habitat.



## Culture

GI Outcomes: Sustainable places, Valued healthy landscape

Apart from the more tangible benefits outlined above, trees also have strong cultural and spiritual value, providing a sense of place and bringing communities together. Our ancient and veteran trees may have been around for hundreds of years, providing a continued sense of identity.

Trees and other green spaces are crucial to ensuring that new development delivers resilient, healthy, and environmentally friendly places.



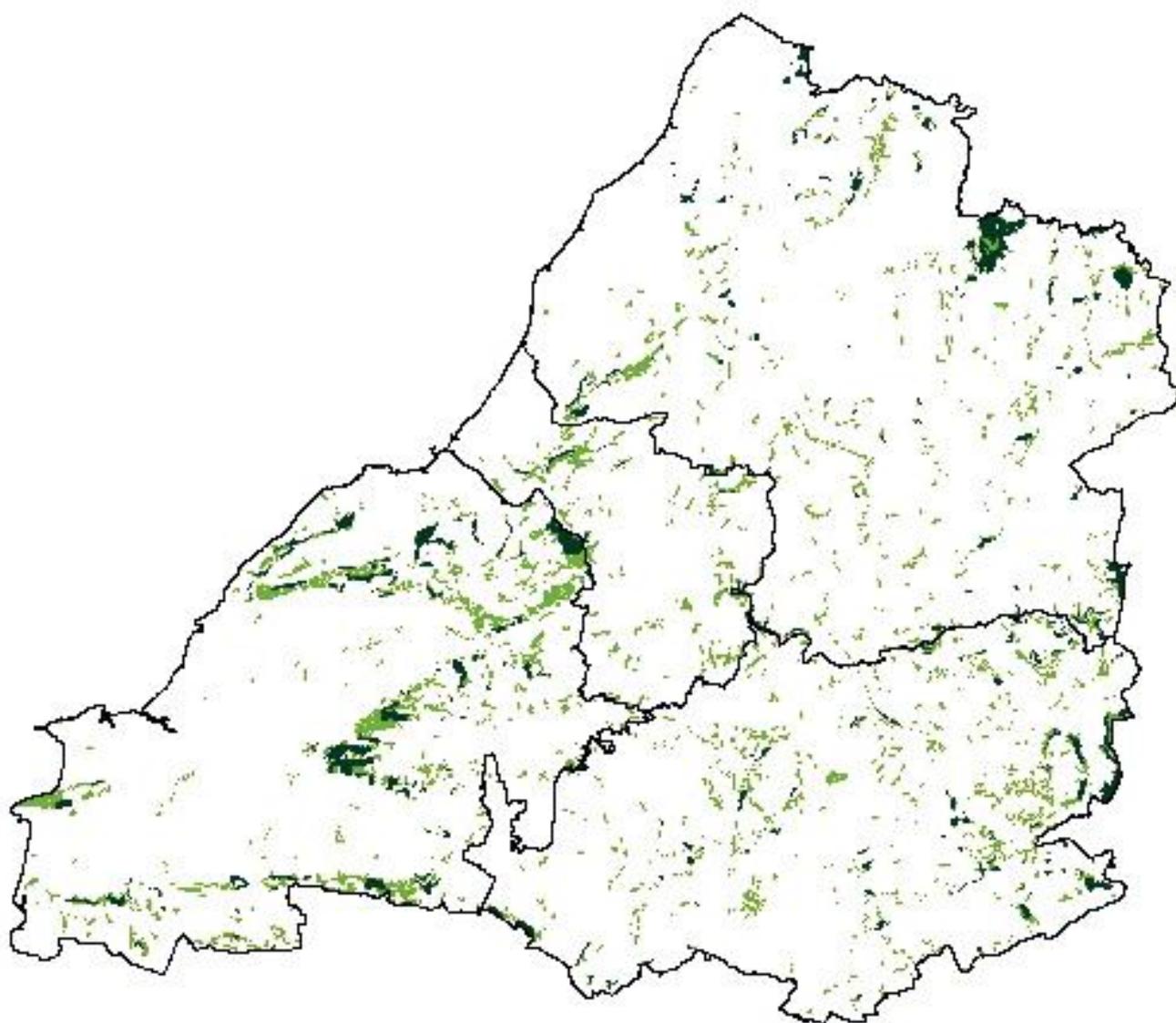
<sup>36</sup> Forest Research, <https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/urban-regeneration-and-greenspace-partnership/greenspace-in-practice/benefits-of-greenspace/erosion-control/>

### 3.2 Our Evidence Base

#### Existing Trees and Woodlands

Trees and woodlands form an essential element of the landscape and lives of people across the West of England. While tree cover is below the national average for England, we have seven species of whitebeam endemic to the Avon Gorge, a huge concentration of veteran trees in Ashton Court, and one of the largest ancient woodlands in the South West at Lower

Woods. Street trees are a valued and inspiring component of many of our towns and cities, and hedgerow and field trees contribute much to the character of our rural areas. We also have the Forest of Avon as a designated Community Forest, through which over a million trees have been planted so far, and hugely successful community-based tree planting initiatives such as One Tree per Child in Bristol.



**Figure 5** Map of existing 'core' woodland of area greater than 2 ha in the West of England. Dark green shows ancient woodland, and lighter green shows other semi-natural broadleaved woodland. Source: WENP, 2019. Nature Recovery Network.

**Tree and Woodland Cover by Local Authority**

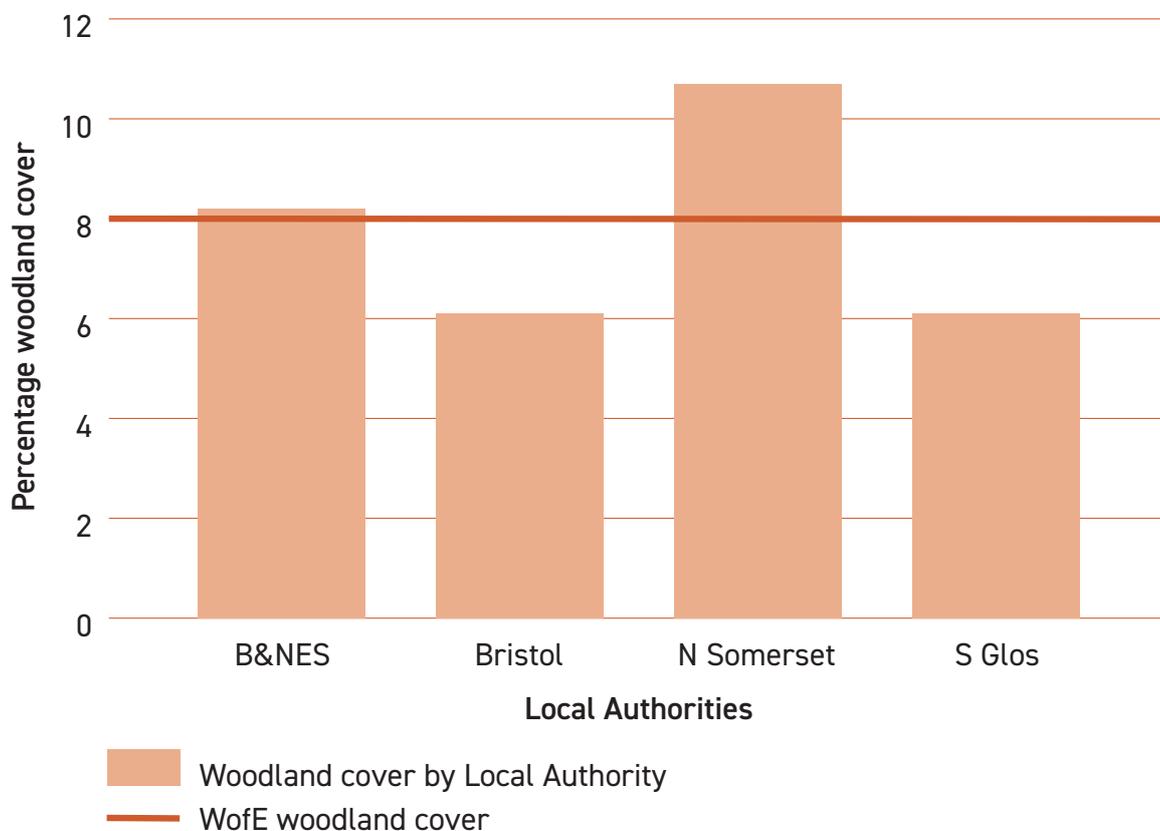
Defining woodland as areas greater than 0.5ha<sup>37</sup>, as recorded in the National Forest Inventory (NFI), the West of England has 10,607 ha of woodland, equivalent to a woodland cover of 8%<sup>38</sup>, which is less than the figure of 10% across England<sup>39</sup>. The areas for each local authority are:

- Bath and Northeast Somerset: 2,892 ha;
- Bristol: 669 ha;
- North Somerset: 4,019 ha;
- South Gloucestershire: 3,027 ha.

Figure 6 shows how woodland cover varies by local authority in the West of England.

If individual trees, groups of trees, and woodlands less than 0.5ha in size are included, and extrapolating from SW survey figures<sup>40</sup>, actual tree cover in each authority and across the West of England is estimated to be approximately 30% higher. However, this masks variations in the character of individual authorities: iTree Bristol, for example, calculates tree and woodland cover as 11.9% in Bristol, which is double the figure above. This variation is likely due to the relatively high number of individual trees and small groups of trees in an urban area.

**Figure 6** Woodland cover for each of the four local authorities in the West of England



37 National Forest Inventory, published annually by Forest Research.

38 National Forest Inventory Customised Report 2016.

39 Office for National Statistics 2020.

40 National Forest Inventory Tree and Woodland Cover outside woodland in Great Britain, April 2017.

### Species

The West of England’s trees and woodlands are mainly native broadleaf species. The proportion of coniferous woodland cover in the West of England (13%) is significantly lower than in England (26%<sup>41</sup>). Overall, woodlands in the region largely fall within Lowland Broadleaf Woodland priority habitat.

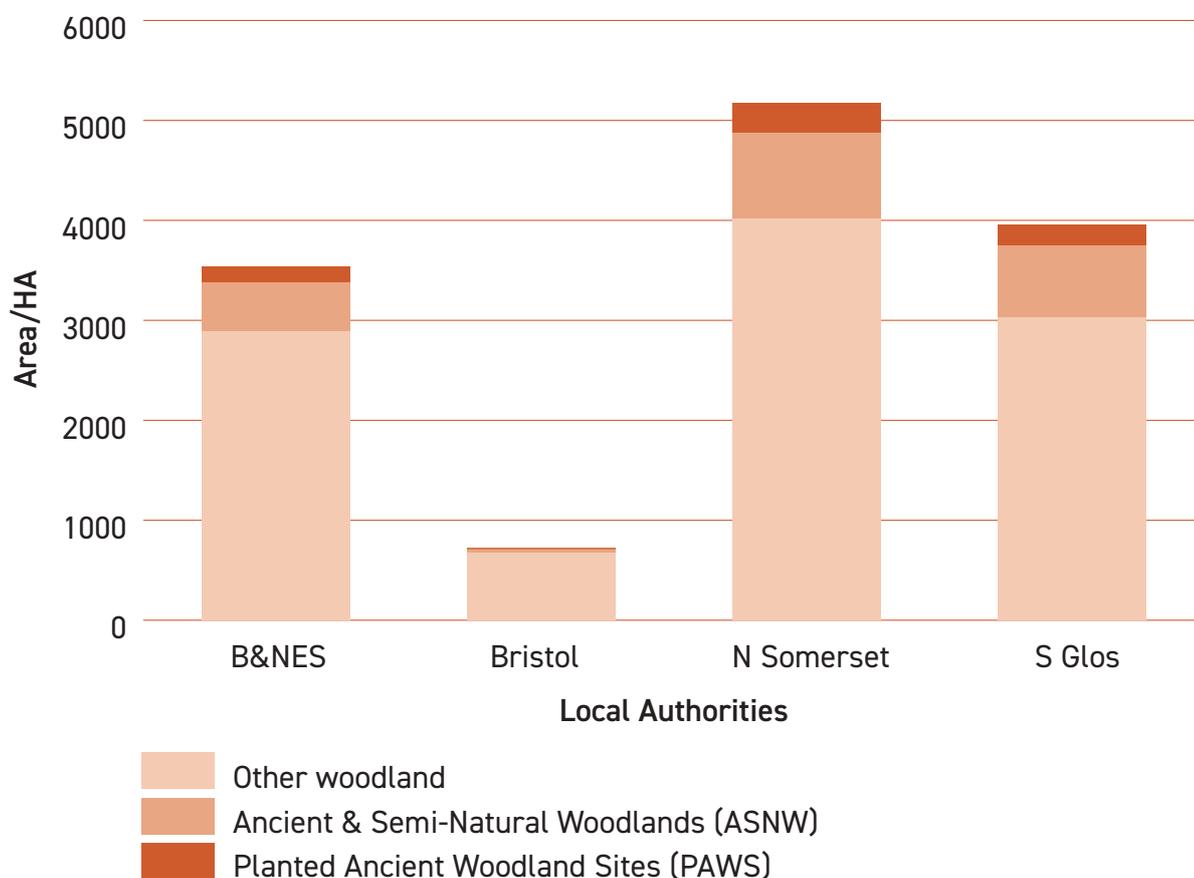
The most common species is ash (16% of the total in Bristol and North Somerset<sup>42</sup>). Common hawthorn, sycamore, beech, English oak, English elm and hazel are also widely distributed. Detailed surveys of 850ha of woodland, and other site-based work by the Forest of Avon Trust, confirms that field maple, holly, Wych elm,

yew and blackthorn are also commonly present in woodland.

Commercial woodlands of conifer and/or beech are scattered through the West of England, with significant concentrations on the fringes of Bath and west of Brockley Combe.

Tree species within urban areas are more varied, reflecting street tree planting requirements, ornamental plantings associated with housing and other development, and the preferences of householders. On Bristol City Council land, for example, field maple, Norway maple, silver birch, ash, common lime, lime hybrids and London plane are the most common species, but there are a wide range of other species.

**Figure 7** Breakdown of woodland cover in the West of England by local authority and woodland type. North Somerset has the highest area of ASNW and PAWS in the region (1156 ha), followed by South Gloucestershire (930 ha), B&NES (642 ha) and Bristol (54 ha)



41 Forestry Commission, (2020), Forestry Statistics 2020 Chapter 1: Woodland Area and Planting

42 Findings from both iTree Bristol and iTree North Somerset, 2018.

### Ancient Woodland

Defined as woodlands that date back to at least 1600, Ancient and Semi-Natural Woodlands (ASNW) and Planted Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS) are nationally important because of their rich and complex ecology developed over hundreds of years and held in undisturbed soil, as well as their wider landscape and cultural value. ASNW, which have had woodland cover for over 400 years, are one of our rarest and most ecologically important habitats. PAWS, whilst replanted with non-native species, have ecologically rich soils with a diversity of seed stored through the centuries that, through careful management, can be restored.

ASNW and PAWS form 26.2% of the total woodland area in the West of England (19.7% ASNW and 6.5% PAWS). This is close to the national picture, where ASNW and PAWS are around 25% of woodland cover.

### Ancient, Veteran and Other Individual Trees

The West of England has 78 identified Ancient Trees, which are more than 400 years old<sup>43</sup>. Each is of exceptional biodiversity, cultural and heritage value; ancient oaks, for example, can host up to 5,000 species. Although the area's 1,250 Veteran Trees vary in age, they have decay features with significant habitat value and contribute much to our parkland landscapes.

**The biggest tree (by girth) in the area is the Tortworth Chestnut: an incredible 11 metres in circumference.**

### Management and Ownership

Overall, 45% of the West of England's woodlands are managed (interventions being made to grow larger trees; provide timber income; and/or benefit wildlife, landscape or public access). The level of management varies across authorities: Bath and North East Somerset 35%, Bristol 48%, North Somerset: 49% and South Gloucestershire 48%.<sup>44</sup>

Unmanaged woodlands tend to be smaller and privately owned, being peripheral to the main agricultural enterprise on the land and with owners lacking the knowledge, skills and/or time to manage them<sup>45</sup>.

Single trees and groups of trees within the public domain, including highways, are predominantly owned by public authorities and are managed to achieve amenity, landscape and/or nature conservation objectives. The significant number of trees within gardens and on farmland are predominantly privately owned, with management varying according to individual priorities. Rural trees are vulnerable due to ash dieback, flare-ups of Dutch elm disease, flailing of hedgerows, and cultivation close to them.



<sup>43</sup> As defined in the Woodland Trust's Ancient Tree Inventory.

<sup>44</sup> National Forest Inventory, 2019.

<sup>45</sup> Forest of Avon Trust anecdotal evidence based on bringing 850ha local woodland in to Forestry Commission Woodland Management Plans.

### Access to Woodlands

20% of people in the West of England have access to a 2ha woodland within 500m<sup>46</sup>, slightly higher than the average for England. There is, however, significant variation both across and within the authorities; for example, 45.6% of people have such access in Bath while only 9% do in Bristol West<sup>47</sup>. Given the importance of trees and woodlands to people's health and wellbeing, this illustrates the need for targeted investment in woodlands and trees more widely, especially in areas of low canopy cover.

### Nature Recovery Network

WENP has produced a series of maps of ecological networks in the West of England, which together provide a vision for a West of England Nature Recovery Network. Mapping has been done for three habitat types: woodland, grassland and wetland. For each habitat type, the mapping shows:

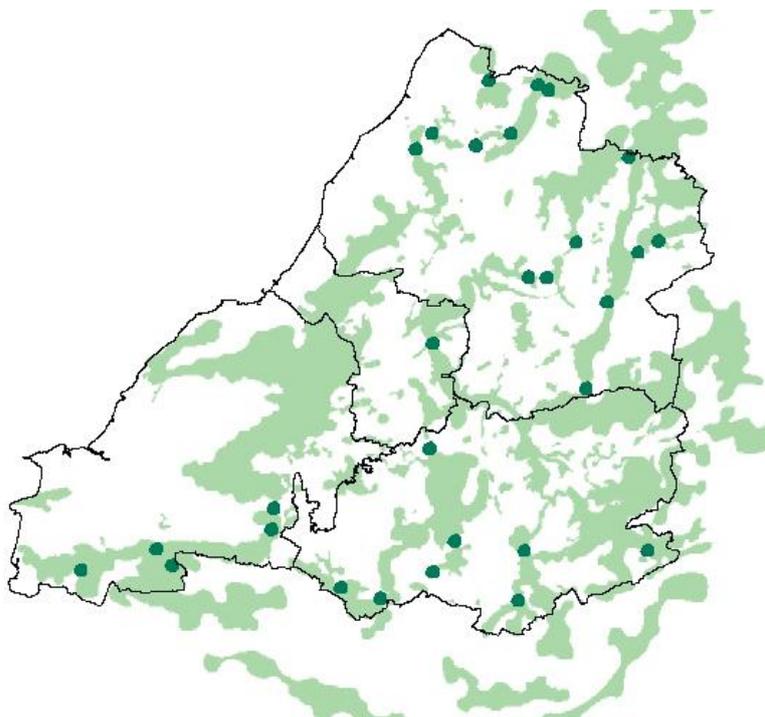
- Where the core habitat is;
- How this habitat is functionally connected in the form of ecological networks;

- Connectivity gaps in the ecological network; and
- The strategic networks in which we should focus investment on habitat creation, restoration and enhancement.

More information on the methodology used to create these maps can be found in the WENP document [Towards a Nature Recovery Network for the West of England: A Methodology](#), and the maps can be viewed online [here](#).

In the context of the Tree and Woodland Strategy, the mapping for woodlands is clearly a crucial piece of evidence in informing where woodland needs to be created, restored and enhanced to contribute towards the Nature Recovery Network, and has been used to inform the Tree and Woodland Priorities by Landscape Character Area. However, just as important is the mapping for grassland and wetland, which helps to identify where tree planting should be avoided or where it should be carried out with much care.

**Figure 8** Strategic woodland network (green) and woodland connectivity opportunities (dark green circles) in the West of England and beyond. The Strategic Network is where investment should be focused on habitat creation, restoration and enhancement in order to create a coherent network of woodland habitat. The connectivity opportunities are areas in which woodland creation would close gaps in the ecological network. Source: WENP, 2019. Nature Recovery Network.



<sup>46</sup> <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/media/1721/space-for-people-woodland-access.pdf>

<sup>47</sup> Average West of England figure drawn from Woodland Indicators by Parliamentary Constituency, Woodland Trust, September 2019, itself drawing upon National Forest Inventory data 2019.

## Woodland Opportunity Areas

In 2016, WENP produced a series of [ecosystem service maps](#) to demonstrate a range of ecological networks and ecosystem services in the West of England. This mapping included woodland opportunity mapping, which identified the best opportunities for woodland creation to expand and strengthen the existing woodland network, considering existing land use, soil, slope, geology and position within the landscape.

By considering soil type and proximity to existing woodland, the WENP mapping highlights areas that are likely to establish quickly and prove most resilient in the long-term. This mapping was also used to inform the aforementioned West of England NRN mapping.

Friends of the Earth (FoE) has recently mapped woodland opportunity areas across England on land that would not impact food production or encroach on protected areas and existing priority habitats. Specifically, excluded from the analysis are:

- All priority habitats, including good quality semi-improved grassland that may be biodiverse;
- Upland peat bogs (because of their carbon storage potential and biodiversity);
- Protected areas designated for the conservation of habitats and species;
- Land already managed as woodland; and
- Urban areas, non-agricultural land and water bodies.

This leaves Marginal agricultural land of very-poor-quality (Grade 5), poor-quality (Grade 4) and moderate-quality (Grade 3b), including land on steep slopes and marginal grassland, as suitable areas for woodland creation. The mapping can be viewed at <https://takeclimateaction.uk/woodland-opportunity-mapping-england>.

The Forestry Commission also has a map of 'low risk' areas for woodland creation, using a similar but less detailed methodology to the Friends of the Earth work. This can be viewed at the following link: <https://www.forestergis.com/Apps/MapBrowser/>.

**However, it should be reiterated that, for all these maps, further verification (ideally including on-the-ground surveys) will be necessary at any potential tree planting sites to ensure that there is not any existing high-quality habitat that would be threatened by woodland creation. Landscape character will also need to be considered for any opportunity areas.**

Combining woodland opportunity mapping with the NRN mapping could help to further refine the Strategic Woodland Areas described in Section 2.2.4 and prioritise additional areas for woodland creation by identifying land which is both within the NRN and would be suitable for woodland creation.

## Ecosystem Opportunity Mapping

As part of the WENP Ecosystem Service mapping, 'opportunity' maps were created showing areas where land use could be modified to improve water quality, and areas with opportunities to provide NFM. Interactive maps and further information are available at <https://wenzp.org.uk/maps/>.

These maps could be used to inform the establishment of trees and woodland to improve water quality and provide natural flood management, and to identify opportunities to leverage in private financing for these services. By combining the maps with NRN mapping, opportunities to combine nature's recovery with these ecosystem services can be highlighted. There may also be value in mapping opportunities for other ecosystem services, such as carbon sequestration.

### 3.3 Tree and Woodland Challenges in the West of England

There are a number of challenges to both protecting and managing our existing trees and woodland, and to establishing new trees and woodland. These challenges are set out below in the West of England context. For each challenge, the determined solution and the relevant key partners in implementing each solution have been identified. These solutions have, in turn, been used to inform the Five-Year Action Plan contained in section 2.2.2, and will be used in

the future to inform longer-term actions plans, and the design of projects and incentives for increasing tree and woodland cover.

These issues are colour coded according to the following scheme:

Colour	Key
	General
	Agriculture
	Urban and residential

#### Existing Trees and Woodlands

**Challenge: Loss of trees through Ash Dieback and other disease**

16% of the West of England’s trees are Ash and will be affected by Ash dieback, with up to 85% of these expected to die

**Solution:** Share expertise and resources to help manage this decline and factor this loss in to our tree planting and natural regeneration targets. We also need to ensure we do not import new disease, by using natural regeneration where appropriate, planting trees sourced and grown in the UK, and/or supporting local tree nurseries with strong biosecurity practices.

**Partners:** Local authorities, WECA, WENP, Forestry Commission, Woodland Trust, Forest of Avon Trust

**Challenge: Decline and loss of trees due to climate change**

Depending on the modelled change, common species such as Beech and Sycamore could be adversely affected by a changed climate by 2080.<sup>48</sup>

**Solution:** Positively address this change through management advice to tree and woodland owners, which is particularly critical in maintaining the ecology and character of priority woodland habitats. Consider the planting of alternative species and/or more southerly seed sources that are more resilient to climate change, and where they may be appropriate to plant.

**Partners:** Forest of Avon Trust, Woodland Trust, Forestry Commission, FWAG

<sup>48</sup> Tree species suitability in a future climate in, South-West England Forest Research.

**Challenge: Ensuring the right tree in the right place**

There are some instances where the wrong trees have been planted in the wrong place previously or are inappropriately managed, affecting sensitive landscapes and/or ecology. This may include overcrowding of trees in woodlands, ancient woodland sites being planted with commercial species in the 20th Century, wildlife-rich meadows being planted on, or loss of important views.

**Solution:** Be transparent about and communicate that trees (or certain trees) are not appropriate in all places and the need to conserve sensitive landscapes and ecology, as well as the ecological value of more open wooded landscapes. Improve communications on tree and woodland management and ensure landowners and relevant stakeholders are well informed on this subject. While ensuring no net deforestation, seek to restore priority habitats, views and landscape character by removing trees where appropriate; and manage woodlands through thinning and felling where this would improve their value to wildlife and people.

This will be facilitated by a comprehensive and robust database that enables assessment of where tree planting is proposed.

**Partners:** Local authorities, WECA, Avon Wildlife Trust, Forestry Commission, Forest of Avon Trust

**Challenge: Low levels of woodland management**

Despite a successful targeted approach by the Forest of Avon Trust to contacting and producing management plans for woodland owners, many smaller private woodlands are not yet managed and woodland SSSIs are often not in favourable condition. There is also a risk of large areas of new woodland being created and not managed. This reduces the ecological value of woodlands, as well as reducing the provision of other ecosystem services.

**Solution:** Making use of Biodiversity Net Gain (which requires a commitment to 30 years of management), the ELM Scheme and other funding sources, we need to offer a suite of measures to improve woodland management: targeted woodland and riparian tree management advice, support for management co-operatives, and developing links with local markets. The forestry sector should be supported and worked with to achieve this objective.

Where owners are focused on biodiversity objectives, promote the value of wood pasture and other open wooded landscapes, and the role of cattle and other grazing herbivores as an alternative means of woodland management.

**Partners:** Forest of Avon Trust, Forestry Commission, Woodland Trust, Avon Wildlife Trust, Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership, Bristol Avon Rivers Trust (riparian)

**Challenge: High levels of grey squirrel and deer damage in establishing woodlands**

Even where timber production is not an objective, many woodlands are adversely affected by the presence of grey squirrels and overpopulation of deer (including damage to beech, oak and birch, and negative impact on woodland ground flora), reducing their long-term contribution to the landscape and biodiversity.

**Solution:** Promote greater awareness of the need for control measures and support the co-ordination of these across the land of like-minded landowners; and ensure all those involved in planting and natural regeneration are aware of the level of deer browsing and protect their trees appropriately. In the longer-term, reintroduction of pine marten in selected areas and management that is favourable for goshawks could be part of the response for grey squirrels.

**Partners:** Forestry Commission, Forest of Avon Trust, NFU, CLA, Woodland Trust

**Challenge: Low levels of regeneration of English oak**

Woodlands where oak occurs often have very few oak seedlings, causing low levels of regeneration, and as such the proportion of this important native species is likely to decline.

**Solution:** Promote small-scale selective planting and protection, creating glades fenced from deer as necessary, the use of well-managed grazing regimes, and establishing unplanted peripheral areas for natural regeneration.

**Partners:** Forest of Avon Trust, Woodland Trust, Avon Wildlife Trust

**Challenge: Need for better understanding of our tree canopy cover and the services it provides**

There is a lack of comprehensive understanding of woodland cover and the state of woodland in the West of England. Better data would facilitate better-informed tree planting, woodland creation and woodland management.

**Solution:** There are a range of methodologies through which canopy cover, carbon sequestration and other ecosystem services provided by trees and woodland can be calculated. Agree a consistent approach across the West of England and commission work to ensure all authorities have compatible data.

**Partners:** WENP, WECA, local authorities, Forestry Commission, Woodland Trust

**Challenge: Poor management of riparian trees and woodland**

If well managed, riparian trees are a crucial component of the health of rivers. They provide shade, helping to cool rivers, which is important for many species of fish; provide habitat and food for river creatures; and form ecological corridors in the wider landscape. However, poorly managed riparian trees can also negatively impact in-river ecology due to overshading.

**Solution:** BART's approach to tree planting provides a useful reference for riparian habitat creation and management, and its use should be promoted. Support BART in managing and creating trees and woodland in a riparian context, and in advising landowners.

**Partners:** BART, BACP

**Challenge: Long-term decline in hedgerow quality**

Many hedgerows are annually trimmed to a low height, some are affected by close cultivation, and others suffer from a lack of management. All can affect their landscape and ecological value, and their agricultural benefits.

**Solution:** Continue to work with farmers and contractors to promote rotational and/or profile trimming of hedgerows, and the retention of developing field trees. Utilise the ELM Scheme to financially incentivise farmers to better manage hedgerows.

**Partners:** Natural England, FWAG, NFU, Avon Wildlife Trust

**Challenge: Loss of field and hedgerow boundary trees**

In many areas, outgrown hedgerows, and hedgerow and field trees are a significant landscape feature. Ash dieback disease, recurrent Dutch elm disease and/or ageing tree stock threatens these features, with many potential trees cut low as part of hedgerow management.

**Solution:** Continue to work with farmers and contractors to promote the benefit of trees within the farmed landscape and to tag potential hedgerow trees. Utilise the upcoming ELM Scheme to protect and manage existing trees and hedgerows, and establish new ones in the farmed environment.

Additionally, agroforestry provides a mechanism for integrating trees into the farmed environment while maintaining, or even increasing, output and is appropriate for both arable and grazing regimes. Its uptake could be incentivised through the ELM Scheme and better communicating its benefits to farmers.

**Partners:** Natural England, FWAG, NFU, Avon Wildlife Trust, Woodland Trust, Forest of Avon Trust

**Challenge: Loss of traditional orchards**

Traditional orchards have historically been an important feature of the West of England, and, as well as being economically productive, are valuable for biodiversity due to their mix of habitats and the presence of dead wood. However, research from the people's trust for endangered species suggests that 90% of traditional orchards have been lost since the 1950s nationwide.<sup>49</sup>

**Solution:** Work with farmers and landowners to promote the benefits of traditional orchards and utilise the ELM Scheme to prioritise the creation of new orchards in the West of England.

Utilise public land to establish community orchards as a resource for both people and wildlife.

**Partners:** Natural England, FWAG, NFU, Woodland Trust, Forest of Avon Trust, Avon Wildlife Trust, local authorities

<sup>49</sup> <https://ptes.org/campaigns/traditional-orchard-project/traditional-orchard-decline/>

**Challenge: Local authority tree and woodland budgets are under increasing pressure due to funding cuts and the need to respond to Ash Dieback Disease**

Provision of trees is not a statutory service, and providing and managing urban trees is expensive due to factors including health and safety considerations, and insuring against potential litigation. Planting in streets where it delivers the greatest benefits can also be costly due to the presence of service infrastructure.

**Solution:** In making the case for urban trees (often on local authority land) to grant funders and business investors, clearly set out these additional costs and highlight the extra benefits provided by well-located trees. Engage proactively with businesses to leverage private financing for urban trees, as well as identifying solutions that support local authorities in providing public goods.

**Partners:** Local authorities, businesses, Bristol Green Capital Partnership

**Challenge: Removal of shrubs and trees from gardens**

While planning regulations may limit the conversion of gardens to non-porous surfacing, many shrubs and trees are removed to, for example, accommodate additional parking and/or building extensions.

**Solution:** Draw upon the interest in tree planting to promote 'Garden Forests' and 'Street Orchards' that enable people to take action while being given guidance on considerations when planting in private gardens and suitable species. We also need to communicate the importance of shrubs, trees and other wild areas to both wildlife and people's health and wellbeing.

**Partners:** Forest of Avon Trust, Avon Wildlife Trust, local authorities

**Challenge: Housing and other infrastructure development can require the removal of existing trees and shrubs**

While there are policies to ensure that trees are replaced, these do not necessarily reflect the range of benefits the felled, often larger, trees provided.

**Solution:** Ensure that measures like the mitigation hierarchy, Bristol Tree Replacement Standard, and the Biodiversity Net Gain metric for street trees are thoroughly and consistently applied to avoid the unnecessary felling of trees and, where felling is required, ensure that new trees are planted in suitable areas.

**Partners:** Local authorities, WECA, WENP

**Challenge: Opposition by some members of the public to approved tree and woodland management**

Trees and woodlands need to be managed, which may include pruning, thinning and/or felling trees, in the context of felling licences and other approvals. Whilst there is rightly concern about tree and woodland work where it may be in breach of the law, this can extend to legal and useful tree or woodland work.

**Solution:** Ensure that processes are transparent and promote a wider understanding of tree and woodland management as part of a dynamic ecosystem.

**Partners:** Local authorities, Forestry England, Forestry Commission, Woodland Trust

**Challenge: Inequalities in access to trees and woodland**

Access on foot to trees and woodlands varies, reflecting not only their distribution, but also the access rights provided.

**Solution:** Address these issues through individual and group tree planting in streets and housing, and new community woodlands; and through new woodlands with permissive or wider access agreements.

**Partners:** Local authorities (trees and urban areas), Forest of Avon Trust, Woodland Trust, BART, FWAG (rural areas)

## Establishing New Trees and Woodlands

**Challenge: Lack of a single plan showing where woodland can be created with the greatest benefit**

While the Forest of Avon Plan identifies broad priorities for tree and woodland planting, and the NRN mapping shows the most ecologically valuable sites for new woodland, there is no map showing the best locations for tree planting and woodland creation in the West of England based on a combination of ecological value, land use, ecosystem services and landscape sensitivity.

**Solution:** A single map that brings together NRN mapping, opportunity mapping, ecosystem service mapping, and (if possible) landscape sensitivity would provide a coherent and detailed spatial plan for the whole of the West of England – this could be done through the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) that will be required by the Environment Bill. National mapping, including the development of a national NRN and natural capital mapping, should also be utilised.

**Partners:** WENP, WECA, local authorities

**Challenge: Plans or online resources do not always result in tree and woodland planting taking place in the right areas.**

While maps, plans and online resources such as the West of England NRN mapping, MAGIC, FoE's Opportunity Woodland Mapping and the Forestry Commission Low Risk mapping for woodland highlight the most suitable areas for trees and woodland, this does not necessarily translate into trees being planted or woodland created in these areas.

**Solution:** This strategy sets out Tree and Woodland Principles (Section 4) and Priorities by Landscape Character Area (LCA) (Section 5), guiding tree and woodland planting to ensure that it maximises benefits and does not conflict with opportunities for other priority habitats or productive agriculture, and takes into account landscape character.

The Forest of Avon Trust and other partners should be supported in promoting this guidance and more widely advising on, supporting (including detailed planning) and co-ordinating action, working with partners across the West of England.

**Partners:** WENP, Forest of Avon Trust

**Challenge: Significant community interest in tree planting does not always result in a well planted tree, of a suitable species and/or in the right place.**

The Climate Emergency has focused the attention of many individuals and groups on wanting to plant trees to sequester carbon. While this is incredibly positive, some of this interest is directed at planting in areas unsuitable for trees and/or with little reference to establishment.

**Solution:** Promote the Tree and Woodland Principles (Section 4) and Priorities by LCA (Section 5) in this strategy, providing a reference point for local groups and individuals; and support the Forest of Avon Trust's role in advising, supporting and co-ordinating action by these groups.

**Partners:** WENP, Forest of Avon Trust, local authorities, Avon Wildlife Trust

**Challenge: Without co-ordination, Trees for Climate and other funding streams could confuse potential planting partners.**

There are a growing range of tree and woodland planting offers, grants and funding streams, as set out in Section 2.2.5, which partners may not be aware of and which may be confusing.

**Solution:** Support the Forest of Avon Trust's role in co-ordinating these offers and ensuring their alignment with the Tree and Woodland Strategy. More detailed guidance could be produced making clear the purpose and suitability of each of these funding streams.

**Partners:** WENP, Forest of Avon Trust, BACP

**Challenge: Potential shortage of trees to plant in our area and nationally.**

The demand for trees may outstrip the supply of young trees provided by UK nursery capacity, slowing down tree planting and jeopardising regional and national targets.

**Solution:** Review and support existing nursery capacity in the West of England, and support the establishment of new nurseries through Local Plan policies and practical support for community-based nurseries at sites such as Avon Wildlife Trust's Grow Wilder site.

**Partners:** WECA, local authorities, Woodland Trust, Avon Wildlife Trust

**Challenge: People and organisations have varying and sometimes conflicting priorities when establishing trees.**

Establishment of trees will be undertaken by diverse individuals and organisations, according to their own objectives, which may conflict with the priorities of others. For example, planting of conifers could sequester carbon and contribute to a more sustainable local timber economy but would not provide the same benefits to biodiversity or landscape character as native woodland.

**Solution:** Promote the detailed Tree and Woodland Principles (Section 4) and Priorities by LCA (Section 5), and actively engage with those interested in increasing tree cover to ensure that new planting and woodland creation maximises benefits across all ecosystem services. There needs to be a recognition and an understanding of the differing motivations and barriers that will inform landowners' decisions on whether to establish new trees and woodlands, and what form any new trees and woodlands should take.

Collaboration across partners, utilising existing partnerships such as WENP and BACP, can facilitate projects that deliver for the priorities of multiple organisations.

**Partners:** WENP, BACP, Forest of Avon Trust

**Challenge: Lack of funding for more dynamic and open wooded habitats.**

While there are a growing range of tree and woodland planting offers, grants and funding streams, as set out in Section 2.2.5, these are not always applicable to more dynamic, open wooded habitats, such as wood pasture, 'rewilded' areas or mosaic habitats, especially when outcomes are uncertain. These habitats are particularly important for nature's recovery.

**Solution:** We need to review the suitability of existing and future funding streams for more complex wooded habitats and identify innovative funding options, including private financing, for these habitats. We also need to better communicate the benefits of these habitats for wildlife and other ecosystem services to funders and landowners.

**Partners:** WENP, BACP, Avon Wildlife Trust, Forest of Avon Trust

**Challenge: Newly created woodlands may not have sufficient protection to ensure that they become the ancient woodlands of the future.**

While new woodland is crucial as part of the response to the climate and ecological emergencies in the here and now, we also need to ensure that the woodlands we create last long into the future, becoming the ancient woodlands of the 25th century.

**Solution:** Appropriate legal protection needs to be put in place to safeguard newly created woodland, which would thereby ensure its survival in perpetuity. However, to do so will also require landowners to either be committed to safeguarding woodlands or to otherwise be confident in long-term funding being available when committing to permanent land use change.

**Partners:** WENP, WECA, local authorities, Natural England, Forest of Avon Trust

**Challenge: Grant funding may be insufficient to encourage landowners to plant woodlands in priority areas.**

The values of grants and/or public funding may not be sufficient to encourage the establishment of woodlands in priority areas; this is particularly the case where land values are high, such as close to urban centres, and where woodland establishment will lead to loss of agricultural income.

**Solution:** As well as a proactive contact programme and communication of our evidence base, make use of other funding opportunities (including private financing for nature-based solutions, Biodiversity Net Gain and sustainable forestry) to incentivise the establishment woodland in key areas. Agroforestry should also be promoted as a means of increasing woodland cover in farmed landscapes.

**Partners:** WENP, BACP, WECA, local authorities, Avon Wildlife Trust, NFU, FWAG

**Challenge: Funding schemes for urban trees do not reflect lifetime costs of planting and care.**

The landowner (often a local authority) becomes responsible for paying for the long-term public benefit of trees, which, at a time of budgetary constraints, acts as a disincentive to investment in urban tree and woodland planting.

**Solution:** Identify and apply innovative solutions such as private funding for urban trees to ensure sufficient resources is available for planting and care. Further develop evidence of societal benefits of urban trees to encourage investment in long-term management/maintenance.

**Partners:** Local authorities, WECA, WENP, businesses

**Challenge: High cost to retrofit trees into urban streetscapes.**

Although trees are more easily integrated into new developments, the growing awareness of the importance of urban trees is often not matched by funding for tree planting in existing urban areas that reflects the costs of finding sites and establishing trees in these complex environments.

**Solution:** We need to make a robust funding case for the multiple benefits and the long-term costs of planting and maintaining trees in existing urban areas and, as per the point above, identify innovative solutions to fund this.

**Partners:** Local authorities, WECA, WENP

**Challenge: Planning agreements for trees and woodlands often do not reflect their long-term costs.**

Once established, responsibility for trees in developments may be passed on to a local authority, housing association or a company. If costs are not adequately reflected in management agreements, or if there is insufficient oversight, trees may grow poorly or fail.

**Solution:** Bristol City Council's SPD is a good example of an approach that addresses these costs until Year 15; planning agreements will need to be put in place to address any long-term costs. Biodiversity Net Gain should also help to address this.

**Partners:** Local authorities, WECA

**Challenge: While the importance of trees and woodlands to people and the environment is increasingly acknowledged, this is not always translated to developer plans or planning agreements.**

A retained hedgerow boundary or perhaps access to an existing right of way can be the sum of new residents' interaction with informal greenspace. Given the significant benefits that green spaces have for health and wellbeing, this is a missed opportunity.

**Solution:** Use the West of England JGIS and local GI Strategies to facilitate delivery of integrated green infrastructure. Mechanisms including Biodiversity Net Gain and the Building with Nature Standard can be used to both protect existing trees and create more tree and woodland cover within developments, with public access provided wherever possible.

Continued engagement with developers to ensure that trees and other green spaces are embedded throughout new developments.

**Partners:** Local authorities, WECA



These principles seek to maximise the benefits that woodlands and trees can provide to wildlife and people

## 4. Principles for Tree and Woodland Establishment and Management

The below principles should be taken into account when planting trees, creating new woodland and managing existing woodland; it is also strongly recommended that expert advice is sought when doing so. They are intended to provide high-level guidance to organisations, rather than aiming to micro-manage tree planting and woodland creation in the region, and ultimately seek to maximise the benefits that woodlands and trees can provide to wildlife and people.

These principles have been produced to align with and complement existing [regulations](#) including the Forestry Act 1967, Environmental Impact Assessments and Habitats Regulations, as well as existing guidance and best practice, such as the [UK Forestry Standard](#) or guidance produced by industry leaders.

**The principles are organised under five ecosystem services and ways to manage woodlands to facilitate delivery across all ecosystem services:**

- 1. Ecological Networks:** the contribution of trees and woodlands to the region's ecological network and the benefits they provide to wildlife.
- 2. Climate Change:** the role that woodland and trees play in climate change mitigation (sequestering carbon) and adaptation (increasing resilience to increased flooding, heat and other impacts of a changing climate).
- 3. Natural Flood Management:** the contribution that strategically located trees and woodlands could make to flood management.
- 4. Health, Wellbeing and Culture:** the benefits that woodlands and trees can provide to people's health and wellbeing, and their cultural value.
- 5. Sustainable Woodland Economy:** the role of a sustainable woodland economy, and the economic value that can be created through production of timber and other products.
- 6. Managing Woodlands for Ecosystem Services:** The use of management techniques to maximise the value of woodlands across all ecosystem services, including tackling pests, disease and invasive species.

Additionally, relevant resources for advice on woodland management, tree planting and dealing with ash dieback are listed at the end of this Section.

### 4.1 Nature's Recovery

- The creation of new woodlands should, where possible, be close to and join existing woodlands, so as to assist in the creation of a coherent ecological network in the West of England. The **Tree and Woodland Priorities by Landscape Character Area** included in this document, which reflect the **West of England Nature Recovery Network** and other evidence, should be used to guide tree planting and woodland creation.
- Woodland should not be planted on existing ecologically valuable grassland, which is an important and vulnerable habitat. Additionally, areas identified as being within the strategic grassland network for the West of England should be prioritised for grassland creation and conservation.
- A range of wooded habitats, including woodland, hedgerows, riparian corridors, open wood pasture and urban trees, will strengthen the ecological network.
- The possibility of creating mosaic habitats (an area or site comprised of multiple habitat types) when creating woodland should be considered. In areas that are within two or more of the woodland, grassland and wetland strategic networks of the West of England West of England Nature Recovery Network, mosaic habitats should be prioritised.
- The use of grazing animals to create a more dynamic ecology and habitat succession can provide significant benefits to wildlife and will be key in achieving nature's recovery (this is sometimes termed 'rewilding' but can also refer to [wood pasture](#)). If this approach is chosen, the mix and number of grazing animals used must be carefully selected considering the characteristics of the site, and experts should be consulted. [Rewilding Britain](#) are developing a '[Rewilding Network](#)'

to provide resources to support such approaches.

- Natural colonisation (otherwise known as natural regeneration) should be considered as an (often cheaper) alternative to tree planting, as it can result in the establishment of trees better adapted to local conditions and provide a composition of trees more suited to native wildlife. Natural colonisation can be especially effective next to existing ancient or semi-natural woodland as a means of expanding the most valuable woodland habitats.
  - Any woodland planted should be an appropriate mix of species for the site and reflect the management objectives in question. Native species should be planted where possible, especially when nature's recovery is the priority, although the use of more southerly seed sources<sup>50</sup> may be appropriate as part of adaptation to a changing climate<sup>51</sup>. For larger sites, the Forest of Avon Trust, Woodland Trust, the Forestry Commission, Forest Research, Forest of Avon Trust, local ecologists and/or professional forestry agents should be consulted on the appropriate mix of species; for smaller sites, advice available online (see Section 4.7.2) may suffice.
  - Woodlands, once established, should be managed to deliver objectives including maximising benefits to wildlife, and especially of specialist woodland species that are threatened (see Section 4.6).
  - The planting of hedgerows, including but not limited to farmland, should be used to connect existing hedgerows and woodland where woodland creation is not possible. Hedgerows or wider shrub belts, if planted, should be of a suitable mix of native species<sup>52</sup> and maintained in a way<sup>53</sup> that maximises benefits to wildlife.
- Hedgerows should also include irregularly spaced trees, which can be promoted through design codes.
- Riparian habitat (habitat on and alongside the banks of rivers) can act as natural ecological corridors through which wildlife can travel, as well as enhancing in-river ecology, providing natural flood management and improving water quality. Trees and woodland are a vital component of riparian (i.e. riverbank) habitat. BART's [approach to tree planting](#) should be referred to inform riparian habitat creation and management.
  - As well as better managing our existing woodlands for wildlife, we need to protect our trees and woods from being lost to development and other pressures. Ancient woodlands, and ancient and veteran trees are afforded protection against development because of their irreplaceable nature (per NPPF para 175c); planning decisions must enforce this. Beyond ancient wooded habitats, no woodland should be lost, except where there is an environmental gain to a changed land use (e.g. removing trees on peatland or wetland) and, in this case, the EIA process must be followed and voluntary replacement planting should be carried out as good practice. Tree planting should not be used as compensation for the loss of woodland; compensatory measures can take decades to become established, representing lost years of crucial carbon storage and wider environmental benefit.
  - Individual and groups of trees in rural or urban areas contribute much to ecological networks as well as landscape quality, cultural identity, and health and wellbeing. As capacity allows, advice should be provided and good

50 When introducing more southerly species, measures should be taken to avoid introducing pests and diseases – see Section 4.6.4.

51 <https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/research/genetic-considerations-provenance-choice-native-trees-under-climate-change-england/>

52 The ideal mix may depend on the location where the hedgerow is planted, but see the following link for a suggested 'traditional' mix: <https://www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org/conservationadvice/woodlands-and-hedgerows/planting-hedgerow-wildlife>

53 See e.g. [http://ww2.rspb.org.uk/images/englishhedgerows1\\_tcm9-133255.pdf](http://ww2.rspb.org.uk/images/englishhedgerows1_tcm9-133255.pdf)

practice promoted to landowners to safeguard, care for and, when appropriate, replace these trees. Accepting that urban trees are part of a dynamic system, community groups can have an important role in championing individual trees and building support for new ones.

## 4.2 Climate Change

- Planting trees and creating woodland, including allowing woodland to regenerate naturally, are recognised as an effective means of sequestering carbon and building resilience to the impacts of climate change in response to the Climate Emergency that has been declared by all four local authorities in the West of England, the West of England Combined Authority, and other organisations and businesses in the region.
- Retaining, restoring and enhancing existing woodlands should be used as an effective way of storing carbon. Protecting existing woodland, especially ancient woodland, is important for maintaining stored carbon, and well-managed, healthy woodlands store more carbon than poorly managed ones<sup>54</sup>.
- Much of the carbon sequestered by woodland trees is stored in the soil<sup>55</sup>; therefore, avoiding soil disturbance is important in maximising carbon sequestration. Continuous cover management regimes avoid the release of carbon back into the atmosphere through planned thinning and reduced disturbance of soil<sup>56</sup>.
- Although it is recognised that coniferous species can sequester carbon more quickly than native broadleaved species, maximising the carbon storage potential of woodland should not prejudice nature's recovery, especially in ecologically sensitive areas and within the Nature Recovery Network. The principle of the right tree in the right place should be followed, which is key to providing more and better-connected habitat for wildlife (see above), and for a healthy, functioning natural environment.
- Native or naturalised broadleaved species that are good for carbon sequestration in the West of England include aspen, beech, wild cherry, and sycamore, although the impacts of climate change on the future viability of these species (especially Beech and Sycamore) needs to be considered.
- Productive woodlands, including the provision of wood fuel, the use of timber in construction, and the use of trees to create other products (such as those that can be made through coppicing) should be considered as ways of decarbonising parts of the economy – see 'Sustainable Woodland Economy'.
- Genetic diversity (evolved through natural regeneration), as well as species diversity, is understood to be important in ensuring the resilience of woodlands to a changing climate.
- Trees and well-connected woodland should be used to build resilience to climate change and to adapt to a changing climate through, for example, providing shade and cooling effect in urban areas, managing flood risk, and enabling woodland species to travel through the landscape.
- An additional focus for woodland creation might be where current land use could become unviable due to a changing climate.



54 See <https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/research/understanding-the-carbon-and-greenhouse-gas-balance-of-forests-in-britain/>

55 According to Forest Research, carbon in forest soils accounts for almost 75% of total forest carbon stock.

56 However, it should be noted that it can take a complete rotation to convert forests managed under a clear fell system to a continuous cover system.

### 4.3 Natural Flood Management

- The potential for woodland to provide natural flood management<sup>57</sup> should be considered when identifying locations for tree planting and woodland creation, especially in upland areas and in appropriate parts of the floodplain<sup>58</sup>. The WENP Ecosystem Service Opportunity Map: Water Quantity (available at <http://www.wenp.org.uk/maps/>) shows areas where the opportunities are greatest to modify the land so it can absorb and store water more effectively, and should be used to inform the use of woodland for natural flood management.
- '[Working with Natural Processes](#)' identifies areas of potential for additional floodplain woodland, riparian woodland and catchment woodland within England and Wales. As indicated in the Working with Natural Processes Evidence Directory, using the correct combination of measures in the right place can help to slow flood peaks and also achieve other benefits at the same time, including: improving water quality; reducing soil erosion and sedimentation of lakes and rivers; increasing carbon capture and storage; and creating new habitat to restore biological diversity.
- Additionally, expert advice (from, e.g. the Woodland Trust, the Forestry Commission, the Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership, Bristol Avon Rivers Trust, or the Environment Agency) should be sought to identify the optimal location and planting/regeneration scheme to provide maximum benefits to flood management.

### 4.4 Health, Wellbeing and Culture

- The location of new woodland and tree planting should be chosen considering the potential benefits that woodlands and trees provide to people's health and wellbeing, and to promote equitable access to woodland to all populations, irrespective of socio-economic status.<sup>59</sup>
- Landscape character and important views should be considered carefully when establishing new trees and woodlands, with certain areas recognised as being unsuitable for large-scale woodland creation. This is especially relevant in the Cotswolds AONB, the Mendip Hills AONB, Bath World Heritage Site and its environs, and surrounding scheduled monuments such as hill forts. The Tree and Woodland Priorities by Landscape Character Area account for this, but more detailed guidance as contained in Landscape Character Assessments and AONB Management Plans should also be consulted where appropriate.
- The planting of trees and woodland in urban areas, including in parks and streets, is recognised as especially important to people's health and wellbeing. Suitably chosen urban trees can contribute much to people's physical wellbeing through providing a cooling effect, providing shade and reducing air pollution. The presence of and engagement with trees close to where people live also provide important mental health benefits.
- It is recognised that areas with low canopy cover and deprived areas will benefit most from tree planting, which can help address issues of inequity. Therefore, canopy cover and the Index of Multiple Deprivation should be used to prioritise tree planting, especially in

<sup>57</sup> Carefully planned tree planting will slow water run-off (and limit downstream flooding), reduce land erosion, help to moderate stream temperature and aid flood risk management. See: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/reduce-flood-risk-with-the-woodlands-for-water-scheme>.

<sup>58</sup> See [https://www.forestryresearch.gov.uk/documents/1756/woodland\\_flood\\_control\\_iale\\_paper\\_2006.pdf](https://www.forestryresearch.gov.uk/documents/1756/woodland_flood_control_iale_paper_2006.pdf)

<sup>59</sup> See e.g. <https://www.forestryengland.uk/wellbeing#research>

urban areas,<sup>60</sup> providing shade and reducing air pollution.

- The Woodland Trust's Woodland Access Standard should also be applied, which aspires that: no person should live more than 500m from at least one area of accessible woodland of at least 2ha in size; and there should also be at least one area of accessible woodland of at least 20ha within km of people's homes<sup>61</sup>.
- The involvement of local communities in tree planting, maintenance and management can provide additional benefits to people's physical and mental wellbeing, and broaden the constituency of support and action for trees and nature.
- Public rights of way as well as other paths should be accommodated and enhanced within the design of new woodland, and new routes created to extend and improve local access networks, whilst reflecting wildlife, management and/or safety considerations. New public access should not be provided in SSSIs, Ancient Monuments and other sensitive sites without the approval of the statutory regulatory body.

#### 4.5 Sustainable Woodland Economy

- Management techniques that provide an income source while providing other benefits for people and wildlife should be considered as a way of enabling sustainable management of woodland. This could include, but is not limited to, timber production, coppicing, agroforestry including wood pasture, wood fuel production, the use of grazing animals for food, recreation, wellbeing activities and forest schools.
- The effect of any potential management technique used to provide an income source on wildlife and people must be considered

– not all woodlands will be suitable for all management techniques, as outlined in Section 4.6.

- There is significant demand for timber; currently, the UK imports the vast majority of its timber. However, due to the impact of grey squirrel populations among other factors (see section 4.6.6), it is difficult to grow broadleaved species for timber; coniferous forests therefore currently provide the most viable method of timber production. However, productive woodland managed for timber can be managed sympathetically to biodiversity and other ecosystem services. Continuous cover management regimes, which attempt to mimic natural processes, are effective for production and biodiversity aims, and areas of native woodland managed for biodiversity objectives should be integrated into productive woodlands. The [UK Forestry Standard](#) is a good source of guidance.
- [Coppicing](#) should be considered as a management technique that can produce woodland products, provide an income source and benefit wildlife (including many threatened species).
- Woodlands can provide opportunities for active recreation, which can make them accessible to a broader range of people, provide employment and bring in income to enable woodland management (and establishment). As well as walking trails, recreational activities that may be suitable for parts of new woodland include mountain biking and adventure sports such as ziplining or obstacle courses. The impact of these activities on woodland ecology should be minimised and fully addressed in site management plans if they are pursued.
- Large scale woodland creation should generally be avoided on high-quality agricultural land, and especially on Grade

60 The Forestry Commission has identified priority areas for woodland creation based on data that includes populations, deprivation indices and existing public access provision. See <https://data.gov.uk/dataset/c5aa9ae9-4aa0-4059-a256-421a7958ab1d/priority-places-for-england-2016>

61 <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/media/1721/space-for-people-woodland-access.pdf>

l agricultural land, which can be used for sustainable food production. On these sites, better management and expansion of hedgerows, field corners and in-field trees still provide excellent opportunities for improving soils, ecological connectivity, water management and carbon storage.

- [Agroforestry](#) may be a suitable management technique to combine food production with tree planting in areas of high agricultural productivity and is relevant to both arable (silvoarable) and grazing (silvopasture) systems. The [Agroforestry Handbook](#) provides useful, practical guidance on this approach.
- Orchards have been traditionally important in the West of England. Well-managed, they can provide a source of sustainable food while benefiting wildlife and sequestering carbon.<sup>62</sup> Existing traditional orchards should be conserved, and new ones created where possible.
- Grant schemes should be considered as a means of financing tree planting or natural regeneration. Additionally, there is potential for funding for habitat creation through Biodiversity Net Gain and agricultural subsidies under revised agricultural policy. Appendix I to this document provides further detail on potential funding sources for woodland creation and management.

### 4.6 Managing Woodlands for Ecosystem Services

#### Sustainable Woodland Management

- Management techniques should be mindful of the site in question and especially of neighbouring habitats. It is usually advisable to try to extend existing habitats through suitable management and creation.
- Continuous cover management regimes, as well as providing important water attenuation and biodiversity benefits, are key in maintaining species and age diversity, and avoid the release of carbon back into the atmosphere through planned thinning and reduced disturbance of soil.
- To enable effective natural regeneration/colonisation, a diverse woodland, a prevailing wind, and suitable soil will be required. Additionally, prevention of overgrazing from deer will usually be necessary and other management interventions may be required over time to ensure species diversity.
- If tree guards are used when planting trees, they should be removed when they split and before they start to disintegrate. Used tree guards should be removed from the site to protect local wildlife and disposed of responsibly (ideally by recycling).
- Weeding around a tree may be necessary to ensure the survival of planted trees. If doing so, 'natural' methods for suppressing weeds (e.g. using mulch, such as bark chips or straw bales) should be used in preference to the application of chemical-based products, which can be detrimental to wildlife.

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<sup>62</sup> Creation of traditional orchards is also [eligible for funding](#) under the Countryside Stewardship Scheme.

## Ash dieback

- Trees affected by ash dieback should be felled only when there is a material safety risk, a clear future safety risk (e.g. for roadside trees or high-use areas), or as part of normal silvicultural operations. Organisations will have their own definition of what presents a material safety risk, but the [Woodland Trust's zoning approach](#) or the [Quantified Tree Risk Assessment](#) are recommended. Otherwise, and where financially viable, trees affected by ash dieback (including dead trees) should not be felled to enable resistance to ash dieback to develop among the species, and so that dead wood can provide value to wildlife.
- Trees felled through ash dieback should be replaced using a suitable mix of native broadleaved trees in order to ensure no net loss (to wildlife and people); again, expert advice on an ideal replacement mix should be sought. Each ash tree lost should be replaced with at least three new trees for a large ash tree, two for a medium tree, and one for a small tree. More detailed advice on replacing lost ash trees is available at [this link](#), and further information on dealing with the disease is provided by the [Tree Council's Ash Dieback Toolkit](#). More resources for dealing with ash dieback are provided in Section 4.7.2.
- In woodlands with high levels of natural regeneration of species other than ash, it may be appropriate to replace ash with natural regeneration if there are interventions to selectively clear competitive vegetation, control pests and/or manage any public access.
- Everyone involved in the felling of trees – whether it is an owner felling trees themselves or employing others to do the work, such as an agent, timber merchant or contractor – must ensure that a felling licence or other permission has been issued before any felling is carried out. See [Tree Felling – getting permission](#).
- When felling ash trees, organisations should engage with the public to ensure

understanding of why felling is taking place and to discuss the risks of tree disease more widely.

## Other Pests and Diseases.

- Ash dieback is not the only threat to our trees. Other diseases with significant potential impacts on trees in the West of England currently include Sweet Chestnut Blight, Phytophthora, Oak Processionary Moth and Acute Oak Decline. There are many further diseases, generally with less impact at the West of England level, of which woodland managers should be aware.
- Due diligence in biosecurity practices – not just in sourcing trees (as in the next section) but also in woodland management – should be practiced to best manage tree disease.
- Sightings of tree diseases should be reported to TreeAlert – the Forestry Commission's online tool where sightings of dangerous tree pests and diseases should be reported – to best support the national response.
- Observatree is a tree health citizen science project which trains volunteers to spot pests and diseases, thereby helping tree health authorities identify and manage outbreaks early.
- Oak Processionary Moth (*Thaumetopoea processionea*) is a threat to human health as well as oak trees. This non-native moth, accidentally introduced in 2005, strips oaks trees of their leaves, leaving them vulnerable, but also poses a health risk to humans by causing rashes and breathing difficulties.
  - The public must be made aware not to touch or approach oak processionary moth caterpillars or their nests.
  - There are currently special restrictions on the movement of oak plants to minimise the risk of introducing OPM to new areas.
  - Any sightings should be immediately registered to TreeAlert.

### Preventing establishment of disease, pests and invasive species

- Woodlands are far more resilient to pests and diseases if the principle of diversity of species, age and structure is followed. Therefore, getting good advice and managing woodland to avoid “putting all your eggs in one basket” is important. Effective and sustainable woodland management (see 4.6.1 above) to create this diversity is critical.
- Natural regeneration is recognised as being important in building resilience and genetic resistance to disease in native tree species.
- In order to prevent future tree diseases, trees to be planted should be sourced from tree nurseries that produce trees sourced and grown in the UK/Ireland<sup>63</sup> where possible<sup>64</sup>. If trees are imported from elsewhere, they should be from nurseries that use biosecurity measures that aim to reduce the risk of diseases being imported (such as quarantining trees for a season before planting).
- Organisations should take appropriate biosecurity measures when planting trees and managing woodland to minimise the risk of existing invasive species (such as rhododendron) establishing themselves in existing and new woodland. Additionally, already-established invasive species (including rhododendron) should be removed from woodland where possible.

### Deer management

- Overgrazing by deer can be a problem in existing and new woodlands, leading to tree damage and reduction in ground flora. Deer populations should be managed where evidence suggests it is necessary and feasible to promote positive conservation outcomes. This can include fencing or individual tree protection, and/or humane culling of deer to

a specific density where monitoring suggests this is necessary.

- Co-operation should be undertaken with neighbours and local deer management groups; if no such groups exist and where there is a need, a local group could be set up. Participation in wider, collaborative management schemes at landscape scale is a more effective means of managing deer.
- Only non-toxic ammunition should be used to reduce the amount of lead entering the environment and potentially the human food chain.

### Grey Squirrel management

- Grey squirrels damage forests and woodlands by stripping bark from trees' main trunks and branches, mainly targeting young trees, which can lead to the death of trees. This damage is detrimental to woodland ecosystems and also disincentivises the planting of broadleaved species for timber purposes. Certain species are more vulnerable to damage than others.
- Approved trapping or shooting methods can be used to humanely manage grey squirrel numbers where feasible. The use of Pine Martens to control grey squirrel populations is being trialled in some areas. More information on the management of grey squirrels can be found on the [Forest Research website](#) and the [Squirrel Accord website](#).
- Grey squirrel control programmes will be most effective across multiple ownerships and at landscape scale, and where they are appropriately managed to avoid perturbation effects (whereby management of grey squirrels increases the damage caused by grey squirrels in neighbouring woodlands).

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63 UKISG (UK & Ireland Sourced and Grown) promotes tree nurseries that produce trees sourced and grown in the UK and Ireland.

64 Recognising that the importing of southern species to adapt to a changing climate may be appropriate in some cases.

## 4.7 Further Resources

### Woodland Management

For advice on long-term woodland management, the following organisations and sources can provide more information:

- Sylva Foundation's [my Forest service](#)
- [The Small Woodland Owner's Group](#)
- The Forestry Commission booklet '[So, you own a woodland?](#)'
- [Forest Research](#)
- [The Small Woods Association](#)
- [Sustainability Centre](#)
- [Royal Forestry Society](#)
- [Institute of Chartered Foresters](#)

### Ash Dieback

FC Guidance		
<a href="#">Managing Ash Dieback in England</a> (scroll down to "Latest")	Introductory Leaflet	August 2019
<a href="#">Management of individual ash trees with Ash Dieback</a>		7 Aug 2019
<a href="#">Managing Woodland SSSIs with Ash Dieback</a> (FC/NE)	Operations Notes	24 June 2019
<a href="#">Managing Ash in woodlands</a>		20 Sept 2018
<a href="#">Ecological Impacts of Ash Dieback and Mitigation</a>	Leaflet	July 2017

Other Guidance		
<a href="#">Ash Dieback – Practice Guidance</a>	Arboricultural Association	Nov 2019
<a href="#">10 Case Studies</a>	Royal Forestry Society	July 2019
<a href="#">Ash Dieback – An Action Plan Toolkit</a>	Defra/Tree Council	Feb 2019
<a href="#">Safety Guidance Note – Felling Dead Ash</a>	Forest Industry Safety Accord/Euroforest	April 2018
<a href="#">ADB – Farmer Information Sheet</a>	NFU/FWAG/Devon Ash Dieback Resilience Forum	Sept 2019

### Tree Planting

The Woodland Trust website provides advice on planting trees, including which species to plant, where to plant them, and how to plan them. This can be found at <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/advice/>.

For urban areas, a leaflet '[So you want to plant more trees?](#)' provides advice to councillors and other local decision-makers on managing tree-planting and what needs to be thought through before going ahead with tree-planting.

### Trees in agricultural settings

The [Agroforestry Handbook](#) provides useful, practical guidance on agroforestry - land management whereby trees or shrubs are grown around or among crops or pasture.

Hedgelink UK has advice on managing hedgerows, which can be found at [www.hedgelink.org.uk/index.php?page=23](http://www.hedgelink.org.uk/index.php?page=23).



**Delivery against these priorities will require close working with landowners, as well as action by a wide range of partners**

## 5. Tree and Woodland Priorities by Landscape Character Area

The Principles for Tree and Woodland Establishment and Management, as set out in Section 4, provide an important reference for augmenting the benefits that trees and woodlands can provide. However, in order to ensure that the right trees are established in the right places, and thereby truly maximise the benefits of trees and woodlands, it is necessary for landowners, delivery bodies, communities and individuals to know the context in which they work.

The tables below set out a list of tree and woodland priorities for each Landscape Character Area (LCA) in the West of England, organised by the numbered Green Infrastructure (GI) Areas as developed through the JGIS and shown on the map in Figure 9. As the boundaries of the GI Areas do not always follow those of LCAs, particularly at the borders between local authorities, some LCAs are included under two GI Areas. Urban areas (for which LCAs are not provided for some local authorities) are included under adjacent LCAs, which is made clear in the text. A map is provided at the start of each GI Area showing the subdivisions under which the priorities are listed.

It is intended that the priorities are used to inform and prioritise tree planting, woodland creation and management in the LCAs, and also to highlight areas in which tree planting is not or may not be appropriate. Their use could be both at the local (e.g. community tree planting) and strategic (e.g. local authority plans for increasing tree and woodland cover) level. They will also inform delivery of the Strategic Woodland Areas contained in Section 2.2.4 of this document.

The priorities are expressed as actions for brevity. However, it should be made clear that these priorities are for guidance only and place no obligation on landowners or delivery bodies. Neither are the priorities a substitute for on-the-ground knowledge and local expertise, and, ideally, they should facilitate further discussion

with local and regional experts. It is therefore recommended that expert advice, including from ecologists, is sought when interpreting these priorities where possible. For advice relating to trees and woodland in a riparian (i.e. riverbank) context, it is recommended that advice is sought from the Bristol Avon Rivers Trust – their [approach to tree planting](#) is a useful starting point.

The tables below also indicate within which of the following three broader areas each GI Area and LCA falls:

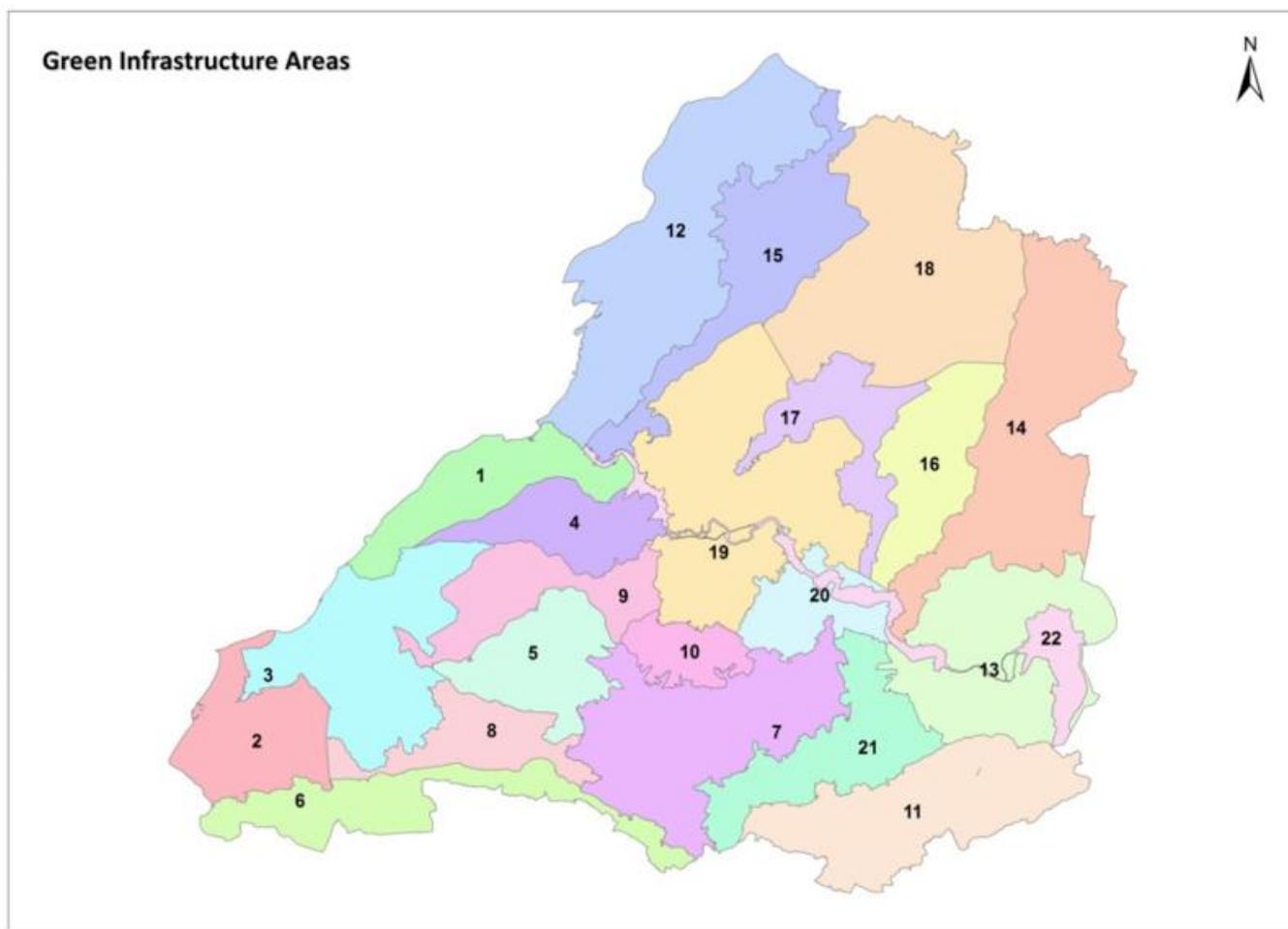
- The Mendip Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB);
- The Cotswolds AONB; or
- The Forest of Avon, which is the West of England's Community Forest and covers the area in the West of England outside of the two AONBs.

Definitions of any acronyms used can be found in Appendix II: List of Acronyms used.

Every effort has been made to ensure consistency between these priorities and the guidelines and plans in place in the AONBs. However, in areas that are within the Cotswolds AONB or the Mendip Hills AONB particular attention should be paid to ensuring that action is consistent with their character, including referring to the [Cotswold AONB Landscape Strategies and Guidance](#) or the [Mendip Hills AONB Management Plan](#).

The priorities have been determined through interpretation of Nature Recovery Network mapping; Landscape Character Assessment mapping and descriptions, in the context of MAGIC habitat, designation and grant scheme mapping; and Agricultural Land Classification mapping. They reflect the Principles set out in Section 4 (reiterating aspects of these) and are also consistent with the approach in a Community Forest Plan. For those LCAs within either of the AONBs, the relevant AONB Management plan has been used to inform the priorities and the AONB Units have been consulted on the text.

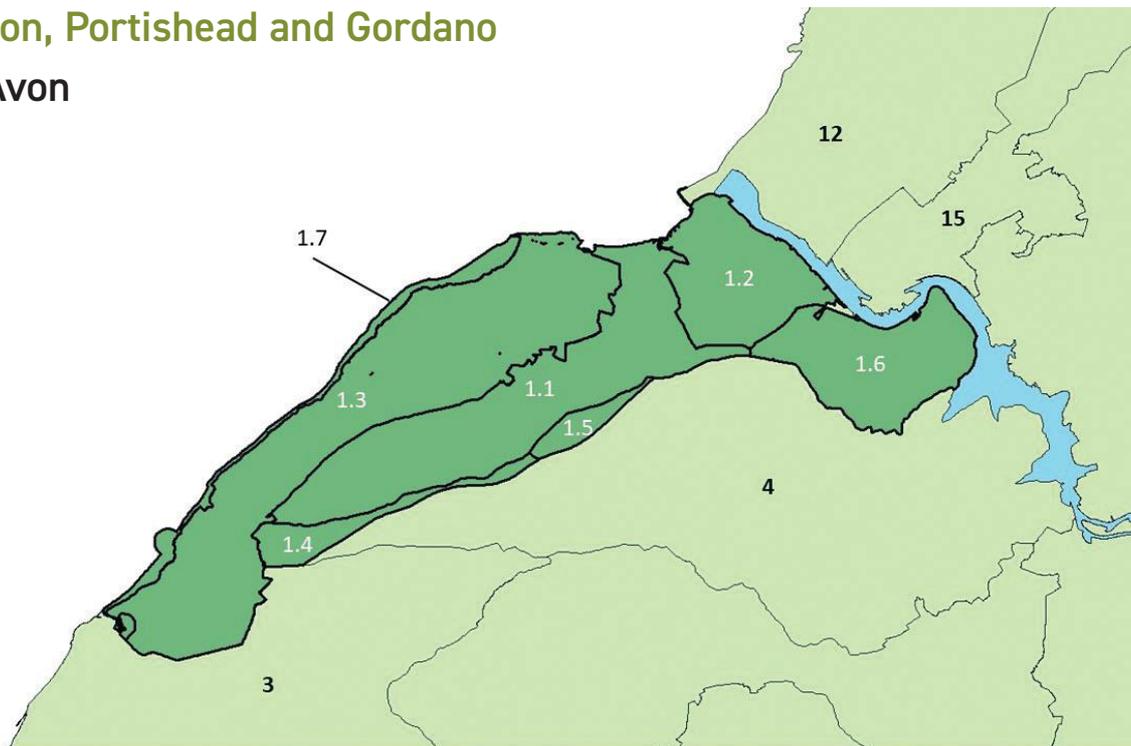
Delivery against these priorities will require close working with landowners, as well as action by a wide range of partners, with specific reference to planning policy and guidance including, as appropriate, Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) and statutory consultation requirements<sup>65</sup>.



**Figure 9** West of England Green Infrastructure (GI) Areas, as defined in the West of England Joint Green Infrastructure Strategy (JGIS). These GI Areas have been used to organise Tree and Woodland Priorities by Landscape Character Area. The numbering is consistent with that used in this section (e.g. GI Area 1 is within Section 5.1).

<sup>65</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/assess-environmental-impact-before-you-create-new-woodland>

## 5.1 Clevedon, Portishead and Gordano Forest of Avon



### Map Ref: 1.1 Clapton Moor (NSC A2)

- Work with Natural England, Avon Wildlife Trust and other landowners to ensure all woodlands have a Forestry Commission management plan (or equivalent), addressing nature conservation and also landscape objectives supporting their preparation and delivery. Set out a long-term replacement plan for high landscape impact poplar trees, maintaining these as a landscape feature.
- Ensure any new development requires the conservation and planting of trees within the site and as determined by scale and impact, includes off-site tree and woodland planting.
- Conserve and regenerate hedgerow boundaries with an initial focus on those outside Grant Schemes, which are not low cut and/or where hedgerow trees are present.
- Conserve hedgerow and field trees and plant new ones at irregular spacings where absent within hedged boundaries, reflecting NNR and SSSI guidance where applicable.
- Ensure public access routes are easy to use and follow.



### Map Ref: 1.2 Portbury Settled Coastal Edge (NSC C2)

- Ensure all woodlands have a current Forestry Commission management plan (or equivalent), addressing broad objectives, supporting their preparation and delivery.
- Conserve and establish groups of high impact landscape trees to screen and break up significant hard landscaping associated with Royal Portbury Dock.
- Ensure any new development requires the conservation and planting of trees within the site and as determined by scale and impact, includes off-site tree and woodland planting.
- Conserve and regenerate hedgerow boundaries with an initial focus on those outside Grant Schemes, which are not low cut and/or where hedgerow trees are present.
- Conserve hedgerow and field trees and plant new ones at irregular spacings where absent within hedged boundaries.
- Ensure public access routes are easy to use and follow.



**Map Ref: 1.3**  
**Clevedon & Portishead Ridges**  
**and Combes (includes NSC E4)**

- a. Ensure all woodlands have a current Forestry Commission management plan (or equivalent), addressing broad objectives, supporting their preparation and delivery. Focus on the number of ASNW and PAWS first.
- b. Buffer ASNW and PAWS by establishing fringing areas for natural regeneration.
- c. Establish native trees and shrubs within greenspaces in Clevedon and Portishead through the rewilding project, working with residents to deliver this.
- d. Establish individual and groups of trees and small woodlands within primary and secondary school grounds, with school responsibility for their care.
- e. Establish individual and small groups of trees in/ adjacent to streets, addressing inequalities in tree canopy cover and with a strong community dimension to their location, size and care. Reflect the historic character of Clevedon, by replacing Clevedon's pines with similar species when necessary.
- f. Conserve areas of coastal scrub, absorbing Park Homes and residential development into the wider landscape.
- g. Ensure any new development requires the conservation and planting of trees within the site and as determined by scale and impact, includes off-site tree and woodland planting.
- h. Conserve and regenerate hedgerow boundaries with an initial focus on those outside Grant Schemes, which are not low cut and/or where hedgerow trees are present.
- i. Conserve hedgerow and field trees and plant new ones at irregular spacings where absent within hedged boundaries.
- j. Ensure public access routes are easy to use and follow



**Map Ref: 1.4**  
**Tickenham Ridges and Combes**  
**(part of NSC E5)**

- a. Ensure all woodlands have a current Forestry Commission management plan (or equivalent), addressing broad objectives, supporting their preparation and delivery. Focus on the ASNW first.
- b. Buffer ASNW by establishing fringing areas for natural regeneration.
- c. Ensure any new development requires the conservation and planting of trees within the site and as determined by scale and impact, includes off-site tree and woodland planting.
- d. Conserve and regenerate hedgerow boundaries with an initial focus on those outside Grant Schemes, which are not low cut and/or where hedgerow trees are present.
- e. Conserve hedgerow and field trees and plant new ones at irregular spacings where absent within hedged boundaries.
- f. Ensure public access routes are easy to use and follow, working with landowner to support continued provision of permissive paths.



**Map Ref: 1.5**  
**Abbots Leigh Sandstone Uplands**  
**(part of NSC F1)**

- a. Ensure all woodlands have a current Forestry Commission management plan (or equivalent), addressing broad objectives, supporting their preparation and delivery. Focus on the number of ASNW and PAWS first.
- b. Buffer ASNW and PAWS by establishing fringing areas for natural regeneration.
- c. Ensure any new development requires the conservation and planting of trees within the site and as determined by scale and impact, includes off-site tree and woodland planting.
- d. Conserve and regenerate hedgerow boundaries with an initial focus on those outside Grant Schemes, which are not low cut and/or where hedgerow trees are present.
- e. Conserve hedgerow and field trees and plant new ones at irregular spacings where absent within hedged boundaries.
- f. Ensure public access routes are easy to use and follow

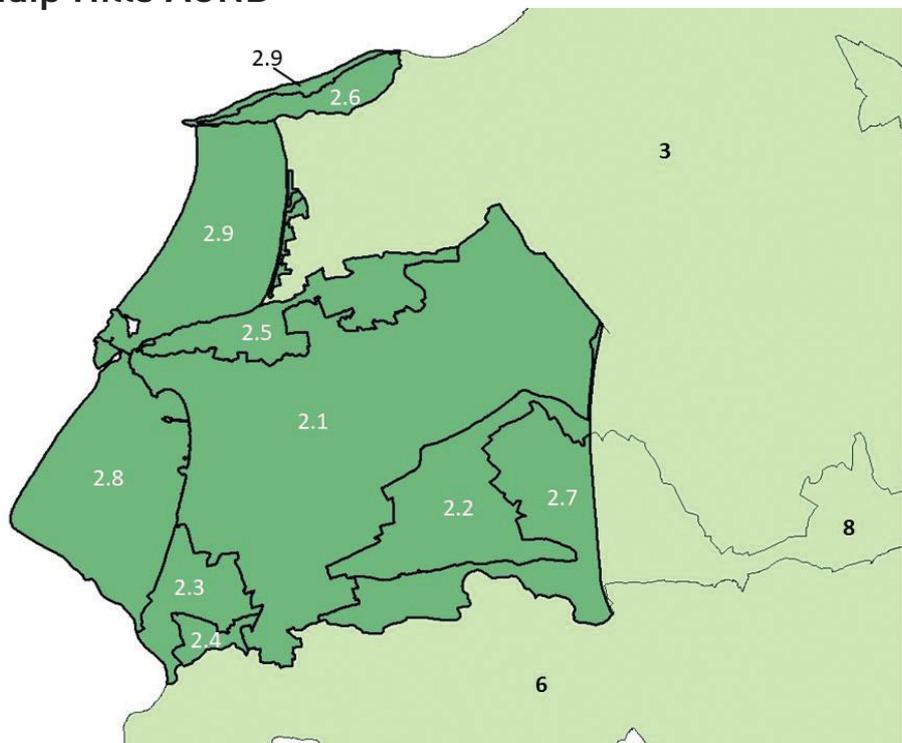
**Map Ref: 1.6****Avon Rolling Valley Farmland  
(NSC J6)**

- a. Ensure all woodlands have a current Forestry Commission management plan (or equivalent), addressing broad objectives, supporting their preparation and delivery. Focus on the number of ASNW and PAWS first.
- b. Buffer ASNW and PAWS by establishing fringing areas for natural regeneration.
- c. Establish native trees and shrubs within greenspaces in Clevedon and Portishead through the rewilding project, working with residents to deliver this.
- d. Establish individual and groups of trees, and small woodlands to address an increasingly fragmented landscape character, including through action by local groups, whilst conserving Grade 2 agricultural land and priority habitats, historic sites and viewpoints.
- e. Work with the owner of Leigh Court to support conservation of wood pasture, mature field trees, woodlands and hedgerows. Species of planted individual trees to reflect those already present or used in historic designed landscapes within the area.
- f. Ensure any new development requires the conservation and planting of trees within the site and as determined by scale and impact, includes off-site tree and woodland planting.
- g. Conserve and regenerate hedgerow boundaries with an initial focus on those outside Grant Schemes, which are not low cut and/or where hedgerow trees are present.
- h. Conserve hedgerow and field trees and plant new ones at irregular spacings where absent within hedged boundaries.
- i. Ensure public access routes are easy to use and follow

**Map Ref: 1.7****Clevedon and  
Portishead Bays (NSC L4)**

Not appropriate for trees and woodlands.

## 5.2 Weston-Super-Mare and Environs Forest of Avon and Mendip Hills AONB



### Map Ref: 2.1 Weston-super-Mare

- a. Ensure all woodlands have a current Forestry Commission management plan (or equivalent), addressing broad objectives, supporting their preparation and delivery.
- b. Establish native trees and shrubs within greenspaces in across Weston-super-Mare through the rewilding project, working with residents to deliver this.
- c. Establish small, irregular groups of native large willow on the south side of the A370 between West Wick and the A371, adding landscape character and screening urban development, whilst retaining outward views and conserving Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh priority habitat.
- d. Establish individual and groups of trees and small woodlands within parks and greenspaces addressing inequalities in tree canopy cover and with a strong community dimension to their location, size and care.
- e. Establish individual and groups of trees and small woodlands within primary and secondary school grounds, with school responsibility for their care.
- f. Establish individual and small groups of trees in/ adjacent to streets, addressing inequalities in tree canopy cover and with a strong community dimension to their location, size and care.
- g. Establish individual and groups of trees and small woodlands on private land, with strong involvement of businesses and their staff. Include a focus on the A370 corridor between the A371 junction and the town centre.
- h. Ensure any new development requires the conservation and planting of trees within the site and as determined by scale and impact, includes off-site tree and woodland planting.
- j. Ensure public access routes are easy to use and follow.

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 **Map Ref: 2.2**  
**Locking and Banwell Moors (NSC A4)**

- a. Ensure all woodlands have a current Forestry Commission management plan (or equivalent), addressing broad objectives, supporting their preparation and delivery.
- b. Conserve willow pollards, re-pollarding these as necessary to ensure long-term contribution to landscape character and as a farm timber resource. Establish small, irregular groups of native large willow adjacent to watercourses.
- c. Ensure any new development requires the conservation and planting of trees within the site and as determined by scale and impact, includes off-site tree and woodland planting. Where development is to take place at scale ensure that trees, woodland and other green infrastructure is planned in advance and not piecemeal, to maximise benefits.
- d. Conserve and regenerate hedgerow boundaries with an initial focus on those outside Grant Schemes, which are not low cut and/or where hedgerow trees are present.
- e. Conserve hedgerow and field trees and plant new ones at irregular spacings where absent within hedged boundaries.
- f. Ensure public access routes are easy to use and follow

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 **Map Ref: 2.3**  
**Weston Bay Settled Coastal Edge (NSC C1)**

- a. Ensure all woodlands have a current Forestry Commission management plan (or equivalent), addressing broad objectives, supporting their preparation and delivery.
- b. Work with hospital and other landowners to support conservation of woodland belts and landscape trees, establishing individual or small groups of trees on hospital and other private land linked to existing landscape character, with strong involvement of staff.
- c. Ensure any new development requires the conservation and planting of trees within the site and as determined by scale and impact, includes off-site tree and woodland planting.
- d. Ensure public access routes are easy to use and follow

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 **Map Ref: 2.4**  
**Mendip Ridges and Combes (part of NSC E1)**

- a. Ensure all woodlands have a current Forestry Commission management plan (or equivalent), addressing broad objectives, supporting their preparation and delivery.
- b. In the context of AONB guidance, ensure any permitted development conserves and enhances the natural beauty of the Mendip Hills AONB by the conservation and planting of trees within the site and as determined by scale and impact; and includes off-site tree and woodland planting of appropriate species in accordance with the Mendip Hills AONB's Tree Planting Guide and relevant Nature Recovery plans.
- c. Ensure public access routes are easy to use and follow.

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 **Map Ref: 2.5**  
**Worlebury Ridges and Combes (NSC E2)**

- a. Ensure all woodlands have a current Forestry Commission management plan (or equivalent), addressing broad objectives, supporting their preparation and delivery. Start with ASNW.
- b. Buffer ASNW by establishing fringing areas for natural regeneration.
- c. Conserve Worlebury Hill Fort, opening out its setting through a programme tree felling approved by Historic England. Manage remainder of Worlebury Wood to maintain its coherence as a landscape feature whilst providing outward views.
- d. Establish small woodlands and/or areas for natural regeneration to consolidate the narrow woodland corridors (including an ASNW) on the eastern ridge, whilst ensuring conservation of priority habitats, historic monuments and viewpoints.
- e. Ensure any new development requires the conservation and planting of trees within the site and as determined by scale and impact, includes off-site tree and woodland planting.
- f. Ensure public access routes are easy to use and follow.



**Map Ref: 2.6**

**Middlehope Ridges and Combes  
(Part of NSC E3)**

- a. Manage scrub in sheltered areas in line with a wider management plan for the SSSIs and Ramsar site.
- b. Ensure public access routes are easy to use and follow



**Map Ref: 2.7**

**River Yeo Rolling Valley Farmland  
(part of NSC J2)**

- a. Ensure all woodlands have a current Forestry Commission management plan (or equivalent), addressing broad objectives, supporting their preparation and delivery. Focus on ASNW first.
- b. Buffer ASNW by establishing fringing areas for natural regeneration.
- c. Establish groups of trees and small woodlands, extending hillside woodland corridor onto sloping land, whilst ensuring conservation of bat corridors, priority habitats, historic monuments and viewpoints.
- d. Ensure any new development requires the conservation and planting of trees within the site and as determined by scale and impact, includes off-site tree and woodland planting.
- e. Conserve and regenerate hedgerow boundaries with an initial focus on those outside Grant Schemes, which are not low cut and/or where hedgerow trees are present.
- f. Conserve hedgerow and field trees and plant new ones at irregular spacings where absent within hedged boundaries.
- g. Ensure public access routes are easy to use and follow.



**Map Ref: 2.8**

**Weston Bay (NSC L1)**

Not appropriate for trees and woodlands.



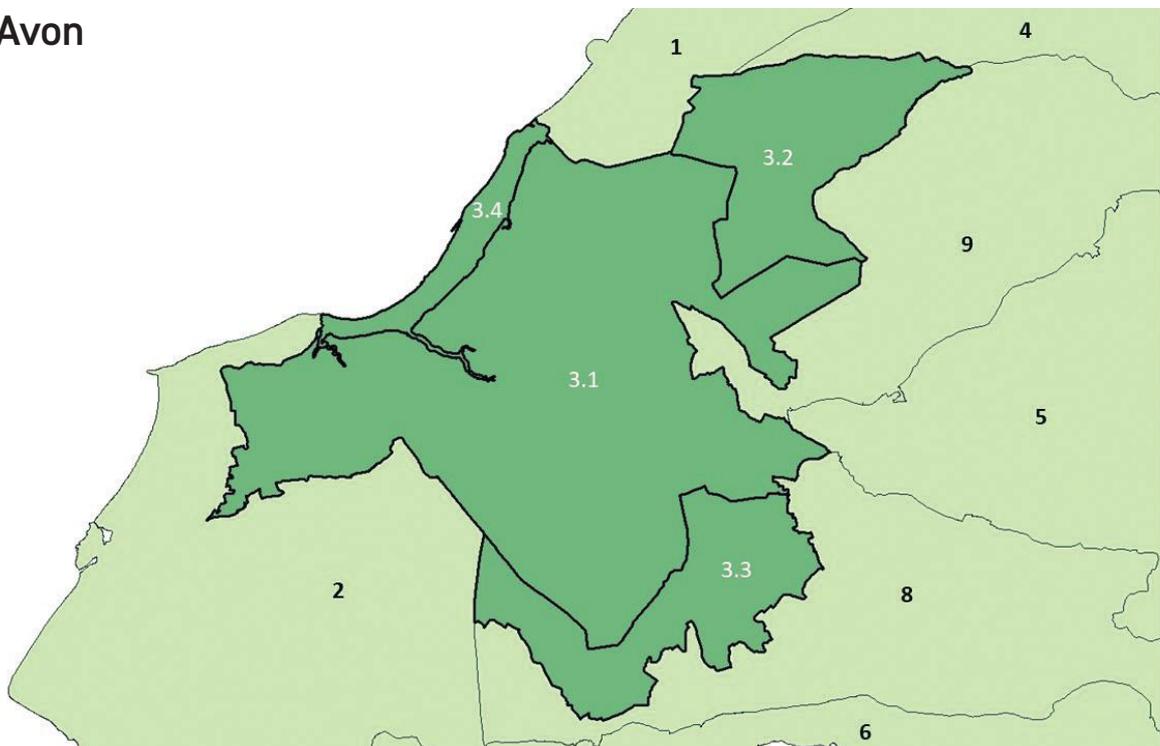
**Map Ref: 2.9**

**Sand Bay (NSC L2)**

Not appropriate for trees and woodlands.

## 5.3 North Somerset Shoreline and Moors

### Forest of Avon



#### Map Ref: 3.1

#### Kingston Seymour and Puxton Moors (NSC A1)

- Ensure woodlands have a current Forestry Commission management plan (or equivalent), addressing broad objectives, supporting their preparation and delivery.
- Conserve small orchards scattered through this area, prioritising outside a grant scheme, working to maintain locally distinctive varieties and extending orchards, whilst conserving priority habitats, historic monuments and viewpoints.
- Conserve willow pollards, re-pollarding these as necessary to ensure long-term contribution to landscape character and as a farm timber resource. Establish small, irregular groups of native large willow adjacent to watercourses where permitted by statutory conservation designations.
- Ensure any new development requires the conservation and planting of trees within the site and as determined by scale and impact, includes off-site tree and woodland planting.
- Conserve and regenerate hedgerow boundaries wherever possible with an initial focus on those

outside Grant Schemes, which are not low cut and/or where hedgerow trees are present.

- Conserve hedgerow and field trees and plant new ones at irregular spacings where absent within hedged boundaries.
- Ensure public access routes are easy to use and follow



#### Map Ref: 3.2

#### Kenn and Tickenham Moors (NSC A3)

- Ensure woodlands have a current Forestry Commission management plan (or equivalent), addressing broad objectives, supporting their preparation and delivery.
- Conserve small orchards scattered through this area, prioritising outside a grant scheme, working to maintain locally distinctive varieties and extending orchards, whilst conserving priority habitats, historic monuments and viewpoints.
- Conserve willow pollards, re-pollarding these as necessary to ensure long-term contribution to landscape character and as a farm timber resource. Establish small, irregular groups of native large willow adjacent to watercourses

where permitted by statutory conservation designations.

- d. Ensure any new development requires the conservation and planting of trees within the site and as determined by scale and impact, includes off-site tree and woodland planting.
- e. Conserve and regenerate hedgerow boundaries with an initial focus on those outside Grant Schemes, which are not low cut and/or where hedgerow trees are present.
- f. Conserve hedgerow and field trees and plant new ones at irregular spacings where absent within hedged boundaries.
- g. Ensure public access routes are easy to use and follow.

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 **Map Ref: 3.3**  
**Locking and Banwell Moors (NSC A4)**

- a. Ensure woodlands have a current Forestry Commission management plan (or equivalent), addressing broad objectives, supporting their preparation and delivery.
- b. Conserve small orchards scattered through this area, prioritising outside a grant scheme, working to maintain locally distinctive varieties and extending orchards, whilst conserving priority habitats, historic monuments and viewpoints.
- c. Conserve willow pollards, re-pollarding these as necessary to ensure long-term contribution to landscape character and as a farm timber resource. Establish small, irregular groups of native large willow adjacent to watercourses where permitted by statutory conservation designations.
- d. Ensure any new development requires the conservation and planting of trees within the site and as determined by scale and impact, includes off-site tree and woodland planting.
- e. Conserve and regenerate hedgerow boundaries wherever possible with an initial focus on those outside Grant Schemes, which are not low cut and/or where hedgerow trees are present.
- f. Conserve hedgerow and field trees and plant new ones at irregular spacings where absent within hedged boundaries.
- g. Ensure public access routes are easy to use and follow.

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 **Map Ref: 3.4**  
**Woodspring Bay (NSC L3)**

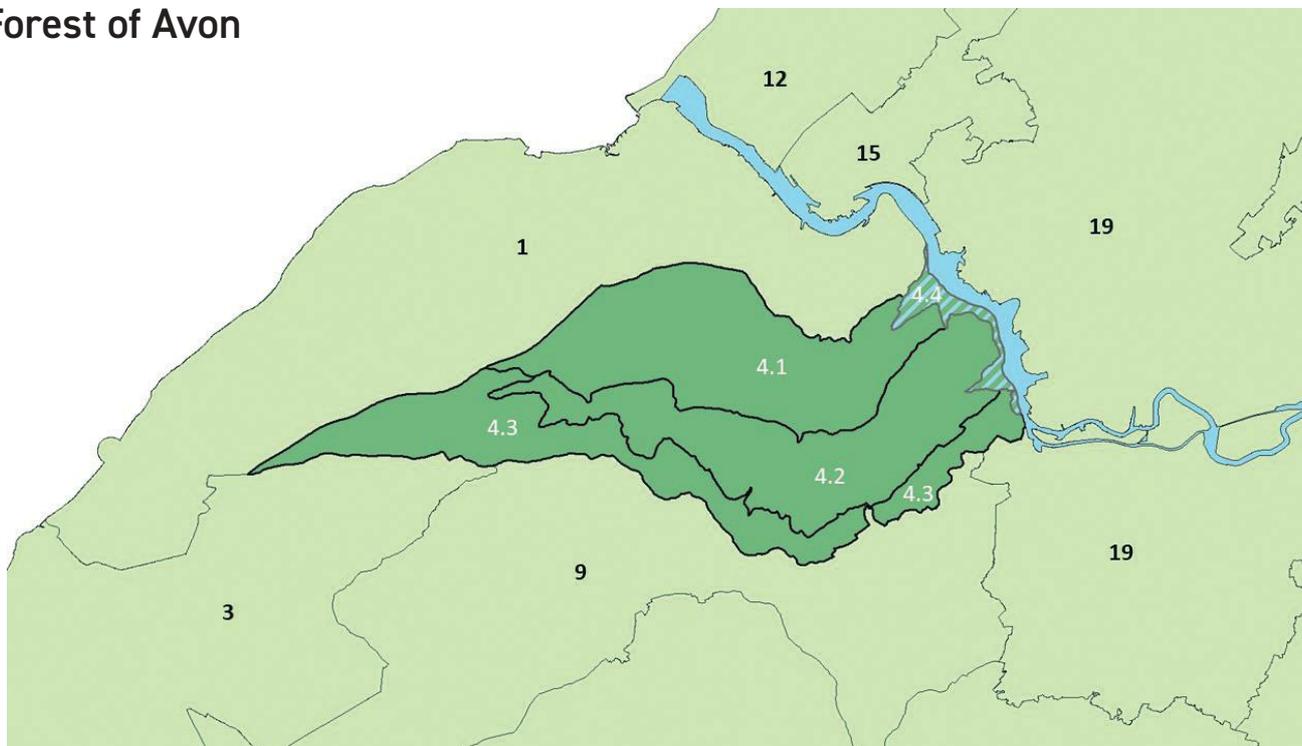
Not appropriate for trees and woodlands.

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 **Map Ref: 3.5**  
**Middlehope Ridges and Combes (part of NSC E3)**

- a. Manage scrub in sheltered areas in line with a wider management plan for the SSSIs and Ramsar site.
- b. Ensure public access routes are easy to use and follow

## 5.4 Woodland and Parkland Uplands: Abbots Leigh, Tickenham, Failand Forest of Avon



### Map Ref: 4.1

#### Abbot's Leigh Sandstone Uplands (NSC F1)

- Ensure all woodlands have a current Forestry Commission management plan (or equivalent), addressing broad objectives, supporting their preparation and delivery. Focus on ASNW and PAWS first.
- Buffer ASNW by establishing fringing areas for natural regeneration.
- Establish new native woodland through natural regeneration and planting in a corridor linking ASNW complex at Leigh Woods, to ASNW/ PAWS sites at Old Park Woods/ Vowles Bottom and Leigh Wood/ Markham Bottom, also extending to Forestry England woodlands.
- Work with Avon Wildlife Trust and adjacent landowners to extend Prior's Wood through natural regeneration, including links south to other ASNW.
- Ensure any new development requires the conservation and planting of trees within the site and as determined by scale and impact, includes off-site tree and woodland planting.

- Work with Forestry England to enhance access to and through their woodlands, including a walking route from the neighbouring and well-visited Leigh Woods.
- Conserve and regenerate hedgerow boundaries with an initial focus on those outside Grant Schemes, which are not low cut and/or where hedgerow trees are present.
- Conserve hedgerow and other field trees which are common, and plant new ones at irregular spacings where absent within hedged boundaries.
- Ensure public access routes are easy to use and follow



### Map Ref: 4.2

#### Failand Settled Limestone Plateau (NSC G2)

- Ensure all woodlands have a current Forestry Commission management plan (or equivalent), addressing broad objectives, supporting their preparation and delivery. Focus on ASNW and PAWS first.
- Buffer ASNW by establishing fringing areas for natural regeneration.

- c. Establish small new woodlands consolidating the woodland corridor extending from the significant ASNW at Leigh Woods through shelter belts and conifer woodlands to the more open landscape around Failand, avoiding Ashton Court itself.
  - d. Linked to work in 4.1 and 4.3, establish new woodlands to create a broad woodland corridor, related to local landscape, between Prior's Wood and the southern fringe of the Gordano Valley to the wooded slopes of the Tickenham Ridge.
  - e. Work with residents in Failand to run a Garden Forest project to plant shrubs and trees in front and back gardens, enhancing amenity and softening the urban edge.
  - f. Ensure any new development requires the conservation and planting of trees within the site and as determined by scale and impact, includes off-site tree and woodland planting.
  - g. Work with Forestry England to enhance access to and through their woodlands.
  - h. Tackle landscape fragmentation by conserving and regenerating hedgerow boundaries with an initial focus on those outside Grant Schemes, which are not low cut and/or where hedgerow trees are present.
  - i. Conserve hedgerow and field trees and plant new ones at irregular spacings where absent within hedged boundaries.
  - j. Ensure public access routes are easy to use and follow.
- c. Buffer ASNW by establishing fringing areas for natural regeneration.
  - d. Establish new native woodlands linking to existing ones, creating a wider woodland corridor including wood pasture and parkland through this area, whilst ensuring conservation of priority habitats, historic monuments and viewpoints.
  - e. Ensure any new development requires the conservation and planting of trees within the site and as determined by scale and impact, includes off-site tree and woodland planting.
  - f. Conserve and regenerate hedgerow boundaries with an initial focus on those outside Grant Schemes, which are not low cut and/or where hedgerow trees are present.
  - g. Conserve hedgerow and other field trees which are common, and plant new ones at irregular spacings where absent within hedged boundaries.
  - h. Retain and enhance views from the ridgetop through careful tree management and design of new planting to prevent loss of views as trees mature.
  - i. Ensure the Community Forest Path and other public paths are easy to use and follow.

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 **Map Ref: 4.3**  
**Tickenham Ridges and Combes (NSC E5)**

- a. Historic parklands with woodlands and parkland trees including ancient oak pollards at Ashton Court, are in the protective ownership of Bristol City Council (Ashton Court) and the National Trust (Tyntesfield). Consider undertaking small-scale expansion of ASNW through natural regeneration. Update management plans as necessary to safeguard/ enhance landscape and biodiversity value.
- b. Ensure all other woodlands have a current Forestry Commission management plan (or equivalent), addressing broad objectives, supporting their preparation and delivery. Focus on ASNW and PAWS first.

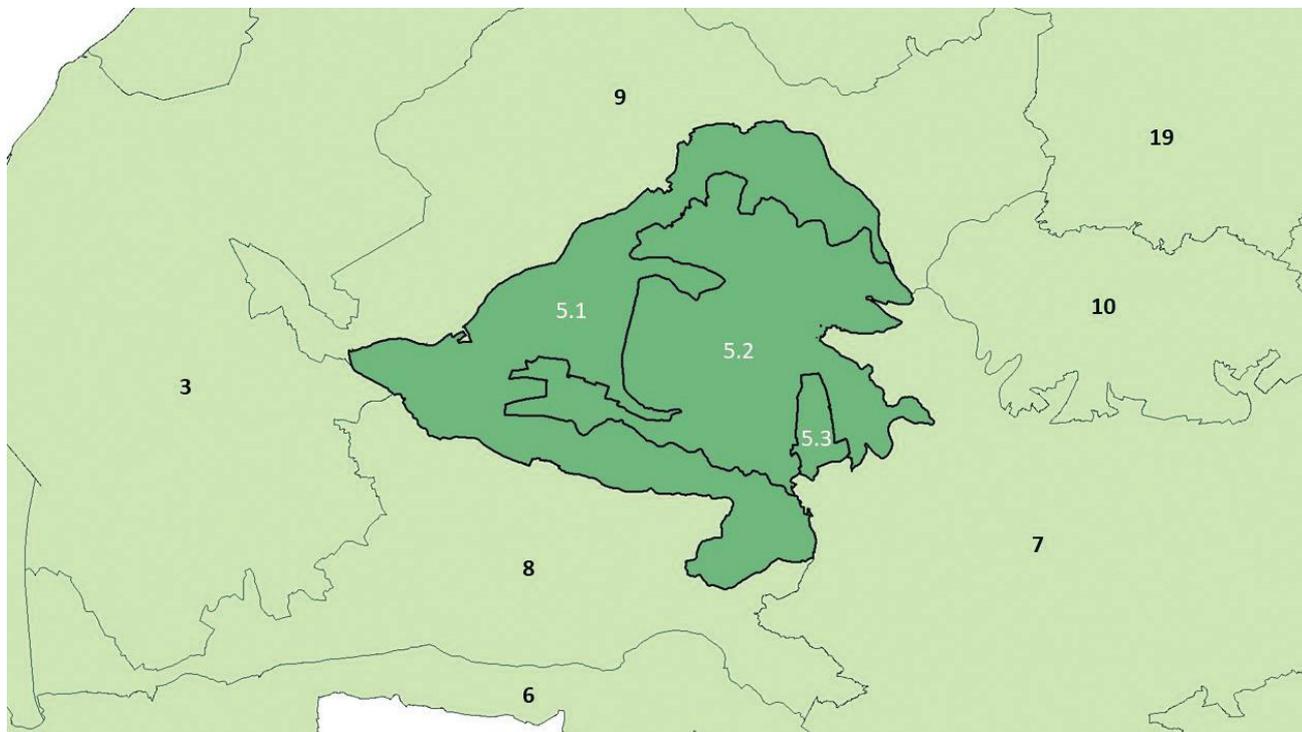
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 **Map Ref: 4.4**  
**Avon Gorge (NSC D1)**

- a. Continue to work in partnership to conserve nationally significant whitebeam spp. and ASNW as part of integrated management of the Avon Gorge NNR and SSSI.

## 5.5 North Somerset Open Plateau, Wooded Slopes

### Forest of Avon



**Map Ref: 5.1**  
**Cleeve Ridges and Combes (NSC E6)**

- a. Ensure all other woodlands have a current Forestry Commission management plan (or equivalent), addressing broad objectives, supporting their preparation and delivery. Focus on ASNW and PAWS first. Improve settings of public rights of way including viewpoints.
- b. Open out the setting of Brockley Combe to enhance biodiversity value and landscape character.
- c. Establish new woodlands linking across the 'Aldwick Gap' to 6.3 to create a woodland corridor between the extensive woodland complex linking Wrington, Congresbury and Flax Bourton and that along the northern fringe of the Mendip Hills.
- d. Establish woodlands linking to those within 5.2.
- e. Ensure any new development requires the conservation and planting of trees within the site and as determined by scale and impact, includes off-site tree and woodland planting.
- f. Conserve and regenerate hedgerow boundaries with an initial focus on those outside Grant

Schemes, which are not low cut and/or where hedgerow trees are present.

- g. Conserve hedgerow and other field trees and plant new ones at irregular spacings where absent within hedged boundaries
- h. Ensure public paths are easy to use and follow.

**Map Ref: 5.2**  
**Broadfield Down Settled Limestone Plateau (NSC G1)**

- a. Ensure all woodlands have a current Forestry Commission management plan (or equivalent), addressing broad objectives, supporting their preparation and delivery. Focus on the small ASNW in the north of the area.
- b. Establish new woodlands linking to those within 5.2.
- c. Ensure any new development requires the conservation and planting of trees within the site and as determined by scale and impact, includes off-site tree and woodland planting.

- d. Ensure any quarry developments are linked to off-site biodiversity, access improvements and woodland planting.
- e. Ensure any landfilling of quarries is linked to a restoration plan suitable for trees and woodlands.
- f. Conserve and regenerate hedgerow boundaries with an initial focus on those outside Grant Schemes, which are not low cut and/or where hedgerow trees are present.
- g. Conserve hedgerow and other field trees and plant new ones at irregular spacings where absent within hedged boundaries.
- h. Ensure public paths are easy to use and follow.

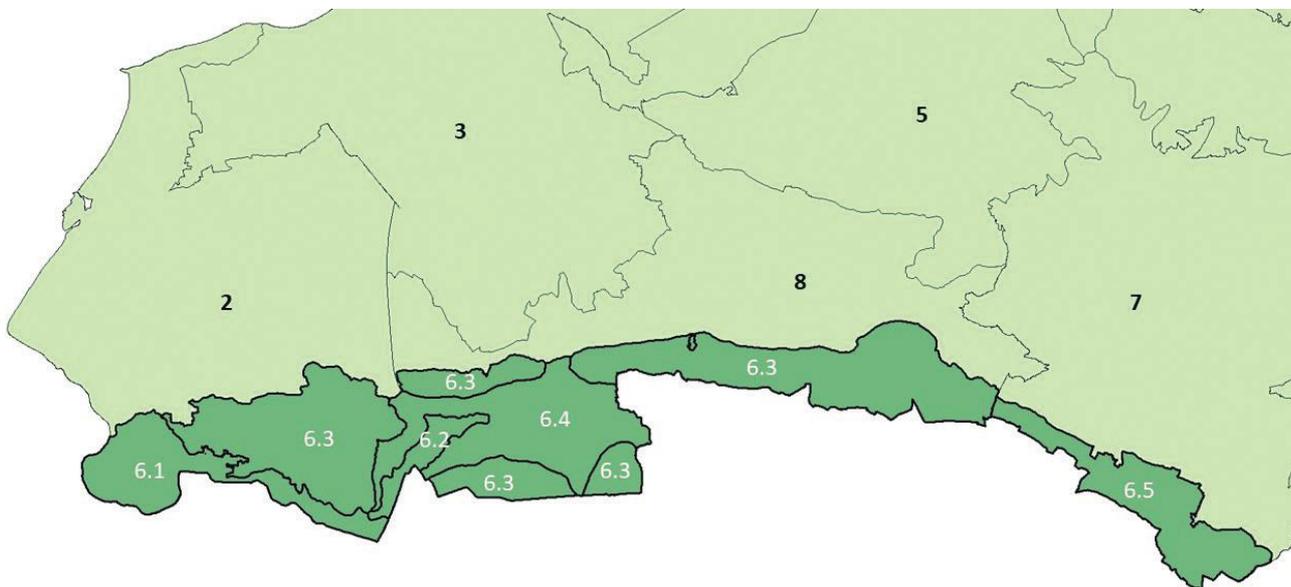


### Map Ref: 5.3

#### Thrubwell Farm Plateau (part of B&NES1)

- a. Ensure all woodlands have a current Forestry Commission management plan (or equivalent), addressing broad objectives, supporting their preparation and delivery.
- b. Ensure any new development requires the conservation and planting of trees within the site and as determined by scale and impact, includes off-site tree and woodland planting.
- c. Conserve and regenerate hedgerow boundaries with an initial focus on those outside Grant Schemes, which are not low cut and/or where hedgerow trees are present.
- d. Conserve hedgerow and other field trees and plant new ones at irregular spacings where absent within hedged boundaries.
- e. Ensure public paths are easy to use and follow.

## 5.6 Mendip Slopes, Lox Yeo Vale and Bleadon Hill Forest of Avon and Mendip Hills AONB



### Map Ref: 6.1 Bleadon Moor (NSC A5)

- In the context of AONB guidance, ensure any permitted development conserves and enhances the natural beauty of the Mendip Hills AONB by the conservation and planting of trees within the site and as determined by scale and impact; and includes off-site tree and woodland planting of appropriate species in accordance with the **Mendip Hills AONB's Tree Planting Guide** and relevant Nature Recovery plans.
- Work with Thatcher's Cider to ensure maximum integration of commercial orchards into the wider landscape.
- Conserve and regenerate hedgerow boundaries with an initial focus on those outside Grant Schemes, which are not low cut and/or where hedgerow trees are present.
- Conserve hedgerow field trees and plant new ones at irregular spacings where absent within hedged boundaries.
- Conserve and restore dry stone walls, with an initial focus on those outside grant schemes.
- Ensure that public access routes are easy to use and follow.

### Map Ref: 6.2 Lox Yeo River Floodplain (NSC B2)

- In the context of AONB guidance, ensure any permitted development conserves and enhances the natural beauty of the Mendip Hills AONB by the conservation and planting of trees within the site and as determined by scale and impact; and includes off-site tree and woodland planting of appropriate species in accordance with the **Mendip Hills AONB's Tree Planting Guide** and relevant Nature Recovery plans.
- Conserve and regenerate hedgerow boundaries with an initial focus on those outside Grant Schemes, which are not low cut and/or where hedgerow trees are present.
- Conserve hedgerow field trees and plant new ones at irregular spacings where absent within hedged boundaries.
- Ensure that public access routes are easy to use and follow.

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 **Map Ref: 6.3**  
**Mendip Ridges and Combes (NSC E1)**

- a. Ensure all woodlands have a current Forestry Commission management plan (or equivalent), addressing broad objectives, supporting their preparation and delivery. Focus on significant number of ASNW first.
- b. Buffer ASNW by establishing fringing areas for natural regeneration.
- c. Establish new native woodlands linking existing woodlands, creating a wider woodland corridor along the northern fringe of the Mendip Hills, whilst ensuring conservation of bat corridors, priority habitats, historic monuments and viewpoints.
- d. Establish new native woodland and/or broad hedgerow boundaries on the east side of Loxton Hill to consolidate the woodland corridor from the north to south sides of Bleadon Hill, reflecting landscape considerations, bat corridors, priority habitats and historic monuments and viewpoints.
- e. Establish new native woodland and/or broad hedgerow boundaries linking across the 'Sandford Gap' to consolidate the woodland corridor running along the northern fringe of the Mendip Hills.
- f. Establish new native woodland linking across the 'Star Gap' to create a corridor between woodlands running along the northern fringe of the Mendip Hills and the northern fringe of Wavering Down.
- g. Establish new native woodland linking across the 'Aldwick Gap' to 5.2 to create a woodland corridor between the northern fringe of the Mendip Hills and extensive woodland complex in 5.2 linking Wrington, Congresbury and Flax Bourton.
- h. In the context of AONB guidance, ensure permitted development is linked to conservation and planting of trees within the site and as determined by scale and impact, off-site tree and woodland planting.
- i. Ensure any development is linked to planting of individual and groups of trees of appropriate species within each developed site and, also to off-site woodland planting of appropriate species and access improvements related to scale and impact, in accordance with **Mendip Hills AONB's Tree Planting Guide** and the Mendip Hills AONB Management Plan.

- j. Conserve and regenerate hedgerow boundaries with an initial focus on those outside Grant Schemes, which are not low cut and/or where hedgerow trees are present.
- k. Conserve hedgerow and other field trees and plant new ones at irregular spacings where absent within hedged boundaries.
- l. Ensure that public access routes are easy to use and follow.

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 **Map Ref: 6.4**  
**Lox Yeo Rolling Valley Farmland (NSC J1)**

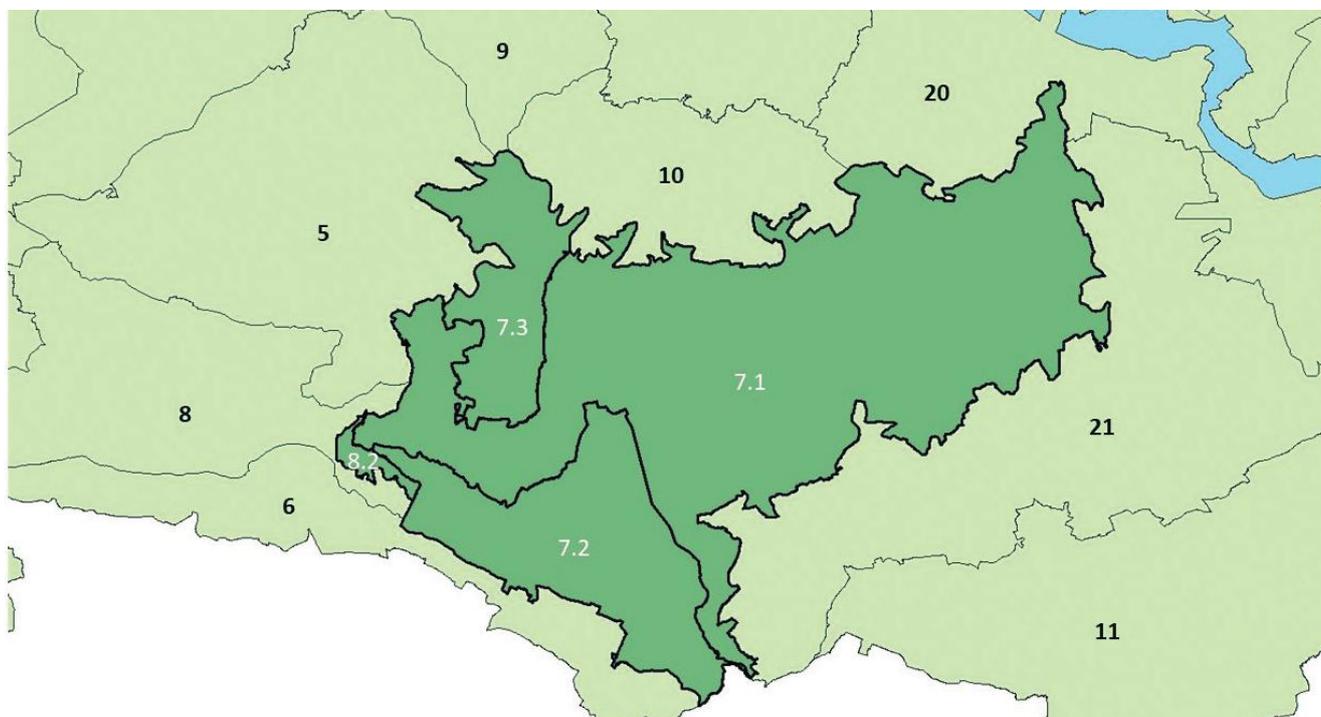
- a. Ensure all woodlands have a current Forestry Commission management plan (or equivalent), addressing broad objectives, supporting their preparation and delivery.
- b. Establish small areas of native wet woodland through natural regeneration and/or planting adjacent to existing areas, whilst conserving bat corridors, priority habitats, historic monuments and viewpoints.
- c. In the context of AONB guidance, ensure any permitted development conserves and enhances the natural beauty of the Mendip Hills AONB by the conservation and planting of trees within the site and as determined by scale and impact; and includes off-site tree and woodland planting of appropriate species in accordance with the **Mendip Hills AONB's Tree Planting Guide** and relevant Nature Recovery plans.
- d. Conserve and regenerate hedgerow boundaries with an initial focus on those outside Grant Schemes, which are not low cut and/or where hedgerow trees are present.
- e. Conserve hedgerow and other field trees and plant new ones at irregular spacings where absent within hedged boundaries.
- f. Ensure that public access routes are easy to use and follow.

**Map Ref: 6.5****Mendip Slopes (B&NES4)**

- a. Ensure all woodlands have a current Forestry Commission management plan (or equivalent), addressing broad objectives, supporting their preparation and delivery. Focus on significant number of ASNW first.
- b. Buffer ASNW by establishing fringing areas for natural regeneration.
- c. Establish new native woodlands linking existing woodlands, creating a wider woodland corridor along the northern fringe of the Mendip Hills, whilst ensuring conservation of bat corridors, priority habitats, historic monuments and viewpoints.
- d. Conserve and enhance small orchards often associated with villages, prioritising those not covered by grant schemes, working to maintain locally distinctive varieties and extend these whilst conserving bat corridors, priority habitats, historic monuments and viewpoints.
- e. In the context of AONB guidance, ensure any permitted development conserves and enhances the natural beauty of the Mendip Hills AONB by the conservation and planting of trees within the site and as determined by scale and impact; and includes off-site tree and woodland planting of appropriate species in accordance with the **Mendip Hills AONB's Tree Planting Guide** and relevant Nature Recovery plans.
- f. Conserve and regenerate hedgerow boundaries with an initial focus on those outside Grant Schemes, which are not low cut and/or where hedgerow trees are present. Also conserve walled boundaries.
- g. Conserve hedgerow and other field trees and plant new ones at irregular spacings where absent within hedged boundaries.
- h. Ensure that public access routes are easy to use and follow.

## 5.7 Chew Valley

### Forest of Avon and Mendip Hills AONB



**Map Ref: 7.1**  
**Chew Valley (B&NES5)**

- a. Ensure all woodlands have a current Forestry Commission management plan (or equivalent), addressing broad objectives, supporting their preparation and delivery. Focus on significant number of ASNW first.
- b. Buffer ASNW by establishing fringing areas for natural regeneration.
- c. Establish new woodlands linking and consolidating the complex of established and more recent woodlands in the area east of Pensford, reflecting catchment management priorities identified by BART and partners, avoiding small areas of Grade 1 agricultural land and conserving priority habitats, historic monuments such as the Wansdyke, access opportunities and viewpoints.
- d. Establish woodlands in the valley west of Chew Magna of a scale, pattern and species mix appropriate to landscape character. Reflect catchment management priorities identified by BART and partners, avoiding small areas of Grade 1 agricultural land and conserving priority habitats, historic monuments and viewpoints.
- e. Establish new woodlands reflecting catchment management priorities identified by BART and partners, and other priority habitats, which with those in 7.2 below, providing a corridor between the woodland in b. above to the woodland on the northern slopes of Mendip Hills.
- f. Ensure any new development requires the conservation and planting of trees within the site and as determined by scale and impact, includes off-site tree and woodland planting.
- g. Conserve and enhance small orchards, prioritising those not covered by grant schemes, working to maintain locally distinctive varieties and extending these whilst conserving priority habitats, historic monuments and viewpoints.
- h. Conserve and regenerate generally well-managed hedgerow boundaries with an initial focus on those outside Grant Schemes, which are not low cut and/or where hedgerow trees are present.
- i. Conserve hedgerow and other field trees and plant new ones at irregular spacings where absent within hedged boundaries.
- j. Ensure that public access routes are easy to use and follow.

**Map Ref: 7.2****Upper Chew and Yeo Valleys (B&NES3)**

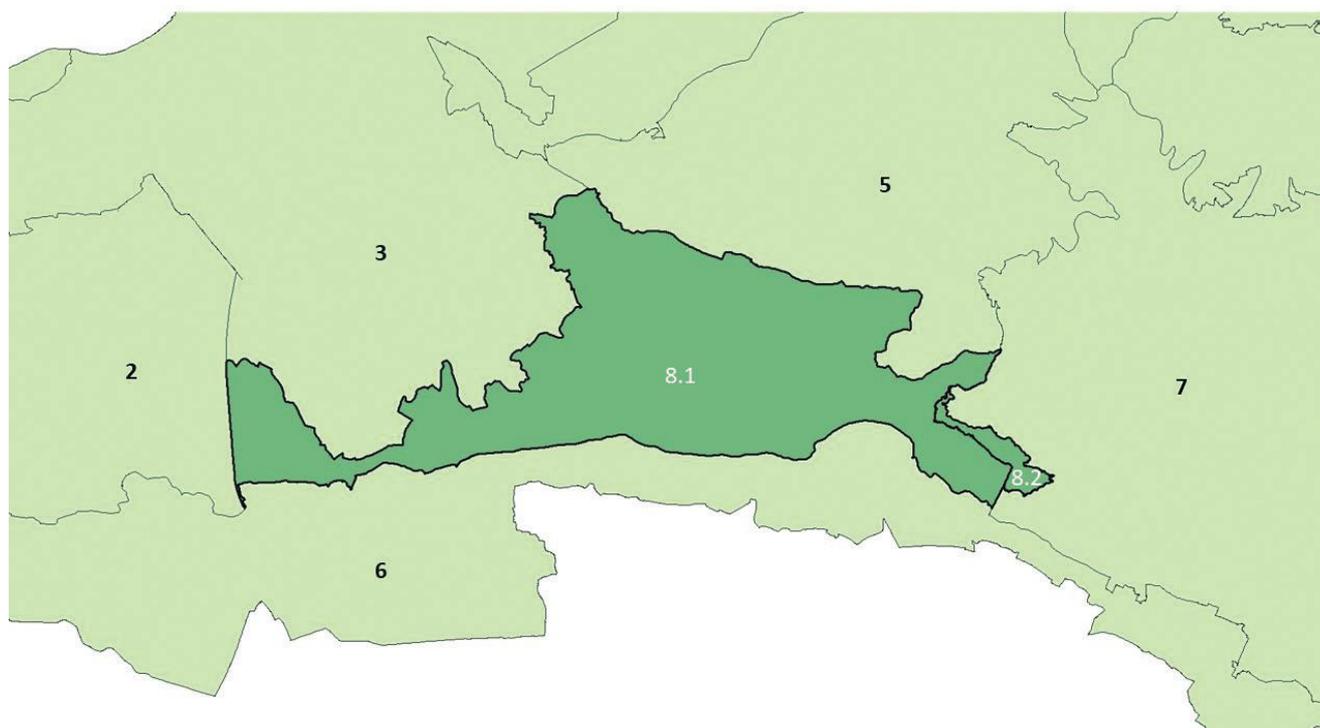
- a. Ensure all woodlands have a current Forestry Commission management plan (or equivalent), addressing broad objectives, supporting their preparation and delivery.
- b. Establish new woodlands of a scale, pattern and species mix appropriate to landscape character. Reflect catchment management priorities identified by BART and partners, avoiding areas of Grade 1 agricultural land between Chew Magna and Bishop Sutton and conserving priority habitats, historic monuments, access opportunities and viewpoints, which with those in 7.1 above, create a woodland corridor from east of Pensford to the northern slopes of the Mendip Hills,
- c. In the context of AONB guidance, ensure any permitted development conserves and enhances the natural beauty of the Mendip Hills AONB by the conservation and planting of trees within the site and as determined by scale and impact, includes off-site tree and woodland planting of appropriate species, in accordance with the **Mendip Hills AONB's Tree Planting Guide** and relevant Nature Recovery plans.
- d. Conserve and enhance orchards, prioritising those not covered by grant schemes, working to maintain locally distinctive varieties and extending these whilst conserving bat corridors, priority habitats, historic monuments and viewpoints.
- e. Conserve and regenerate generally well-managed hedgerow boundaries with an initial focus on those outside Grant Schemes, which are not low cut and/or where hedgerow trees are present.
- f. Conserve hedgerow and other field trees and plant new ones at irregular spacings where absent within hedged boundaries.
- g. Ensure that public access routes are easy to use and follow.

**Map Ref: 7.3****Chew Rolling Valley Farmland (NSC J3)**

- a. Ensure all woodlands have a current Forestry Commission management plan (or equivalent), addressing broad objectives, supporting their preparation and delivery.
- b. Ensure any new development requires the conservation and planting of trees within the site and as determined by scale and impact, includes off-site tree and woodland planting.
- c. Conserve and enhance orchards, prioritising those not covered by grant schemes, working to maintain locally distinctive varieties and extending these whilst conserving priority habitats, historic monuments and viewpoints.
- d. Conserve and regenerate generally well-managed hedgerow boundaries with an initial focus on those outside Grant Schemes, which are not low cut and/or where hedgerow trees are present.
- e. Conserve hedgerow and other field trees and plant new ones at irregular spacings where absent within hedged boundaries.
- f. Ensure that public access routes are easy to use and follow.

## 5.8 Yeo Valley and Spring Line Villages

### Forest of Avon



**Map Ref: 8.1**  
**Yeo Valley Rolling Valley Farmland (NSC J2)**

- a. Ensure all woodlands have a current Forestry Commission management plan (or equivalent), addressing broad objectives, supporting their preparation and delivery.
- b. Establish new woodland linking across the 'Aldwick Gap' between 5.2 and 6.3 to create a woodland corridor between the northern fringe of the Mendip Hills and the extensive woodland complex in 5.2 linking Wrington, Congresbury and Flax Bourton.
- c. Ensure any new development requires the conservation and planting of trees within the site and as determined by scale and impact, includes off-site tree and woodland planting.
- d. Work with Thatcher's Cider to ensure maximum integration of commercial orchards into the wider landscape.
- e. Conserve and enhance orchards, prioritising those not covered by grant schemes, working to maintain locally distinctive varieties and extending

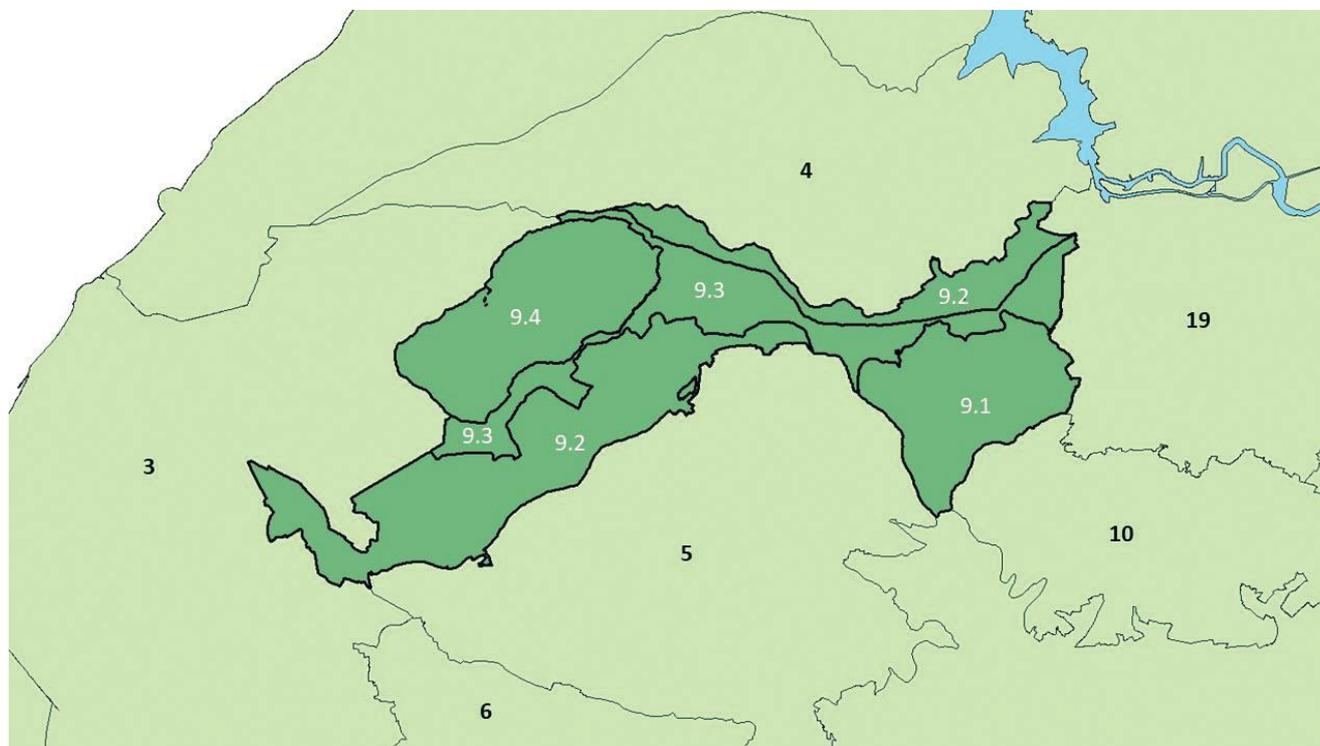
these whilst conserving priority habitats, historic monuments and viewpoints.

- f. Conserve and regenerate hedgerow boundaries with an initial focus on those outside Grant Schemes, which are not low cut and/or where hedgerow trees are present.
- g. Conserve hedgerow and other field trees and plant new ones at irregular spacings where absent within hedged boundaries.
- h. Ensure that public access routes are easy to use and follow.

**Map Ref: 8.2****Upper Chew and Yeo Valleys  
(part of B&NES3)**

- a. Ensure all woodlands have a current Forestry Commission management plan (or equivalent), addressing broad objectives, supporting their preparation and delivery.
- b. Establish new woodlands of a scale, pattern and species mix appropriate to landscape character. Reflect catchment management priorities identified by BART and partners, and other priority habitats, which with those in 7.1 above, create a woodland corridor from east of Pensford to the northern slopes of the Mendip Hills.
- c. Ensure any new development requires the conservation and planting of trees within the site and as determined by scale and impact, includes off-site tree and woodland planting.
- d. Conserve and enhance orchards, prioritising those not covered by grant schemes, working to maintain locally distinctive varieties and extending these whilst conserving priority habitats, historic monuments and viewpoints.
- e. Conserve and regenerate generally well-managed hedgerow boundaries with an initial focus on those outside Grant Schemes, which are not low cut and/or where hedgerow trees are present.
- f. Conserve hedgerow and other field trees and plant new ones at irregular spacings where absent within hedged boundaries.
- g. Ensure that public access routes are easy to use and follow.

## 5.9 Nailsea, Backwell, Long Ashton and Environs Forest of Avon



### **Map Ref: 9.1** **Colliter's Brook Rolling Valley Farmland (NSC J4)**

- a. Ensure all woodlands have a current Forestry Commission management plan (or equivalent), addressing broad objectives, supporting their preparation and delivery. Focus on ASNW first.
- b. Buffer ASNW by establishing fringing areas for natural regeneration.
- c. Establish new native woodlands in a corridor between the A38 and Long Ashton linking with the ASNW in a. above, reflecting other priority habitats and providing new access opportunities. Extend towards the fringe of Bristol, linking with new planting at Colliter's Wood and opportunities on Yanley Landfill.
- d. Work with landowner at Barrow Court to support conservation of parkland character including existing field trees, woodlands, and hedgerows. Individual parkland trees to reflect species present/ characteristic of the area.
- e. Ensure any new development requires the conservation and planting of trees within the site

and as determined by scale and impact, includes off-site tree and woodland planting.

- f. Conserve and regenerate hedgerow boundaries with an initial focus on those outside Grant Schemes, which are not low cut and/or where hedgerow trees are present.
- g. Conserve hedgerow and other field trees and plant new ones at irregular spacings where absent within hedged boundaries.
- h. Ensure the Community Forest Path and other public paths are easy to use and follow.

### **Map Ref: 9.2** **Land Yeo and Kenn Rolling Valley Farmland (NSC J5)**

- a. Historic parkland with woodlands and parkland trees is in the protective ownership of National Trust. Consider undertaking small-scale expansion of ASNW through natural regeneration. Update management plans as necessary to safeguard/ enhance landscape and biodiversity value.

- b. Ensure all other woodlands have a current Forestry Commission management plan (or equivalent), addressing broad objectives, supporting their preparation and delivery. Focus on ASNW and PAWS first.
  - c. Buffer ASNW by establishing fringing areas for natural regeneration
  - d. Create small-scale woodlands consolidating the woodland corridors in 4.3 and 5.1, reflecting priority habitats, historic monuments and viewpoints.
  - e. Ensure any new development requires the conservation and planting of trees within the site and as determined by scale and impact, includes off-site tree and woodland planting.
  - f. Conserve and enhance orchards, prioritising those not covered by grant schemes, working to maintain locally distinctive varieties and extending these whilst conserving priority habitats, historic monuments and viewpoints.
  - g. Conserve and regenerate hedgerow boundaries with an initial focus on those outside Grant Schemes, which are not low cut and/or where hedgerow trees are present.
  - h. Conserve hedgerow and other field trees (which include oak) and plant new ones at irregular spacings where absent within hedged boundaries.
  - i. Ensure public paths are easy to use and follow.
- e. Ensure any new development requires the conservation and planting of trees within the site and as determined by scale and impact, includes off-site tree and woodland planting.
  - f. Conserve and regenerate hedgerow boundaries with an initial focus on those outside Grant Schemes, which are not low cut and/or where hedgerow trees are present.
  - g. Conserve hedgerow and other field trees (which include oak) and plant new ones at irregular spacings where absent within hedged boundaries.
  - h. Ensure public paths are easy to use and follow.

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 **Map Ref: 9.3**  
**North Somerset Area B1: Land Yeo, Kenn River and River Avon Floodplain**

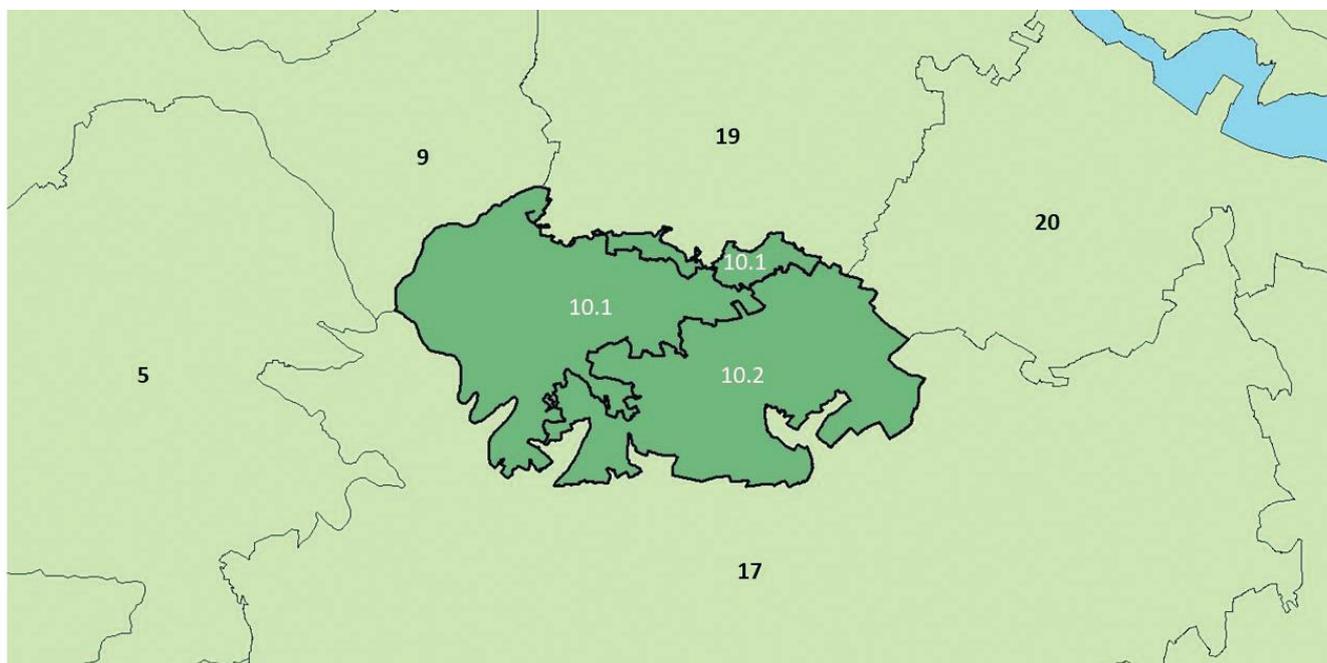
- a. Ensure all woodlands have a current Forestry Commission management plan (or equivalent), addressing broad objectives, supporting their preparation and delivery. Focus on the small ASNW first.
- b. Buffer ASNW by establishing fringing areas for natural regeneration.
- c. Create small-scale woodlands consolidating the woodland corridors in 4.3 and 5.1, reflecting priority habitats, historic monuments and viewpoints.
- d. Work with residents in Nailsea to run a Garden Forest project to plant shrubs and trees in front and back gardens, enhancing amenity and softening the urban edge.

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 **Map Ref: 9.4**  
**Nailsea Farmed Coal Measures (included NSC K1)**

- a. Ensure all woodlands have a current Forestry Commission management plan (or equivalent), addressing broad objectives, supporting their preparation and delivery.
- b. Establish native trees and shrubs within greenspaces in through the rewilding project, working with residents to deliver this.
- c. Establish individual and groups of trees and small woodlands within primary and secondary school grounds, with school responsibility for their care.
- d. Establish individual and small groups of trees in/ adjacent to streets, addressing inequalities in tree canopy cover and with a strong community dimension to their location, size and care.
- e. Work with residents in Nailsea to run a Garden Forest scheme to plant shrubs and trees in front and back gardens, enhancing amenity and softening the urban edge.
- f. Ensure any new development requires the conservation and planting of trees within the site and as determined by scale and impact, includes off-site tree and woodland planting.
- g. Conserve and regenerate hedgerow boundaries with an initial focus on those outside Grant Schemes, which are not low cut and/or where hedgerow trees are present.
- h. Conserve hedgerow and other field trees (which include oak) and plant new ones at irregular spacings where absent within hedged boundaries.
- i. Ensure public paths are easy to use and follow.

## 5.10 Dundry Hill Forest of Avon



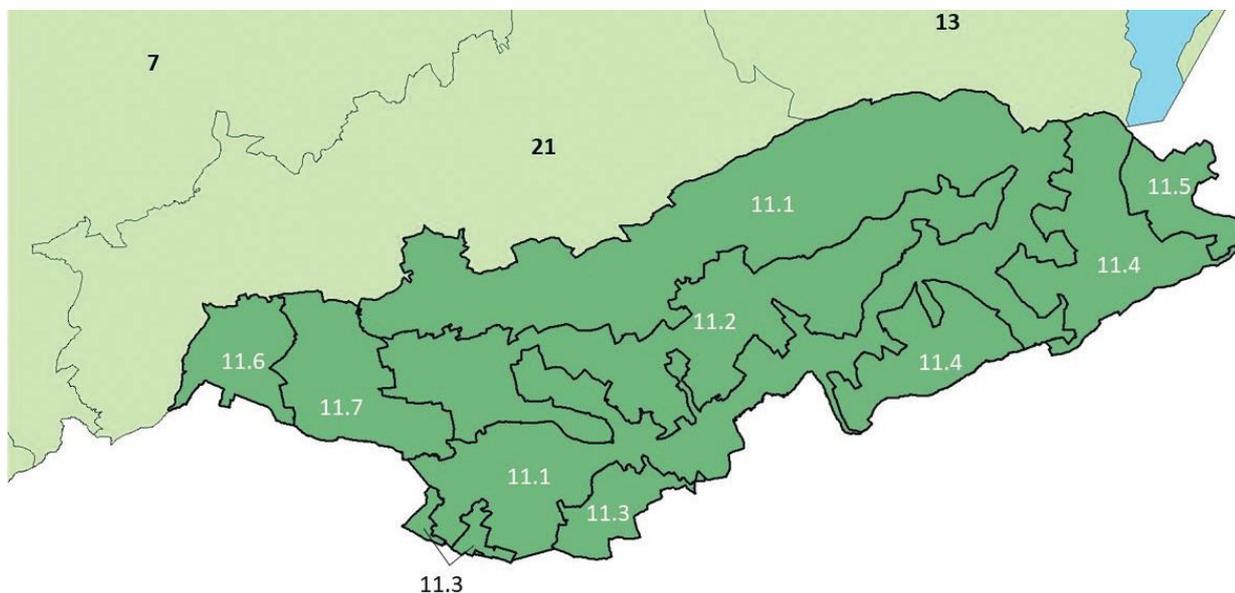
### Map Ref: 10.1 Dundry Settled Hill (NSC H5)

- a. Ensure all woodlands have a current Forestry Commission management plan (or equivalent), addressing broad objectives, supporting their preparation and delivery. Ensure recent and developing woodlands on the 'Northern Slopes' are managed to maximise biodiversity and do not encroach lowland meadow and other priority habitats.
- b. Ensure any new development requires the conservation and planting of trees within the site and as determined by scale and impact, includes off-site tree and woodland planting.
- c. Conserve and regenerate hedgerow boundaries with an initial focus on those outside grant schemes, which are not low cut and/or where hedgerow trees are present.
- d. Conserve hedgerow and other field trees and plant new ones at irregular spacings where absent within hedged boundaries.
- e. Conserve and restore dry stone walls, with an initial focus on those outside grant schemes.
- f. Ensure the Community Forest Path and other public access routes are easy to use and follow.

### Map Ref: 10.2 Dundry Plateau (B&NES5)

- a. Ensure all woodlands have a current Forestry Commission management plan (or equivalent), addressing broad objectives, supporting their preparation and delivery.
- b. Ensure any new development requires the conservation and planting of trees within the site and as determined by scale and impact, includes off-site tree and woodland planting.
- c. Conserve and regenerate hedgerow boundaries with an initial focus on those outside grant schemes, which are not low cut and/or where hedgerow trees are present.
- d. Conserve hedgerow and other field trees and plant new ones at irregular spacings where absent within hedged boundaries.
- e. Conserve and restore dry stone walls, with an initial focus on those outside grant schemes.
- f. Ensure the Community Forest Path and other public access routes are easy to use and follow.
- g. Avoid woodland creation that has negative impacts on the Maes Knoll Scheduled Monument and its environs.

## 5.11 Cam, Wellow and Somer Valleys Around Norton Radstock Forest of Avon



**Map Ref: 11.1**  
**Norton Radstock, Cam and Wellow Brook Valleys (Including B&NES12)**

- a. Ensure all woodlands have a current Forestry Commission management plan (or equivalent), addressing broad objectives, supporting their preparation and delivery. Focus initially on the number of ASNW and PAWS, including Cleaves Wood SSSI.
- b. Buffer ASNW and PAWS by establishing fringing areas for natural regeneration.
- c. Establish new native woodlands of a scale, pattern and species mix appropriate to landscape character within the 'Camerton Gap' to 21.1, as part of an overall corridor linking woodlands in the Cam and Wellow Valleys through Peasedown St. John. Conserve priority habitats, historic monuments and viewpoints.
- d. Establish new native woodlands of a scale, pattern and species mix appropriate to landscape character within the 'Radstock Gap' to 11.2, as part of an overall corridor linking woodlands in the Wellow and Cam Valleys through Peasedown St. John. Conserve priority habitats, historic monuments and viewpoints.
- e. Establish trees and small woodlands to reduce the impact of light industrial use and trading estates.
- f. Establish individual and groups of trees and small woodlands within parks and greenspaces addressing inequalities in tree canopy cover and with a strong community dimension to their location, size and care.
- g. Establish individual and groups of trees and small woodlands within primary and secondary school grounds, with school responsibility for their care.
- h. Establish individual and small groups of trees in/ adjacent to streets, addressing inequalities in tree canopy cover and with a strong community dimension to their location, size and care.
- i. Ensure any new development requires the conservation and planting of trees within the site and as determined by scale and impact, includes off-site tree and woodland planting.
- j. Conserve and enhance orchards, prioritising those not covered by grant schemes, working to maintain locally distinctive varieties and extending these whilst conserving priority habitats, historic monuments and viewpoints.

- k. Conserve and regenerate hedgerow boundaries with an initial focus on those outside grant schemes, which are not low cut and/or where hedgerow trees are present.
- l. Conserve hedgerow and other field trees and plant new ones at irregular spacings where absent within hedged boundaries.
- m. Ensure that public access routes are easy to use and follow.

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 **Map Ref: 11.2**  
**Paulton and Peasedown St John Ridge (B&NES13)**

- a. Ensure all woodlands have a current Forestry Commission management plan (or equivalent), addressing broad objectives, supporting their preparation and delivery.
- b. Establish woodlands of a scale, pattern and species mix appropriate to landscape character in a corridor between the woodland complex on the southern fringe of Bath to Peasedown St. John, linking to woodlands in 11.1. Ensure conservation of other priority habitats including semi-improved agricultural grassland, historic monuments and viewpoints.
- c. Ensure any new development requires the conservation and planting of trees within the site and as determined by scale and impact, includes off-site tree and woodland planting.
- d. Conserve and regenerate hedgerow boundaries with an initial focus on those outside grant schemes, which are not low cut and/or where hedgerow trees are present.
- e. Conserve hedgerow and other field trees and plant new ones at irregular spacings where absent within hedged boundaries.
- f. Ensure that public access routes are easy to use and follow.

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 **Map Ref: 11.3**  
**Norton Radstock Southern Farmlands (B&NES15)**

- a. Ensure all woodlands have a current Forestry Commission management plan (or equivalent), addressing broad objectives, supporting their preparation and delivery.
- b. Work with residents in Radstock to run a Garden Forest scheme to plant shrubs and trees in

front and back gardens, enhancing amenity and softening the urban edge.

- c. Plant small native woodlands linking existing sites, whilst ensuring conservation of other priority habitats, historic monuments and viewpoints.
- d. Ensure any new development requires the conservation and planting of trees within the site and as determined by scale and impact, includes off-site tree and woodland planting.
- e. Conserve and regenerate hedgerow boundaries with an initial focus on those outside grant schemes, which are not low cut and/or where hedgerow trees are present.
- f. Conserve hedgerow and other field trees and plant new ones at irregular spacings where absent within hedged boundaries.
- g. Ensure that public access routes are easy to use and follow

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 **Map Ref: 11.4**  
**Hinton Charterhouse and Baggeridge Plateau (B&NES17)**

- a. Ensure all woodlands have a current Forestry Commission management plan (or equivalent), addressing broad objectives, supporting their preparation and delivery. Focus on the number of ASNW and PAWS first.
- b. Buffer ASNW and PAWS by establishing fringing areas for natural regeneration.
- c. Establish new native woodlands of a scale, pattern and species mix appropriate for landscape character across the 'Freshford Gap' to 11.5 linking woodlands in the Wellow and Avon Valleys, whilst conserving priority habitats, bat corridors, historic monuments and viewpoints.
- d. Ensure any new development requires the conservation and planting of trees within the site and as determined by scale and impact, includes off-site tree and woodland planting.
- e. Work with landowners at Hinton House and surrounding estate land to support conservation of parkland character including existing field trees, woodlands, hedgerows and walled boundaries.
- f. Conserve and regenerate hedgerow boundaries with an initial focus on those outside grant schemes, which are not low cut and/or where hedgerow trees are present.

- g. Conserve hedgerow and other field trees and plant new ones at irregular spacings where absent within hedged boundaries.
- h. Conserve and restore dry stone walls, with an initial focus on those outside grant schemes.
- i. Ensure that public access routes are easy to use and follow.

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 **Map Ref: 11.5**  
**Freshford and Limley Stoke Valley**  
**(B&NES18)**

- a. Ensure all woodlands have a current Forestry Commission management plan (or equivalent), addressing broad objectives, supporting their preparation and delivery. Focus on the number of ASNW and PAWS first.
- b. Buffer ASNW and PAWS by establishing fringing areas for natural regeneration.
- c. Establish small native woodlands linking existing sites, whilst ensuring conservation of good quality semi-improved grassland, priority habitats, bat corridors, historic monuments and viewpoints, with specific consideration of the Bath World Heritage Site setting and B&NES emerging guidance.
- d. Establish new native woodlands across the 'Freshford Gap' to 11.4 linking woodlands in the Wellow and Avon Valleys, whilst conserving priority habitats, bat corridors, historic monuments and viewpoints, with specific consideration of the Bath World Heritage Site setting and B&NES emerging guidance.
- e. Ensure any new development requires the conservation and planting of trees within the site and as determined by scale and impact, includes off-site tree and woodland planting.
- f. Conserve and regenerate hedgerow boundaries with an initial focus on those outside grant schemes, which are not low cut and/or where hedgerow trees are present.
- g. Conserve hedgerow and other field trees and plant new ones at irregular spacings where absent within hedged boundaries.
- h. Conserve and restore dry stone walls, with an initial focus on those outside grant schemes.
- i. Ensure that public access routes are easy to use and follow.

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 **Map Ref: 11.6**  
**Hollow Marsh (B&NES7)**

- a. Ensure any new development requires the conservation and planting of trees within the site and as determined by scale and impact, includes off-site tree and woodland planting. Any tree planting or woodland creation to avoid Grade 1 agricultural land and to consider the distinctive landscape character of the area.
- b. Conserve and regenerate hedgerow boundaries with an initial focus on those outside grant schemes, which are not low cut and/or where hedgerow trees are present.
- c. Conserve hedgerow and other field trees and plant new ones at irregular spacings where absent within hedged boundaries.
- d. Ensure that public access routes are easy to use and follow.

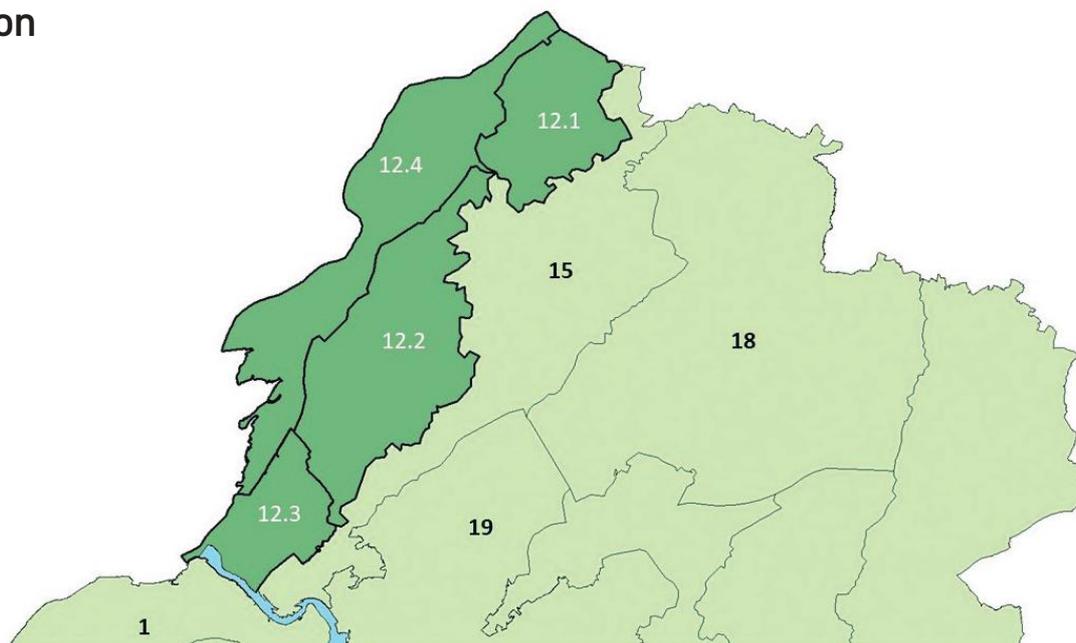
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 **Map Ref: 11.7**  
**Farrington Gurney Farmlands**  
**(B&NES8)**

- a. Ensure any new development requires the conservation and planting of trees within the site and as determined by scale and impact, includes off-site tree and woodland planting. Tree planting to avoid extensive Grade 1 agricultural land.
- b. Conserve and regenerate hedgerow boundaries with an initial focus on those outside grant schemes, which are not low cut and/or where hedgerow trees are present.
- c. Conserve hedgerow and other field trees and plant new ones at irregular spacings where absent within hedged boundaries.
- d. Ensure that public access routes are easy to use and follow.

## 5.12 Severn Estuary Shoreline and Levels

### Forest of Avon



#### Map Ref: 12.1 Oldbury Levels (SGC19)

- a. Ensure all woodlands have a current Forestry Commission management plan (or equivalent), addressing broad objectives, supporting their preparation and delivery.
- b. Conserve the few small 'withey beds' (growing of different species of willow for coppicing) scattered through the area, undertaking small-scale expansion of these and woodlands, whilst conserving priority habitats, historic monuments and viewpoints.
- c. Conserve and enhance orchards, prioritising those not covered by grant schemes, working to maintain locally distinctive varieties and extending these whilst conserving priority habitats, historic monuments and viewpoints.
- d. Conserve willow pollards, re-pollarding these as necessary to ensure long-term contribution to landscape character and as a farm timber resource. Establish small, irregular groups of native large willow adjacent to watercourses where permitted by statutory conservation designations.
- e. Ensure any new development requires the conservation and planting of trees within the site and as determined by scale and impact, includes off-site tree and woodland planting.
- f. Conserve and regenerate hedgerow boundaries with an initial focus on those outside grant schemes, which are not low cut and/or where hedgerow trees are present.
- g. Conserve hedgerow and other field trees and plant new ones at irregular spacings where absent within hedged boundaries.
- h. Ensure that public access routes are easy to use and follow.



#### Map Ref: 12.2 Pilning Levels (SGC20)

- a. Ensure all woodlands have a current Forestry Commission management plan (or equivalent), addressing broad objectives, supporting their preparation and delivery.
- b. Conserve the few small 'withey beds' (growing of different species of willow for coppicing) scattered through the area, undertaking small-scale expansion of these and woodlands, whilst conserving priority habitats, historic monuments and viewpoints.
- c. Conserve and enhance orchards, prioritising those not covered by grant schemes, working to maintain locally distinctive varieties and extending these whilst conserving priority habitats, historic monuments and viewpoints.

- d. Conserve willow pollards, re-pollarding these as necessary to ensure long-term contribution to landscape character and as a farm timber resource. Establish small, irregular groups of native large willow adjacent to watercourses where permitted by statutory conservation designations.
- e. Ensure any new development requires the conservation and planting of trees within the site and as determined by scale and impact, includes off-site tree and woodland planting. Where development is to take place at scale ensure that trees, woodland and other green infrastructure is planned in advance and not piecemeal, to maximise benefits.
- f. Conserve and regenerate hedgerow boundaries with an initial focus on those outside grant schemes, which are not low cut and/or where hedgerow trees are present.
- g. Conserve hedgerow and other field trees and plant new ones at irregular spacings where absent within hedged boundaries.
- h. Ensure that the Community Forest Path and other public access routes are easy to use and follow.

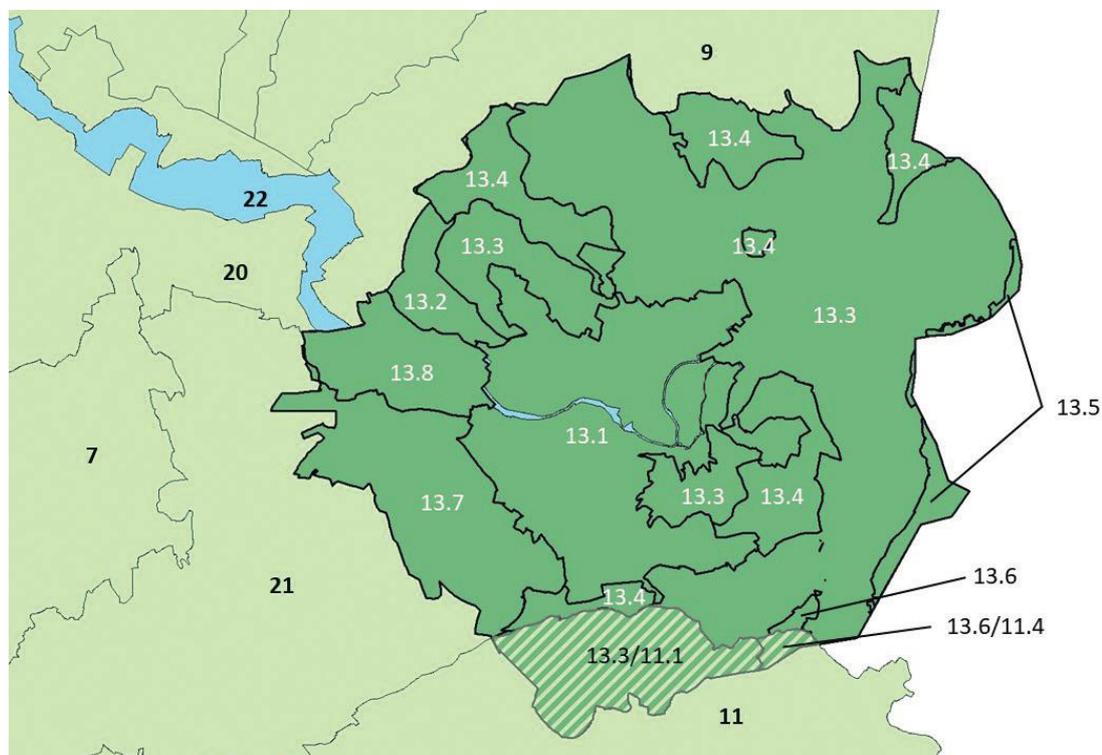


**Map Ref:12.3**

**Avonmouth Area (Pilning Levels in Bristol)**

- a. Ensure all woodlands have a Forestry Commission management plan (or equivalent), addressing multiple objectives and work with landowners to deliver these.
- b. Ensure any new development requires the conservation and planting of trees within the site and as determined by scale and impact, includes off-site tree and woodland planting. Where development is to take place at scale ensure that trees, woodland and other green infrastructure is planned in advance and not piecemeal, to maximise benefits.
- c. Conserve hedgerow boundaries which are not low cut and/or where hedgerow trees are present.
- d. Conserve hedgerow and other field trees and plant new ones at irregular spacings where absent within hedged boundaries.
- e. Ensure public access routes are easy to use and follow.

## 5.13 Bath and Environs (Bathscape) Forest of Avon and Cotswolds AONB



### Map Ref: 13.1 City of Bath (World Heritage Site)

- a. Ensure all woodlands have a Forestry Commission management plan (or equivalent), addressing broad objectives, supporting their preparation and delivery. Focus on ASNW first.
- b. Buffer ASNW by establishing fringing areas for natural regeneration, where this does conflict with WHS designation and also priority habitats.
- c. Establish individual and groups of trees, and small woodlands to create tree and woodland corridors which consolidate the broad woodland framework extending south of the city centre to the Bath skyline and then on to Claverton Down and Combe Down. Ensure detailed design fits with WHS designation, conserves priority habitats, bat corridors, historic monuments and viewpoints.
- d. Establish individual and groups of trees, and small woodlands to extend loose treed corridors, linking north from the city centre to Fairfield Park and Primrose Hill. Ensure detailed design fits with WHS designation, conserves priority habitats, bat corridors, historic monuments and viewpoints.
- e. Establish individual and groups of trees, and small woodlands to extend a loose treed corridor extending north east from the city centre to the Bath skyline and then linking with existing woodlands from Grosvenor to Batheaston. Ensure detailed design fits with WHS designation, conserves priority habitats, bat corridors, historic monuments and viewpoints.
- f. Establish individual and groups of trees and small woodlands within parks and greenspaces addressing inequalities in tree canopy cover and with a strong community dimension to their location, size and care. Ensure detailed design conforms with management plans, landscape and heritage requirements in designated historic parks and gardens.
- g. Establish individual and groups of trees and small woodlands within primary and secondary school grounds, with school responsibility for their care.
- h. Establish individual and small groups of trees in/ adjacent to streets, addressing inequalities in tree canopy cover and with a strong community dimension to their location, size and care. Ensure

street tree proposals within the city are assessed against World Heritage Site (WHS) outstanding universal values.

- i. Establish trees along the river Avon westwards from Bath Bus Station, including within riverside developments.
- j. Establish individual and groups of trees and small woodlands on private land, with strong involvement of businesses and their staff, whilst ensuring that small woodlands accord with WHS designation and outstanding universal values.
- k. Ensure any new development requires the conservation and planting of trees within the site and as determined by scale and impact, includes off-site tree and woodland planting.
- l. Ensure public access routes are easy to use and follow.

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 **Map Ref: 13.2**  
**Escarpment (ESC1) (Cotswold AONB Landscape Strategy Area 2: Escarpment).**

- a. Ensure all woodlands have a Forestry Commission management plan (or equivalent), addressing broad objectives, supporting their preparation and delivery.
- b. Ensure any new development requires the conservation and planting of trees within the site, and as determined by scale and impact, includes off-site tree and woodland planting. **Any new planting should take into account the WHS Setting SPD recommendations and reflect the detailed guidance set out in Cotswold AONB Landscape Strategy Area 2: Escarpment**, including landscape character and views. New planting must not obscure views from historically important viewpoints.
- c. Conserve and regenerate hedgerow boundaries with an initial focus on those outside grant schemes, which are not low cut and/or where hedgerow trees are present.
- d. Conserve hedgerow and other field trees and plant new ones at irregular spacings where absent within hedged boundaries.
- e. Conserve and restore dry stone walls, with an initial focus on those outside grant schemes.
- f. Ensure that public access routes are easy to use and follow.

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 **Map Ref: 13.3**  
**Enclosed Limestone Valley (ELV 1-8) (Cotswold AONB Landscape Strategy Area 4: Enclosed Limestone Valley).**

- a. Ensure all woodlands have a Forestry Commission management plan (or equivalent), addressing broad objectives, supporting their preparation and delivery. Focus on the number of ASNW, PAWS and Inwood SSSI first.
- b. Buffer ASNW and PAWS by establishing fringing areas for natural regeneration.
- c. Establish small native woodlands linking existing woodlands on the upper and steeper slopes on enclosed valleys, particularly Northend, St. Catherine's and the Cam and Midford Brook valleys. Ensure conservation of priority habitats, bat corridors, historic monuments and viewpoints. Maintain character of long views from Bath, and consider the findings of the Bath and North East Somerset landscape sensitivity assessment for trees and woodlands.
- d. Establish small native woodlands extending the valley side woodland framework of the Avon and By Brook valleys, whilst ensuring conservation of priority habitats, bat corridors, historic monuments and viewpoints.
- e. Ensure any new development requires the conservation and planting of trees within the site and as determined by scale and impact, includes off-site tree and woodland planting. **Any new planting should reflect the detailed guidance set out in Cotswolds AONB Landscape Strategy Area 4: Enclosed Limestone Valley and emerging B&NES landscape guidance.**
- f. Conserve and regenerate hedgerow boundaries with an initial focus on those outside grant schemes, which are not low cut and/or where hedgerow trees are present.
- g. Conserve hedgerow and other field trees and plant new ones at irregular spacings where absent within hedged boundaries.
- h. Conserve and restore dry stone walls, with an initial focus on those outside grant schemes.
- i. Ensure that public access routes are easy to use and follow.

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 **Map Ref: 13.4**  
**High Wold Dip Slope (HWDS 1-5)**  
**(Cotswold AONB Landscape**  
**Strategy Area 7: High Wold).**

- a. Ensure all woodlands have a Forestry Commission management plan (or equivalent), addressing broad objectives, supporting their preparation and delivery. Focus on the number of ASNW and PAWS first.
- b. Buffer ASNW and PAWS by establishing fringing areas for natural regeneration.
- c. Ensure conservation of priority habitats, bat corridors, historic monuments and viewpoints. Maintain character of long-views from Bath.
- d. Ensure any new development is linked to planting of individual and groups of trees within each developed site and where considered appropriate by the AONB Team, off-site woodland planting, wider biodiversity and access improvements related to scale and impact.
- e. **Any new planting should reflect the detailed guidance set out in Cotswold AONB Landscape Strategy Area 7: High Wold and emerging B&NES landscape guidance. Amongst other things, they would need to reflect the open character of this area of protected landscape and the historic pattern of woodlands and settlements.**
- f. Conserve and regenerate hedgerow boundaries with an initial focus on those outside grant schemes, which are not low cut and/or where hedgerow trees are present.
- g. Conserve hedgerow and other field trees and plant new ones at irregular spacings where absent within hedged boundaries.
- h. Conserve and restore dry stone walls, with an initial focus on those outside grant schemes.
- i. Ensure that public access routes are easy to use and follow.

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 **Map Ref: 13.5**  
**Dip Slope Lowlands (DSL1) (Cotswold**  
**AONB Landscape**  
**Strategy Area 11: Dip Slope Lowlands)**

- a. Buffer adjacent ASNW, PAWS and Inwood SSSI by establishing fringing areas for natural regeneration.

- b. Ensure any new development requires the conservation and planting of trees within the site and as determined by scale and impact, includes off-site tree and woodland planting.
- c. Any new planting should reflect the detailed guidance set out in Cotswold AONB Landscape Strategy Area 11: Dip Slope Lowlands.
- d. Conserve and regenerate hedgerow boundaries with an initial focus on those outside grant schemes, which are not low cut and/or where hedgerow trees are present.
- e. Conserve hedgerow and other field trees and plant new ones at irregular spacings where absent within hedged boundaries.
- f. Conserve and restore dry stone walls, with an initial focus on those outside grant schemes.
- g. Ensure that public access routes are easy to use and follow.

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 **Map Ref: 13.6**  
**Low Limestone Plateau (LLP1) (Cotswold**  
**AONB Landscape Character Area 13:**  
**Low Limestone Plateau)**

- a. Ensure all woodlands have a Forestry Commission management plan (or equivalent), addressing broad objectives, supporting their preparation and delivery. Focus on the ASNW first.
- b. Buffer ASNW by establishing fringing areas for natural regeneration.
- c. Ensure any new development requires the conservation and planting of trees within the site and as determined by scale and impact, includes off-site tree and woodland planting.
- d. **Any new planting should reflect the detailed guidance set out in [Cotswold AONB Landscape Strategy Area 13: Low Limestone Plateau](#).**
- e. Conserve and regenerate hedgerow boundaries with an initial focus on those outside grant schemes, which are not low cut and/or where hedgerow trees are present.
- f. Conserve hedgerow and other field trees and plant new ones at irregular spacings where absent within hedged boundaries.
- g. Conserve and restore dry stone walls, with an initial focus on those outside grant schemes.
- h. Ensure that public access routes are easy to use and follow.

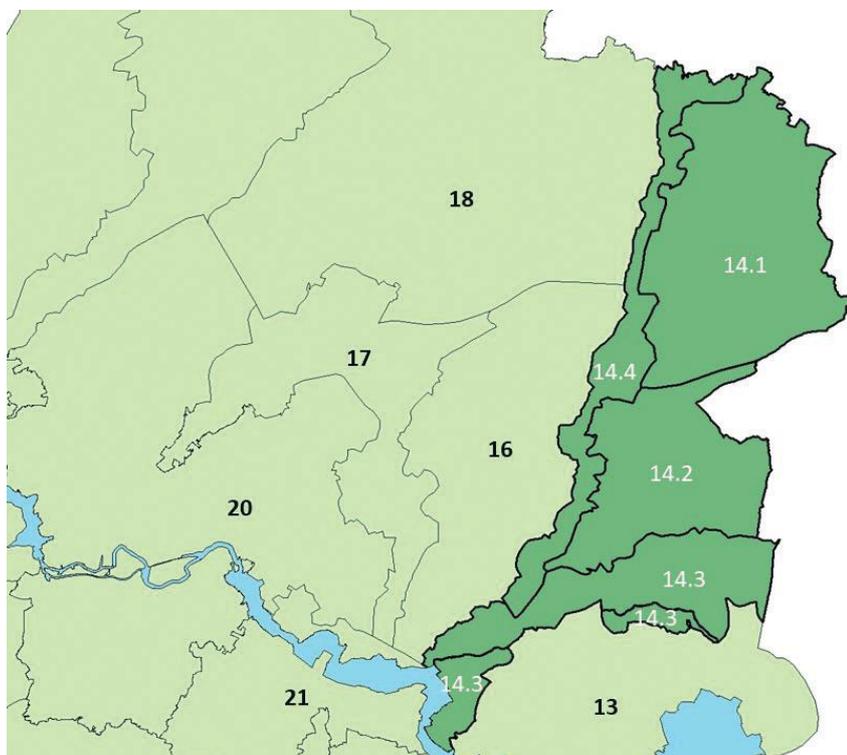
**Map Ref: 13.7****Eroded Plateau and Valleys (EPV1)**

- a. Ensure all woodlands have a Forestry Commission management plan (or equivalent), addressing broad objectives, supporting their preparation and delivery. Focus on the number of ASNW first.
  - b. Buffer ASNW by establishing fringing areas for natural regeneration.
  - c. Establish small woodlands appropriate to landscape character and especially landform, in a corridor between Englishcombe and Priston, avoiding Grade 2 agricultural land and conserving priority habitats, historic monuments and viewpoints. Follow guidance in emerging B&NES landscape sensitivity assessment for tree and woodlands.
  - d. Establish small native woodlands and/or areas of natural regeneration on the fringe of Odd Down, whilst conserving the open setting of the Wansdyke, other historic monuments and viewpoints.
  - e. Ensure any new development requires the conservation and planting of trees within the site and as determined by scale and impact, includes off-site tree and woodland planting.
  - f. Conserve and regenerate hedgerow boundaries with an initial focus on those outside grant schemes and which are not low cut and/or where hedgerow trees are present.
  - g. Conserve hedgerow and other field trees and plant new ones at irregular spacings where absent within hedged boundaries. Initial focus on river and stream valleys, managing and planting trees to manage water quality, flood risk and enhance biodiversity.
  - h. Conserve and restore dry stone walls, with an initial focus on those outside grant schemes.
  - i. Ensure that public access routes are easy to use and follow.
- c. Work with the owners of Kelston Park to support conservation of wood pasture, mature field trees, woodlands, hedgerows and walled boundaries, in accordance with requirements of the management plan for the registered historic park Replacement planting of individual trees to reflect species already present.
  - d. Work with the owners of Newton Park to support conservation of wood pasture, mature field trees, woodlands, hedgerows and walled boundaries, in accordance with the requirements of the management plan for the registered historic park. Replacement planting of individual trees to reflect species already present.
  - e. Ensure any new development requires the conservation and planting of trees within the site and as determined by scale and impact, includes off-site tree and woodland planting.
  - f. Conserve and regenerate hedgerow boundaries with an initial focus on those outside grant schemes and which are not low cut and/or where hedgerow trees are present.
  - g. Conserve hedgerow and other field trees and plant new ones at irregular spacings where absent within hedged boundaries.
  - h. Conserve and restore dry stone walls, with an initial focus on those outside grant schemes.
  - i. Ensure that public access routes are easy to use and follow.

**Map Ref: 13.8****Settled Open River Valley (SORV1)**

- a. Ensure all woodlands have a Forestry Commission management plan (or equivalent), addressing broad objectives, supporting their preparation and delivery. Focus on the number of ASNW first.
- b. Buffer ASNW by establishing fringing areas for natural regeneration.

## 5.14 Cotswold Scarp and Dip Slope Cotswolds AONB



**Map Ref: 14.1**  
**Badminton Plateau (SGC1) (Cotswolds AONB Landscape Strategy Area 7: High Wold).**

- a. Ensure all woodlands have a Forestry Commission management plan (or equivalent), addressing broad objectives, supporting their preparation and delivery. Focus on the number of ASNW, and PAWS first, restructuring PAWS and other woodlands away from conifers and to resilient native species characteristic of ASNW in the area.
- b. Buffer ASNW and PAWS by establishing fringing areas for natural regeneration.
- c. Work with the Badminton Estate to support conservation of wood pasture, mature field trees, woodlands, hedgerows and walled boundaries. Planted species to reflect those used in historic designed landscapes within the area.
- d. Establish new native woodlands in the 'Main Line Gap' linking woodlands on the Badminton Estate to those in 14.4 at the Dodington Estate, whilst avoiding Grade 2 agricultural land, responding to requirements of any registered historic park management plans, and conserving other priority habitats, historic monuments and viewpoints.
- e. Work with landowners to reduce the impact of existing large agricultural buildings by small-scale tree planting.
- f. Ensure any new development requires the conservation and planting of trees within the site and as determined by scale and impact, includes off-site tree and woodland planting. **Any new planting should reflect the detailed guidance set out in Cotswold AONB Landscape Strategy Area 7: High Wold.**
- g. Conserve and regenerate hedgerow boundaries with an initial focus on those outside grant schemes, which are not low cut and/or where hedgerow trees are present.
- h. Conserve hedgerow and other field trees and plant new ones at irregular spacings where absent within hedged boundaries.
- i. Conserve and restore dry stone walls, with an initial focus on those outside grant schemes.
- j. Ensure that public access routes are easy to use and follow.



**Map Ref: 14.2**

**Marshfield Plateau (SGC2) (Principally Cotswolds AONB Landscape Strategy Area 7: High Wold).**

- a. Ensure all woodlands have a Forestry Commission management plan (or equivalent), addressing broad objectives, supporting their preparation and delivery. Focus on the small number of ASNW and PAWS first, restructuring PAWs and other woodlands away from conifers and to resilient native species characteristic of ASNW in the area.
- b. Buffer ASNW and PAWS by establishing fringing areas for natural regeneration.
- c. Work with landowners to reduce the impact of existing large agricultural buildings by small-scale tree planting.
- d. Work with landowners to establish small areas of native woodland including through natural regeneration, to consolidate and extend the diverse wildlife corridor Broadmead Brook, whilst conserving other priority habitats.
- e. Ensure any new development requires the conservation and planting of trees within the site and as determined by scale and impact, includes off-site tree and woodland planting. **Any new planting should reflect the detailed guidance set out in Cotswold AONB Landscape Strategy Area 7: High Wold.**
- f. Conserve and regenerate hedgerow boundaries with an initial focus on those outside grant schemes, which are not low cut and/or where hedgerow trees are present.
- g. Conserve hedgerow and other field trees and plant new ones at irregular spacings where absent within hedged boundaries.
- h. Conserve and restore dry stone walls, with an initial focus on those outside grant schemes.
- i. Ensure that public access routes are easy to use and follow.



**Map Ref: 14.3**

**Ashwicke Ridges (SGC3) (Cotswold AONB Landscape Strategy Area 4: Enclosed Limestone Valley).**

- a. Ensure all woodlands have a Forestry Commission management plan (or equivalent), addressing broad objectives, supporting their preparation and delivery. Focus on the number of ASNW, and PAWS first, restructuring PAWs and other woodlands away from conifers and to resilient native species characteristic of ASNW in the area.
- b. Buffer ASNW and PAWS by establishing fringing areas for natural regeneration.
- c. Work with landowners to reduce the impact of existing large agricultural buildings by small-scale tree planting.
- d. Ensure any new development requires the conservation and planting of trees within the site and as determined by scale and impact, includes off-site tree and woodland planting. **Any new planting should reflect the detailed guidance set out in Cotswold AONB Landscape Strategy Area 4: Enclosed Limestone Valley.**
- e. Conserve and regenerate hedgerow boundaries with an initial focus on those outside grant schemes, which are not low cut and/or where hedgerow trees are present.
- f. Conserve hedgerow and other field trees and plant new ones at irregular spacings where absent within hedged boundaries.
- g. Conserve irregular mature trees along watercourses and Freezing Hill beech trees, prominent on the skyline
- h. Conserve and restore dry stone walls, with an initial focus on those outside grant schemes.
- i. Ensure that public access routes are easy to use and follow.

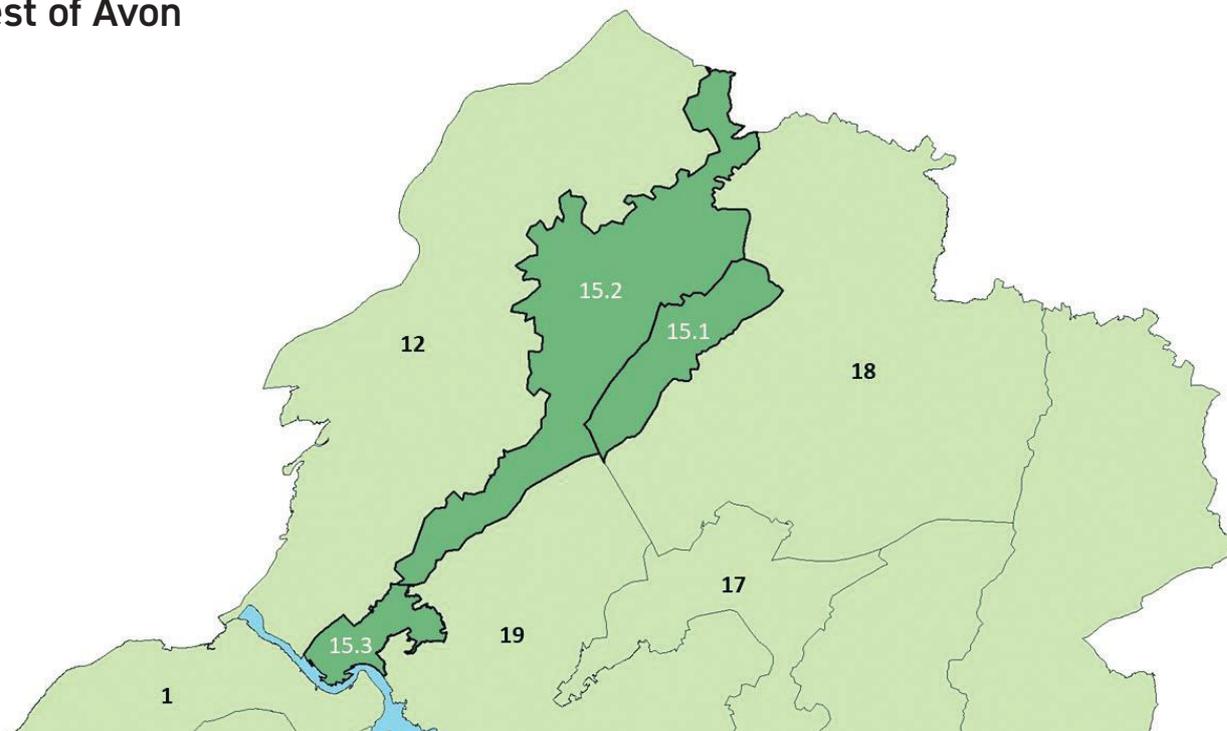


**Map Ref: 14.4**

**Cotswolds Scarp (SGC4) (Principally Cotswold AONB Landscape Strategy Area 2: Escarpment).**

- a. Ensure all woodlands have a Forestry Commission management plan (or equivalent), addressing broad objectives, supporting their preparation and delivery. Focus on the small number of ASNW, and PAWS first, restructuring PAWS and other woodlands away from conifers and to resilient native species characteristic of ASNW in the area.
- b. Buffer ASNW and PAWS by establishing fringing areas for natural regeneration.
- c. Work with the owners of Dyrham Park (in the protective ownership of the National Trust) and Dodington Park to support conservation of wood pasture, mature field trees, woodlands, hedgerows and walled boundaries. Planted species to reflect those used in historic designed landscapes within the area.
- d. Establish new native woodlands in the 'Main Line Gap' linking woodlands at the Dodington Estate to the Badminton Estate in 14.1, whilst avoiding Grade 2 agricultural land and conserving other priority habitats, historic monuments and viewpoints.
- e. Establish new native woodlands in the 'Lower Woods Gap' linking the Lower Woods complex with woodland on the escarpment and valleys beyond it, whilst conserving Grade 2 agricultural land, calcareous grassland and other priority habitats, historic monuments and viewpoints.
- f. Establish new native woodlands in the 'Tormarton Gap' consolidating a woodland corridor between Dyrham Park to Dodington, whilst conserving priority habitats, historic monuments and viewpoints.
- g. Work with landowners to reduce the impact of existing large agricultural buildings by small-scale tree planting.
- h. Ensure any new development requires the conservation and planting of trees within the site and as determined by scale and impact, includes off-site tree and woodland planting. **Any new planting should reflect the detailed guidance set out in Cotswold AONB Landscape Strategy Area 2: Escarpment.**
- i. Conserve and regenerate hedgerow boundaries with an initial focus on those outside grant schemes, which are not low cut and/or where hedgerow trees are present.
- j. Conserve hedgerow and other field trees and plant new ones at irregular spacings where absent within hedged boundaries.
- k. Conserve and restore dry stone walls, with an initial focus on those outside grant schemes.
- l. Ensure that public access routes are easy to use and follow.

## 5.15 Ridges Landscape from Shirehampton to Tytherington Forest of Avon



### Map Ref: 15.1 Rudgeway and Tytherington Ridge (SGC17)

- Ensure all woodlands have a Forestry Commission management plan (or equivalent), addressing broad objectives, supporting their preparation and delivery. Focus on the small number of ASNW first.
- Buffer ASNW by establishing fringing areas for natural regeneration.
- Establish new native woodlands in the 'A38 Gap' as part of a loose accessible woodland framework around the fringes of Thornbury (15.2), whilst conserving Grade 2 agricultural land, priority habitats, historic monuments and viewpoints.
- Establish trees and small woodlands, consolidating the on and off-carriageway planting adjacent to the M5.
- Ensure any new development requires the conservation and planting of trees within the site and as determined by scale and impact, includes off-site tree and woodland planting.
- Conserve and regenerate hedgerow boundaries with an initial focus on those outside grant schemes, which are not low cut and/or where hedgerow trees are present.

- Conserve hedgerow and other field trees and plant new ones at irregular spacings where absent within hedged boundaries.
- Conserve and restore dry stone walls, with an initial focus on those outside grant schemes.
- Ensure that public access routes are easy to use and follow.



### Map Ref: 15.2 Severn Ridges (SGC18)

- Ensure all woodlands have a Forestry Commission management plan (or equivalent), addressing broad objectives, supporting their preparation and delivery. Focus on the small number of ASNW first.
- Buffer ASNW by establishing fringing areas for natural regeneration.
- Establish small native woodlands and/or natural regeneration corridors to link ridge top ASNW north of Thornbury to those in 18.2, whilst conserving other priority habitats, historic monuments and viewpoints.
- Establish small native woodlands or broad hedgerows (where Floodplain Grazing Marsh dictates) linking the network of woodlands

(including ASNW) on the slopes at Rockhampton across lower land to those on land east of Hill, whilst conserving other priority habitats, historic monuments and viewpoints.

- e. Establish small woodlands, reinforcing the woodland and parkland landscape structure to the east of Thornbury, linking existing woodlands and extending the woodland framework across the higher land to Littleton on Severn, whilst conserving other priority habitats, historic monuments and viewpoints.
- f. Establish small woodlands, linking existing woodlands, to establish a loose woodland framework to the west, south and east of Thornbury, whilst conserving Grade 2 agricultural land, other priority habitats, historic monuments and viewpoints. This would provide a new recreational and wellbeing resource for the growing town, robust corridors for wildlife to move across the wider landscape and a robust landscape framework able to accommodate any development should it be permitted.
- g. Establish small native woodlands and/or natural regeneration corridors to link ridge top ASNW and other woodlands, to consolidate the woodland corridor centred on the M5 (south of Junction 15) whilst conserving Grade 2 agricultural land, other priority habitats, historic monuments and viewpoints.
- h. Establish individual and small groups of trees in/ adjacent to streets, greenspaces and school grounds addressing inequalities in tree canopy cover and with a strong community dimension to their location, size and care.
- i. Ensure any new development requires the conservation and planting of trees within the site and as determined by scale and impact, includes off-site tree and woodland planting.
- j. Conserve and regenerate hedgerow boundaries with an initial focus on those outside grant schemes, which are not low cut and/or where hedgerow trees are present.
- k. Conserve hedgerow and other field trees and plant new ones at irregular spacings where absent within hedged boundaries.
- l. Conserve and restore dry stone walls, with an initial focus on those outside grant schemes.
- m. Ensure that public access routes are easy to use and follow.



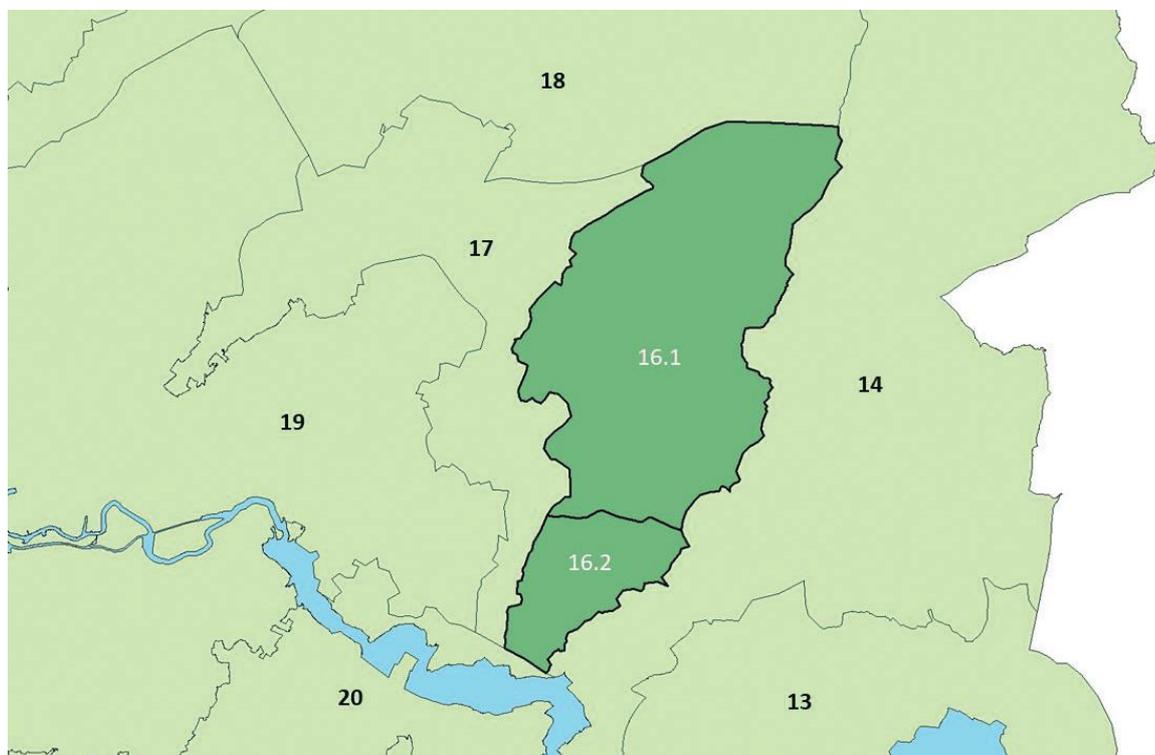
**Map Ref: 15.3**

**Shirehampton and Blaise Ridges  
(Bristol City Areas)**

- a. Ensure all woodlands have a Forestry Commission management plan (or equivalent), addressing broad objectives, supporting their preparation and delivery. Focus on ASNW first and update Bristol City Council management plans for all of its woodland, when necessary. Focus on the number of ASNW first.
- b. Buffer ASNW by establishing fringing areas for natural regeneration.
- c. Establish small woodlands and/or natural regeneration corridors linking the woodland complex centred on the Blaise Castle and Kingsweston Estates, to woodlands on the slopes at Lawrence Weston and north towards Hallen (19.4), whilst conserving priority habitats, historic monuments and viewpoints.
- d. Establish individual and groups of trees and small woodlands within parks and greenspaces addressing inequalities in tree canopy cover and with a strong community dimension to their location, size and care.
- e. Establish individual and groups of trees and small woodlands within primary and secondary school grounds, with school responsibility for their care.
- f. Establish individual and small groups of trees in/ adjacent to streets, through the Greenstreets project, addressing inequalities in tree canopy cover and with a strong community dimension to their location, size and care.
- g. Establish individual and groups of trees and small woodlands on private land, with strong involvement of businesses and their staff.
- h. Ensure any new development requires the conservation and planting of trees within the site and as determined by scale and impact, includes off-site tree and woodland planting.
- i. Support the role of Bristol Tree Forum's Tree Champions, championing tree care and tree planting in wards across the city.
- j. Ensure the Community Forest Path and other public access routes are easy to use and follow.

## 5.16 Pucklechurch Ridge, Boyd and Golden Valleys

### Forest of Avon



**Map Ref: 16.1**  
**Pucklechurch Ridge and Boyd Valley**  
**(SGC6)**

- a. Ensure all woodlands have a Forestry Commission management plan (or equivalent), addressing broad objectives, supporting their preparation and delivery. Focus on the small number of ASNW and PAWS first.
- b. Buffer ASNW by establishing fringing areas for natural regeneration.
- c. Work with residents to create a Garden Forest in Pucklechurch and Wick, planting shrubs and trees in front and back gardens, enhancing amenity and softening the urban edge.
- d. Establish woodlands (with 17.1), linking to others, in corridors between Forestry England's Overscourt Wood and Warmley Forest Park, and also to Shortwood Landfill Site, whilst ensuring conservation of commons and priority habitats, historic monuments and viewpoints.
- e. Establish woodlands (with 17.1), linking with others, in a corridor linking Wapley to Kendleshire Golf Course through the 'Westerleigh Gap', ensuring conservation of priority habitats, historic monuments and viewpoints.
- f. Establish woodlands (with 17.1) linking with others, in a corridor linking Wapley to Chipping Sodbury, ensuring conservation of priority habitats, historic monuments and viewpoints.
- g. Establish small native woodlands linking existing ones in a corridor based on the Boyd Valley between Wick and Doynton.
- h. Ensure any landfilling of quarries is linked to a restoration plan suitable for trees and woodlands.
- i. Ensure any new development requires the conservation and planting of trees within the site and as determined by scale and impact, includes off-site tree and woodland planting.
- j. Conserve and regenerate hedgerow boundaries with an initial focus on those outside grant schemes, which are not low cut and/or where hedgerow trees are present.
- k. Conserve hedgerow and other field trees and plant new ones at irregular spacings where absent within hedged boundaries.

- l. Consider the needs of dormice in woodland and hedgerow management.
- m. Ensure that public access routes are easy to use and follow.

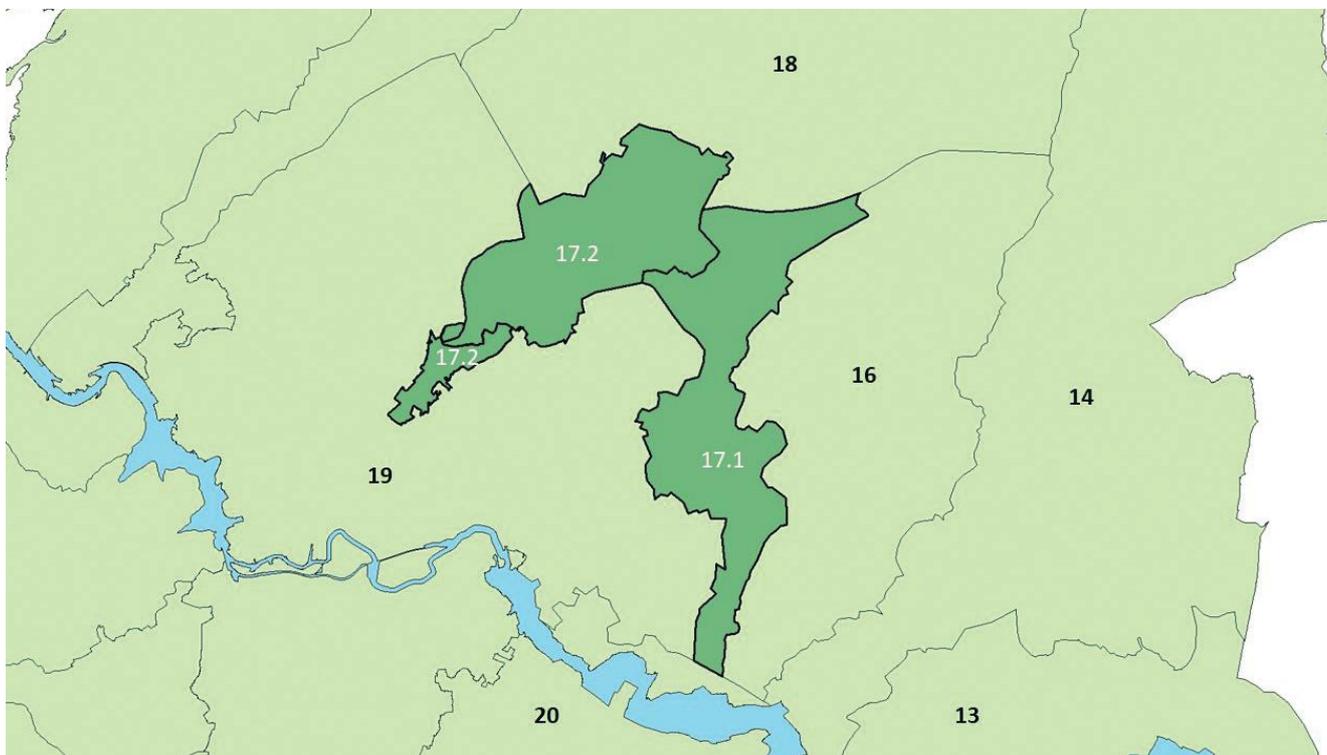


**Map Ref: 16.2**

**Golden Valley (SGC11)**

- a. Ensure all woodlands have a Forestry Commission management plan (or equivalent), addressing broad objectives, supporting their preparation and delivery.
- b. Work with residents to create a Garden Forest in Wick, planting shrubs and trees in front and back gardens, enhancing amenity and softening the urban edge.
- c. Work with the landowner of Tracy Park to support conservation of wood pasture, mature field trees, woodlands, hedgerows and walled boundaries.
- d. Ensure any new development requires the conservation and planting of trees within the site and as determined by scale and impact, includes off-site tree and woodland planting.
- e. Conserve and regenerate hedgerow boundaries with an initial focus on those outside grant schemes, which are not low cut and/or where hedgerow trees are present.
- f. Conserve hedgerow and other field trees and plant new ones at irregular spacings where absent within hedged boundaries.
- g. Ensure that public access routes are easy to use and follow.

## 5.17 Frome Valley, Westerleigh Vale and Oldland Ridge Forest of Avon



**Map Ref: 17.1**  
**Westerleigh Vale and Oldland Ridge (SGC12)**

- a. Ensure all woodlands have a Forestry Commission management plan (or equivalent), addressing broad objectives, supporting their preparation and delivery. Focus on the number of ASNW first.
- b. Buffer ASNW by establishing fringing areas for natural regeneration
- c. Establish woodlands (with 16.1), linking to others, in corridors between Forestry England's Overscourt Wood and Warmley Forest Park and also to Shortwood Landfill Site, whilst ensuring conservation of commons and priority habitats, historic monuments and viewpoints.
- d. Ensure the restoration of Shortwood Landfill Site is suitable for and linked to tree and woodland planting.
- e. Establish woodlands in a corridor linking Kendleshire Golf Course through the 'Westerleigh Gap' to woodland at (16.1), whilst ensuring conservation of priority habitats, historic monuments and viewpoints.
- f. Establish groups of trees and woodlands to further integrate diverse land uses in the wider landscape, with a particular focus on road and rail corridors.
- g. Ensure any new development requires the conservation and planting of trees within the site and as determined by scale and impact, includes off-site tree and woodland planting.
- hi. Conserve and regenerate hedgerow boundaries with an initial focus on those outside grant schemes, which are not low cut and/or where hedgerow trees are present.
- i. Conserve and regenerate hedgerow and other field trees and plant new ones at irregular spacings where absent within hedged boundaries.
- j. Ensure that the Community Forest Path and other public access routes are easy to use and follow.



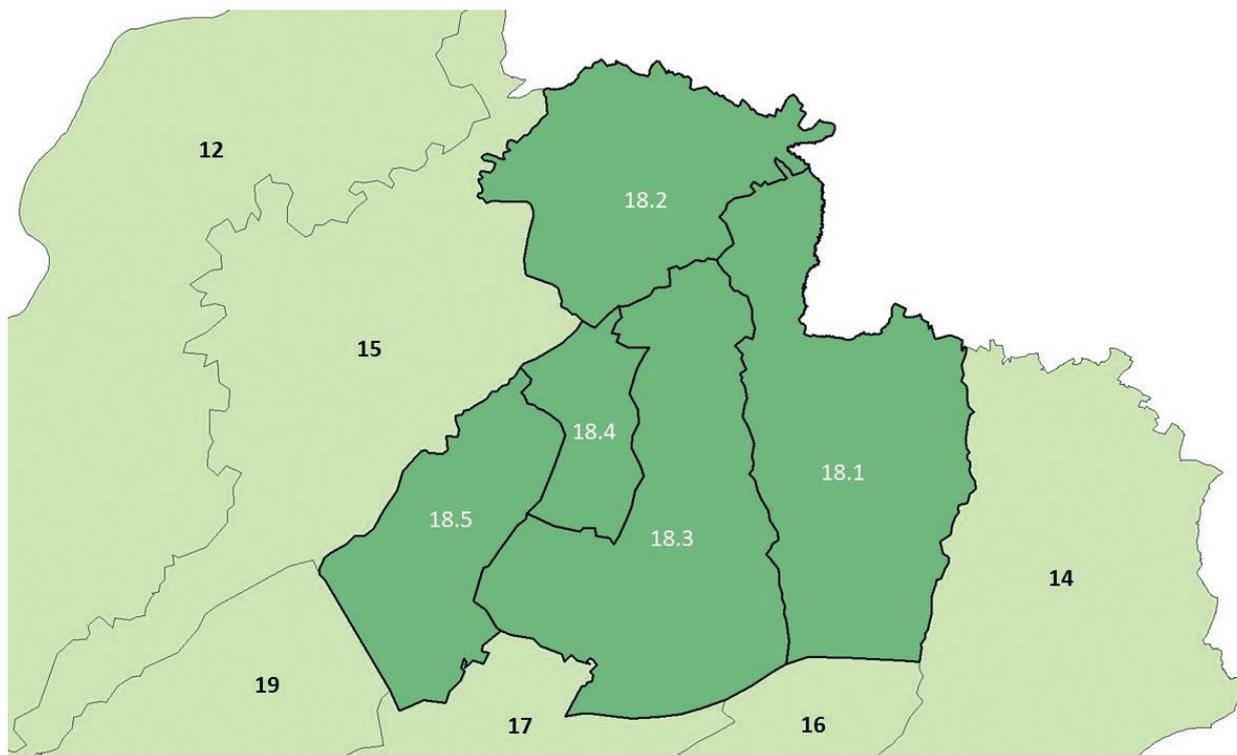
**Map Ref: 17.2**

**Frome Valley (SGC13) (part of M32 corridor included in 19.1)**

- a. Ensure all woodlands have a Forestry Commission management plan (or equivalent), addressing broad objectives, supporting their preparation and delivery.
- b. Establish woodlands (with 16.1), linking to others, in a corridor between Coalpit Heath and the M32, whilst avoiding Grade 1 and Grade 2 agricultural land and ensuring conservation of priority habitats, historic monuments and viewpoints. Ensure that planting benefits catchment management priorities for the River Frome.
- c. Establish groups of trees and woodlands to further integrate diverse land uses in the wider landscape, with a particular focus on road and rail corridors.
- d. Ensure any new development requires the conservation and planting of trees within the site and as determined by scale and impact, includes off-site tree and woodland planting.
- e. Conserve and regenerate hedgerow boundaries with an initial focus on those outside grant schemes, which are not low cut and/or where hedgerow trees are present.
- f. Conserve hedgerow and other field trees and plant new ones at irregular spacings where absent within hedged boundaries.
- g. Conserve and restore dry stone walls, with an initial focus on those outside grant schemes.
- h. Ensure that the Community Forest Path and other public access routes are easy to use and follow.

## 5.18 The South Gloucestershire Vales

### Forest of Avon



**Map Ref: 18.1**  
**Wickwar Ridge and Vale (SGC5)**

- a. Ensure all woodlands have a Forestry Commission management plan (or equivalent), addressing multiple objectives and work with landowners to deliver these. Focus on the extensive and significant areas of ASNW and also PAWS.
- b. Work with Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust and other landowners to buffer ASNW by establishing fringing areas for natural regeneration.
- c. Establish native woodlands, including through natural regeneration, in the area fringing the Lower Woods woodland complex, whilst ensuring the hydrology of the Little Avon River is not adversely affected (is enhanced) and Semi-improved and Lowland Meadow priority habitats/ common are conserved. Respect valley landform of the Little Avon River and the need for views and variety along public paths.
- d. Establish native woodlands, tree and/or wide hedgerow boundaries in the 'Lower Woods Gap' linking the Lower Woods complex with 14.4. woodland on the escarpment and valleys beyond it, whilst conserving Grade 2 agricultural land, Calcareous Grassland and other priority habitats, historic monuments and viewpoints.
- e. Establish woodlands in a corridor from the southern end of the Lower Woods woodlands complex to woodlands along the northern fringe of Yate, potentially creating a large woodland area, providing diverse benefits, whilst conserving Semi-improved grassland and other priority habitats, historic monuments and viewpoints.
- f. Ensure any new development requires the conservation and planting of trees within the site and as determined by scale and impact, includes off-site tree and woodland planting.
- g. Conserve and regenerate hedgerow boundaries with an initial focus on those outside grant schemes, which are not low cut and/or where hedgerow trees are present.
- h. Conserve hedgerow and other field trees and plant new ones at irregular spacings where absent within hedged boundaries.
- i. Ensure that public access routes are easy to use and follow.

 **Map Ref: 18.2**  
**Falfield Vale (SGC7)**

- a. Ensure all woodlands have a Forestry Commission management plan (or equivalent), addressing multiple objectives and work with landowners to deliver these. Focus on areas of ASNW and also PAWS.
- b. Buffer ASNW by establishing fringing areas for natural regeneration.
- c. Establish native woodland in a broad corridor across the 'Tortworth Gap' linking woodlands in Tortworth Park to outlying woodlands (many of which are ASNW), including extending northwards to Michael Wood across the county boundary and southwards towards Tytherington. Conserve wood pasture and other priority habitats, historic monuments and viewpoints within this.
- d. Establish native woodlands in the area to the north of Charfield and outside the Cotswolds AONB, ensuring conservation of Semi-improved Grassland priority habitat, historic monuments and viewpoints.
- e. Establish native woodland in a broad corridor across the 'M5 Gap' linking woodlands at Cromhall, across the M5 to woodlands at Milbury Heath and then potentially to the south of Thornbury, ensuring conservation of priority habitats, historic monuments and viewpoints.
- f. Working across the boundary with 15.2, conserve and enhance complex of Ancient and Semi-Natural Woodlands between the A38 and Rockhampton, linking them together through areas of natural regeneration and/or new native planting, ensuring conservation of priority habitats, historic monuments and viewpoints.
- g. Work with the Tortworth Estate and other landowners as appropriate, to support conservation of wood pasture, mature field trees, woodlands, hedgerows and walled boundaries in the context of its status as a Registered Park and Garden.
- h. Ensure any new development requires the conservation and planting of trees within the site and as determined by scale and impact, includes off-site tree and woodland planting.
- i. Conserve and regenerate hedgerow boundaries with an initial focus on those outside grant schemes, which are not low cut and/or where hedgerow trees are present.

- j. Conserve hedgerow and other field trees and plant new ones at irregular spacings where absent within hedged boundaries.
- k. Ensure that public access routes are easy to use and follow.
- l. Run programmes of woodland management and planting activities, as appropriate with staff and inmates from local prisons.

 **Map Ref: 18.3**  
**Yate Vale (SGC8)**

- a. Ensure all woodlands have a Forestry Commission management plan (or equivalent), addressing broad objectives, supporting their preparation and delivery.
- b. Establish accessible woodlands in a corridor fringing the north side of Yate, linking existing woodlands and extending to the woodland complex around and south of Lower Woods, whilst ensuring conservation of Semi-improved Grassland and other priority habitats, historic monuments and viewpoints.
- c. Work with the River Frome Reconnected partnership to develop a co-ordinated approach to tree planting in suitable locations along the river corridor and associated green spaces. Work with landowners to support effective riparian tree and hedge management for the benefit of wildlife, public safety and flood management.
- d. Establish individual and groups of trees and small woodlands within parks and greenspaces addressing inequalities in tree canopy cover and with a strong community dimension to their location, size and care.
- e. Establish individual and groups of trees and small woodlands within primary and secondary school grounds, with school responsibility for their care.
- f. Establish individual and small groups of trees in/ adjacent to streets, addressing inequalities in tree canopy cover and with a strong community dimension to their location, size and care.
- g. Ensure any new development requires the conservation and planting of trees within the site and as determined by scale and impact, includes off-site tree and woodland planting.
- h. Conserve and regenerate hedgerow boundaries with an initial focus on those outside grant schemes, which are not low cut and/or where hedgerow trees are present.

- i. Conserve hedgerow and other field trees and plant new ones at irregular spacings where absent within hedged boundaries.
- j. Ensure that public access routes are easy to use and follow.



**Map Ref: 18.4**  
**Tytherington Plain (SGC9)**

- a. Ensure all woodlands have a Forestry Commission management plan (or equivalent), addressing broad objectives, supporting their preparation and delivery.
- b. Ensure any new development requires the conservation and planting of trees within the site and as determined by scale and impact, includes off-site tree and woodland planting.
- c. Conserve and regenerate hedgerow boundaries with an initial focus on those outside grant schemes, which are not low cut and/or where hedgerow trees are present.
- d. Conserve hedgerow and other field trees and plant new ones at irregular spacings where absent within hedged boundaries.
- e. Ensure that public access routes are easy to use and follow.

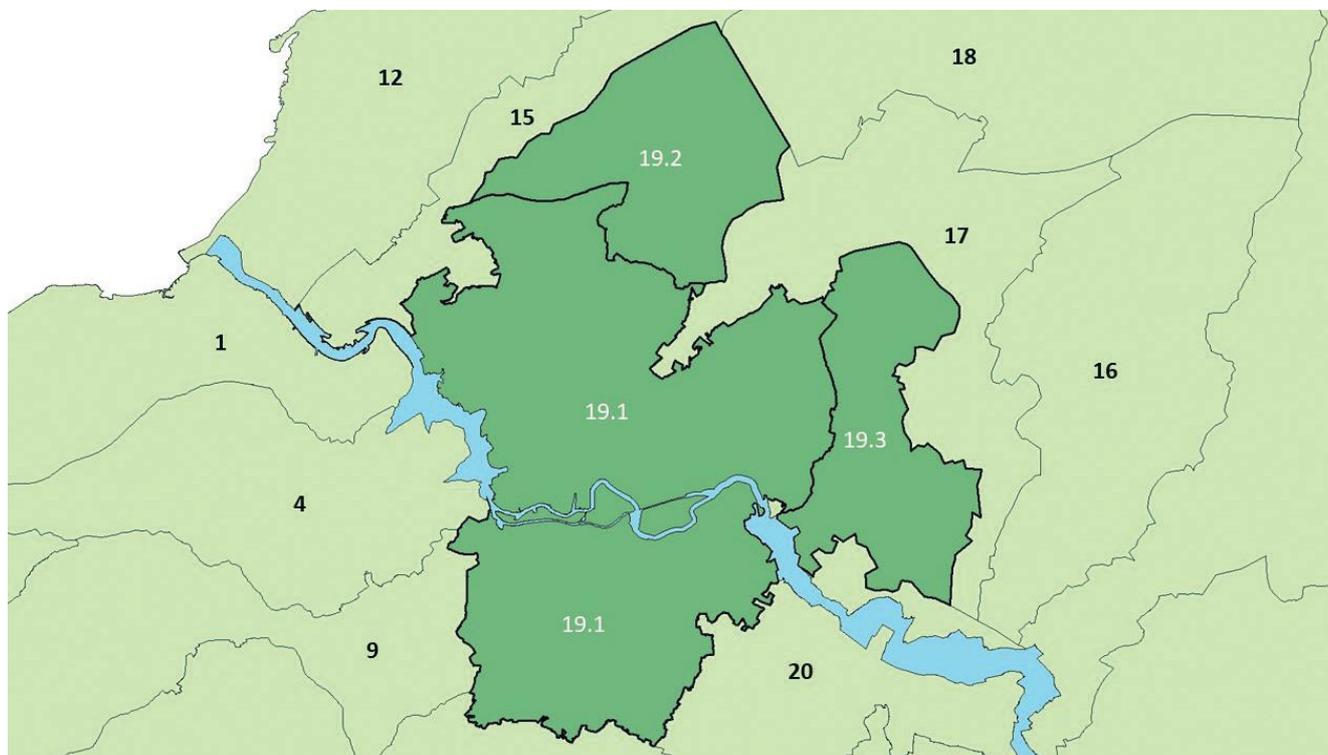
- f. Ensure any new development requires the conservation and planting of trees within the site and as determined by scale and impact, includes off-site tree and woodland planting.
- g. Conserve and regenerate hedgerow boundaries with an initial focus on those outside grant schemes, which are not low cut and/or where hedgerow trees are present.
- h. Conserve hedgerow and other field trees and plant new ones at irregular spacings where absent within hedged boundaries.
- i. Ensure that public access routes are easy to use and follow.



**Map Ref: 18.5**  
**Earthcott Vale (SGC10)**

- a. Ensure all woodlands have a Forestry Commission management plan (or equivalent), addressing broad objectives, supporting their preparation and delivery. Focus on the ASNW first.
- b. Buffer ASNW by establishing fringing areas for natural regeneration.
- c. Establish native woodlands in a corridor linking those associated with leisure uses east of M5 Junction 15, towards Corporation Wood, whilst ensuring conservation of priority habitats, historic monuments and viewpoints.
- d. Work with landowners to reduce the impact of existing large agricultural buildings by small-scale tree planting, avoiding Grade 1 agricultural land.
- e. Establish individual and groups of trees in village envelopes, working with the Parish Council and residents more widely.

## 5.19 Greater Bristol Forest of Avon



**Map Ref: 19.1**  
**City of Bristol (includes small part of 17.2**  
**Frome Valley: relating to M32 Corridor)**

- a. Ensure all woodlands have a Forestry Commission management plan (or equivalent), addressing broad objectives, supporting their preparation and delivery. Focus on ASNW first and update Bristol City Council management plans for all its woodland, when necessary.
- b. Buffer ASNW by establishing fringing areas for natural regeneration, where this does conflict with other priority habitats/ SSSI.
- c. Continue to work in partnership to conserve nationally significant whitebeam spp. and ASNW as part of integrated management of the Avon Gorge SSSI.
- d. Establish individual and groups of trees and small woodlands to consolidate the broad woodland and open space corridor centred on the M32 (including Stoke Park and Oldbury Court Estates) linking it to the heart of the city. Conserve hedgerows and trees, Wood Pasture and other priority habitats, historic sites (including Historic Parks and Gardens), open hillsides and viewpoints, ensuring planting positively contributes to water management along the River Frome and is not on Grade 1 agricultural land.
- e. Establish individual and groups of trees, and small woodlands in parks and greenspaces in a broad corridor, linking the M32 woodland corridor to the woodlands in the Avon Valley, with a particular focus on the Speedwell area ('The Whitehall Gap'), working with residents there to establish a Garden Forest of planting in front and back gardens.
- f. Establish individual and groups of trees in and around St. Anne's Valley to consolidate links with the River Avon woodland corridor.
- g. Establish individual and groups of trees in streets and parks and greenspaces in a broad corridor linking Stockwood Open Space to Arnos Vale Cemetery.
- h. Establish individual and groups of trees and small woodlands to extend the woodland corridor centred on the Blaise Castle Estate, to woodlands in the Avon Valley, whilst conserving Wood Pasture and other priority habitats, Historic sites (including

Historic Parks and Gardens) and viewpoints within this.

- i. Establish individual and groups of trees and small woodlands within parks and greenspaces addressing inequalities in tree canopy cover and with a strong community dimension to their location, size and care.
- j. Establish individual and groups of trees and small woodlands within primary and secondary school grounds, with school responsibility for their care.
- k. Establish individual and small groups of trees in/adjacent to streets, through the Greenstreets project, addressing inequalities in tree canopy cover and with a strong community dimension to their location, size and care.
- l. Establish individual and groups of trees and small woodlands on private land, with strong involvement of businesses and their staff.
- m. Ensure any new development requires the conservation and planting of trees within the site and as determined by scale and impact, includes off-site tree and woodland planting.
- n. Support the role of Bristol Tree Forum's Tree Champions, championing tree care and tree planting in wards across the city.
- o. Ensure the Community Forest Path and other public access routes are easy to use and follow.

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 **Map Ref: 19.2**  
**Patchway, Filton and the Stokes (SGC15))**

- a. Ensure all woodlands have a Forestry Commission management plan (or equivalent), addressing broad objectives, supporting their preparation and delivery. Focus on the ASNW first.
- b. Buffer ASNW by establishing fringing areas for natural regeneration.
- c. Establish individual and groups of trees, and small woodlands linking the Three Brooks Nature Reserve in broad corridors to woodlands and green space north of the M5 and in Filton, whilst conserving other priority habitats, historic sites and viewpoints.
- d. Establish individual and groups of trees and small woodlands within parks and greenspaces addressing inequalities in tree canopy cover and with a strong community dimension to their location, size and care.
- e. Establish individual and groups of trees and small

woodlands within primary and secondary school grounds, with school responsibility for their care.

- f. Establish individual and small groups of trees in/ adjacent to streets, addressing inequalities in tree canopy cover and with a strong community dimension to their location, size and care.
- g. Establish individual and groups of trees and small woodlands on private land, with strong involvement of businesses and their staff.
- h. Ensure any new development requires the conservation and planting of trees within the site and as determined by scale and impact, includes off-site tree and woodland planting. Where development is to take place at scale ensure that trees, woodland and other green infrastructure is planned in advance and not piecemeal, to maximise benefits.
- i. Ensure public access routes are easy to use and follow.

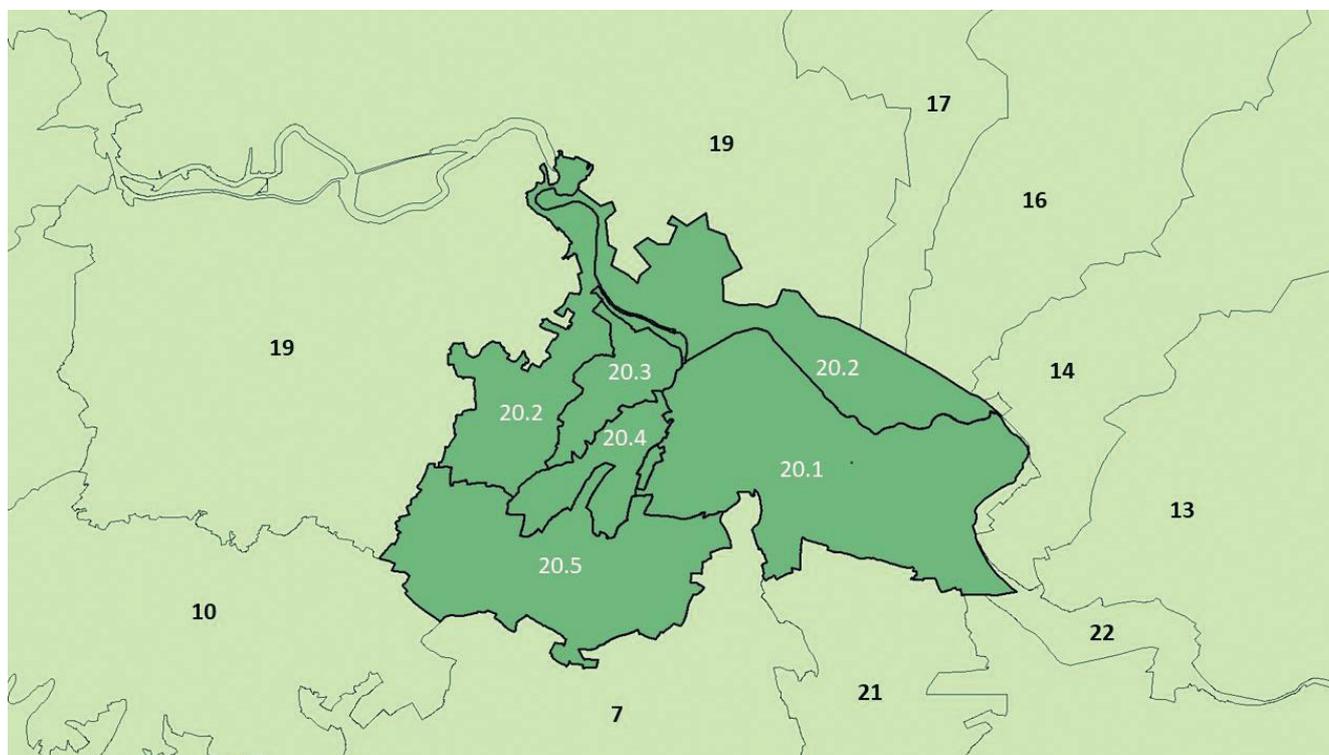
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 **Map Ref: 19.3**  
**Kingswood (SGC14)**

- a. Ensure all woodlands have a Forestry Commission management plan (or equivalent), addressing broad objectives, supporting their preparation and delivery.
- b. Establish individual and groups of trees and small woodlands within parks and greenspaces addressing inequalities in tree canopy cover and with a strong community dimension to their location, size and care.
- c. Establish individual and groups of trees and small woodlands within primary and secondary school grounds, with school responsibility for their care.
- d. Establish individual and small groups of trees in/ adjacent to streets, addressing inequalities in tree canopy cover and with a strong community dimension to their location, size and care.
- e. Establish individual and groups of trees and small woodlands on private land, with strong involvement of businesses and their staff.
- f. Ensure any new development requires the conservation and planting of trees within the site and as determined by scale and impact, includes off-site tree and woodland planting.
- g. Ensure public access routes are easy to use and follow.

## 5.20 Keynsham and Environs

### Forest of Avon



**Map Ref: 20.1**  
**Keynsham and Avon Valley**  
**east of Keynsham Hams/ Willsbridge**  
**(includes B&NES14 and SGC16)**

- a. Ensure all woodlands have a Forestry Commission management plan (or equivalent), addressing broad objectives, supporting their preparation and delivery.
- b. Establish new native woodlands linking existing community woodlands as part of an accessible woodland framework around the southern, eastern and northern fringes of Keynsham, integrating recent and any future development into the wider landscape, whilst conserving priority habitats, historic monuments and viewpoints.
- c. Establish groups of trees, to reduce the impact of the urban edges of Keynsham upon Stockwood Vale, whilst conserving priority habitats and viewpoints.
- d. Establish individual and groups of trees and small woodlands within parks and greenspaces addressing inequalities in tree canopy cover and with a strong community dimension to their location, size and care.
- e. Establish individual and groups of trees and small woodlands within primary and secondary school grounds, with school responsibility for their care.
- f. Establish individual and small groups of trees in/ adjacent to streets, addressing inequalities in tree canopy cover and with a strong community dimension to their location, size and care. Ensure any new development requires the conservation and planting of trees within the site and as determined by scale and impact, includes off-site tree and woodland planting.
- g. Conserve and regenerate hedgerow boundaries with an initial focus on those outside grant schemes, which are not low cut and/or where hedgerow trees are present.
- h. Conserve hedgerow and other field trees and plant new ones at irregular spacings where absent within hedged boundaries.
- i. Ensure that public access routes are easy to use and follow.



**Map Ref: 20.2**

**Avon Valley west of Keynsham Hams/  
Willsbridge (SGC14, SGC16)**

- a. Ensure all woodlands have a Forestry Commission management plan (or equivalent), addressing broad objectives, supporting their preparation and delivery. Focus on ASNW and SSSIs in the area first.
- b. Establish areas of native trees and small woodlands to buffer ASNW/SSSIs and extend the woodland corridor into urban areas north and south of the River Avon, and consolidate the landscape towards Longwell Green, while conserving Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh and other priority habitats, historic monuments and viewpoints. Use natural regeneration where possible, adjacent to ASNW/SSSIs.
- c. Ensure any new development requires the conservation and planting of trees within the site and as determined by scale and impact, includes off-site tree and woodland planting.
- d. Conserve and regenerate hedgerow boundaries with an initial focus on those outside grant schemes, which are not low cut and/or where hedgerow trees are present.
- e. Conserve hedgerow and other field trees and plant new ones at irregular spacings where absent within hedged boundaries.
- f. Ensure that public access routes are easy to use and follow, creating routes to help manage recreational use of sensitive sites.

- d. Conserve and regenerate hedgerow boundaries with an initial focus on those which are not low cut and/or where hedgerow trees are present.
- e. Conserve hedgerow and other field trees and plant new ones at irregular spacings where absent within hedged boundaries.
- f. Ensure that public access routes are easy to use and follow and establish a route linking the Avon Valley and Stockwood Open Space.



**Map Ref: 20.4**

**Stockwood Vale (B&NES9)**

- a. Ensure all woodlands have a Forestry Commission management plan (or equivalent), addressing broad objectives, supporting their preparation and delivery.
- b. Establish small native woodlands linking those existing within the valley bottom, whilst conserving priority habitats, historic monuments and viewpoints.
- c. Establish groups of trees, to reduce the impact of the urban edges of Keynsham and Stockwood upon the valley, whilst conserving priority habitats and viewpoints.
- d. Ensure any new development requires the conservation and planting of trees within the site and as determined by scale and impact, includes off-site tree and woodland planting.
- e. Conserve and regenerate hedgerow boundaries with an initial focus on those which are not low cut and/or where hedgerow trees are present.
- f. Conserve hedgerow and other field trees and plant new ones at irregular spacings where absent within hedged boundaries.
- g. Ensure that public access routes are easy to use and follow.



**Map Ref: 20.3**

**Hicks Gate (B&NES10)**

- a. Ensure all woodlands have a Forestry Commission management plan (or equivalent), addressing broad objectives, supporting their preparation and delivery.
- b. Establish groups of trees and accessible native woodlands linking the woodlands of the Avon Valley to Stockwood Open Space, integrating a diverse land uses in the wider landscape, while conserving priority habitats, historic monuments and viewpoints.
- c. Ensure any new development requires the conservation and planting of trees within the site and as determined by scale and impact, includes off-site tree and woodland planting.

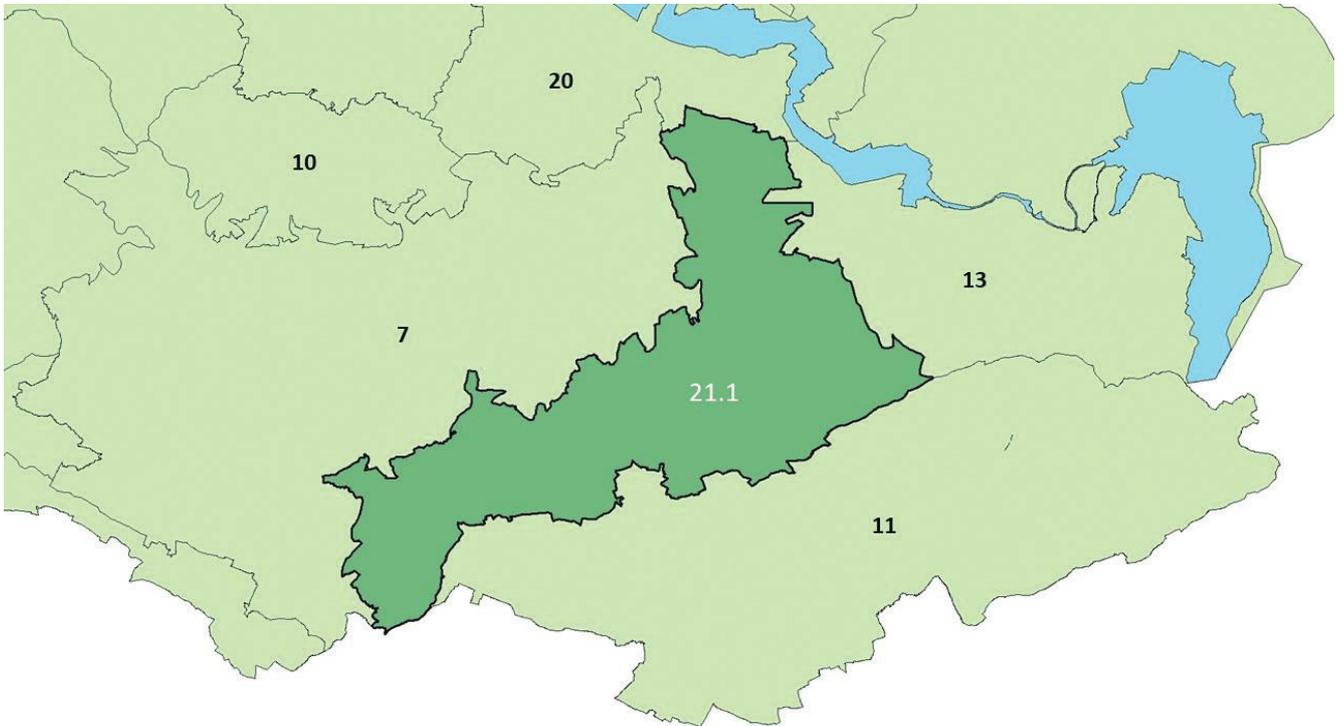


### Map Ref: 20.5

#### Dundry Plateau (B&NES5)

- a. Ensure all woodlands have a Forestry Commission management plan (or equivalent), addressing broad objectives, supporting their preparation and delivery.
- b. Establish groups of trees and small native woodlands in the 'A37 Gap' linking woodlands in Stockwood Open Space to those in the Chew Valley, conserving priority habitats, historic monuments and viewpoints.
- c. Ensure any new development requires the conservation and planting of trees within the site and as determined by scale and impact, includes off-site tree and woodland planting.
- d. Conserve and regenerate hedgerow boundaries with an initial focus on those outside grant schemes, which are not low cut and/or where hedgerow trees are present.
- e. Conserve hedgerow and other field trees and plant new ones at irregular spacings where absent within hedged boundaries.
- f. Conserve and restore dry stone walls, with an initial focus on those outside grant schemes.
- g. Ensure the Community Forest Path and other public access routes are easy to use and follow.

## 5.21 Settled Undulating Plateau Newton St. Loe to Hinton Blewitt Forest of Avon



**Map Ref: 21.1**  
**Hinton Blewitt and Newton St. Loe Plateau Lands (B&NES6)**

- a. Ensure all woodlands have a Forestry Commission management plan (or equivalent), addressing broad objectives, supporting their preparation and delivery. Focus on small number of ASNW first.
- b. Buffer ASNW by establishing fringing areas for natural regeneration.
- c. Establish small woodlands appropriate for the landscape character and especially related to landform, in a corridor between Englishcombe and Priston, conserving priority habitats, historic monuments and viewpoints.
- d. Establish small woodlands of a scale, pattern and species mix appropriate for the landscape character in the 'Camerton Gap' linking c. above to woodlands in 11.1, conserving priority habitats, historic monuments and viewpoints.
- e. Establish woodland of appropriate scale, pattern and species mix in a broad corridor north of Farmborough, linking across the 'Nap Hill Gap' to the existing and potential woodland area in 7.1, conserving priority habitats, historic monuments and viewpoints.
- f. Ensure any new development is linked to planting of individual and groups of trees within each developed site and off-site woodland planting, wider biodiversity and access improvements related to scale.
- g. Conserve and regenerate hedgerow boundaries with an initial focus on those outside grant schemes and which are not low cut and/or where hedgerow trees are present.
- h. Conserve hedgerow and other field trees and plant new ones at irregular spacings where absent within hedged boundaries. Initial focus on river and stream valleys, managing and planting trees to manage water quality, flood risk and enhance biodiversity.
- i. Conserve and restore dry stone walls, with an initial focus on those outside grant schemes.
- j. Ensure that public access routes are easy to use and follow.

## 5.22 River Avon and other riparian habitats

### Forest of Avon



The recommendations below are intended to be applicable to trees and woodland within the River Avon corridor GI Area, as defined in the map at the start of this section. For guidance relating to trees and woodland in a riparian (i.e. riverbank) context, please refer to Bristol Avon Rivers Trust's [approach to tree planting](#).

**Map Ref: 22.1**  
**Linear area including floodplains, defined by the River Avon from its mouth at Avonmouth, to Dundas Aqueduct, including the Kennet & Avon Canal.**

(Priorities draw from North Somerset Council's LCA and the Waterspace Study. Priorities for the wider corridor are addressed under other areas.)

- a. Avonmouth (see also 1.2. Area C2). Ensure small woodland areas have a Forestry Commission management plan (or equivalent), addressing broad objectives, supporting their preparation and delivery. Plant individual and groups of trees to help integrate extensive car storage areas and other development into the wider river corridor. Ensure any new development requires the conservation and planting of trees within the site and as determined by scale and impact, includes off-site tree and woodland planting. Ensure public access routes are easy to use and follow.
- b. Lower Avon Valley (see also 1.6 Area J6). Ensure all woodlands have a Forestry Commission management plan (or equivalent), addressing broad objectives, supporting their preparation and delivery. Establish groups of trees and woodlands to better integrate existing settlement edges into the wider valley landscape, through small-scale tree planting. Ensure that public access routes are easy to use and follow.
- c. Avon Gorge (see also 4.4 Area D1). Continue to work in partnership to conserve nationally significant whitebeam spp. and ASNW as part of integrated management of the Avon Gorge NNR and SSSI. Manage recreational use of the wider Leigh Woods area as part of this integrated approach ensuring ecological, historic and geological sites are conserved. Ensure public rights of way are easy to use and follow.

- d. River Avon in Bristol (see also 19.1). Ensure all woodlands have a Forestry Commission management plan (or equivalent), addressing broad objectives, supporting their preparation and delivery. Establish individual and groups of trees within streets, greenspaces and gardens, integrating built development into the river corridor, with a strong community dimension to their location, size and care.
- e. Hanham (see also 20.1). Ensure all woodlands have a Forestry Commission management plan (or equivalent), addressing broad objectives, supporting their preparation and delivery. Conserve character of the meandering tree lined river edge, through advice to landowners and small-scale replacement tree planting. Ensure public access routes are easy to use and follow. (Waterspace Area 1).
- f. Keynsham (See 20.2). Ensure all woodlands have a Forestry Commission management plan (or equivalent), addressing broad objectives, supporting their preparation and delivery. Ensure any new development requires the conservation and planting of trees within the site and as determined by scale and impact, includes off-site tree and woodland planting. Ensure public access routes are easy to use and follow. (Waterspace Area 2).
- g. Saltford (see also 20.2). Ensure all woodlands have a Forestry Commission management plan (or equivalent), addressing broad objectives, supporting their preparation and delivery. Conserve and regenerate hedgerow boundaries with an initial focus on those outside grant schemes, which are not low cut and/or where hedgerow trees are present. Conserve hedgerow and other field trees and plant new ones at irregular spacings where absent within hedged boundaries. Ensure public access routes are easy to use and follow. (Waterspace Area 3). Trees and woodland on the floodplain may be appropriate in certain locations; however, for further guidance, please consult BART.
- h. Newbridge (see also 13.1). Ensure all woodlands have a Forestry Commission management plan (or equivalent), addressing broad objectives, supporting their preparation and delivery. Establish individual and groups of trees and small woodlands on private land, with strong involvement of businesses and their staff. Ensure any new development requires the conservation and planting of trees within the site and as determined by scale and impact, includes off-site tree and woodland planting. Ensure public access routes are easy to use and follow. (Waterspace Area 4).
- i. Weston Island (see also 13.1). Conserve well-treed character through advice to landowners and small-scale replacement tree planting. Ensure any new development requires the conservation and planting of trees within the site and as determined by scale and impact, includes off-site. Ensure public access routes are easy to use and follow. (Waterspace Area 5).
- j. Windsor Bridge, Bath (see also 13.1). Conserve well-treed character through advice to landowners and small-scale replacement tree planting. Ensure any new development requires the conservation and planting of trees within the site and as determined by scale and impact, includes off-site. Ensure public access routes are easy to use and follow. (Waterspace Area 6).
- k. Norfolk Crescent, Bath (see also 13.1). Establish individual and groups of trees on private land, with strong involvement of businesses and their staff. Ensure any new development requires the conservation and planting of trees within the site and as determined by scale and impact, includes off-site tree and woodland planting. Ensure public access routes are easy to use and follow. (Waterspace Area 7).
- l. Green Park, Bath (see also 13.1). Conserve existing trees through advice to landowners and undertake small-scale replacement tree planting. Ensure public access routes are easy to use and follow. (Waterspace Area 8).
- m. Bath Quays (see also 13.1). Enhance public park with additional tree planting. Ensure public access routes are easy to use and follow. (Waterspace Area 9).
- n. North Parade Bridge, Bath (see also 13.1). Conserve well-treed character through advice to landowners and small-scale replacement tree planting. Ensure any new development requires the conservation and planting of trees within the site and as determined by scale and impact, includes off-site tree planting. Ensure public access routes are easy to use and follow. (Waterspace Area 10).

- o. Pulteney Bridge, Bath (see also 13.1). Conserve existing trees through advice to landowners and small-scale replacement tree planting. Ensure any new development requires the conservation and planting of trees within the site and as determined by scale and impact, includes off-site tree planting. Ensure public access routes are easy to use and follow. (Waterspace Area 11).
- p. Cleveland Bridge, Bath (see also 13.1). Conserve well-treed character through advice to landowners and small-scale replacement tree planting. Ensure any new development requires the conservation and planting of trees within the site and as determined by scale and impact, includes off-site tree and woodland planting. Ensure public access routes are easy to use and follow. (Waterspace Area 12).
- q. City Canal, Bath (see also 13.1). Conserve existing trees through advice to landowners and small-scale replacement tree planting. Ensure any new development requires the conservation and planting of trees within the site and as determined by scale and impact, includes off-site tree and woodland planting. Ensure public access routes are easy to use and follow. (Waterspace Area 13).
- r. Bathampton. Ensure all woodlands have a Forestry Commission management plan (or equivalent), addressing broad objectives, supporting their preparation and delivery. Conserve and regenerate hedgerow boundaries with an initial focus on those outside grant schemes, which are not low cut and/or where hedgerow trees are present. Conserve hedgerow and other field trees and plant new ones at irregular spacings where absent within hedged boundaries. Ensure public access routes are easy to use and follow. Trees and woodland on the floodplain may be appropriate in certain locations; however, for further guidance, please consult BART and refer to WHS Setting SPD regarding Georgian landscape context.
- s. Claverton and Dundas (see also 13.1). Ensure all woodlands have a Forestry Commission management plan (or equivalent), addressing broad objectives, supporting their preparation and delivery. Conserve and regenerate hedgerow boundaries with an initial focus on those outside grant schemes, which are not low cut and/or where hedgerow trees are present. Conserve hedgerow and other field trees and plant new ones at irregular spacings where absent within hedged boundaries. Ensure public access routes are easy to use and follow. Trees and woodland on the floodplain may be appropriate in certain locations; however, for further guidance, please consult BART and refer to WHS Setting SPD in relation to Georgian landscape context.



**“The creation  
of a thousand forests  
is in one acorn.”  
Ralph Waldo Emerson**

# Appendix 1

## Potential grants and sources of income for woodland creation and management

The below table sets out a number of grants, funds and other potential sources of finance for woodland creation and management that were correct at the time of publication. This list is not exhaustive, and other sources of funding may be (or become) available, especially through private finance.

Grants and Funds for Woodland Creation	Summary
<b>Trees for Climate Grant</b>	<p>Flexible Defra backed grants are available through the Forest of Avon Trust to plant a wide range of trees and woodland in the West of England. Schemes which demonstrate value for money and contribute to the delivery of the Forest of Avon Plan: A Tree and Woodland Strategy for the West of England, can attract grants covering all planting, establishment and maintenance costs.</p> <p>The Trust has two advisors who can help develop schemes and support their delivery. For details visit: <a href="https://forestofavontrust.org/plant-trees/trees-for-climate">https://forestofavontrust.org/plant-trees/trees-for-climate</a></p>
<b>Woodland Creation Grant (WCG)</b>	<p>Capital grant for farmers and land managers to create woodland, under the Countryside Stewardship Scheme. provides funding to supply, plant, weed and protect young trees.</p>
<b>Woodland Trust Grants</b>	<p>The Woodland Trust has a variety of funding schemes available for large scale planting, including for tree planting on farms, for planting of 500+ trees as part of MOREwoods, and for planting of hedging. More information is available at <a href="https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/large-scale-planting/">https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/large-scale-planting/</a></p>
<b>Urban Tree Challenge Fund</b>	<p>Capital funding to plant and establish large and small trees in urban and peri-urban areas, including three years of establishment payments following planting of the trees. Provides up 50% of costs, with the remaining funding being met through match funding (costs or labour).</p>
<b>Woodland Creation Planning Grant</b>	<p>Funding to prepare a Woodland Creation Design Plan, which must be UK Forestry Standard (UKFS) compliant. Funding capped at £30,000 per project.</p>

Grants and Funds for Woodland Management	Description
<b>Woodland Creation Maintenance Payment</b> (Countryside Stewardship)	Applicable for woodlands planted with using a Woodland Creation Grant (see above). A separate multi-year grant to maintain the newly created woodland for 10 years, providing an annual payment of £200 per hectare.
<b>Woodland Tree Health</b> (Countryside Stewardship)	The grant consists of two elements and is compatible with other grants: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restoration provides support for restocking woodland after felling due to a tree health issue.</li> <li>• Improvement provides support for the removal of diseased trees and infected rhododendron.</li> </ul>
<b>Woodland Management Plan Grant</b> (Countryside Stewardship)	A one-off payment to create a 10 year Woodland Management Plan, which must be UK Forestry Standard (UKFS) compliant. Payment rate dependent on size of woodland.

Other sources of finance	Description
<b>Woodland Carbon Guarantee (WCaG)</b>	Woodland creation projects accepted into the Woodland Carbon Guarantee have the option to sell captured carbon dioxide in the form of verified carbon credits, called Woodland Carbon Units, to the government for a guaranteed price every 5 or 10 years up to 2055/56. The scheme does not contribute towards the cost of planning, establishment or early maintenance of woodlands.
<b>Woodland Carbon Code (WCC)</b>	The WCC is the UK's voluntary carbon standard for woodland creation projects. Landowners that can demonstrate that they meet this standard can sell the carbon sequestered in woodland in the form of Woodland Carbon Units.
<b>Biodiversity Net Gain</b>	Biodiversity Net Gain mandates that new developments must deliver an increase of biodiversity of at least 10% (as measured by the DEFRA metric). Developments that are not able to meet Net Gain requirements on-site can do so off-site (i.e. on land not owned by the developer), providing potential funding for woodland creation and management (the net gain must be maintained for at least 30 years).  The mechanisms for accessing this funding will depend on the local authority in question and should become clearer in the near future.

## Appendix 1 continued

Other sources of finance	Description
<b>Environmental Land Management (ELM) Scheme</b>	<p>The ELM Scheme will replace the measures in place under the EU's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and will be fully rolled-out by the end 2024. Under the proposed Scheme, farmers will be paid for work that enhances the environment ('public goods'), including tree and hedge planting.</p> <p>Three tiers are proposed under the ELM Scheme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Sustainable Farming Incentive would encourage farmers to adopt environmentally sustainable farming and forestry practices;</li> <li>• Local Nature Recovery would focus on delivering locally-targeted environmental outcomes; and</li> <li>• Landscape Recovery would fund larger-scale, transformational projects (such as the creation of a larger woodland).</li> </ul>

# Appendix II

## List of Acronyms used

Acronym	Expansion
ASNW	Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
AWT	Avon Wildlife Trust
BACP	Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership
BART	Bristol Avon Rivers Trust
B&NES	Bath and North East Somerset
BNG	Biodiversity Net Gain
ELM	Environmental Land Management
ETS	England Tree Strategy
FC	Forestry Commission
FE	Forestry England
FoA	Forest of Avon
FoAT	Forest of Avon Trust
FWAG	Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group
GI	Green Infrastructure
JGIS	Joint Green Infrastructure Strategy
LA	Local Authority
LCA	Landscape Character Area
LENs	Landscape Enterprise Networks
LNRS	Local Nature Recovery Strategy
NE	Natural England
NFM	Natural Flood Management
NFU	National Farmers Union
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NRN	Nature Recovery Network
NSC	North Somerset Council
PAWS	Planted Ancient Woodland Sites
SDS	Spatial Development Strategy
SGC	South Gloucestershire Council
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
WECA	West of England Combined Authority
WENP	West of England Nature Partnership





