

# REPORT TO ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

## NATURE ACTION PLAN UPDATE

**Report Reference** EN-20-04  
**Meeting Date** 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020  
**Agenda Item** 10  
**Prepared by** Town Clerk

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### 1.0 INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

The Nature Action Plan was adopted by the committee at the March 2020 meeting and it was agreed it would form a standing item on committee agendas to review progress.

The action plan summary is appended, to date 14 specific actions have been completed.

Since the previous meeting the council has launched its new website which includes the section on the Nature Action Plan, providing guidance on tree planting and tracking the number of trees planted.

The planting plan consultation runs until 18<sup>th</sup> December. The plan will be finalised in January and a programme of planting organised for February/March.

### 1.1 TREE MAPPING UPDATE

*Prepared by M Thomas and K Griffiths*

We set out in Oct 2019 on our project to record the large mature tree population of the town, with a view to establishing a plan for succession planting and extending the tree cover. Using QGIS (A Free and Open Source Geographic Information System) we counted the large tree cover using satellite images and estimated there were approximately 8000 such trees in town.

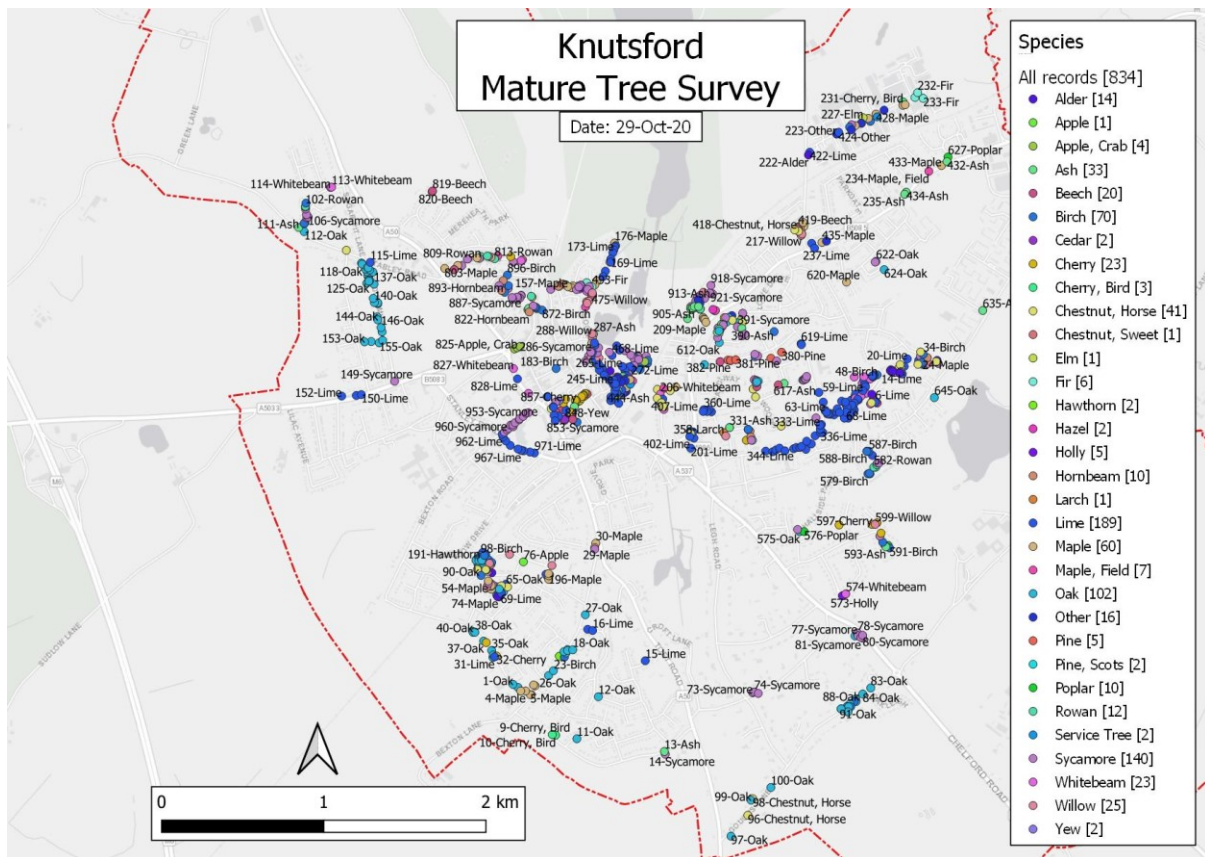
With professional and financial assistance from Knutsford Town Council (KTC) we started a ground survey to determine whether the large trees there were in the public or private domains, species, girth, height, age, condition and geolocation; all large trees are tagged.

We are using Jotform software for the ground survey and uploading the data to QGIS. Constrained by Covid and weather, our brilliant nine strong survey team has completed we believe, approximately 60% of trees in the public domain – 834 in number. See plan and extract from database below.

We will continue the ground survey in Spring 2021, together with encouraging and assisting other landowners to survey their mature tree cover e.g. sports clubs, schools, householders, allotments, companies.

KTC have purchased Bluesky's National Tree Map™ (NTM™) which provides access to a comprehensive database of location, height and canopy/crown extents for every single tree 3m and above in height; created from high resolution national aerial photography. Bluesky records that

there are 35,000 trees in town; large and small on private and public land. This figure has to be used with caution as we believe it overcounts eg a large oak canopy can count as multiple trees.



Download from Jotform during tree survey of public spaces

Date	Time	Surveyor:	Tree tag id:	Is the tree on public or private land	What species of tree is it?	What is the estimated height of the tree in metres?	What is the measured girth of the tree in millimetres?	What is the estimated age category of the tree?	What is the physical condition of the tree?	Any other comments:	Latitude	Longitude	Unique ID
20/10/2020	12:49:14	Callum Thomas	656	Public Land	Sycamore	10	1100	Middle aged	Poor	Ivy strangled	53.30391	-2.36004	000878
20/10/2020	12:48:08	Malcolm Thomas	696	Public Land	Sycamore	15	600	Middle aged	Good	Ivy growth	53.3039	-2.36007	000877
20/10/2020	12:47:16	Callum Thomas	668	Public Land	Sycamore	12	1000	Middle aged	Poor	Ivy strangled	53.30392	-2.36002	000876
20/10/2020	12:45:55	Malcolm Thomas	695	Public Land	Pine, Scots	18	2000	Mature	Good	Ivy growth	NaN	NaN	000875
20/10/2020	12:44:28	Callum Thomas	653	Public Land	Oak	17	3000	Mature	Good	Ivy strangled	53.30388	-2.36016	000874
20/10/2020	12:43:01	Malcolm Thomas	694	Public Land	Sycamore	18	1200	Mature	Good	Ivy and bifercation	NaN	NaN	000873
20/10/2020	12:41:14	Malcolm Thomas	693	Public Land	Sycamore	15	700	Middle aged	Good	Ivy growth	53.30393	-2.36003	000872
20/10/2020	12:40:56	Callum Thomas	651	Public Land	Sycamore	14	1300	Middle aged	Poor	Ivy strangled. Trunk bifurcation.	53.30388	-2.36012	000871
20/10/2020	12:38:15	Malcolm Thomas	672	Public Land	Sycamore	9	600	Middle aged	Good		53.30392	-2.36006	000870
20/10/2020	12:37:20	Callum Thomas	664	Public Land	Sycamore	15	1100	Middle aged	Poor	Ivy strangled	53.30393	-2.35998	000869
20/10/2020	12:35:43	Malcolm Thomas	671	Public Land	Pine, Scots	18	2000	Mature	Good		NaN	NaN	000868
20/10/2020	12:34:30	Callum Thomas	663	Public Land	Sycamore	15	1600	Middle aged	Poor	Ivy strangled	53.30394	-2.36	000867
20/10/2020	12:33:14	Malcolm Thomas	670	Public Land	Sycamore	15	1500	Middle aged	Fair	Ivy growth	53.30392	-2.35999	000866
20/10/2020	12:32:01	Callum Thomas	655	Public Land	Sycamore	15	1800	Mature	Poor	Ivy strangled	53.30392	-2.36001	000865
20/10/2020	12:29:47	Malcolm Thomas	669	Public Land	Sycamore	15	1200	Middle aged	Fair	Ivy growth	53.304	-2.35995	000864
20/10/2020	12:23:20	Malcolm Thomas	650	Public Land	Sycamore	15	1800	Mature	Poor	Ivy strangled	53.30263	-2.35943	000863
19/10/2020	17:49:46	Kevin Griffiths	922	Public Land	Sycamore	15	1160	Middle aged	Good		53.30673	-2.36516	000862
19/10/2020	17:45:12	Kevin Griffiths	921	Public Land	Sycamore	20	1630	Mature	Good	Possible bat roost.	53.30674	-2.36529	000861
19/10/2020	17:33:53	Kevin Griffiths	920	Public Land	Sycamore	20	1530	Middle aged	Good		53.30676	-2.36531	000860
19/10/2020	17:27:32	Kevin Griffiths	919	Public Land	Willow	30	2170	Mature	Good		53.30678	-2.36567	000859
19/10/2020	17:22:21	Kevin Griffiths	918	Public Land	Sycamore	25	1030	Middle aged	Good		53.30701	-2.36525	000858

Typical information collected : unique ID is tag number

Ref	Action	Task	Responsible	Target	Status	Notes
1	One	Potential tree planting locations identified tree planting proposal prepared for committee.	WG/PFO	Sep-20	Complete	
2	One	Committee to agree tree planting plan	Committee	Sep-20	Complete	
3	Two	Town Clerk to write Cheshire East Council urging permission be given for tree planting on suitable highway verges	TC	Mar-20	Complete	CEC has stated it is undertaking a review which will be concluded towards the end of 2020.
4	Two	Subject to agreement from Cheshire East Council, verges to be included in the tree planting plan	PFO/Committee	Sep-20	Complete	Verges included, pending permission.
5	Three	Tree Mission page set up on Town Council website	PFO	May-20	Complete	
6	Three	Launch of the tree mission	PFO	May-20	Outstanding	Will be launched in January 2021 to separate from the council's tree planting plans.
7	Three	Planning logs to be monitored and letters sent to applicants regarding replanting of trees	PFO/ASO	Ongoing	Complete	System now in place.
8	Four	Tree tracker to be included on mission page	PFO	May-20	Complete	
9	Five	Review of planting areas to be undertaken and planting schemes to be prepared to comply with the policy	PFO	Apr-20	Complete	
10	Six	Cheshire Wildlife Trust to be commissioned to create meadow annually from 2021	PFO	2021	Complete	
11	Seven	Potential verges for planting schemes identified and proposals prepared for committee	WG/PFO	Sep-20	Complete	
12	Seven	Committee to agree verges improvement plan	Committee	Sep-20	Complete	
13	Eight	Bulb planting areas to be identified	WG/PFO	Sep-20	Complete	
14	Eight	Annual bulb planting events to be organised	PFO	Oct-20	Outstanding	Not organised for 2020 due to COVID restrictions. Plans being put in place for Autumn

						2021.
15	Nine	Information to be published on council website promoting hedges and hedgehog holes	PFO	May-20	Outstanding	Will be incorporated on new website to be launched in September.
16	Nine	Hedgehog highway campaign to encourage creation of hedgehog holes	PFO	Nov-21	Outstanding	Preliminary work completed.
17	Ten	Open spaces where hedges could replace or complement fences identified and planting plan prepared	WG/PFO	Sep-20	Complete	
18	Ten	Committee to agree hedge planting plan	Committee	Sep-20	Complete	
19	Eleven	Target landowners identified to encourage planting of trees and hedges to connect green corridors	WG/PFO	Sep-20	Outstanding	
20	Twelve	Project established with landowners to create wildlife corridor from Bluebell Wood to the Heath	WG/PFO	Jun-20	Outstanding	
21	Twelve	Planting undertaken on open space on Longridge to extend wildlife corridor from St Johns Wood	PFO	Mar-20	Outstanding	To be included in first phase of planting plan implementation.
22	Twelve	Engagement with Cheshire East Council and Developer to link Booths Mere to wildlife corridor from St Johns Wood	WG/PFO	Jun-20	Outstanding	Pending a planning application being submitted to identify the route of the corridor
23	Thirteen	Identification of suitable ponds for planting schemes	WG/PFO	Sep-20	Outstanding	Preliminary work commenced by working group. Planting plan has been prioritised.
24	Fourteen	Bird / bat boxes to be installed in Wallwood	Committee	Mar-20	Outstanding	Boxes will be installed shortly.
25	Fourteen	Bird / bat boxes to be installed on Higher Town Green	Committee	Mar-20	Outstanding	Boxes will be installed shortly.
26	Fourteen	Bird / bat boxes to be installed near Obelisk	Committee	Mar-20	Outstanding	Boxes will be installed shortly.
27	Fourteen	Bird / bat boxes to be installed in Cemetery	Committee	Mar-20	Outstanding	Boxes will be installed shortly.
28	Fourteen	Bug hotels to be installed in Wallwood and Higher Town Green	Committee	Aug-20	Outstanding	First hotel installed in Wallwood

29	Fifteen	Project established to undertake tree mapping across Knutsford	WG/PFO	Aug-20	Ongoing
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