

MINUTES OF THE WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE COMMITTEE HELD AT UNITED REFORMED CHURCH HALL ON TUESDAY 23 MAY 2023 AT 4.00 PM

Present: Councillor M McGuffie (Chairman)
Councillors C Booth, K Canham, C Govier and M Lithgow

In attendance: David Farrow (Town Clerk)
Councillor J Thorne
Amy Kemmish, Project Manager Heritage at Risk Somerset Council (for agenda item 6)
Steve Saunders Footpath Volunteer Coordinator (for Agenda Item 7)
Adam Lockyer, Wellington Community Food (for agenda items 10(b) and 11)
1 Member of the press

47 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN FOR THE COMING YEAR

Councillor M McGuffie was elected as Chairman for the coming year

48 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors M Barr and K Wheatley.

49 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

50 HERITAGE UPDATE

A report from Amy Kemmish had been circulated with the agenda.

In response to a question regarding the Notice served on the Teare's building she advised that there were a range of options open to the Council should it not be complied with within the twelve week period.

The Town Clerk was asked to explore options for involving Building Control if there was a possibility that the Teare's building was unsafe

51 FOOTPATH UPDATE

Steve Saunders provided a verbal update.

In response to points raised The Town Clerk said that he had received a communication from Network Rail explaining why the Westford Crossing was still not open which he read out to the meeting. He agreed to forward it to Steve Saunders.

The Town Clerk also said that he was in discussion with the Footpath Team from Somerset Council about making the footpath between Rockwell Green and The Basins more accessible for wheelchairs etc by changing the gates at either end and installing a ramp at the bridge. Somerset Council were preparing proposals which he would bring back to the Council for consideration.

52 TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Committee **RESOLVED** to recommend to the Full Council that as the Terms of reference had been reviewed in April 2023 no further changes were required and that they should be adopted unchanged.

53 CROWN ESTATE LAND

The Town Clerk advised that he had spoken to both The Environment Agency and Wessex water and both agencies had said that the culvert which appeared linked to the Crown Estate Land on Linden Drive was not their responsibility. He had ascertained that the culvert did have a Somerset Council Asset number which suggested responsibility for maintenance/repair may sit with it. He was waiting for a response to confirm that.

He also advised that other issues had come to light in the last few days which meant that the Town Council would want to review its position irrespective of the position on the culvert and that it would be an agenda item for the Full Council meeting on the 5 June.

54 GREEN CORRIDOR LAND

(a) The notes from Advisory Board Meeting held on 10 May 2023 were noted.

(b) The Committee considered quotes for carrying out Biodiversity Audits on the Green Corridor Land and **RESOLVED:**

a. That it would not pursue a Soil Carbon Assessment at this stage and

b. That it would accept the quote from Clarkson and Woods to carry out an Ecological Walkover Survey and Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment at a cost of £2,920. As the value of the work is below £3,000 the Committee is able to accept this quote on behalf of the Council under its delegated powers

(c) The Committee consider a request from a local resident to purchase part of Linden Meadow to create a turning circle. This was because of the risks associated with having to reverse out of the and on to Linden Hill and the risk to walkers coming down the lane when reversing especially when it was dark.

The Committee did not support the request on the basis (a) that the field was purchased to protect the habitat and prevent development and the request was not consistent with that (b) that the amount of land being requested was excessive and (c) that the resident should explore options for creating space for turning on their own land.

55 PURCHASE OF STORAGE CONTAINER FOR COMMUNITY FARM FIELD

After some consideration the committee **RESOLVED** to recommend to the Full Council that £5,000 be allocated to purchase a storage container on the Community Farm field for use by both the Town Council and Wellington Community Food.

56 PROPOSAL FOR WORK ON THE FORMER GAY CLOSE PLAY AREA

The Committee considered ideas submitted by Councillor C Booth for improvements to the Gay Close play area.

The Committee asked the Town Clerk to seek quotes for the proposed work and report back to the next meeting of the Committee.

57 TONEDALE PLAY AREA

After some discussion the Committee **RESOLVED**

- (a) That officers do further work to determine options and costs for surfaces for the footpath from Milverton Road to the play area to report back to the Committee.
- (b) That officers proceed with replacing the existing bin with a larger covered bin.
- (c) That officers proceed with refurbishing the bench.
- (d) That signage is installed clearly showing that the area is owned and managed by the Town Council and that dogs are not allowed.
- (e) That contact is made with the artist who installed the mural on Tonedale Bridge in relation to having artwork on the backs of the garages backing on to the play area;
- (f) That officers seek advice about appropriate planting for the wetter areas of the play and report back to the next meeting.

58 CARBON POLICY REVIEW

A paper had been circulated prior to the meeting setting out a range of activities that had been identified that would support the delivery of the Town's Carbon Neutral Strategy. The Town clerk reported that the intention would be to work these up into a more detailed action plan.

The Committee members present identified some key areas as being the development of community transport options for those parts of the town that don't have easy access to public transport, increasing the number of secure bike racks in the town centre to encourage more bike use, implementing the Tree Planting Strategy and exploring whether public transport to Taunton could be better subsidised.

59 LOCAL CYCLING AND WALKING INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN UPDATE

The Town Clerk advised that the Wellington Wheelers had been asked to do some more work to identify what they considered to be ideal solutions for creating safe cycle routes in the town to be completed by the end of May.

The Town Clerk also said that he would circulate details of a new proposal for a Wellington – Taunton Cycle route following the route of the Grand Western Canal.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 6.00 pm

.....
Councillor M McGuffie
Chairman



SC HAR team Report to Wellington Town Council Environment and Heritage committee

18th July 2023

Heritage at Risk in Wellington

Authors: Amy Kemmish

Toneworks, Grade II*, owned by SWT, HE HAR Register

- Phase 3 is completing this week, with just a few extra items to be carried out in the coming weeks including a further door repair and temporary covers for some of the machines to help keep them dry. The phase has been a success despite a number of challenges presented by the building as we have progressed. The two tanks are now supported, and all four walls of building T have been consolidated allowing us to remove propping scaffold which both reduces on going costs and allows better safe access to building V where we undertook our works in Phase 2. The windows in Building V have been beautifully restored and temporary guttering has been installed so those spaces are much better protected from the weather and are now the driest on the site.
- Our plans for summer events are now finalised and I will shortly send through our poster for the events, please feel free to print and display in the community and spread the word, I will also be putting some up anywhere I can access. We look forward to hopefully seeing you for some of our tours across the next few months, booking is via Eventbrite but let me know if you have any problems. For now, I've put the times and dates before for your information in the meantime. Please note spaces are limited to 10 people per tour and I will let Dave know when the booking system is live.



Date	Event	Time	
Thursday 27 July	Meet the Architect – Claire Fear (Architectural Thread)	12.30	2.15
Tuesday 1 August	Standard tour	2.15	3.30
Monday 7 August	Standard tour	10.15	11.30
Saturday 19 August	Standard tour	2.15	3.30
Thursday 24 August	Meet the Historian – Vanessa Ruhlig (Architectural Thread)	12.30	2.15
Wednesday 30 August	Standard tour	2.15	3.30
Friday 8 September	Heritage and Climate Change – Joanne Williams (Historic England)	1.15	2.45
Saturday 9 September	Heritage and Climate Change – Joanne Williams (Historic England)	10.15	11.45
Friday 15 September	Textile History and Toneworks – Bethan Murray (South West Heritage Trust)	1.15	2.45
Saturday 16 September	Meet the Engineer – Nick Winn (Integral Engineering Design)	10.15	11.45
Thursday 21 September	Standard tour	2.15	3.30
Wednesday 27 September	Standard tour	11.45	1.00
Tuesday 3 October	Standard tour	2.15	3.30
Monday 9 October	Standard tour	11.45	1.00
Thursday 19 October	Standard tour	10.15	11.30
Friday 27 October	Looking into the Future & Cherry Picker	12.30	2.15

Tonedale Mill, Grade II*, private ownership, HE HAR Register

- The owners of Tonedale Mill have recently employed a new professional team and we have been engaging with them on their programme and future plans for the site.
- We continue to closely monitor the site and ensure the owner is aware of our concerns and all of the urgent works necessary on the site.
- The owners have submitted a NMA and Certificate of Lawful development for the planning permission granted to the site in 2008 to our planning department, these have now had approval decisions given, however it is important to remember that there remain a number of large conditions that must be met before development works can go ahead.
- Recently they have done some works to improve parts of the fencing on site and some minimal vegetation clearance. We are working with them to make this work more extensive.
- We have been in contact with the police and fire service after a small fire broke out in one building of the East Complex on Sunday 9th July.

Conservation Area, HE HAR Register

- We have recently advised Historic England that the CA should remain on the At Risk Register for 2023/24. We continue to engage our contact in HE to see if we can get a renewed focus put on the CA.

Historic Water Ways

- Historic England have now nearly finished their report to understand the historic significance of its features. We are just awaiting a final copy after the author has retired.
- The project with the SRA funding secured by the HAR team will be underway from August with the Heritage at Risk team remaining involved to advise and advocate for the historic waterways and heritage assets involved. When there are opportunities for contribution to the project we will be certain to let you know and ensure WTC are closely involved.

Enforcement cases

- **Rockwell Green Water Towers, Grade II, Private ownership**
- We recently carried out works in default following a S215 notice that was not complied with at this site for the clearance of the extensive overgrown vegetation.
- We have now visited the site and inspected the inside of both towers as far as was safe with a representative of the owner. Whilst on site we made it clear the owner needed to prioritise this site and ensured they were aware of what needed to be done both in historic building terms and regarding the knotweed / management of vegetation.
- **Teare's Newsagents, Grade II and CA, Private ownership**
- We have now served a Section 215 notice on the owners of Teare's Newsagents.
- The notice requires the owner to complete the works set out in the notice (to repair and tidy the façade of the building.) This is a first step at this site, and we hope that the works will be completed by the owner before the notice period is up.

- We have not received any contact from the owners yet, the notice period is not yet up.
- Once the notice period is up the case will be handed to the enforcement team for them to carry out the next steps.

Fundraising

- We're very grateful for the recent contribution from WTC of £50K towards further Phase 3 works at Toneworks that will allow us to take tours around site in the summer months for the community and interested members of the public. Your contribution has made a great difference to what we have been able to achieve in this phase and has also helped to attract further funding from both Historic England and the South West Heritage Trust.
- We hope our summer programme of events will help us further with our fundraising by raising the profile of the site.
- We are particularly focused on securing money to restore the roof of building R which if you have visited site with Jo, has been referred to as the theatre room but is also known as the cloth carbonising room. The roof here partially collapsed during Phase 1 of the project and then a further portion was removed in Phase 3 to facilitate the support of the tanks. We have carried out some repairs to the principal rafters during this phase, however we were unable to fund restoring the rest of the roof and it remains partially open to the elements. We have some slates left over that we can use making this a good next repair to fund but unfortunately, we've not been able to stretch our remaining funding this far.

Pyramidion

- We await news from our planning team for opportunities for its reinstatement of the monument stones within the station scheme/application.

ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE COMMITTEE

JULY 2023

Proposal for a Tonedale Mill Working Group

1. Introduction

1.1 The purpose of this paper is to seek the Committee's views on whether, given that the current members of the board of Directors of the Wellington Mills Community Interest Company (CiC) are stepping down, the Town Council should establish a Working Group to work with Somerset Council to develop a way forward for the site.

2. Background

2.1 Wellington Mills CiC was established 'to encourage and promote the effective regeneration of the wonderful buildings at Tonedale, ToneWorks and the surrounding green spaces including Fox's Field, into a viable and worthwhile new role in the town's life' and to 'break the log-jam at the two mill sites and kickstart fresh thinking about the whole area.' (taken from the CiC Website).

2.2 In recent days the Directors of the CiC have written to partners saying that they are standing down from the role and inviting anyone who is interested in becoming a director to apply to do so by the 15 July 2023.

2.3 In the event that there are no, or insufficient, applications to fill the directors roles there is a risk that there is a vacuum of representation from a local group to continue to work with Somerset Council to find a way forward particularly in relation to the Tonedale Mill site.

2.4 When the Town Council agreed its Vision in 2022 one of its key commitments was that it would be '**Proud and protective of our heritage, green spaces, and biodiversity**'. The change of the remit of what was the Environment and Open Spaces Committee to the Environment and Heritage Committee was a way of recognising that.

2.5 As can be seen from the report provided by the Heritage at Risk team for this meeting, the Tonedale Mill site is an ongoing concern and there is no real sense of what the 'end game', or ideal solution, is.

2.6 Whilst receiving update reports for these Committee meetings, the Town Council is not being proactive in seeking to find a solution for the most important heritage site in the town.

3. Consideration

3.1 The Committee is asked to consider whether it would recommend to the Full Council that a Working Group is set up consisting of a small number of councillors and others who have an interest in the Mill to ensure that there is a local voice in considerations about the future of the site.

3.2 It would not be the intention that the Working Group would replicate the work of the CiC rather it would seek to support the identification of a way forward for the site working with the Heritage at Risk Team of Somerset Council which in time may include identifying a suitable organisational vehicle for any future development work.

3.3 The initial work of the group would be to gather information about the current position and the options for how the site could be used and how best the heritage of the site can be protected.

3.4 The intention would be that the Working Group would provide a report on its findings to the January 2024 meeting of the Environment and Heritage Committee to enable the committee to develop an informed position for the Full Council to consider on the future of the site.

Dave Farrow
Town Clerk
July 2023

Wellington Town Council – Climate Strategy Delivery Document

Introduction

In April 2022 Wellington Town Council unanimously recognised and accepted a Climate Change Strategy proposal and committed to becoming a net zero carbon town by 2030. This report sets out the key activities, vision and context that as a Town Council we will need to meet this highly ambitious target and the benefits that will be gained by the wider community both taking part and acting. To ensure that there are positive social, economic and environmental gains the intention is that there will be strong integration with other activities of the Council and its partners. The anticipation is that this report and progress towards the net zero 2030 target be updated annually with progress reviewed on a six-monthly basis. (Ad1)

Wellington in 2030

Our vision for the year 2030 is a healthy, well connected and resilient community which includes a network of both safe and accessible walking and cycling routes ensuring active travel be the norm for most local trips. Air Pollution will have been significantly reduced, which will impact highly on reducing health issues such as asthma, lung cancer and obesity. Therefore, having a huge impact on health and wellbeing both physical and mental. An active lifestyle will have helped reduce the risk of major illness i.e., heart disease, stroke, type 2 diabetes and obesity by up to potentially 50% which effectively lowers the risk of health type early death by up to 30% ¹.

By using a combination of electric vehicles, bikes and rickshaws for longer journeys and deliveries with the inclusion of shared transportation - car sharing/pooling to become the norm, means that traffic congestion will have significantly reduced making streets safer and easier for different communities to come together and connect. Apart from the health benefits commuters switching from car to bike could potentially save up to £3,000 per year². Through local employment, home working, teleconferencing, local facilities, services, sourcing and 'staycations' ³.

Wellington has become a sharing town with neighbourhood sharing hubs allowing people to share and continuously re-use items such as drills, it is documented that a drill on average is used for 13 minutes in a lifetime. A sharing hub allows people to borrow and use as and when needed. This is slashing emissions, reducing waste and creating new neighbourhood connections.

With the Community Farm growing food for the whole community of Wellington – local food production/veg boxes and creating educational opportunities and employment opportunities. There are allotments, schools are growing their own produce and residents are growing their own food.

New housing is being created with larger gardens designed for that purpose. This is significantly increasing the amount of plant protein that people are consuming, significantly reducing emissions⁴ and boosting health⁵.

Food waste has almost been eliminated with more sustained local sourcing reducing the amount of food wasted by both retail and farming. Food waste at home has also been significantly reduced through increased awareness and food planning, thus saving residents between £600 - £800 per year.

New Community and Public buildings will be built using zero carbon resources and be environmentally friendly - Cades Farm Community Hall potentially to be built using Hempcrete as the building material – see addendum 7.

Homes and buildings are costing significantly less to power and heat as they are well insulated, thus creating lower energy bills which are reduced have eliminated fuel poverty. LED lighting and energy efficient appliances, which allow for repair and are designed for longevity are being used in both homes and businesses. Homes and businesses are using renewable and affordable heating sources. Most buildings have solar panels which provide either significantly discounted or free total electricity cost.

People are spending significantly more time in green, open spaces such as the green corridor which has meadows, woodland and natural hedges. Biodiversity is thriving due to well-connected woodlands with thousands of trees being planted. All of which has helped boost community wellbeing.

There are well constructed and signed cycle paths which also cater for mobility vehicles/pushchairs etc., allowing everyone to access the outdoors.

As part of the climate emergency declaration. Wellington Town Council are committed to:

- Enable Wellington to become carbon neutral by 2030, considering both production and consumption emissions (scope 1, 2 and 3). ⁴ This means getting carbon emissions as low as possible. However, zero won't be possible as

everything, even the manufacture of a bicycle, has an inherent impact. The remaining carbon will be 'offset' through increasing carbon sequestration locally, nationally and globally.

- Call on Westminster to provide the powers and resources to make the 2030 target possible.
- Work with other authorities, both within the UK and internationally, to determine and implement best practice methods to limit Global Warming to less than 1.5°C.
- Continue to work with partners across the region to deliver this new goal through all relevant strategies and plans
- Report to Full Council with updates on the actions the Council is taking to address this emergency every six months.
- Work with Somerset's Unitary Council planning team to maximise energy efficiency and renewable energy generation in new developments. Support Somerset's Unitary Council and the Climate Strategy aims of Wellington Town Council when holding pre-application discussions with developers.
- Work with land agents to identify opportunities for wind turbines and solar
- Promote insulation offers
- Promote and provide charge points for electric vehicles
- Work with schools, businesses and other organisations to reduce their energy costs and carbon emissions – ENERGY SPARKS FOR SCHOOLS
- Sign up to the global Covenant of Mayors⁵, linking with towns and cities around the world to share ideas, lessons learnt and funding opportunities on how we can quickly and effectively reduce carbon. Wellington Town Council signed up at the start of 2023. (Ad2)

The story so far...

Wellington Town Council has committed to leasing 64 acres of green land on a 150-year lease. A Community Farm project will be up and running by the end of Spring 2023 which will enable a supply of locally grown produce, including veg boxes be supplied to the entire Community of Wellington as a whole. Hundreds of trees and natural hedging will be planted with re-wilding of meadows also ongoing within the 64 acres. Allotment numbers will be substantially increased and available for rent to households who require one.

The new Community Hall at Cades Hill will potentially be built using Hempcrete a zero-carbon rated building material and will be designed using zero carbon and energy efficient methods and utilities. This will act as a model for future community build. It could also include solar roof panels and a Heat-pump heating source (Ad3)

Wellington Town Council are exploring ways to engage the younger members of the community with working local partnerships such as Edventure Taunton (Ad4), the setting up of a 'Library of Things' (Ad5) which functions like a normal library, you sign up as a member and borrow for a small fee the items that you need that have been donated by the local community or retail outlets. From power tools to sporting equipment through to camping equipment. Staffed and run by volunteers on a charity basis it shows that the community can come together as a whole and connect by sharing.

Thermal imaging cameras can be borrowed from the Town Hall by Wellington residents to identify areas in their own homes that need insulation.

Work in the area of offering the community reduced-price solar panels and discounted insulation offers is ongoing.

1 <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/exercise/exercise-health-benefits/>

2 <https://www.cyclescheme.co.uk/community/featured/how-much-money-does-cycling-save-you>

3 <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Staycation>

4 <http://www.carbontrust.com/resources/faqs/services/scope-3-indirect-carbon-emissions>

5 <https://www.globalcovenantofmayors.org>

Wellington Community whole footprint

This figure shows the annual carbon emissions (measured in tonnes CO₂e²) emitted as a result of the different activities that residents within our parish's boundary engage in – from heating to eating.

Housing
Emissions resulting from residents' use of energy in their homes.
Food and diet
Emissions resulting from the consumption of food and drink products by residents.
Travel
Emissions resulting from the transport choices & behaviours of residents.
Waste
Emissions resulting from the management of waste generated by residents.
Consumption of goods and services
Emissions resulting from the purchase of goods and the use of services by residents.

Consumption of goods and services:35,568

Food and diet:24,279

Housing:20,166

Travel:18,388

Purchase of goods:18,940

Use of services:8,855

Other consumption-related emissions:7,772

Meat and fish:13,719

Other food and drink:10,559

Mains gas:12,277

Electricity:6,866

Private transport:9,432

Flights:5,969

Public transport:2,987

Total:100,041

Goods – all household goods (not food), including homeware, toiletries, medicines, furnishings, electronic goods, appliances, & large items such as cars.

Services – use of services, including the maintenance and repair of home, vehicles and other equipment, banking and insurance, medical services, treatments, education costs, communications (e.g. TV, internet and phone contracts), and other fees and subscriptions.

Other – leisure, entertainment, sporting or social activities.

Climate Change Strategy – Activities (Ad6):

Using the council website as a 'Sharing of information' hub this would include:

- regular newsletters, media articles, renewable energy information, grant offers, tree planting guidance, local electric charging point criteria, school learning packs.
- A forum for residents of the community of Wellington to share ideas or experiences these could include Tips that have been successful for themselves. Any content would be monitored/filtered and approved by the Council so that nothing untoward/libellous/illegal could be shared.
- Trusted Traders page where residents can publish their experiences of local traders – again monitored.
- The Town Council should show leadership, championing and implementing local community activities in support of best practice.
- The Town Council should advocate strongly for carbon control best practice measures with other authorities and work in partnership with others to support delivery measures which will benefit the town.
- The Town Council will review its own practices to make sure it is as carbon efficient as it can be,
- The Town Council will commission a review of the towns carbon emissions in order to provide a benchmark against which progress can be measured.

Food:

Meat and fish:

Wellington's residents' consumption of meat and fish results in annual carbon emissions per household of 2 t CO₂e. This compares with 2 t CO₂e at the district level and 2 t CO₂e at the national level.

Other food and drink items:

Wellington's residents' consumption of other food and drink items results in annual carbon emissions per household of 1.6 t CO₂e. This compares with 1.6 t CO₂e at the district level and 1.6 t CO₂e at the national level.

What can we do:

- Develop and promote a Community Fridge/Larder (Ad 7) – April/May 2024 to be based at the rear of the Kings Arms, Wellington
- Utilise/promote the Foodbank, CAP and Best Before store.
- Promote local food growing and training opportunities to reduce food miles.
- Support local food economy – farmer's markets, Community farm, local food branding,
- Work with schools – there are 21 schools in Wellington ranging from pre-schools to Secondary school and 1 hospital – to source local, seasonal and increased plant protein use.
- Develop additional community allotments/community greenhouses,
- Promote sustainable farming practices:
 - **Natural animal raising** – no use of medications, vaccines, vitamins or minerals,
 - **Permaculture** – the development of agricultural ecosystems intended to be sustainable and self-sufficient,
 - **Polyculture** - the simultaneous cultivation or exploitation of several crops or kinds of animals
 - **Pasture management** - the practice of growing healthy forage grasses and legumes that ensure a lasting food source for livestock while at the same time focuses on maintaining and improving the ecological health of the soil.

Energy/Heating Efficiency:

- Wellington's community's residents' use of energy in their homes results in annual carbon emissions per household of 3 t CO₂e. This compares with 3.9 t CO₂e at the district level and 3.5 t CO₂e at the national level.
- In the average UK home, 64% of energy is used for space heating, 17% for heating water, 16% for lighting and appliances, and 3% for cooking³.
- As such a large proportion of household energy is used for heating, the type of heating system (i.e., is it low carbon?), and how well the home retains heat, are critical factors shaping the scale of a home's emissions. How well a home retains heat depends on several factors, including:
 - when and how it was built?
 - how much insulation has been installed?
 - how draughty the home is?
 - the efficiency of the windows?
 - behaviour of the residents?

What we can do:

- Develop and promote communal district heating networks – heating with renewables, support energy efficient planning initiatives,
- Provide advice and guidance on increasing efficiency of home energy use
- Work with providers to provide discounted schemes for insulation etc.
- Identify homes and buildings where residents/owners have already made improvements, and showcase these – with an event?
- Explore local potential for renewable energy generation schemes, such as a solar farm, rooftop solar, or wind power? Is a community (jointly owned) initiative possible?
- Is there an opportunity to shift households, community buildings and businesses in the area to green energy tariffs, (Ad8)
-

Transport:

- Car use: Residents' car use results in annual carbon emissions per household of 1.4 t CO₂e. This compares with 1.7 t CO₂e at the district level and 1.6 t CO₂e at the national level.
- Air travel: Residents' air travel results in annual carbon emissions per household of 0.9 t CO₂e. This compares with 1.2 t CO₂e at the district level and 1.1 t CO₂e at the national level.
- Public transport: Residents' use of public transport results in annual carbon emissions per household of 0.4 t CO₂e. This compares with 0.5 t CO₂e at the district level and 0.5 t CO₂e at the national level. (Ad9)

What can we do:

- Work with rail and bus operators to ensure that public transport is affordable, well planned, that it meets local demands and integrates both bus and train services and with provision for bikes to be transported as required.
- Map safe walking and cycling routes – using this as evidence to aid/secure funding for a safe, accessible, comprehensive and signed route network through the town. Develop and promote walking and cycling maps.
- Secure bicycle storage encouraging residents to cycle.
- Provide bike workshop to enable people to maintain, repair and share bikes plus gain skills including setting up a mobile cycle repair service that comes to the town centre on a regular weekly basis.
- Promote home delivery from independent local shops.
- Promote car/lift sharing.
- Work with Somerset Council, Network Rail (2025) and bus companies, community transport, volunteer drivers and other means to increase shared transport/better use public transport that will meet local needs.
- Installing more secure cycle racks to encourage people to leave their bikes safely when shopping.
- Encourage and promote energy efficient local transport schemes.
- Promote car/lift sharing.
- Develop local co-working space to meet any emerging needs.
- Wellington's Neighbourhood Plan sees transport as a key issue and delivering 'integrated sustainable transport options is a key aim of the Wellington Neighbourhood Development Plan'.

Alternative Power Sources:

What can we do:

Explore how solar power could be utilised on public buildings and promote schemes for businesses/residents.
Explore how waterpower could be utilised through the Green Corridor and at heritage sites in the town

The Environment:

What can we do:

- Implement the Council Tree Strategy including a resident's tree planting schemes – leaflets for comment were given out at the Street Fair on 3rd June 2023 – 2 Responses both positive. **(Ad10)**
- Develop and implement tree planting programme – working with local landowners.
- Work with community groups and communities to enhance Wellington's green infrastructure including the 64 acres (Green Corridor).
- Champion sustainable infrastructure – green space landscaping (64 acres) sustainable drainage, water conservation measures, permeable surfaces, flood protection measures
- Promote ethical banking, shopping **(Ad11)**, pensions, utilities and webhosting.
- Reduce waste, re-cycle and compost more.
- Repair shop
- SharePoint – Trial starting February 2024 in conjunction with Edventure.

Recycling:

What can we do:

- Promotion of re-use, re-cycle and repair
- Development Toy library
- Library of Things
- Repair Cafe
- Local school uniform swaps,
- Clothes swaps (Methodist Church),
- Book swaps,
- Challenging local businesses to minimise trade waste and maximise recycling, reducing single use plastics – drinking water fountains in public places.

Review of LCWIP Routes

Introduction

The Wellington Wheelers Cycling Club (WWCC) has reviewed the practicalities of providing protected space for cycling along the main route through the town. This was requested following the initial assessment which found little current provision in a space dominated by heavy traffic and parked motor vehicles.

It must be noted that the WWCC are not road engineers or active travel experts. We are cyclists who use this space and others while individually cycling thousands of miles per year. Any advice or suggestions we make are based on that experience, and we have considered no other factors such as affordability, usage, commercial interests or the general flow of motorised traffic through a heavily built-up area of a small market town in a predominantly rural area.



We have carefully studied the space available and, where practical, have measured the entire space including the pedestrian pavement. We have considered the alignment of the main routes through the town, and have drawn on the [Cycling Infrastructure Design](#) incorporated in Somerset Council’s highways planning policy (commonly referred to as LTN 1/20), and [Making Space for Cycling](#).

Throughout this assessment and in the previous one, we have noted there being sufficient space in the Mantle Street, Fore Street and High Street to accommodate either a two-way cycle path on one side, or two one-way paths with one on each side of the road.

To create either a one-way or two-way segregated cycle lane, space specifications are contained in the table below.

Cycle Route Type	Direction	Peak hour cycle flow (either one way or two-way depending on cycle route type)	Desirable minimum width* (m)	Absolute minimum at constraints (m)
Protected space for cycling (including light segregation, stepped cycle track, kerbed cycle track)	1 way	<200	2.0	1.5
		200-800	2.2	2.0
		>800	2.5	2.0
	2 way	<300	3.0	2.0
		>300-1000	3.0	2.5
Cycle lane	1 way	>1000	4.0	3.0
		All – cyclists able to use carriageway to overtake	2.0	1.5

Mantle Street to Priory (West – East)

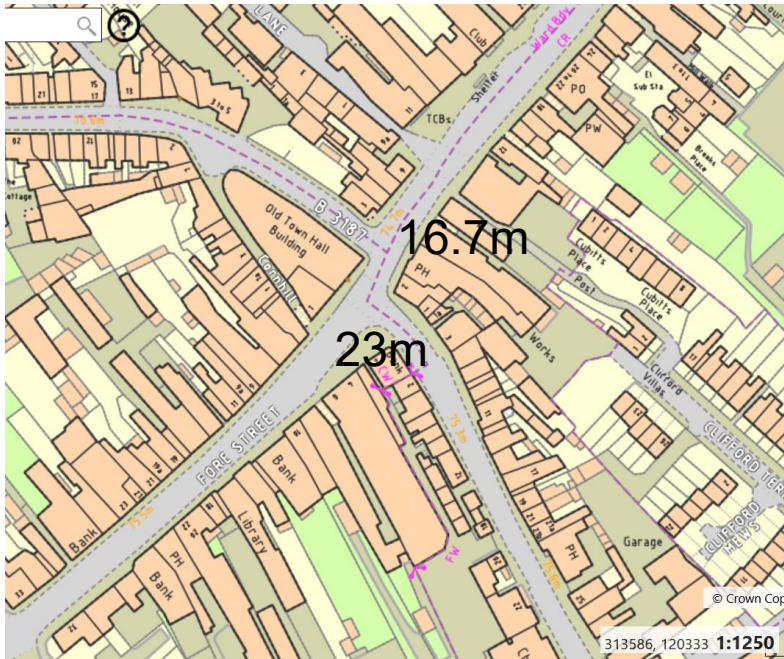
This is the main approach to the centre of town from the west along Exeter Road through Rockwell Green. Our starting point was the entrance to Courtfields School where the road is straight but narrow. Opposite is a busy petrol station. The whole of this road is bounded by wide pedestrian pavements, and permitted parking on all but a stretch on the south side from the BP garage to Champford Lane. The road space widens from Champford Mews to over 22m. At this point, so much space is given to parked vehicles, they are able to park at right angles to the kerb. The carriageway also has parking on the north side, and space is further restricted by a pedestrian refuge with bollards.



From Court Drive through to the junction with North Street and South Street, the road returns to a consistent width of 14 – 15 metres



The junction with South Street and North Street is over 23 metres wide although the staggered junction makes for poor visibility for non-motorised road users. The High Street is bounded by wide pavements and an open space which is again given over to parking and a bus stop. The road remains wide to the junction with Longforth Road and Red Lion Court whereby it returns to a regular 10 – 12 metres as it leaves the centre of town. From this junction to the junction of Buckwell, valuable road space is given over to four car parking spaces on the north side. In past years, this served a newsagent shop which closed many years ago, but the spaces remain. This anomaly restricts the road space for car users, HGVs and, in particular cyclists.



North South Route

From the junction with Pyles Thorne Road northwards to the centre of the town, the road is straight and a consistent 12 – 13 metres in width. Although parking is not permitted along the Wellington School estate, it is permitted from the junction of Bulford to the centre of town.

In our opinion, North Street to the junction with the North Street car park is completely untenable as a cycle route. It is narrow, congested with a crowded incline up to the traffic lights. We would suggest going through the North Street car park from the Fore Street by creating a two-way cycle path to pick up a cycle path along Waterloo Road and Station Road (cleared of on-street parking) where the road width is a consistent 10 – 12 metres to Millstream Gardens. Beyond this point, the Milverton Road is too restricted to create a cycle, and we suggest a new path would need to be created from Tone Hill to Tonedale

Observations

The town centre and its approach are wide with consistently good visibility. The road surface is poor in places. The volume of through traffic is extremely high leading to frequent congestion. There is no provision for cycling, and pedestrians occupy a space that is subjugated by motor vehicles. Crossing points for pedestrians are scarce, and parking enforcement is heavily biased in favour of car and van users. This has created a space which is a free-for-all in which vulnerable road users take their chances. It discourages active travel and contributes significantly to noise pollution and poor air quality.

Despite there being an efficient by-pass to the south of the town, and the presence of substantial, low-cost car parking on the north, south east and west approach roads within easy walking distance of the shops, parking is permitted on almost every free space on the carriageway.

Through traffic is high when it ought to be low. Nothing discourages the motorist from using the town centre as a highway, and the result is for all to see.

To make these routes viable for active travel, we would make the following recommendations:

1. Remove on-street parking in Fore Street, High Street and South Street.

2. Reduce the carriageway width to discourage through traffic in Fore Street, High Street and South Street, and to create space for active travel.
3. In the available space, create cycle paths segregated from motorised traffic by a kerb to prevent obstruction. This could be a two-way path on one side or a one-way path on both sides.
4. At the traffic lights in the centre of town and at the Longforth Road junction, increase the frequency and length of the pedestrian cycle, and give cyclists a 10 second start from motorised traffic.

Subsidiary route – Courtfields School

A public right of way runs along the north-west boundary of the school buildings from Mantle Street to Courtland Road (WG1725). It is unsuitable as a cycle path because it is narrow and has restricted visibility. However, with the sacrifice of a few metres of publicly owned land, a path could be created alongside this to the Victoria Park boundary fence. At this point it could follow a wide path up to Court Drive and out on to Mantle Street thus providing a quiet route into the school from the east and west. Although overgrown, this path is at least 3 metres wide except for its lower entrance (pictured). The path could route around the inside perimeter of the playing field to the North Street Car park.

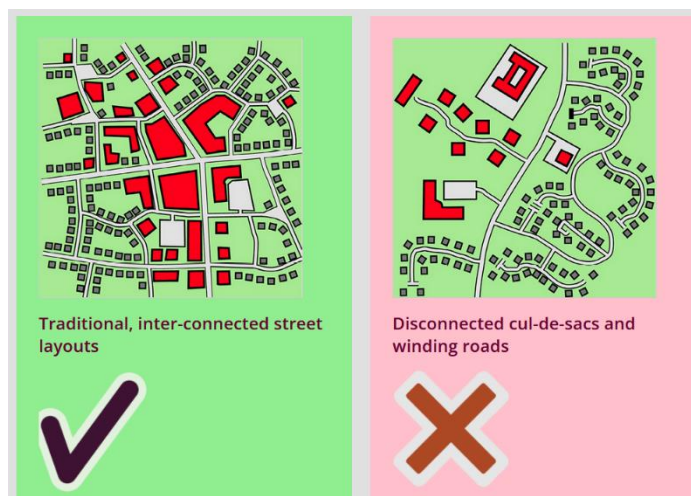


In turn, the path could form a small network of traffic free paths connecting with the Green Corridor.





Residential areas



If a cycle highway is created along the paths of the major north-south and east-west roads in the town, the next priority would be to create inter-connected paths in residential areas connecting schools, commercial centres and retail areas. Currently, the major developments of Cades Farm, Jurston Lane and Longforth Farm have many cul-de-sacs that require active travel in them to follow roads on long meandering journeys. With the provision of short, connecting paths, cycle and pedestrian journeys become simpler. The Bagley Road development at Barrington Way is a good example of how this can be achieved and is in contrast to the Cades Farm development.

We have made some suggestions about possible routes, but these should inform planning decisions on residential street design. There are many opportunities to improve the existing routes through these developments, but would take much more study than the scope of this report allows.

Summary

Wellington is a town which benefits from wide streets for its central area. However, the space is poorly utilised but, with patience and persistence, it would be possible to create safe active travel routes throughout. It would require a 'whole-town' view of the way in which traffic has built up and dominated over the last sixty years but, as we move towards a more environmentally beneficial future and away from reliance on cars for short-haul journeys, there is an opportunity too good to miss.

In 2020, 59% of car trips were under five miles, and the number of cycling trips is 128% higher in 2020 than in 2002. Some of this was due to the pandemic restrictions, but the overall trend has increased.

The implications for a town centre in a time of shifting retail trends and practices is toward a more community-based approach (LGA) meeting the needs of local populations. Active travel forms part of that, and contributes greatly to the health of the nation and the health of the environment.



Wellington Town Council Basins Allotments Advisory Group Draft Terms of Reference

1. Purpose

1.1. The role of the Advisory Group will be:

- to support and advise the Town Council, on matters relating to the Basins Allotments by making recommendations for action to the Environment and Heritage Committee and through that, Full Council where required,
- to have oversight of any work associated with the management of the land,
- to oversee any matters arising from condition inspections and the annual competition, and
- to have oversight of the creation of a Basins Allotment Association

2. Membership

2.1. Membership will comprise of two Councillors and four Allotment Tenants,

2.2. The Town Council has the right to review the membership of the Group as and when it considers it appropriate.

2.2.1. The Environment and Heritage Committee will appoint Councillors to the group, the Councillors are not required to be existing members of the Committee.

2.2.2. If oversubscribed, the appointment of allotment tenants to the group will be done by poll of all current allotment tenants at the Basins Allotments.

2.3. The Group will appoint a Chairman which must be a Councillor.

2.4. The Assets and Events Officer will attend and is responsible for the administration of any meetings.

3. Decision Making and Reporting Arrangements

3.1. The Working Group does not have any delegated powers to take decisions or commit Council resources to any activity.

3.2. The Group will report and make proposals to the Environment and Heritage Committee which, if agreed, will be recommended for adoption to the next meeting of Full Council unless it is able to take delegated decisions in accordance with its Terms of Reference.

4. Frequency of Meetings

4.1. The Group will meet four times a year and will review its timetable at the first meeting of each calendar year.



WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

28 Fore Street, Wellington, Somerset TA21 8AQ

Tel: 01823 662855

E-mail: info@wellingtontowncouncil.co.uk

Terms of Reference for the Wellington Town Council Environment and Heritage Committee

Name of Committee: The Environment and Heritage Committee

Purpose

To review, report on, and make recommendations to the Council on matters relating to a wide range of environmental and heritage issues within the Council's area including implementing the Council's climate change strategy, footpaths (in conjunction with the local volunteer team), [management of the Basins Allotments](#), developing and/or managing green spaces, heritage at risk and conservation area issues and other heritage matters.

Summary of Responsibilities

The Environment and Heritage Committee shall have delegated authority to :-

- Have responsibility for developing and having oversight of the delivery of the Council's Climate Change Strategy, to include administering (in line with set policy) the Council's initiative to provide grants to organisations delivering projects that directly tackle climate change.
- Have oversight of heritage matters in the town including monitoring progress of projects in relation to heritage at risk sites and any work being undertaken to preserve and enhance the town's conservation area to ensure that progress is being made, issues are being addressed and to raise concerns with the Somerset Council's Heritage at Risk Team where appropriate. To make recommendations to the Town Council in relation to providing funding to enable work to be undertaken work or make decisions in accordance with its delegated powers.
- Review issues relating to the maintenance and use of local footpaths and to promote the use of public rights of way within the town's parish area

Deleted: MARCH

- Consider and make recommendations in respect of all environmental issues affecting the town
- Liaise with appropriate authorities, groups, charities and other organisations to promote a sustainable, healthy, beneficial environment for the town and its residents.
- Has responsibility for the oversight of the management of land for which the Town Council is responsible either directly through ownership or through some other agreement that the Town Council may enter in to.
- Receive reports and recommendations from the Green Corridor Advisory Board.
- To ensure that the Basins allotments are run in a sustainable manner, to allocate and terminate tenancies, to recommend level of rental and to review tenancy agreements (via receiving recommendations from the Basins Allotment Advisory Board).

Status

The Environment and Heritage Committee is a fully constituted Committee. It has elected membership, however all Councillors are welcome to attend any meetings of the Committee.

Reporting

The committee will provide a minutes and necessary papers for discussion and consideration along with any recommendations for action at each Council meeting following a meeting of the committee.

Membership

The Committee will comprise 7 Councillors, elected annually at the Annual Council meeting, or at any other Council meeting should an interim need arise.

The Quorum of the committee is 4 elected members. No business may be transacted at a meeting unless the set quorum of Councillors is present and eligible to vote.

Should any Committee Member resign, the Chairman will consult with the other members and, if it is deemed necessary, seek another Councillor to fill the vacancy, which shall be decided by election at the subsequent Council meeting.

The local Footpath Volunteer group are invited to attend. Representatives from groups concerned with the protection of the local environment are also welcome to join meetings.

Delegated Authority to Authorise Payments

- The Committee has delegated authority from the Council to incur individual expenses relating to the Committee's core responsibilities to a maximum of £3,000 (per item) to be taken from the relevant budget. No other expenditure may be permitted without express approval from the Council. All items of expenditure will be reported to the next Council meeting.
- In the event that more than £3,000 is required for any one item of expenditure, the Committee will seek the express approval of the Council before proceeding.

Operation of the Committee

- The Committee has power to operate only as set out in these Terms of Reference. Unless relating to decisions regarding expenditure where the delegated authority to incur expenditure has been granted, members will only have decision-making

Deleted: MARCH

authority when voting at full Council on issues presented by Committee and relevant to its operational remit.

- Meetings of the Committee will be held six times a year in alternate months
- A Chairman of the Committee will be elected at its first meeting following the Annual Meeting of the Council.
- If the Chairman is not able to attend a meeting another Member will undertake to act as Chairman for the duration of the meeting in question.
- The Committee will make decisions by consensus demonstrated by a simple majority vote of those members of the Committee present at any meeting.
- In the case of a tied vote, the Chairman will cast the deciding vote
- The Clerk or Deputy Clerk will prepare and circulate to Councillors an agenda by email for each meeting, at least three working days prior to the meeting, and will publish the agenda on the Council website and noticeboard.
- The first agenda item will be a report by the Public Path Liaison Officer, or any delegated member of the Footpath's Volunteer group. At all other time individuals attend the meeting as observers. A maximum of 3 minutes speaking per person will be allowed, with public speaking time not exceeding 15 minutes in total.
- The Terms of Reference, agendas, and minutes of the Committee's meetings will be made available to Councillors and the public as soon as practicable.
- The Chair of the Committee will report to the Council at each monthly meeting as to the progress of matters under its consideration.
- Any amendments to these Terms of Reference may only be by formal resolution at a full Council meeting.

Deleted: MARCH

ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE COMMITTEE

12 JULY 2023

FRUIT TREE PROJECT

1. Introduction

1.1 The purpose of this paper is to set out a proposal for funding the provision of free fruit trees (dwarf apple trees) to residents and schools of Wellington as part of the delivery of the Town Council's Tree Strategy.

2. Background

2.1 The Town Council agreed a Tree Strategy in December 2022 with the intention that over time it would increase tree cover in the town 'to help offset carbon emissions and allow the town to adapt to climate change by providing more shade and wildlife habitats.'

2.2 One way in which the strategy would be delivered would be through encouraging residents and schools to plant trees on their sites.

2.3 In order to move this action forward it is proposed that a number of trees be purchased by the Town Council for distribution to residents and schools who wish to have them.

2.4 We have contacted a number of growers to assess which is the best option and a summary of the options is attached as Appendix 1. It was not possible to find three providers who had like for like offers but the information provided is enough to enable a meaningful comparison to be made.

2.5 Over the last couple of weeks we have been market testing the concept to see what degree of interest there would be in an offer of a free dwarf apple tree via our social media. At the time of writing we have had 131 residents say they would be interested and we would anticipate that schools in the town would also want to be involved.

2.6 If the Council approves the project the intention would be to do a more intensive marketing of the project through the Wellington Weekly and Around Wellington which we would anticipate would generate more interest.

3. Consideration

3.1 The proposal is that:

3.1.1 the Council use Weetrees, Wellington as the supplier for the project on the basis that it represents the best value for money, the arrangements are more straightforward to manage and it would be good to be able to support a local business.

- 3.1.2 £5,400 be set aside from the Environmental Improvements Budget for this project. This would enable the purchase of 300 trees if needed.
- 3.1.3 The Town Council promote the project through the Wellington Weekly, Around Wellington and any other routes available to it in mid-September with a view to ordering the required number of trees by mid-October. The number of trees will be limited to one per household and three per school.
- 3.1.4 That the Town Clerk is authorised to sign off the final order up to a maximum of £5,400.
- 3.1.5 Arrangements for the delivery, storage and distribution of the trees to interested residents/schools will be finalised by officers of the Council.

Dave Farrow
Town Clerk
July 2023

Appendix 1.

WeeTree Nurseries – Wellington

These are sold in 5 litre posts 23cms in diameter and are priced on a sliding scale dependent on how many are purchased. Delivery would be the end of October, and they would deliver directly on a designated day and time.

Quantity	Rate each (all at 0% VAT)
10+	£18.95
50+	£18.25
100+	£17.45
250+	£16.25
500+	£14.45

Thompson & Morgan – National

These are in 9cm pots and are priced at £12.99 regardless of quantity and despatch would be by the end September. Delivery dates are not specified nor are times.

Marshalls Garden

2 litre pot -= 11cms in diameter, planted, approx. 30-40cms above pot in height. £18.99 per plant, delivery is free but apparently, it's on an 'as advised' basis. So, no negotiation on timings etc.



Somerset Tree Strategy 2023 - 2033



**This strategy
has been
developed by**



With the support of  **Evolving Forests**



Trees People Place

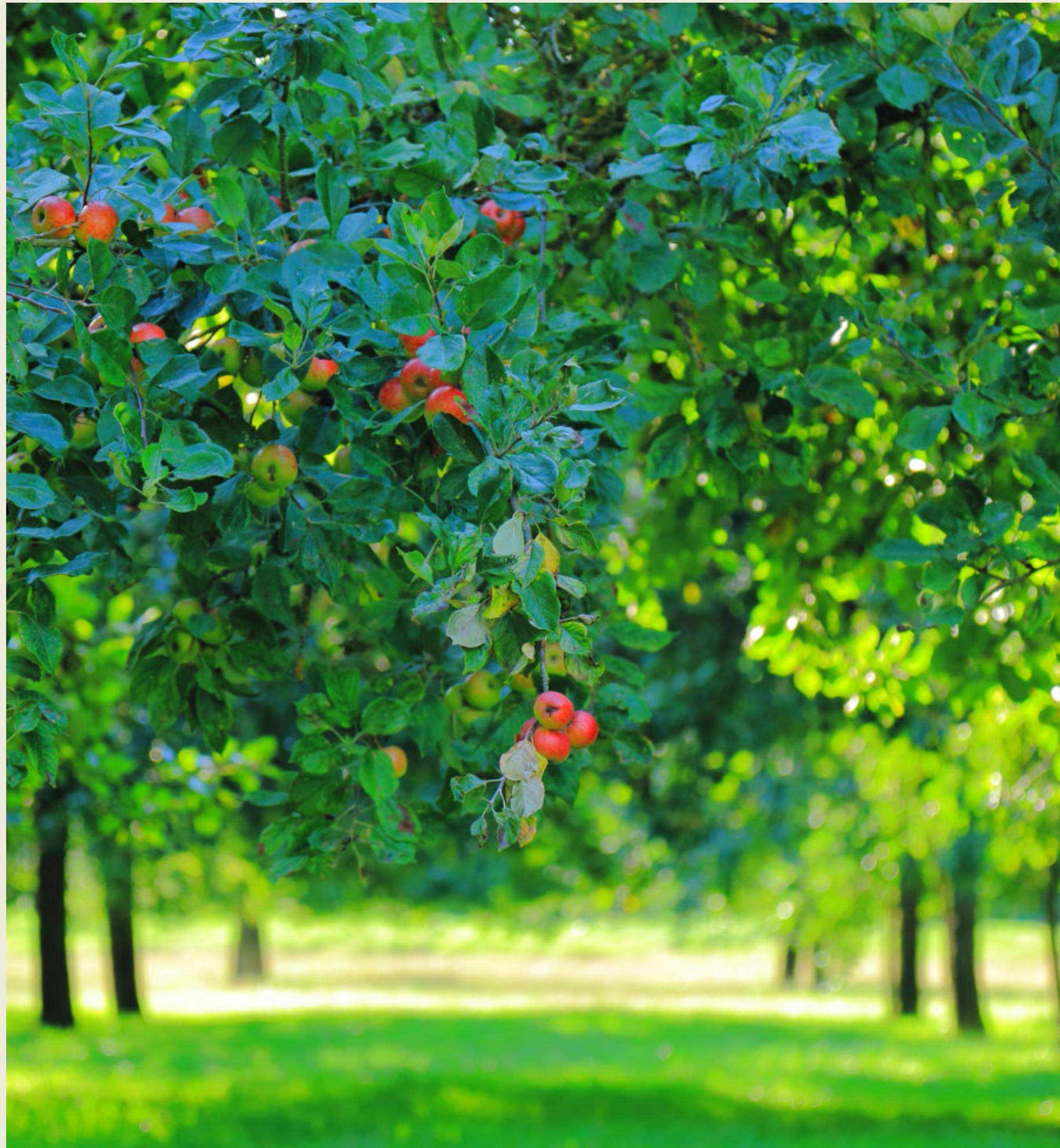
Treescapes are undergoing a time of unprecedented change globally, nationally, and regionally. This strategy sets out how Somerset's treescapes can embrace ecology, climate, community and how the county can manage and protect its existing and future trees.

Treescapes:

Found in all settings from forestland to moorland, agricultural to urban landscapes.

The word treescapes acknowledges the increasing level of importance that trees take on within the landscape.





Somerset's Trees Today

Where this strategy begins

Somerset has a deep history of woodland management and innovation. It has the oldest and tallest trees in the country and a history of wood-use dating back to the Bronze Age.

Via its long history of orchard creation, Somerset is an unacknowledged leader in progressive forms of woodland management such as agroforestry.

Somerset has a high diversity of landscapes to manage and a wide variety of treescapes creating resilience.

Somerset's Future Trees

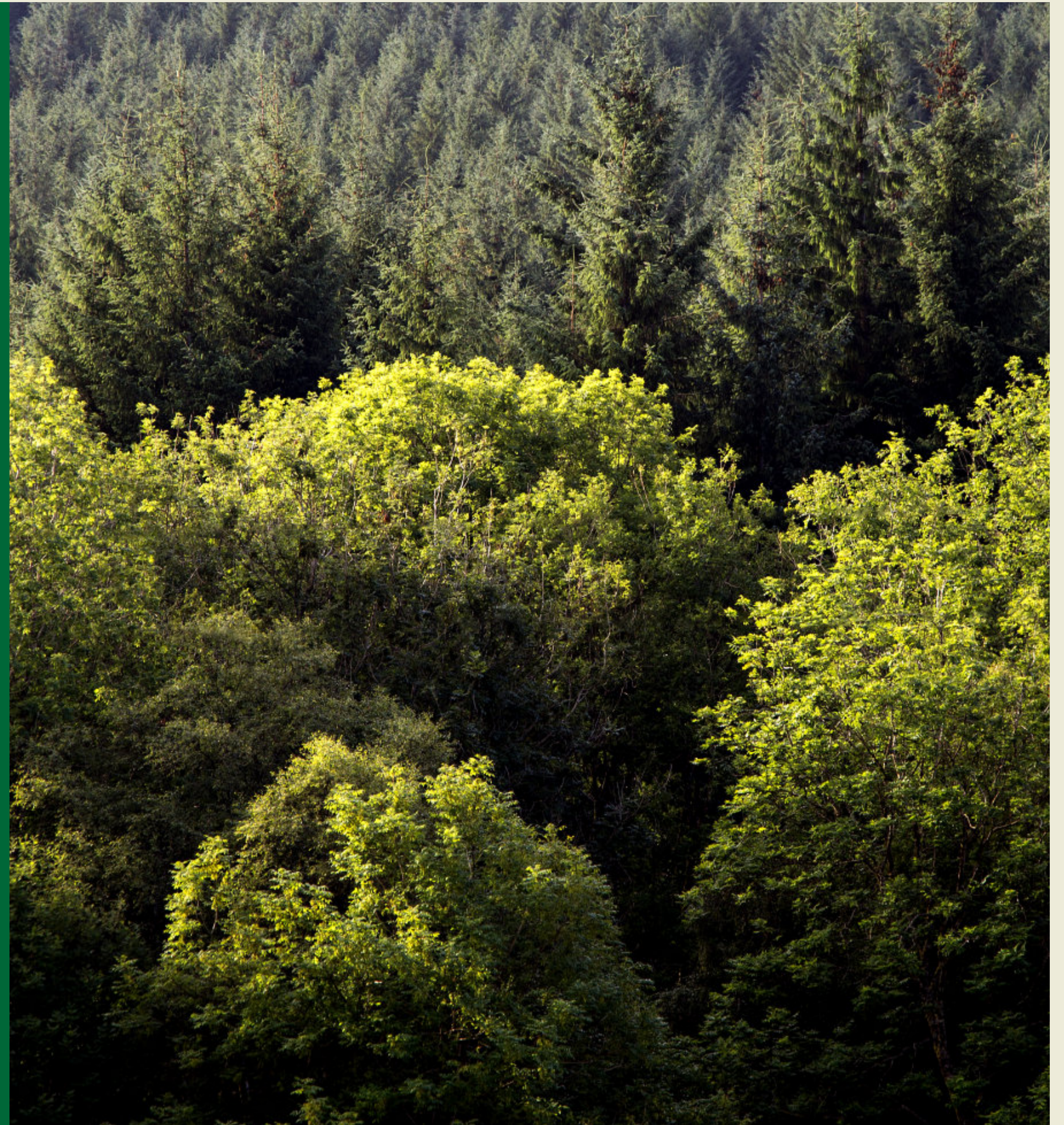
Where this strategy will take us

Somerset's climate is changing and its diverse treescapes will be resilient enough to adapt to these changes.

Everyone across Somerset will be engaged with trees in their daily lives.

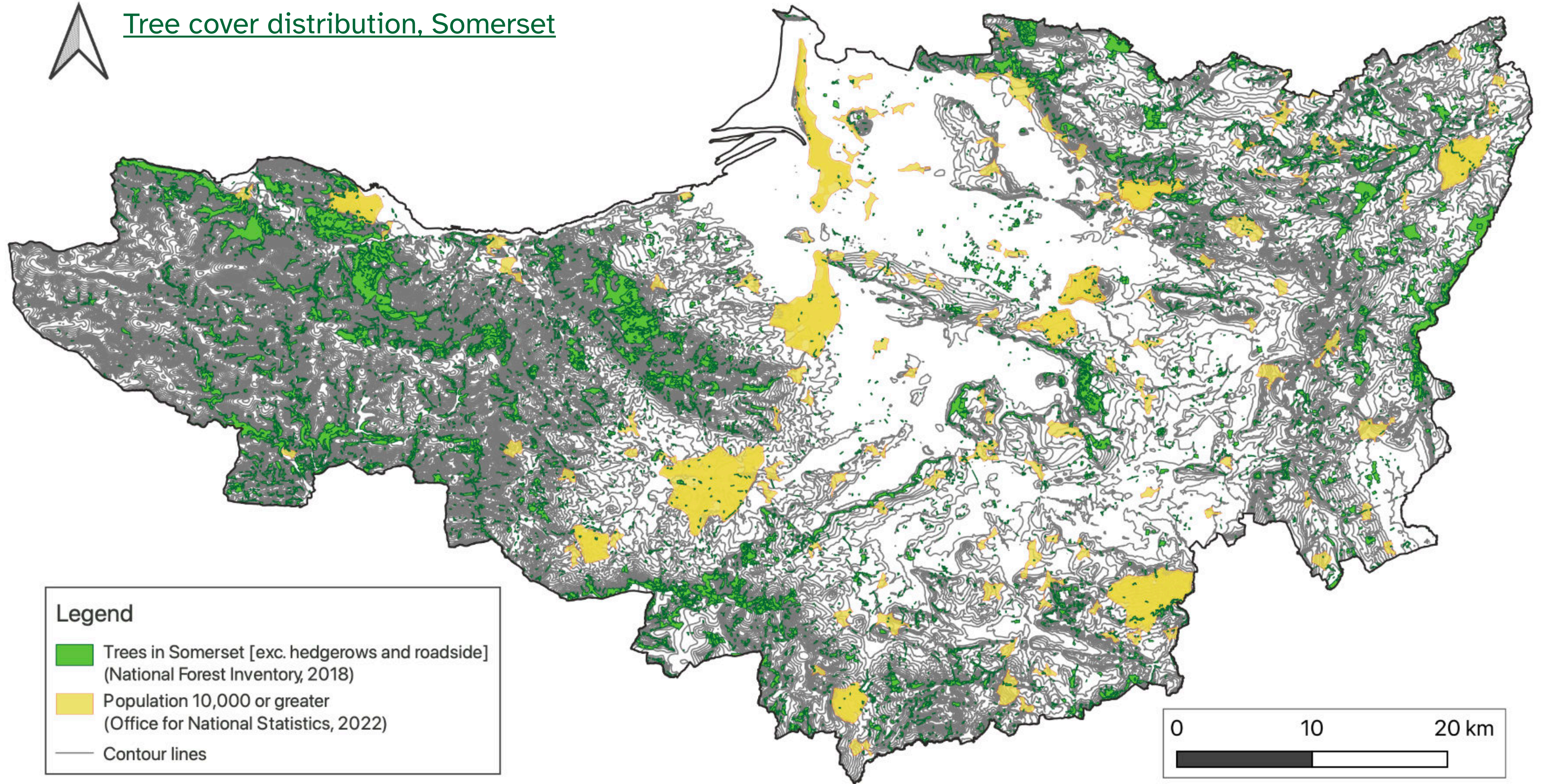
Somerset exceeds the national average of tree cover with diverse types of planting.

Biodiversity within Somerset has the chance to move across landscapes via ecologically rich connected corridors.








Tree cover distribution, Somerset

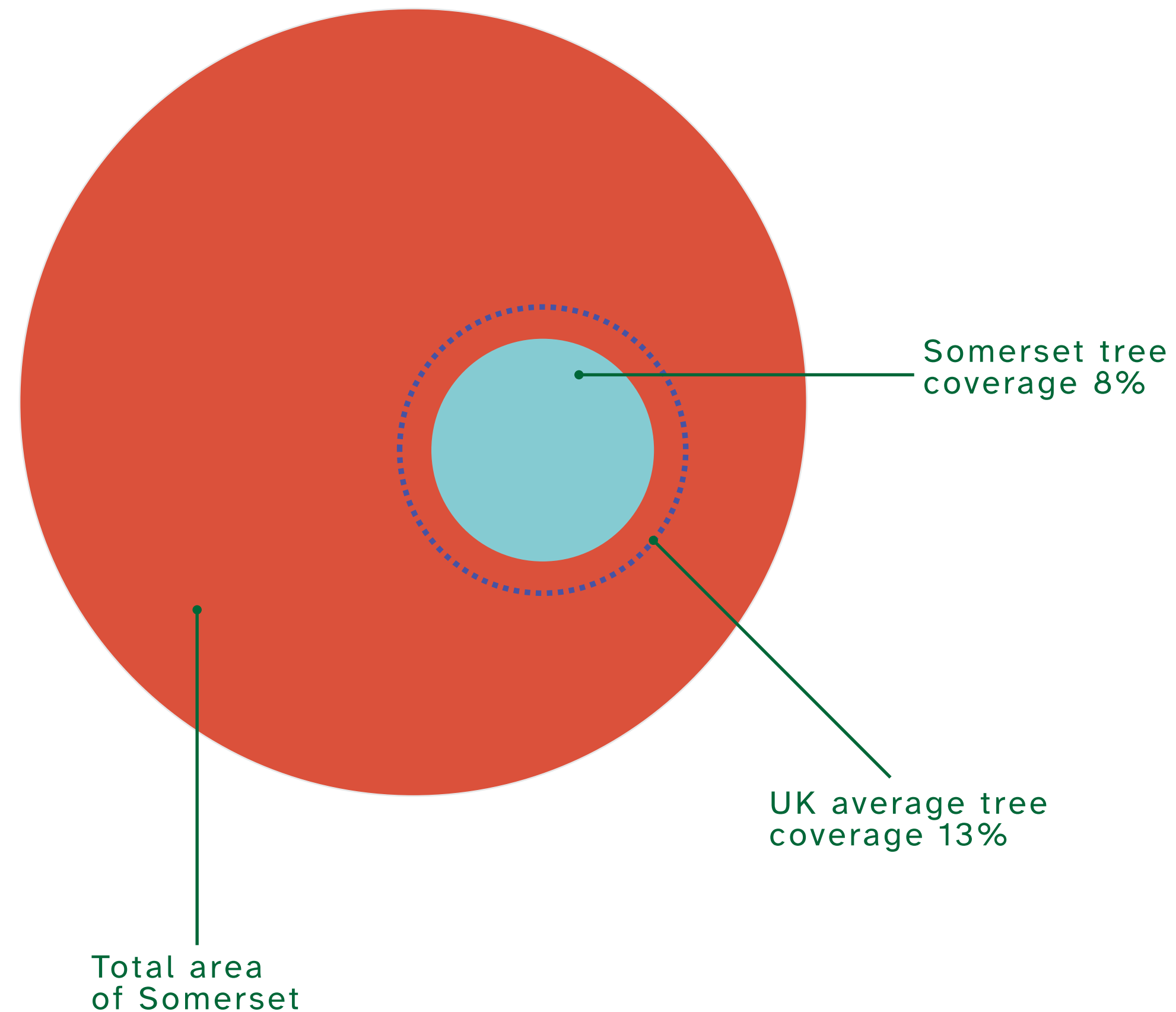


Legend

-  Trees in Somerset [exc. hedgerows and roadside] (National Forest Inventory, 2018)
-  Population 10,000 or greater (Office for National Statistics, 2022)
-  Contour lines



Tree cover averages by area, UK and Somerset



The broader picture

Somerset recognises its role in tackling the twin crises of climate change and biodiversity loss.

Tree cover across the UK increased from 3-13% in a century. Somerset's tree cover by area is below the national average (8%).

Rates of new planting in England 2017-22 have remained relatively low (average 1,912ha/ year). Government target for tree-planting in England by 2024-25 is 7,500ha/ year.

Just 59% of woods in England are in legal and sustainable management.

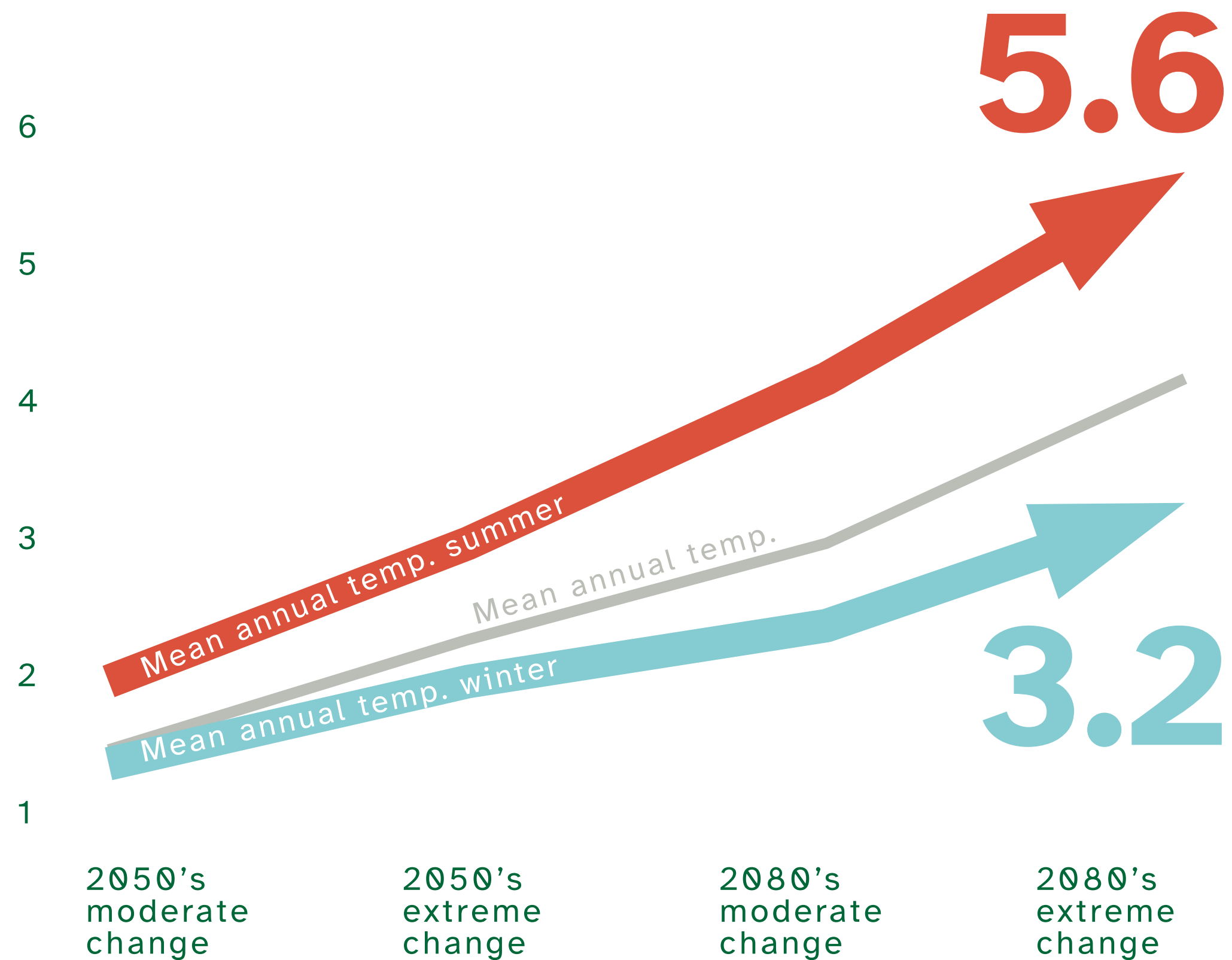
A strategy governed by climate and resilience

At a landscape level, woodland size, diversity, and connectivity need to increase

There needs to be a diverse range of management practices that improve woodland quality and flexibility in the range of species being planted in rural and urban areas. This will enable Somerset's trees and woodlands to be resilient to changing climate, sea level rise, disease and pests, and to increasingly complex land uses.

This is as true for our urban trees as our rural trees; our forests and our orchards; our timber producers, our farmers, our urban planners, and our floodplain managers. Improving our treescapes will help protect and enhance our biodiversity. It will provide connected corridors to allow habitats to flourish, migrate, and adapt.

Predicted temperature increase changes in the South West (°C)



Somerset's climate is changing

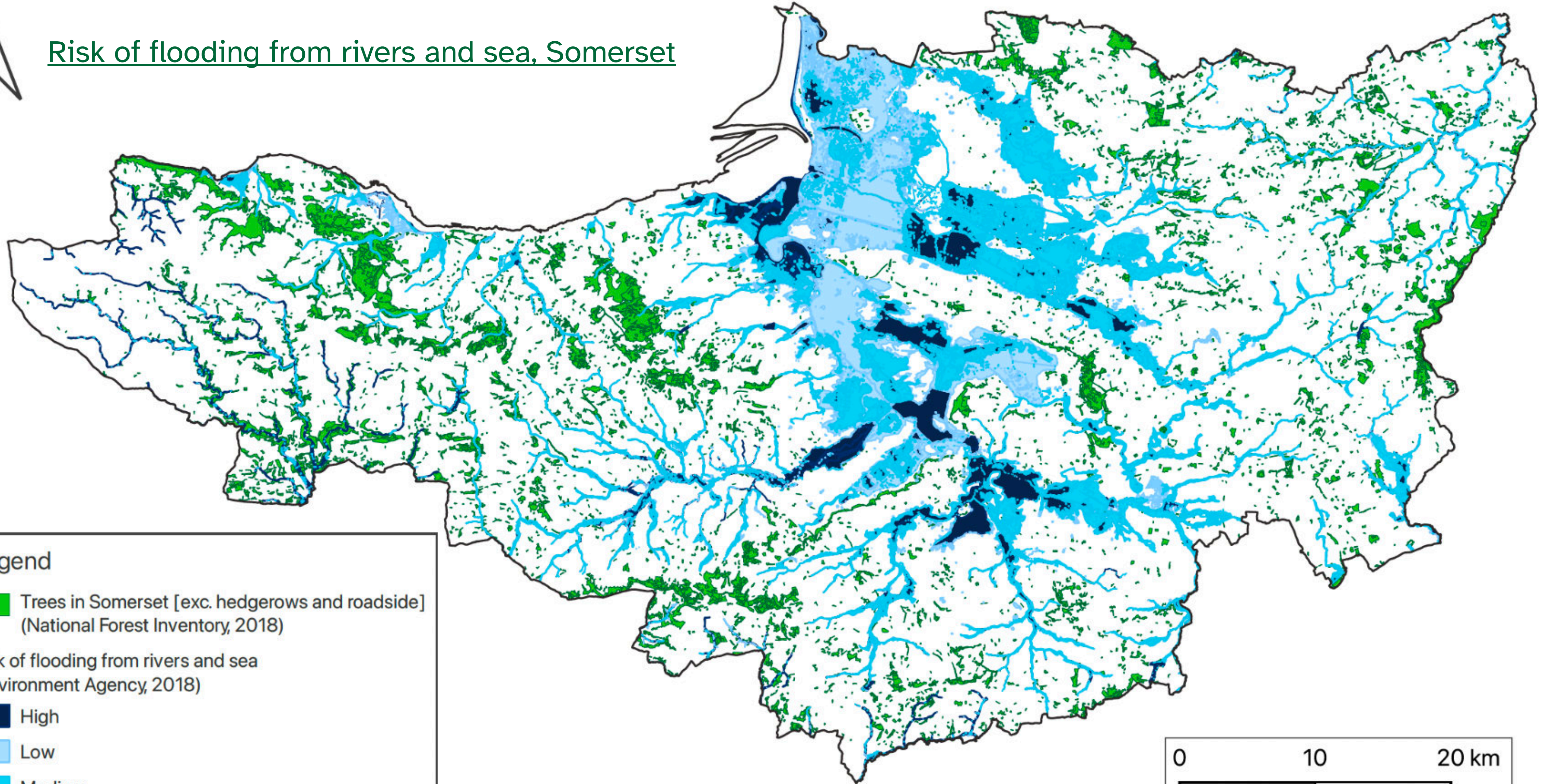
We will see warmer conditions with increased frequency of extreme weather events such as heavy rainfall and drought. Our trees and people need the resilience to cope with this. Many trees will suffer but some will benefit.

Models show a range of temperature increase possibilities and Somerset needs to manage its treescape flexibly so that it can adapt to any scenario.

The approach to building a resilient treescape needs to be flexible and adaptable.



Risk of flooding from rivers and sea, Somerset



Legend

 Trees in Somerset [exc. hedgerows and roadside] (National Forest Inventory, 2018)

Risk of flooding from rivers and sea (Environment Agency, 2018)

 High

 Low

 Medium

0 10 20 km



Somerset's strategy for the next 10 years will be to:

- 1** **Create a wood culture** where everyone understands the importance of trees to the County, its natural environment, and its communities.
- 2** Make our trees **resilient and adaptable** to climate change by protecting, expanding, managing, and diversifying our existing treescapes.
- 3** **Expand the number of trees** in Somerset in urban and rural areas through planting initiatives to create cohesive connected treescapes that include woodland, parks, roadsides, and urban spaces.
- 4** Create a range of **services and products** that allow our treescapes to contribute to society through local supply chains and creating natural capital opportunities.
- 5** Create a **sustainable and flexible governance** structure that ensures successful implementation of the strategy over the next ten years.



**This is
YOUR
strategy**

This is Somerset's strategy to help trees be a thriving part of our landscape, our ecology and our society.

This strategy belongs to all of us in Somerset.

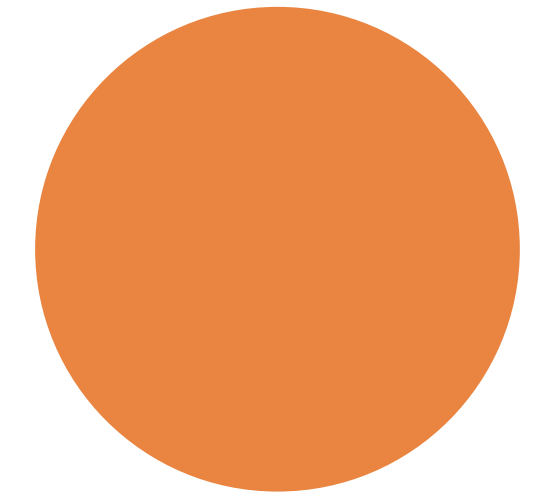
We all have a role to play in making sure it happens.

Theme 1

Create A Wood Culture

Over the next 10 years Somerset will invest in creating a wood culture amongst its population. This means everyone notices and cares about the trees they share the landscape with.

Somerset's trees need to rely on a broader cross section of residents to take an active part in their future. Future generations will be impacted most if Somerset's trees are not managed in a resilient way.



Every school child and adult will have the chance to connect with and learn about their County's trees and be a vital part of their future.

We will ensure and create local options to take up tree-based education, professions, and research to make Somerset a leader in tree management.

We will work with developers and planners to make sure trees become a priority in the built and rural environment.

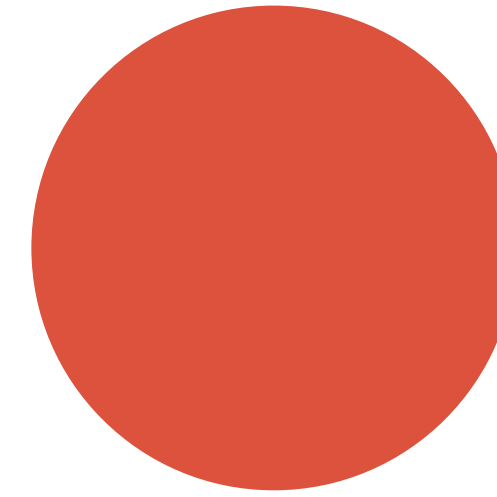


Theme 2

Resilient and Adaptable Trees

Creating resilient and adaptable treescapes will bring greater ecological and economic diversity to our woodlands from a landscape to individual tree level, from unmanaged ancient woodland to restructuring plantations.

This diversity will include greater structure, age, and species diversity ensuring new generations of trees thrive. Diversity means increased resilience to pests, disease and the impacts of climate change. It will create greater ecological diversity and adaptability in the landscape.



To do this we need to manage the trees we have more effectively. Bringing under-managed woodland back into management will be a priority as will taking care of our street trees and dealing current & future pests and disease threats.

We will make sure that anyone involved in managing trees, from planners to planters, managers to communities, can draw on expert tree management advice and will feel comfortable accessing that advice.

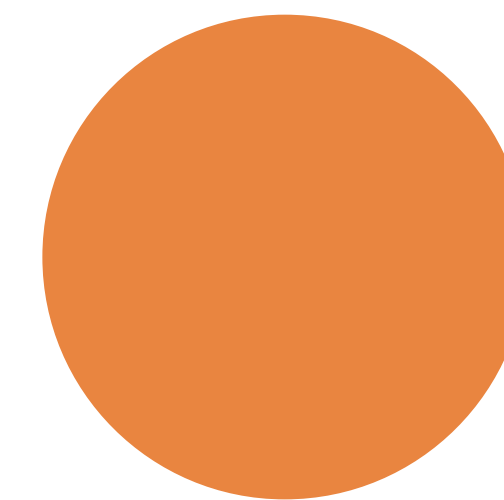


Theme 3

Expanding Tree Cover

There is a need to increase and enhance tree cover. There is also a need to be sensitive to Somerset's varied local landscapes and ecological conditions alongside the many other motivations those planting woodlands will have.

We want to create ambitious corridors of treescapes that traverse the County and connect its landscapes. These corridors will be made up of linear features like hedgerows and verges, of conventional woodland, of urban planting, and agroforestry systems that link habitats and provide corridors for nature.



To meet our contribution to national targets for woodland creation we will plant a minimum of 240ha new woodland a year. We will aim to increase our woodland cover from 8% to the national average 13%.

We will ask those planting trees to show that their plans are the right plans for place, to demonstrate they add to the resilience of our County's treescape, and to prove that the ecological condition of an area will be enhanced.

By providing impartial expert advice we will work to remove the blockages to woodland planting that exist.

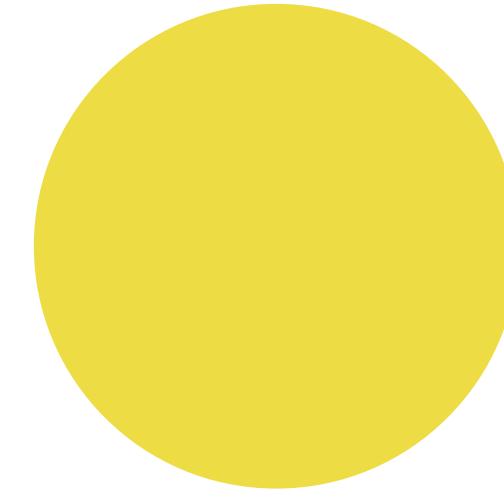


Theme 4

Woodland Services

We will protect and enhance our trees and in return they help protect and enhance our communities. As part of the wood culture we create we will work towards increasing the diversity of woodland products and services our treescapes sustainably provide.

Key to this is building a culture of local provision of solutions. Whether it is optimising carbon storage within sustainable management systems; building with local materials; ensuring flood mitigation; providing shade in town centres, trees will be used to create local solutions.



We will ensure that local communities benefit from their treescapes through the quality of landscape and living space that trees enhance. We will work with land managers, urban planners, developers and community groups, as well as public agencies, to integrate trees into our living and working landscapes better.



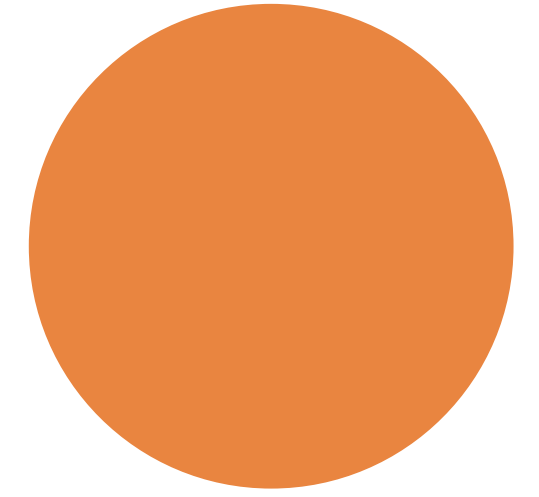
Theme 5

Governance

Everyone should have the chance to be part of our treescapes.

Somerset Council will lead on ensuring that this strategy is implemented. The council will be held to account by a steering group of experts who meet regularly. The steering group will review the strategy annually and create a flexible approach to how it evolves.

Alongside this strategy, the council, the steering group, and public bodies will ensure regulatory compliance and where necessary bolster this with Somerset-specific planning documents.



When strategy actions are put in place they will be implemented within the context of the UK Forestry Standard, the Local Nature Recovery Strategy and other relevant regional policies.

Most importantly this strategy aims to create a wood culture where enhancing our treescapes is seen as a moral responsibility of everyone in the County.

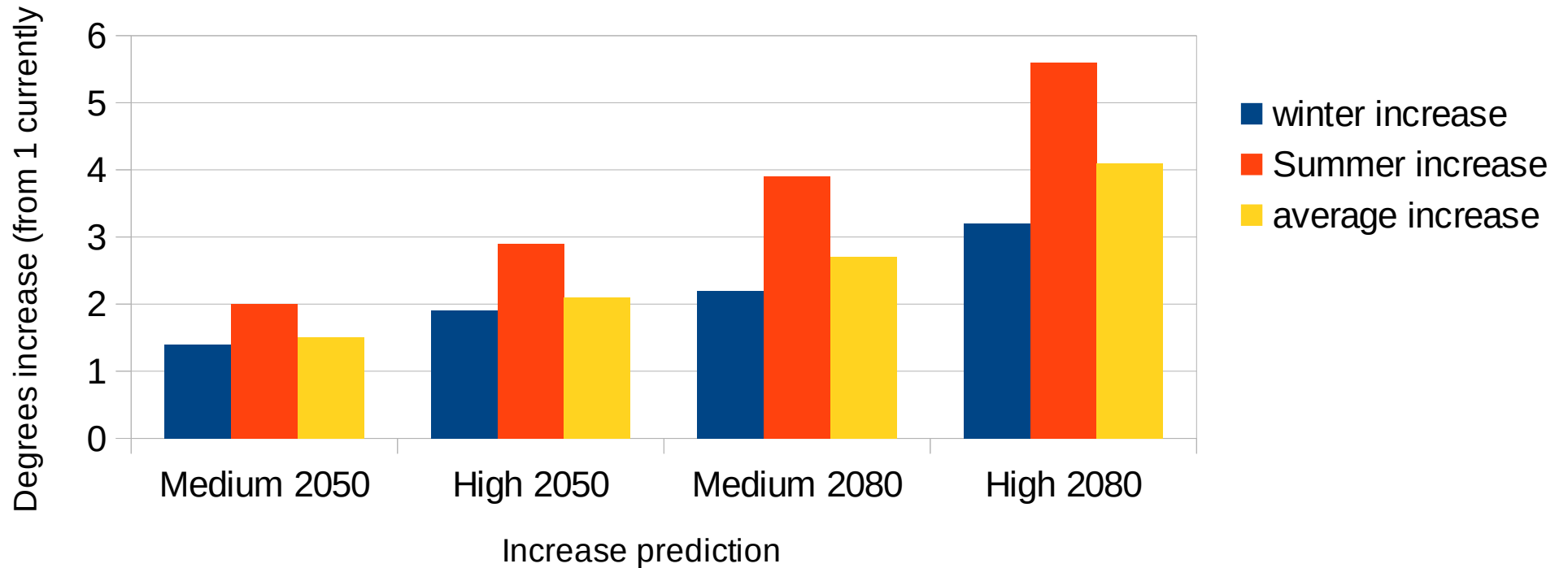
In ten years time community groups, farmers, individual owners, agents, developers, ecologists, school children should all see themselves as being part of the governance of this strategy.

Temperature increase predictions - Somerset

Winter/Summer and Average - in 30 and 60 years

- medium and high increase predictions

- Source: Somerset Tree Strategy 2023



This paper is to set out some of the possibilities for discussion with staff about what is possible and a priority given the resources and time available. These are examples from Tonedale but similar opportunities will be all over Wellington

Context - Somerset tree strategy - available via this link:

[Somerset Tree Strategy V3](#)

<https://democracy.somerset.gov.uk/documents/s8474/1.%20Somerset%20Tree%20Strategy.pdf>

Aspects and issues


- Location
- effectiveness
- cost
- ownership
- permissions
- work required
- type of trees
 - in ground
 - in planters
 - size and
 - variety)
- opportunity for biodiversity planting to be co-located with trees

Bigger projects around: where WCT can engage with other stakeholders to help things happen: potential large impact:




- Private housing estates
- Public housing estates
- Farmland
- Private industrial estates
- Private car parks

Locations - examples to explore aspects and issues : See following table:-


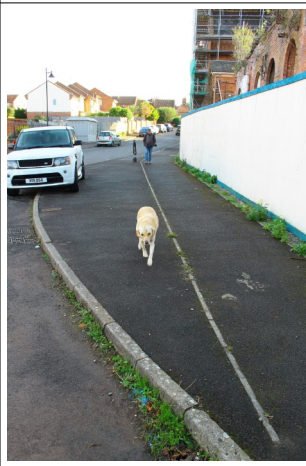

Areas the council might act directly and potential for trial projects to understand what is involved and gain experience of how to proceed.:




<u>Location Photo</u>	<u>Discussion</u>
	<p>Where: Private domestic gardens across Wellington Type: private Who owns it?: known - Cost: low (no land cost) Impact: depends on take up Discussion: Already underway</p> <p>Priority?: Yes, low hanging fruit (Literally!) Actions: In progress. Repeatable if demand is there: Need to measure impact over years.</p>




Wellington TC - Tree and biodiversity action plan - for winter 2023/24
Discussion paper - Mike McGuffie - 29th June 2023 - Page 2 of 6 .

<u>Location Photo</u>	<u>Discussion</u>
	<p>Where: Tonedale by Tile centre Type: direct planting in verges Who owns it?: Private? Cost: Low Impact: High (shade / biodiversity) but quite small. Discussion: Would need to contact firm and neighbouring building firm</p> <p>Priority?: Actions: Check if public land. engage with owners.</p>
	<p>Where: Tonedale industrial estate Type: Direct planting in grass verge Who owns it?: Unknown ; public? Cost: Low Impact: Good Discussion: space for two large trees</p> <p>Priority?: Actions: Confirm ownership and progress with stakeholders</p>
	<p>Where: Thomas Fox Road Type: verge; direct planting Who owns it?: Public? Cost: Low Impact: High, shades road and buildings Discussion: could be reason why left (brown field site)</p> <p>Priority?: Actions: confirm ownership? progress with owners.</p>

Wellington TC - Tree and biodiversity action plan - for winter 2023/24
Discussion paper - Mike McGuffie - 29th June 2023 - Page 4 of 6 .

<u>Location Photo</u>	<u>Discussion</u>
	<p>Where: Weavers Reach Tonedale Type: Pavement for planter or in ground Who owns it?: Somerset or management company Cost: medium to high Impact: good Discussion: another chance for a trial</p> <p>Priority?: Actions: confirm ownership and decide approach</p>
	<p>Where: as above but on other side of the road Type: Who owns it?: Cost: Impact: Discussion:</p> <p>Priority?: Actions:</p>
	<p>Where: Weavers Reach play area Type: in ground Who owns it?: Us Cost: low Impact: good Discussion: tbd when we get it (this winter)</p> <p>Priority?: Actions:</p>

<u>Location Photo</u>	<u>Discussion</u>
	<p>Where: Crosslands , Tonedale Type: narrow pavements Who owns it?: Somerset Cost: high Impact: High Discussion: opportunity to consult residents about what they think</p> <p>Priority?: Actions:</p>
	<p>Where: Wardleworth Road, Tonedale Type: wide pavement; in ground or planters Who owns it?: Somerset Cost: medium Impact: Good Discussion: discuss with residents and try planters??</p> <p>Priority?: Actions:</p>
	<p>Where: Victoria Street, near roly poly green Type: Who owns it?: Cost: Impact: Discussion: This shows how good the large trees on Roly Polly green are at shading the road.</p> <p>Priority?: Actions:</p>

<u>Location Photo</u>	<u>Discussion</u>
	<p>Where: Victoria street Type: private housing, in ground / or planters Who owns it?: Somerset Cost: medium to high Impact: Good, shades houses which are south facing Discussion: good chance to explore the issue of parking loss as trees would most likely have to be in the road</p> <p>Priority?: Actions:</p>
	<p>Where: Popham court sheltered housing Type: in grass at front of buildings Who owns it?: Popham trust Cost: low Impact: high - shades road Discussion: we have a representative on the trust</p> <p>Priority?: Actions:</p>
	<p>Where: ASDA car park Type: in ground Who owns it?: Somerset Cost: medium Impact: high, Discussion: opportunity for large trees in the ground providing shade to large areas of tarmac, reducing heat.</p> <p>Priority?: Actions:</p>

Litter Bin Request:

Location: Footpath on Popes Lane - adjacent to junction at Andrew Allen Road.

A request received for a new bin on Popes Lane adjacent to the entrance to Andrew Allen Road. Somerset Council will no longer install any additional bins given the recent replacement scheme for larger units. They also expect the unit to be similar to those which have been recently installed.

Location:



<https://www.google.com/maps/@50.9709992,-3.2436547,3a,75y,90t/data=!3m1!1e1!3m1!1sQdREVEe1f9s-C4ddawkxAl2e07i16384i8i8192?entry=ttu>

Somerset Council Recycling Bin:



Other photos of bins in town:



Wellington Town Council – Town Centre Committee Ideas List

A list of ideas and projects for our town sourced from throughout the local community. This is not a proposal, this is purely to help us see what changes local residents and businesses would like to be explored by the committee.

1. More bins in the rec & football club grounds.
2. Pedestrianisation of the High Street/Other Suitable Road.
3. Investment in children's play parks
4. More Water Fountains (Rec, Football Club, etc.)
5. Youth Hub/Club (King's Arms?)
6. Notice Board Space for Independent Local Business to advertise in the town centre.
7. Wellington Themed Mural
8. Ban Parking on Fore Street/High Street/South Street/North Street.
9. More Free Parking in Car Parks
10. More Events in the Park/Rec.
11. Trees on High Street/More Greenery in the town centre.
12. Permit Parking on North Street
13. Christmas/Winter Market in The Park/Rec/Other Green Space.
14. Organised Litter Picking/Community Service Events.
15. Re-Vamp the Pop-Up Shop.