



# Wellington Urban Tree Plan

*Open Spaces Manager Darren Hill*

## The Vision

Wellington Tree Plan aims

1. To enhance urban areas of town, with tree species chosen for their attractive appearance through the seasons
2. To build climate resilience in community by providing canopy to mitigate extreme heat events.
3. To encourage residents to Adopt a Tree
4. To complement the tree-planting programme scheduled for the Green Corridor

The proposal is to divide the plan into three stages to spread the cost over a two or three-year period.

**Stage One** relates to the current financial year – 2024/2025 - and is in five parts. Parts 1, 3, 4 & 5 required permission from relevant landowners.

1. To plant a Tiny Forest using free tree packs from the Woodland at six sites including two schools
2. To plant 2 standard-sized trees and 10 fruit trees on two sites owned by Wellington Town Council
3. To plant 10 standard-sized trees on six sites owned by Somerset Council's Housing Revenue Account (HRA)
4. To plant saplings in six town centre planters (possibly five others – see below) as part of an innovative Lift & Shift plan to bring on saplings to plant elsewhere in the town.
5. To replant two Wellingtonia planted in Linden Field to commemorate the work of two long-serving members of Wellington In Bloom

Total estimated cost - £5,668 ex VAT

**Stage Two** relates to the financial year 2025/2026 and is divided into two parts. Both parts require permission from landowners.

1. To plant 28 standard-sized trees and fruit trees on 13 sites owned by Somerset Council Highways
2. To plant two standard-sized trees on two sites owned by Live West Housing Association

**Stage Three** relates to either the financial year 2025/26 or 2026/2027 and is divided into two parts. Both parts require permission from landowners.

1. To plant 26 standard-sized trees and fruit trees on six sites owned by housing developers Persimmon and Bloor Homes
2. To plant multiple trees at multiple sites on the Cades Farm Estate owned by Persimmon

### **Utility Checks**

The proposed sites would require surveys to check what utility infrastructure may be running beneath the surface.

CAT scanners are capable of detecting utility infrastructure relating to Wessex Water, Wales & West (Gas) and National Grid (Electricity) but not BT Fibre Optic Cable.

Somerset Council charges for these surveys to be undertaken. Companies such as Dial a Dig also offer this service and could be cheaper.

The cheapest option however is to approach the four utility companies and request maps of the proposed tree sites, which they send out. This could be done in house at a cheaper cost.

### **Adopt a Tree**

One of the aims of the tree plan is to encourage residents living near the proposed sites for standard trees to Adopt-a-Tree and keep it well-watered during the hotter months using the tree irrigation ring system pictured above.

## **Wellington Urban Tree Strategy**

### **Stage One – 2024/25**

#### **Part 1 - Tiny Forests – Woodland Trust Tree Packs**

##### **Proposed Tiny Forest sites**

Key to listings below

*Site number – Location by road – Three words location – Land owner – Land Registry number (if applicable) – Tree numbers - Proposal*

1. Priory Play Area – *///audio.shielding.comments* - HRA, Somerset Council – 105 trees (tennis court size) – Planting trees on the mounded section of the Play Area, with a bark mulch footpath winding through.
2. Howard's Road – *///contents.universal.adults* - HRA, Somerset Council - 105 trees (tennis court) - 105 trees (tennis court) – Planting trees in an L-shape in the section
3. Oakfield Park – *///obtain.bravery.cases* - HRA, Somerset Council - 105 trees (tennis court) - 105 trees (tennis court size)
4. Burrough Way – *///petrified.mainly.kilt* - HRA, Somerset Council - 105 trees (tennis court) - 105 trees (tennis court)
5. Courtfields Secondary School – *///results.hoped.quaking* – Education, Somerset Council - 105 trees (tennis court size)
6. Isambard Kingdom Brunel Primary School – *///silently.outlooks.original* – Education, Somerset Council - 105 trees (tennis court size)

Wellington Town Council was eligible to apply for free tree and hedge packs from the Woodland Trust.

The council's application applied for six Wild Wood tree packs each containing 105 trees (with a mixture of holly, hazel, crab apple, downy birch, hawthorn and goat willow) and 15 hedge packs, each containing 30 plants (with a mixture of dog rose, hawthorn, hazel, crab apple and dogwood).

If the application is successful, the tree packs will compensate for Somerset Council's Tiny Forest bid, which collapsed earlier in the year.

At the time, we identified six sites for a Tiny Forest: Isambard Kingdom Brunel Primary School, Court Fields Secondary School and four sites owned by Somerset Council's HRA.

The proposal is to use the tree packs to create a small wood at the same sites, which are listed below.

On Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2024, Open Spaces manager Darren Hill and Climate Project Officer Stephen Tate met Somerset Council's HRA Tree Surgeon Supervisor Daniel Mancini.

After visiting the HRA sites, Daniel considered our proposals feasible on the grounds that the mix of trees applied for would not grow sufficiently high to present future problems with height, or lack of light.

He was satisfied with the proposals and would green light the four sites to HRA chief Simon Lewis subject to the following two conditions being met:

1. That Wellington Town Council makes a legally-binding pledge to Somerset Council's HRA to maintain the trees during their lifespan and fell those where required.
2. That Wellington Town Council consults nearby tenants about the tree plan. With this mind, the town council suggests knocking on doors with laminates of the proposed trees to give tenants a visual idea of what the trees will look like when mature.

The town council approached Isambard Kingdom Brunel Primary School and Court Fields Secondary School about creating a Tiny Forest in the school grounds. Both were enthusiastic about the idea, seeing it as an opportunity to teach schoolchildren the rudiments of horticulture in a practical and meaningful way.

The only cost to the town council in Part 1 would be the purchase of lanolin tree guards, organic feed such as chicken manure pellets and well-rotted bark mulch to hold moisture and nutrients in to assist the development of a healthy root system.

### **Agreed Action**

Wellington Town Council's Environment Committee purchase materials and feed at an estimated cost of £684 ex VAT, subject to a successful application to the Woodland Trust to plant 630 trees at six locations in Wellington, namely Isambard Kingdom Brunel Primary School, Court Fields Secondary School and four sites owned by HRA, Somerset Council.

## Part 2 – Proposed sites on land owned by Wellington Town Council

Key to listings below

*Site number – Location by road – Three words location – Land owner – Land Registry number (if applicable) – Tree numbers - Proposal*

7. Chestnut Close Play Area, Chestnut Close - ///recap.scoop.jogged – Wellington Council – 10 trees – Fruit trees, including fig, medlar, greengage, walnut, apple, pear, quince, plum - Victoria and two pleached apricots against the wall
8. Monmouth Gardens, North Street - ///stump.vehicle.replenish – Wellington Town Council – 2 trees - Wedding tree - *Cornus controversa* & Serviceberry - *Amelanchier arborea* 'Robin Hill' (single-stemmed)

The proposal is to plant fruit trees in Chestnut Close Play Area, filling a current gap in the spread of fruit trees in the town available to the public to harvest.

The second proposal would plant two low-growing specimen trees to further enhance Monmouth Gardens.

These two sites only require the permission of town councillors to proceed.

### Agreed Action

The town council environment committee purchase two standard trees and 10 fruit trees, 4-5 years old, to be planted at the locations owned by Wellington Town Council and using the species recommended above, at an estimated cost of £222 ex VAT per standard tree and £122 ex VAT per fruit tree which includes cost of materials to protect, feed and water the tree.

## Part 3 – Proposed sites on land owned by HRA, Somerset Council

Key to listings below

*Site number – Location by road – Three words location – Land owner – Land Registry number (if applicable) – Tree numbers – Proposal*

9. Popham Sheltered Housing, Victoria Street – ///bulbs.downturn.stadium – HRA, Somerset Council – 3 trees – *Amelanchier lamarckii* 'Snowy mespilus' (multi-stem), *Amelanchier arborea* 'Robin Hill' (single-stemmed) & *Ginkgo biloba*
10. Parking area, Gay Close - ///sheep.gearbox.vies – HRA, Somerset Council – 1 tree – *Robinia pseudoacacia*

11. Grass verge by No. 37, Gay Close - ///friends.saturate.crops – HRA, Somerset Council – 1 tree - *Sorbus* 'Copper Kettle
12. Open space in front of flats, Gay Close - ///deflated.wipes.orbit – HRA, Somerset Council – 2 trees – *Liriodendron tuliperfera* (Tulip Tree) & *Amelanchier arborea* 'Robin Hill' (single-stemmed)
13. Corner of Gay Close & turning into car park serving Flats 1-11 - ///chart.kiosk.engulfing – 1 tree - *Liquidamber styraciflua*
14. Habitat strip behind Flats 36-39 on Priory Play Area - ///weedy.vegans.tradition – 2 trees – *Sorbus* & *Betula*

On Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2024, Open Spaces manager Darren Hill and Climate Project Officer Stephen Tate met Somerset Council's HRA Tree Surgeon Supervisor Daniel Mancini.

After visiting the HRA sites, Daniel considered our proposals feasible on the grounds that the specimen trees proposed for each site when mature would not affect light to existing buildings or compromise boundary walls.

He was satisfied with the proposals and would green light the six sites to HRA chief Simon Lewis subject to the following two conditions being met:

1. That Wellington Town Council makes a legally-binding pledge to Somerset Council's HRA to maintain the trees during their lifespan and fell those where required.
2. That Wellington Town Council consults nearby tenants about the tree plan. With this mind, the town council suggests knocking on doors with laminates of the proposed trees to give tenants a visual idea of what the trees will look like when mature.

### **Agreed action**

The town council environment committee purchase 10 standard trees, 4-5 years old, to be planted at the locations owned by HRA, Somerset Council, and using the species recommended above, at an estimated cost of £222 ex VAT per standard tree, which includes materials to protect, feed and water the tree.

### **Part 4 – Planters in Town Centre – Lift & Shift**

Open Spaces manager Darren Hill proposes an overhaul of the planters using a regenerative method called Lift and Shift, whereby trees are planted as saplings for several years to provide interest on the high street while they establish a healthy root system.

At the end of years two or three, the trees would be replanted elsewhere in the town at previously agreed locations and new saplings of the same or a different species planted in their place for another two to three years.

When to lift and shift the trees depends on the amount of growth in the growing season for years one and two. If growing conditions in both years lead to strong, they would be lifted and shifted after year two. If however conditions in the first or second year see less than expected growth, it would be best practice to leave the trees in for a third year, or a maximum of four years.

The important consideration is to be able to lift and shift the trees with relative ease. If their root system becomes pot-bound in the planter, shifting the tree becomes harder, puts it under stress and reduces the chances it will survive the replant.

The benefit of this nursery system is threefold; first saplings costs less than adolescent trees, second the saplings would be included in the watering schedule for the town's hanging baskets and planters, and third they would add visual interest to the town centre.

Currently, there are six planters in the town centre, seven if you clude the planter near H. T. Perry & Son & Granddaughter. Darren is confident he can source four more unused planters from Somerset Council. It would be for town councillors to decide whether the town centre has room for more planters and where they would be located.

### **Agreed Action**



The town council's environment committee purchase 11 saplings of *Betula utilis* var. *jacquemontii* 'Doorenbos' (RHS Garden Merit – see above) at an estimated cost of £100 ex VAT per tree.



## Part 5 – Moving Wellingtonia from Linden Field



### Background

The above photo shows a Wellingtonia (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*) in Linden Field surrounded by saplings.

Vivien Stock-Williams and Sue Adams planted this Wellingtonia along with another in the same field to commemorate the combined work of members of the now disbanded Wellington in Bloom.

A conversation with Vivien on Monday 16 September established that two sites were chosen near the railway so that train passengers could see the trees and that the saplings around the tree were planted at a later date

For the saplings to reach maturity the Wellingtonia would have to be moved. It would eventually dwarf the other trees and wick moisture from the soil across a wide area.

The other Wellingtonia stands on its own on a slight slope and is in a good position to become a mature specimen.

Vivien agreed to speak to Sue and other former members of Wellington in Bloom to gauge their reaction to moving Wellingtonia by the saplings while keeping the other one in its present position.

### Agreed Action

The Wellingtonia by the saplings in Linden Field be moved to The Basins. The other Wellingtonia in Linden Field would remain in its current position.



## Stage Two – 2025/26

### Part 1 – Proposed sites on land owned by Highways, Somerset Council

Key to listings below

*Site number – Location by road – Three words location – Land owner – Land Registry number (if applicable) – Tree numbers - Proposal*

1. Verge at entrance to Laburnum Road - ///talking.harmless.approves - Highways, Somerset Council – 1 tree – *Pinus pinea* (Italian stone pine)
2. Small open space, Beech Hill & Chesnutt Close - ///date.jumbled.validated – Highways, Somerset Council – 1 tree – *Paulownia tormentosa* (Foxglove Tree)
3. Verge, Pyles Thorne Road - ///tornado.waltzes.receiving – Highways, Somerset Council – 3 trees – *Acer davidii* Viper (Snake bark maple)
4. Lefthand verge, Blackmoor Road jnc. with Elms Road - ///broadcast.printer.light – Highways, Somerset Council – 6 fruit trees - Laxton's Fortune apple (dessert, September), Onward pear (eater), Catillac pear (stewing), Victoria plum (golden-yellow), Opal plum (reddish-purple) and Jefferson gage (golden-yellow).
5. Righthand verge, Blackmoor Road jnc. with Elm Road - ///burns.value.punctuate – Highways, Somerset Council – 1 tree - *Acer griseum* (Paperbark maple)
6. Verge, righthand bend, Oakfield Park - ///toenail.prowl.indirect – Highways, Somerset Council – 3 trees – Amelachier arborea 'Robin Hill' (single-stemmed) & Rowan x 2 (Sorbus 'Copper Kettle & *Sorbus vilmorinii* 'Pink Charm')
7. Verge at jnc of Champford Lane & Walker's Gate – ///glance.cases.optimally – Highways, Somerset Council – 16723500? – 1 tree – *Ginkgo biloba*
8. Verge at jnc. of Barn Meads Road & Monument Close - ///inhabited.share.plan – Highways, Somerset Council – 16746173? – 3 fruit trees – Opal plum (reddish-purple), Onward pear (eater) & Ashmead Kernel apple (dessert, October)
9. Verge at jnc. of Swains Lane & Barn Meads Road - ///observe.sprinter.cutlets – Highways, Somerset Council – 1 tree – *Catalpa bignonioides* (India Bean Tree)

10. Verge in front of bungalows near Villa Verde, Rockwell Green  
 ///refilled.animal.rewrites – Highways, Somerset Council – 16699190 – 3 trees – Trio of maples for autumn colour: *Acer rubrum* ‘October Glory’ x 3
11. Verges on either side of jnc of Swains Lane & Elworthy Drive -  
 ///outfitter.fuse.legroom - Highways, Somerset Council – 2 trees – *Sorbus* ‘Copper Kettle
12. Verge on corner of Wardleworth Way & Milverton Road –  
 ///dialects.graceful.legend – Highways, Somerset Council – 16706616 – 2 trees – *Liquidamber styraciflua* & *Robinia pseudoacacia*
13. Verge on Wardleworth Way - ///headlines.ignore.float – Highways, Somerset Council – 1 tree - *Robinia pseudoacacia*

## **Part 2 – Proposed sites on land owned by Live West Housing Association**

Key to listings below

*Site number – Location by road – Three words location – Land owner – Land Registry number (if applicable) – Tree numbers – Proposal*

14. Penny Close/Howard Road – ///irritate.worlds.clocks - Housing Association LiveWest – 16726897 – 1 tree - *Sorbus* ‘Copper Kettle

## **Part 3 – Proposed sites on land owned by HRA**

Key to listings below

*Site number – Location by road – Three words location – Land owner – Land Registry number (if applicable) – Tree numbers – Proposal*

15. Flats, Howard Road – ///cornfield.arriving.vacancies - Housing Association LiveWest – 16726897 – 1 tree – *Acer rubrum* ‘October Glory’

## Stage Three – 2025/26 or 2026/27

### Part 1 – Proposed sites on land owned by housing developers

Key to listings below

*Site number – Location by road – Three words location – Land owner – Land Registry number (if applicable) – Tree numbers – Proposal*

16. Smiths Farm Track, Brendon Road – ///cuddling.dots.pebble – Bloor Homes? – 58140885 – 10 trees – Native species (hawthorn, hazel, rowan, oak, holly)
17. Brendon Road/Lillebonne Way - ///rags.wake.sprays – Bloor Homes management company – 58140885 – 3 trees – *Acer rubrum* 'October Glory', *Acer griseum* (Paperbark Maple), *Acer Davidii* (Snakebark Maple)
18. Verge, Thomas Fox Road - ///museum.strutted.bonnet – Developer? – 61228229 - 2 trees (*Acer rubrum* 'October Glory' & *Robinia pseudoacacia*) & 6 native hedge packs (Woodland Trust bid)
19. Verge, Thomas Fox Road - ///head.novels.coast – Developer? – 61228229 – 5 trees – *Populus balsamifera* (Balsam Tree), *Ginkgo biloba*, *Acer griseum* & *Sorbus* 'Copper Kettle'
20. Verge, Thomas Fox Road facing Milverton Road - ///haven.clogging.frost – Developer? – 16689771 – 1 tree – *Ginkgo biloba*
21. Green space behind Parklands Road near Isambard Kingdon Brunel Primary School – ///mentioned.broom.looms – Bloor Homes – 57555644 – 5 fruit trees & 9 hedge packs for medicinal hedge (part of Woodland Trust bid)

### Part 2 – Proposed multiple sites on Cades Farm Estate

22. Open space in Cades Farm Estate - ///dash.however.activates – Persimmon – 54413948 – Multiple trees, including *Paulownia tormentosa* (Foxglove Tree) & *Tilia* spp. (Lime/Linden Tree), subject to discussion with developer
23. Multiple sites in Bramley Close, Cades Farm estate - ///revived.upstairs.available – Persimmon – 17666115 – Number of trees subject to discussion with developer