

## LANCASHIRE BAP TEMPLATE FOR HABITAT ACTION PLANS

### COMMUNITY WOODLANDS, ORCHARDS, STREET TREES, SHRUBBERIES & SHELTERBELTS

(Line Drawing of Habitat)

#### **Summary**

Trees and shrubs play a vital part in making urban areas more pleasant places to live. Found in streets, recreation areas and private gardens they perform a number of important functions including reducing noise, acting as pollution sinks and softening the built environment.

Current factors affecting this habitat range from conflicting pressures for land use, lack of management and pressures from householders to remove trees.

#### **Action Plan Aim**

**Measure the resource of, maintain and expand and raise awareness of community woodlands, orchards, street trees, shrubberies and shelterbelts.**

#### **Habitat Description**

Relics of past management systems in urban areas may include ancient woodlands, veteran trees and hedgerows.

More recent urban forestry includes street trees, trees in private gardens and young and semi-mature trees in amenity areas.

Trees and shrubs in streets, recreation areas, or private gardens play a vital part in making our urban areas more pleasant places to live. They perform a number of functions; acting as pollution sinks, reducing noise, creating shade, softening the built environment, and reinforcing local distinctiveness.

#### **National Status**

Not known.

#### **Regional Status**

Not known.

#### **Local Status**

Not known.

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#### Current factors affecting the habitat

The current factors affecting this habitat are:

- Land use pressure
- Public perception
- Lack of management
- Disturbance
- Development

Conflicting pressures for land use and consequent loss of habitat.

Public perception that management of trees and woodlands, however beneficial, may be damaging – despite increasing public interest in trees.

Public perception that land not managed intensively is not cared for and can therefore be abused.

Lack of management - numerous small and dispersed sites increase management costs.

Disturbance, trampling and heavy use on sensitive site

Inappropriate management to overcompensate for public safety and to create “tidy” landscapes.

The deliberate removal of trees during and following development.

Poor specifications for urban tree management, (planting and maintenance) and lack of resources to take offending contractors to task:

- Severance of roots during the laying of cables and pipes;
- Laying of impermeable surfaces around the base of trees and so cutting off their water supply;
- excessive strimming, leading to death or disease through damage to the cambium under the bark; and
- Failure to remove ties and stakes from planted saplings;

would appear to be the most prevalent problems.

Poor urban tree management (planting and maintenance) by community groups through lack of time, knowledge and support.

Conflicts between trees and the foundations of older houses, especially prevalent in areas with high clay content in soil.

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Pressure from householders for removal of retained mature urban trees because of shading of domestic gardens, heavy leaf and sap fall, and faecal deposits of feeding, nesting and roosting birds.

Introduction of exotic pests with planted exotic species. – sometimes disastrous for native species (e.g. Sudden Oak Death fungus *Phytophthora ramorum*)

#### **Important Sites**

*Urban Ancient Woodland* – Ribble Escarpment Woods, Preston, Preston City; Tawd Valley Woods, Skelmersdale, West Lancashire District

*Community Woodland* – Dog Kennel Wood; Healey Wood; Thwaite Brow Wood

*Orchards* – the most significant remnants appear to be around Ecclestone, Chorley Borough

*Street Trees* – District councils may have inventory records (e.g. Burnley Borough Council as part of Millennium Forest of Burnley project). Details of Tree Protection Orders (TPO) on some street trees are also held by district councils.

Shrubberies – not known

Shelterbelts – not known

#### **Current Action / Mechanisms**

- *Policy*

##### International and National Legislation

Protection of certain species under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 &c (e.g. badgers, deer, breeding birds, bats and rare plants and animals).

The occupiers Liability Act 1984 puts a “*common duty of care*” onto landowners to ensure that a tree does not cause harm to anybody. This has meant that old trees in woodlands and mature street trees are often lost due to perceived public safety issues.

##### Local Government Policies

Local authorities play a major part in the conservation and management of Lancashire’s urban wildlife resource. Site protection, wildlife management and maintaining a diversity of linked networks to enhance biodiversity have been clearly defined in Planning Policy Guidance note 9. Local authorities help meet these responsibilities through:

Protection of sites and wildlife features;

Minimising the effects of development on biodiversity

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Declaration of statutory Local Nature Reserves in urban areas

Management of wildlife sites and open greenspace

Obligatory planning consultation between the local planning authority and the Forestry Commission on any application (either new or extension to existing) within 500m of the boundary of an ancient woodland, as defined by English Nature's Provisional Ancient Woodland Inventory of Lancashire.

The need for a felling licence from the Forestry Commission, for felling timber volumes greater than 5m<sup>3</sup> per calendar quarter.

Tree Preservation Orders– administered by the local planning authority.

#### The National Grid Tree Warden Scheme

The National Grid Tree Warden Scheme is an initiative to enable people to play an active role in conserving and enhancing their local trees and woods. The scheme was founded by the Tree Council and is co-ordinated by that Council in partnership with National Grid plc, which has a well-established policy of community involvement and environmental care.

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

Since the Scheme's launch in September 1990, the Tree Council has been working closely with Local Authorities to set up Tree Warden Networks throughout the UK. By the end of 2000, there were over 7,000 Tree Wardens. Coverage of Lancashire is only partial.

## **5.2 Management, research and guidance**

### Local

The local planning authorities advise on Tree Preservation Orders and local tree issues.

A range of consultants offer advice.

The employs managers to carry out the management of urban woodlands, including.

- *Site Safeguard*

In Lancashire, a number of woodlands have been identified as SSSI or Biological Heritage Sites within or near urban areas. However, all are ancient in origin.

- *Land Management*

The Woodland Trust's *Woods on Your Doorstep* Scheme operates throughout the United Kingdom.

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- *Advisory*

Forestry Commission (FC) The Commission will offer advice on woodland management to all woodland owners and managers. It may also be able to provide grant aid for woodland management, restoration and creation.

FC Handbooks 005 & 011, and FC guideline booklet 'Community Woodland Design Guidelines' 1991, are particularly relevant.

Biological Heritage Sites Project Since 1996 this project – which is not habitat-specific - has systematically identified landowners and managers of BHS in all districts in Lancashire - excepting Ribbles Valley Borough and much of Lancaster City - and offered site-specific descriptive information and general management advice. The project has now exhausted all available project-funding sources and closed in March 2004.

- *Research and Monitoring*

No specific research or monitoring is known to be or have been underway.

'*Trees in Towns*' (1993) and *Trees in Towns II*, in preparation, are relevant. ODPM has recommended ADAS and Myerscough College to follow these approaches.

- *Public Relations*

National Tree Week (November/December)  
The *Trees Love Care* Campaign

### Indicators of Habitat Quality

To be completed.

### Habitat Targets

Target	Area	Measure	Timescale
Measure resource	Community woodlands, Orchards, Street trees, Shelterbelts and Shrubberies in urban Lancashire	Resource measured	2010
Maintain and expand	Community woodlands, Orchards, Street trees, Shelterbelts and Shrubberies in urban Lancashire		2012
Raise awareness	Community woodlands,		Ongoing

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	Orchards, Street trees, Shelterbelts and Shrubberies in urban Lancashire		
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#### Proposed Targets

Action (priority: H,M,L)	Area	Measure / Milestone	Partners	Timescale
<b>Research and monitoring</b>				
Collate information on existing community woodland projects <b>(H)</b>	Community Woodlands in Lancashire	100% existing woodland projects identified	WT, BTCV, GWK, TWT, LCC, LAs	2008
Collate information on surviving urban orchards and related projects <b>(H)</b>	Orchards in Lancashire	100% urban orchards identified. Associated data collated.	WT, BTCV, GWK, TWT, LCC, LAs	2010
Collate information on urban street trees <b>(H)</b>	Urban Trees in Lancashire	50% urban street trees identified. Associated data collated.	WT, BTCV, GWK, TWT, LCC, LAs, CTs	2012
Collate information on urban shelterbelts and shrubberies <b>(H)</b>	Urban shelterbelts and shrubberies in Lancashire	50% urban shelterbeds and shrubberies identified. Associated data collated.	WT, BTCV, GWK, TWT, LCC, LAs, CTs	2012
<b>Site safeguard and management</b>				
Protect important sites/ trees with identified as BHS or with a TPO as appropriate.	Lancashire	100% of known trees/sites protected	LCC, LA's, Woodland Projects	2015
<b>Habitat protection and management</b>				
Ensure the appropriate management of Community woodlands, Orchards,	Lancashire	Number of sites managed appropriately	FC, TWT, Woodland Projects	2012

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Street trees, Shelterbelts and Shrubberies				
<b>Advisory</b>				
Provide management advice to the owners of Community woodlands, Orchards, Street trees, Shelterbelts and Shrubberies	Lancashire	No. of groups etc. advised	FC, TWT, Woodland projects	2007
<b>Publicity</b>				
Publicise National Apple Day	Lancashire	Event held	LA's	Annual

### Related Action Plans

To be completed.

### References and additional reading

The Civic Trust: <http://www.civictrust.org.uk/top.shtml>

The Civic Trust promotes progressive improvements in the quality of urban life for communities throughout the United Kingdom. It is Britain's leading charity devoted to enhancing the quality of life in Britain's cities, towns and villages: the places where people live, work, shop and relax.

The Community Woodland Network: <http://www.woodland-trust.org.uk/communitywoodlandnetwork/index.htm>

The Community Woodland Network is an interactive network for community woodland groups to share information and resources. It is co-ordinated by the Woodland Trust.

Lancashire Orchards: [http://www.England-in-particular.info/lanc\(orc\).html](http://www.England-in-particular.info/lanc(orc).html)

Some information on a project on old apple varieties based at Myerscough College, Lancashire

Postcode Plants Database: <http://www.nhm.ac.uk/science/projects/fff/index.htm>

A useful web site for discovering what tree and shrub varieties are native to your part of Lancashire.

The Tree Council: <http://www.treecouncil.org.uk/>

The Tree Council's aims are:

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- to improve the environment in town and country by promoting the planting and conservation of trees and woods throughout the United Kingdom;
- to disseminate knowledge about trees and their management;
- to act as a forum for organisations concerned with trees, to identify national problems and to provide initiatives for co-operation.

#### ***National Grid/Tree Council Tree Warden Scheme Contact List (from Tree Council web site)***

Blackburn with Darwen: No contact given.

Blackpool: No contact given.

Burnley: Andrew Dacre, Burnley Borough Council, Planning Services, PO Box 29, Parker Lane Offices, Burnley, Lancashire BB11 2DT. Tel: 01282-425 011 x 2544. Fax: 01282-455 464

Chorley: David Jones, Head of Leisure Services, Chorley Borough Council, Civic Offices, Union Street, Chorley, Lancashire PR7 1AL Tel: 01257-515 542. Fax: 01257-244 390 (Day to day: Keith Winstanley, Arboricultural Officer 01257-515 543)

Fylde: Tim Scarles, Tree Preservation Officer, Fylde Borough Council, The Built Environment, Council Offices, Derby Road, Wesham, Preston, Lancashire PR4 3AJ. Tel: 01772-671 488 x 283. Fax: 01772-671 401

Hyndburn: No contact given.

Lancaster City: Julian Inman, Tree Officer, Lancaster City Council, Palatine Hall, Dalton Square, Lancaster, Lancashire LA1 1PW Tel: 01524-582 000 Fax: 01524-582 323.

Pendle: Derek Gascoigne, Pendle Borough Council, Bank House, 61 Albert Road, Colne, Lancashire BB8 0BP. Tel: 01282-661 236. Fax: 01282-619 555

Preston City: No contact given.

Ribble Valley: David Hewitt, Department of Development Services, Ribble Valley Borough Council, Church Walk, Clitheroe, Lancashire. Tel: 01200-425 111 Fax: 01200-443 063

Rossendale: No contact given.

West Lancashire: David Thornber, Arboricultural Officer, West Lancashire District Council, 52 Derby; Street, Ormskirk, Lancashire L39 2DF. Tel: 01695 585114. Fax: 01695-585 113

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Wyre: Alison Boden, Head Ranger, Wyre Borough Council, Wyre Civic Centre, Breck Road, Poulton-le-Fylde, Lancashire FY6 7PU. Tel: 01253-887 220.

#### **Abbreviations**

BTCV = British Trust for Conservation Volunteers

CTs =

GWK =

LAs = Local Authorities

LCC = Lancashire County Council

TWT = The Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester and North Merseyside

WT =

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