

# Appendix 7a:Tree Strategy 2021-2031

*"To create a thriving urban forest to benefit our local community, wildlife and*

Blackpool Council

PARKS SERVICE



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# 1.0 Introduction

This strategy has been produced in order for Blackpool Council to meet the legislative requirements of trees and their responsible management. It recognises the importance of trees, the benefits they afford us and the ever-important role they can play in improving our community's mental wellbeing, socio-economic value, providing a home for our local wildlife and mitigating environmental issues. As we currently only have 4.4% tree cover (*Forest Research*) within the borough, their future cannot be taken for granted; climate change, pests and disease, development, agricultural practices and misplaced perceptions of risk are just some of the challenges our remaining trees face. The Tree Strategy also deals with Tree Preservation Orders (TPO), Conservation Areas, felling licenses, restrictive covenants, woodlands and amenity/ecosystem enhancements.

## 1.1 Background

Prior to a tree strategy, the approach to managing Blackpool's tree population was reactive management. Information was received from complaints, queries or adhoc tree assessments, and then dealt with by Parks Service. Although this approach can be vital for solving immediate tree safety issues, it is time consuming, creates inefficiencies and allows potential problem areas to be either missed or not be identified. Therefore, increasing the risk of potential incidents, a lack of clarity and guidance on tree works and no informed process for replanting.

In regards to TPO's and developments, planning would contact Parks Service to assess the subject trees or the planning application when trees were highlighted. Parks service would provide written assessments and Planning would then take the information forward.

We now have an opportunity to move forward and improve our trees, our tree management and greenify our town in to an urban forest, which will benefit our local community, wildlife and visitors to the Blackpool Coast.

Legally, we have a responsibility under the *Occupiers' Liability Act 1957 & 1984* to take reasonable steps in order to make our land safe for trespassers and

visitors. In practice, if a tree fails and causes damage to a person or property, then the owner of the tree is liable. We must ensure our trees are sustainably managed, ensuring that people are not exposed to unreasonable risk from trees on council owned land and that our tree population meets the needs of the borough. Due to the increasing housing developments within Blackpool, this has the potential to decrease our existing tree population further. Therefore, mitigation needs to be put in place to ensure that protected trees and trees that conform to the **A, B** and **C** categories within BS 5837:2012 are retained within development sites, and any removed trees are replaced with a specified ratio.

In order to effectively and responsibly manage our tree population the following practices will need to be adopted:

- Trees viewed as critical infrastructure (ecosystem service).
- Focus on overall canopy cover and population structure and diversity.
- Trees have equal priority to other infrastructure such as roads and services.
- Economic value of trees recognised and valued.
- Focus on larger longer lived canopy trees.
- Overall tree population management.
- Multi-purpose based design.
- Tree population seen as a continuous resource regardless of ownership boundaries.

## 1.2 The Resource – Area, Distribution, Type, Designation

Blackpool is in Lancashire on the north-west coast and reaches from South Shore to Bispham. Central Blackpool is a hub for tourism with much of the tree population at Stanley Park and on the fringes of the borough to the north and east.

Unfortunately, this means that central Blackpool at present has little to no tree cover. However, in the same notion this provides us with a great opportunity to develop our urban forest and greenify our town centre, providing benefits to the economy and creating a town centre with high amenity trees for tourism.





Figure 3: Map of Blackpool Borough.

In the *Blackpool Open Space Assessment 2019*, greenspaces included parks and gardens (125.5 ha), natural and semi-natural (154.5 ha), amenity (30.9 ha) and green corridors (6.7 ha). The Open Space Assessment locations coincides with many of Blackpool's trees. However, details of the species, maturity and conditions are assessed on an ad hoc basis.

Therefore, to further enhance and manage our tree population, whilst ensuring the valuable collection of tree data, a tree survey covering the entire borough will be commissioned. This will aid us in the management of our trees, their distribution and type by:

- Assessing our current species diversity and population.
- Assessing the level of tree maturity.
- Assessing the location and density of trees.

- Provide a risk management for trees within specific locations.
- Provide management recommendations.
- Provide information on notable trees/woodlands that require TEMPO assessments.
- Enable the creation of a works programme based on risk priority.
- Enable the creation of an improved re-planting system for development sites and unpopulated areas based on new tree population data.

The tree survey will be carried out every 5 years and its data will be used to update the tree strategy and assist in evaluating the success of our objectives. Furthermore, it will allow us to take a proactive and responsible approach to managing our trees, enabling Blackpool Council to achieve its tree target of 10% within the Blackpool's Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy 2019 – 2029. Further details regarding the objectives can be found at [6.1 Action Plan](#).

### 1.3 The Benefits Delivered by Trees and Woodland

Trees are essential for all life and have played a vital role throughout our history in providing food and building materials. They are intrinsic to our culture and have been worshipped and celebrated and are revered in myth and folklore.

There are numerous benefits that trees provide within urban areas and open spaces, which have been known and documented for many decades, by organisations and charities such as Woodland Trust and the Forestry Commission.

These benefits include clean air, providing oxygen, provide a cooling effect, increasing mental wellbeing, increasing property value, reduce UV-B exposure by about 50% and provide food to local wildlife and people etc.

Further data has been researched by the *Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations* (2016) and states:

- Strategic placement of trees in urban areas can cool the air by between 2°C and 8°C.
- Large urban trees are excellent filters for urban pollutants and fine particulates.

- Mature trees regulate water flow and improve water quality.
- A tree can absorb up to 150kg of CO<sub>2</sub> per year, sequester carbon and consequently mitigate climate change.
- Spending time near trees improves physical and mental health by increasing energy levels and speed of recovery, while decreasing blood pressure and stress.
- Landscaping, especially with trees, can increase property value by 20%.
- Trees properly placed around buildings can reduce air conditioning needs by 30% and save energy used for heating by 20-50%.

### Environmental benefits to Blackpool

Trees improve air quality by absorbing pollutant gases such as nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) Sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) and ozone (O<sub>3</sub>), thus linking in with the Clean Air Quality Strategy 2020-2025.

Trees reduce the harmful effects of climate change and will contribute significantly to Blackpool Council motion of a climate emergency.

In urban areas, trees are a good source of nectar for insects, especially honey bees and provide food and shelter for wildlife, thus helping to increase biodiversity. *Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006* (NERC):

*"Every public authority must, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity"*

Urban trees reduce the urban heat island and moderate localised temperature extremes and provide shade, making streets and buildings cooler in summer, this has been researched further by *Forest Research: The role of urban trees and greenspaces in reducing urban air temperatures*. This is significantly relevant to Blackpool town centre where there are only a handful of trees present.

### Economic benefits to Blackpool

A study by English Heritage for the UK National Ecosystem Assessment found that on average, a one percent increase in the amount of greenspace in a

ward was responsible for £2,020 (approximately 1%) of the value of a house in England. A further study found that relative to a property located 450m away from a park, a property located on the edge of a park could potentially attract a premium of between 0.44% and 19%, depending on house and park type (*Natural England Research Report NERR057*).

The woodland trust found that copses of trees and woodlands are much cheaper to maintain than mown grass, reducing maintenance costs. When considering how much open grassland Blackpool has such as, Grange Park and Mereside, there is considerable cost saving potential.

*Business District Streetscapes, Trees and Consumer Response Journal* found Shoppers will travel greater distances and a longer time to visit a district with high quality trees, and spend more time there once they arrive. Also, shoppers will spend 9% - 12% more for goods and services in business districts with high quality tree canopy cover. As Blackpool is a town that relies heavily on tourism, there is an obvious benefit to populating our town with trees.

*The Guardian* in 2013 reported Blackpool has having the lowest life expectancy in England, by having a valued tree population, physical and mental health can increase, reducing healthcare costs. This has been researched and proven many times e.g. *Forest Research: Understanding the role of urban tree management on ecosystem services, Well-being for all? Social distribution of benefits from woods and NHS Greenspace in Scotland*. The benefits of trees on our healthcare will help shape the development of the updated version of: Blackpool Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Blackpool 2016-2019.

### Social benefits to Blackpool

Trees create a calmer and healthier environment, whilst allowing us to be in touch with nature. They create a sense of pride and allow communities to be proud of where they live. Research has found that hospital patients have a shorter recovery time, when their hospital room offered a view of trees. Children have been shown to retain more of the information taught in schools, if they spend some of their time outdoors in green spaces (*Tree Advisory Board*).

*Roadside Urban Trees: Balancing Safety and Community Values* found trees have a positive impact on crime reduction and public housing residents with nearby trees and natural landscapes report 25% fewer acts of domestic aggression and violence.

# Comparison of Tree Benefits to Blackpool

An urban forest with a 10%+ tree cover within Blackpool would change the town considerably and help to tackle many socio-economic issues, environmental issues and create a calmer and healthier place.

10%

3750 trees

A 10% tree cover will offset the carbon of a single car, with one passenger travelling 320 km per day.

A 10% tree cover will offset the carbon of a single person, in 44 days.

A 10% tree cover will offset the carbon of 13,697 emails sent in a single day.

A 10% tree cover in 50 years will produce £89,770,912.50 worth of oxygen & provides £178,105,462.50 worth of air pollution control.

A 4% tree cover will offset the carbon of a single car, with one passenger travelling 128 km per day.

A 4% tree cover will offset the carbon of a single person, in 110 days.

A 4% tree cover will offset the carbon of 5,479 emails sent in a single day.

A 4% tree cover in 50 years will produce £35,908,365 worth of oxygen & provides £71,242,185 worth of air pollution control.

4%

Approx. 1500 trees (Knowsley Council survey).

171g per km per passenger of carbon used (BBC Transport).

A person generates approx. 2.4t of CO<sub>2</sub> per year (Project Urban Forest).

An email uses 4g of carbon (Project Urban Forest).

In 50 years, one tree produces £23,938.91 worth of oxygen & provides £47,494.79 worth of air pollution control (USDA Forest Service).

Table 1: Tree Cover vs km<sup>2</sup>

Tree Cover vs km<sup>2</sup>

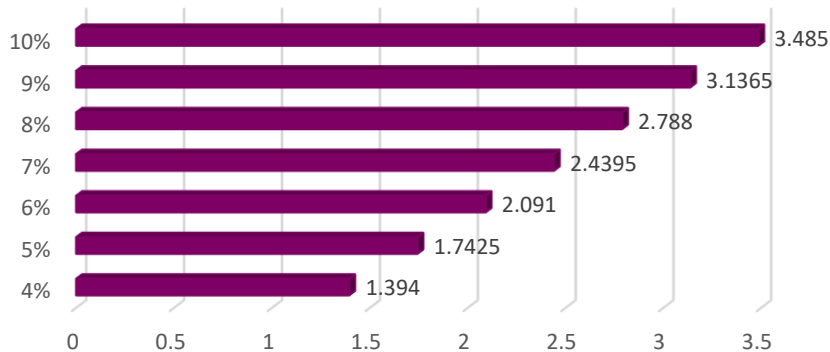


Table 2: Oxygen Production per Day (kg)

Oxygen Production Per Day (kg)

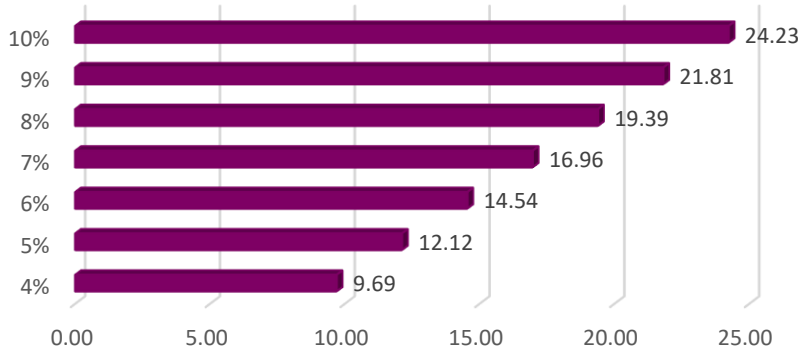
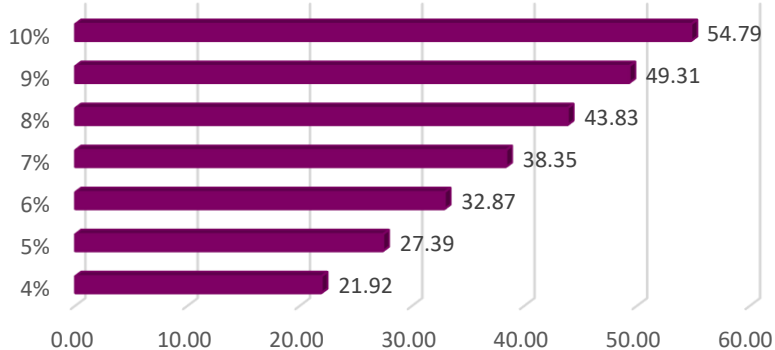


Table 3: Carbon Absorption per Day (kg)

Carbon Absorption Per Day (kg)



Data based on a 50 year old tree population and calculated from a previous tree survey and various research papers/websites.



## 2.0 Vision

### 2.1 Aim

*“To create a thriving urban forest to benefit our local community, wildlife and visitors to the Blackpool Coast, whilst ensuring a healthy, diverse and well-managed tree population.”*

### 2.2 Objectives

1. Implement the Tree Strategy in accordance with Blackpool’s GBI Strategy, which aligns with Core Strategy Policy CS6.
2. Establish and promote a healthy tree culture and adopt the following practices:
  - Trees viewed as critical infrastructure (ecosystem service).
  - Focus on overall canopy cover and population structure and diversity.
  - Trees have equal priority to other infrastructure such as roads and services.
  - Economic value of trees recognised and valued.
  - Focus on larger longer lived canopy trees.
  - Overall tree population management.
  - Multi-purpose based design.
  - Tree population seen as a continuous resource regardless of ownership boundaries.
3. In accordance with BS 5837:2012, establish a responsible approach to developments and a re-planting specification for removed trees.
4. Manage our tree population with a proactive and informed approach, to maximise ecological, social and economic benefits.

Timeframes to achieve the objectives are specified at [6.1 Action Plan](#).

## 3.0 Sustainability & Climate Change

### 3.1 Climate Change

*The Stern Review* (2006) makes it clear that human activity is affecting our planet and changing our climate with significant implications. This change in climate is already affecting life, ecosystems and weather systems and has been doing for some time.

Climate change is already affecting Blackpool, the increase in temperature is increasing the town centres micro climate due to the extent of hard surfaces. This increase in temperature combined with Blackpool’s air quality (PM<sub>2.5</sub>), highlighted as a red zone (2015), creates further health and environmental issues. Urban areas already provide a challenging environment for trees and with reduced annual rainfall in spring/summer and an increase in temperatures, draught will be a major contribution of tree failures.

A further challenge for trees is that with longer periods of warmer temperatures in summer, pests and disease populations will increase in activity levels, whilst an increase in winter temperatures will decrease mortality rates. An increase in rainfall during autumn and winter with a limited number of trees (4%) will cause flooded soils, harbouring water-based pathogens such as *Phytophthora* sp. and this combined with deoxygenated soil and root asphyxiation, will inevitably affect a trees health.

***Therefore, in order to reduce the effects of climate change, more mature trees are essential!***

Trees need to be planted correctly within their given environment and include systems to allow access to water and be given room to grow within an urban setting. In doing so, trees will be able to absorb pollution within Blackpool town centre, provide a cooling affect and soak up excess water, whilst providing a cost effective solution to tackling climate change. They need to be managed in accordance with best practice and left to mature. Tree selection and aftercare programmes will be vital for trees to survive until their root systems have established.



### 3.2 Pests and Tree Disease

In recent years there has been a significant increase in pests and diseases such as Ash Dieback (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*), Asian Longhorn Beetle (*Anoplophora glabripennis*), Horse Chestnut Bleeding Canker (*Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *Aesculi*) & Horse Chestnut Leaf Miner (*Cameraria ohridella*), *Phytophthora ramorum* & *kernoviae* and Red Band Needle Blight (*Dothistroma septosporum*). These pose a significant risk to the borough's trees and with the change in temperatures due to climate change, many pests and disease that rely on warmer climates such as Oak Processionary Moth (*Thaumetopoea processionea*) have the potential to colonise our remaining Oak trees.

Ash trees nationwide make up 20% of the entire tree population in the UK (*National Trust*). Therefore, if Blackpool's Ash trees were to be further infected by Ash Dieback, there is potential for considerable loss. This loss has been seen before within the borough, with Dutch elm disease claiming over 200 trees in 2005.

Therefore, it is vital that arboricultural best practices are followed in order to maintain a healthy tree population, carry out regular inspections and new trees are locally sourced.

Further pests and tree disease related issues will be discussed at [5.3 New and Replacement Planting](#) which will include nursery stock.

### 3.3 Community

To aid in achieving the Tree Strategy's objective 2 and 4 whilst contributing to the Blackpool's Green and Blue Infrastructure 2019-2029. The Blackpool Park Rangers will continue to deliver and improve outdoor learning and forest school activities for children. This is a great opportunity to embed the value of trees from an early age and encourage them to greenify their town. The local community will have access to volunteering and have several options on how they can help create a sustainable future for our trees. Volunteers will be able help by signing up to become a Tree Warden, Tree Planter or a Volunteer Ranger and with many more options within the Parks Service.

The friends of groups and the volunteer groups who provide a valuable service to our parks and greenspaces, will be encouraged to contribute by assisting with tree planting and providing aftercare to allow the new trees to establish. Collaborative approaches will be used to organise tree planting events such as friend of groups, the Blackpool Park Rangers and partners across the borough.

With backing from Councillors, all the wards within the borough will be able to contribute in creating a greener and healthier Blackpool. To provide councillors with guidance on how they can help our communities with tree planting, the benefits of trees and educating local school children about trees etc., the Woodland Trust have created a practical guidance:

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/media/45303/wh-at-every-councillor-needs-to-know-about-trees.pdf>.

To contribute to the bigger picture of trees, there are several projects that children, through the Park Rangers, friends of groups and volunteers can take part in, such as Observatree and Plant for the Planet:

Observatree is a citizen science project led by Forest Research, in collaboration with key organisations such as FERA Science Ltd, Woodland Trust, Forestry Commission, Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs, Animal & Plant Health Agency etc., and their aim is:

*"Our aim is to protect the UK's trees, woods and forests from new pests and diseases – either arriving or spreading across the country. The earlier these are spotted, the higher the chances that outbreaks can be eliminated or controlled."*

A free toolkit can be downloaded and printed off allowing children with the Park Rangers and volunteers, to check our tree population. If any of the highlighted pests and diseases are found, a mini report is sent.



Figure 4: Observatree Logo

Plant-for-the-Planet is a global movement with an ambitious goal: to fight the climate crisis by planting trees around the world.



Figure 5: Plant for the Planet Logo

Groups or individuals can sign up for free and set a tree planting target and record their progress. Not only will this contribute to Blackpool's tree population, but the planets! The trees planted contribute towards the Trillion Tree Campaign.

To further push objective 2, trees throughout the borough will be highlighted on a regular basis to promote the wonder of trees, which will either be through the rangers who teach forest school or identified as part of the borough wide tree survey. These unique specimens will be passed on to the comms team to promote and allow the community to take an interest and hopefully recommend some of their own favourite trees around Blackpool.

Finally, one of the priorities regarding Healthy Weight in the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Blackpool 2016–2019 and the Local Government Declaration on Healthy Weight is designing environments to promote physical activity.

## 4.0 Planning

### 4.1 Duties under NERC Act 2006 and NPPF

Trees provide a myriad of habitats and are home to many insects, lichens and fungi, in addition to mammals and birds. It is important to maintain and increase tree and woodland habitats in order to conserve biodiversity. Under the *Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006* (NERC), councils must conserve biodiversity when exercising functions and under *National Planning Policy Framework 2019* (NPPF), councils have to enhance and protect habitats

and biodiversity. Which aligns with the Tree Strategy's objective 4 and the objectives set within Blackpool's Green and Blue Infrastructure 2019-2029, Blackpool Council will adopt the practices specified in [Section 1.1](#).

In doing so, several factors will be implemented:

- Trees removals will be carefully considered regardless of their location and legal status.
- Removed trees on development sites, TPO'd trees and trees within a Conservation Area will be replaced in accordance with [5.3 New and Replacement Planting](#).
- No bird nets will be permitted on trees located on or around proposed development sites, as this is not an ethical approach and due to the high potential of harming protected species.
- Tree species selection will be appropriate for the location and benefit wildlife.
- Pruning works to TPO'd trees will be assessed prior to consent been granted and trees in a Conservation Area will undergo a TEMPO.
- Trees in a Conservation Area or have a TPO present will be assessed for nesting birds before any work is carried out, and if bats are suspected, work will cease until proven otherwise.
- Trees and woodlands highlighted by a planning application; where protected species and habitats are identified, ensure that these are not disturbed or destroyed.

Priority habitats under the *Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006* (NERC), relevant to this strategy and which can be found in Blackpool are:

- Hedgerows
- Traditional Orchards
- Wood Pasture and Parkland
- Lowland mixed deciduous woodland

Additional Acts which are relevant are *The Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981*, *Conservation* (Natural Habitats & c) *Regulations 1994* and *Hedgerow Regulations 1997*.

## 4.2 National and Local Planning Policy – Trees and Development

Developments have the potential to reduce our mature tree population considerably and therefore, a balanced approach will need to be adopted.

Therefore, to achieve objective 3 within the Tree Strategy and work towards best practice. BS 5837:2012 (Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction. Recommendations) will be followed when trees are present on a proposed development site or trees border the proposed development site.

This way, trees which conform to categories **A**, **B** and **C** are retained as practically as possible and any tree removals will be replaced which is specified at [5.3 New and Replacement Planting](#). As discussed in [1.3 The Benefits Delivered by Trees and Woodland](#), trees can provide new developments with amenity/ecological value, an increase in property value and saleability.

By further maintaining and increasing our tree populations around developments, Blackpool council will meet the requirements of our local strategies and several national strategies/legislations such as *A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment*, *The Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981* and the *Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act 2006* (NERC), as previously discussed.

In order to clarify the process for trees and developments, a flowchart at Appendix [7.1 Parks Service Flowchart for BS 5837:2012 Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition & Construction](#). [Recommendations](#), shows the collaboration between Parks Service and Planning in order to achieve the best possible outcome for Blackpool's trees and landscape.

## 4.3 Protecting Trees – TPOs, Conservation Areas, Felling Licenses and Covenants

### Tree Preservation Order

The planting and preservation of trees for amenity has been a recognised part of planning law since the 1940s. Local Planning Authorities have powers to protect existing trees and secure replacement planting when protected trees are removed.

Up to date practices can now include protecting trees based on several additional factors such as conservation, biodiversity and in response to the climate emergency.

Central Government has provided guidance on the making of Tree Preservation Orders. This is currently set out in Planning Practice Guidance which amplifies policies within the *National Planning Policy Framework 2019* (NPPF).

Blackpool currently has 56 Tree Preservation Orders (TPO).

A TPO prohibits the unauthorised removal of trees and also controls any work carried out to them as well as securing replacement planting. The TPO is not intended to prevent reasonable management. Consent can be granted with conditions, including replacement planting if a tree is felled.

Consent can also be refused if a proposal to fell is assessed as not in the best interests of retaining the tree for the wider benefit of the community/ecosystem. Proposals for inappropriate pruning can also be refused.

TPOs are made for the following reasons:

- To protect trees in the interests of amenity/ecosystems.
- To protect new planting.
- In response to development pressures.
- When significant trees are thought to be under threat.
- Sale of council housing stock under 'Right to Buy'.
- Sale or disposal of council land for development.
- Transfer of education sites away from local authority control to academy or trust status.

### Conservation Area

Conservation Areas are designated (*Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas Act 1990*) to preserve or enhance the character of historic areas and provide protection to buildings and associated landscapes including trees.

Blackpool currently has 6 conservation areas.



Conservation area regulations protect trees above a specified size (diameter of more than 75mm when measured at 1.5m from ground level or more than 100mm if reducing the number of trees to benefit the growth of other trees), where the trees are not already covered by a TPO. Notification is required to undertake work to such trees and the Local Authority has the options of creating a TPO via a TEMPO or allowing for the proposed works to proceed.

Further guidance is contained in Planning Practice Guidance within the *National Planning Policy Framework 2019* (NPPF).

### Felling Licences

A felling licence is required by law if the felling of trees is more than 5m<sup>3</sup> in one calendar quarter and a planning permission is not in place which includes the removal of the trees.

If the wood is to be sold as a product e.g. selling the wood for logs - then you can only fell 2m<sup>3</sup> in a calendar quarter.

This applies to trees in hedges as well as woodlands, however, there are exceptions which includes trees in domestic gardens and public open space.

### Covenants

A restrictive covenant is any type of agreement that requires the buyer to either take or abstain from a specific action. In a property purchase transaction, restrictive covenants are binding legal obligations written into the deed of a property by the seller. These covenants can be either simple or complex and can levy penalties against buyers who fail to obey them.

A restrictive covenant for trees or woodland covers trees that are required to remain, indefinitely or for a minimum period. Therefore, the landowner or developer will have to adhere to the agreement and maintain their trees in accordance with best practice.

## 4.4 Developer Obligations

In line with BS 5837:2012, trees which are present on a proposed development site or trees that border a proposed development site, the developer will provide the following documents unless deemed unnecessary by Parks Service and Planning:

- Phase 1 Habitat Survey (Inc. Extended)
- Protected species surveys

- Pre-development Survey with Tree Constraints Plan
- Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA)
- Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS)
- Planting Scheme

A professional arboricultural and ecology consultant will be able to provide the documents and plans if required. This process will identify significant trees, habitats, wildlife and the constraints that they impose, which in turn will inform the design process. The consultants should also be able to provide details of protection and mitigation measures for the development, as shown at Appendix [7.1 Parks Service Flowchart for BS 5837:2012 Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition & Construction Recommendations](#).

If trees are to be removed and cannot reasonably be replaced onsite, financial contributions towards replacement tree planting offsite may be required. Further details on developer contributions can be found in the Greening Blackpool Supplementary Planning Document (SPD).

It is essential that the site management and works follow BS 5837:2012 and any protective measures for habitats and protected species. If not, the potential for harming habitats and wildlife is high, and can incur unlimited fines, imprisonment or both, and is enforced by several Council Directives. It is likely that damaged root systems will cause dead or dangerous trees on or around a new development, causing future issues. A comparison can be found between figure 2 and 3.



Figure 6: Unacceptable tree protection and site standards, with major structural root damage.





Figure 7: Acceptable tree protection with correctly placed heras fencing and clear signage.

## 5.0 Council Trees

### 5.1 Streets Trees and Trees in Residential Areas

#### Street Trees

Street trees are generally found within grass verges or within hardstanding on roadsides and pavements. Many of the street trees in Blackpool are located along the entrance routes into the town to provide amenity value such as Preston New Road.

Trees assist in improving road safety. They provide a buffer between pedestrians and vehicular traffic, an affective example of this can be seen at Stanley Park, which is surrounded by mature specimens within the surrounding pavement. Tree lined streets can assist in reducing traffic speed by giving the impression of road narrowing.

Trees can improve the lifespan of road surfaces as the shade cast by trees reduces the temperatures in which the surface reaches during hot weather. Where tree canopies overhang roads in winter, ice is less likely to form on the road as a result of the sheltering effects of trees.

Highway maintenance and the installation of services (such as cabling) have the potential to significantly damage trees, leading to their early removal. Conversely trees can cause further damage to already damaged drains, underground pipes and cables and can lift pavements. As they grow, they can also restrict access width along pavements.

Highway trees should be carefully planned and consider species, species at maturity and habit. In hardstanding, the planting pits need to be specialised, which will prevent future issues regarding damage to underground utilities and movement of hardstanding.

Further information regarding planting can be found at [5.3 New and replacement planting](#).

Pruning works required to Highway trees should be carried out in line with BS 3998:2010 and may include removing branches for streetlights, road signs, vehicular obstructions, visibility and overhead utilities. Highway trees should not be removed to facilitate the construction of a vehicle access unless there is a good arboricultural reason to do so and the creation of a new planting pit is possible in proximity.

Any trees which are deemed dangerous under the *Highways Act 1980 Section 154*, will be assessed by Parks Service before their removal. Any removed trees should be replaced and in keeping with the species present, unless known issues are highlighted. Therefore, a different species can be planted in order to prevent future issues.

#### Trees in Residential Areas

Blackpool Council are unable to directly manage privately owned trees and trees within communal areas, however, by actively taking note of public concerns to potential tree works and removals, protections can be placed, if warranted.

As discussed in [4.3 Protecting Trees – TPOs, Conservation Areas, Felling Licenses and Covenants](#), Conservation Areas and TPO's can be created in order to preserve and monitor any works that are requested. This way, valuable trees and woodlands can be sensibly managed and maintained for amenity/ecosystems, cultural importance and for priority habitats under *Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act 2006* (NERC) and *National Planning Policy Framework 2019* (NPPF).

If members of the public raise concerns, Parks Service collaborating with Planning can assist with site visits and assess trees and woodlands using a Tree Evaluation Method for Preservation Orders (TEMPO, example found at [7.2 Example of a TEMPO Assessment](#)) or advice on Conservation Areas.

This way professional advice and guidance can be provided to justify the trees/areas highlighted for a TPO or Conservation Area. By proactively assessing trees, combined with the Tree Warden Volunteers and Park Ranger activities. Blackpool Council can work towards objective 2 and 4 of the Tree Strategy.

## 5.2 Parks and Open Spaces

Trees on parks and open spaces are highly important within urban areas, as discussed at [1.3 The Benefits Delivered by Trees and Woodland](#). They allow the community to access spaces that they may not have access to at home, such as a garden, especially regarding the central areas of Blackpool, which only has a handful of trees.

Parks provide some of the best specimen trees, as they have the space to naturally form and don't have the pressures of trees near to buildings and roads. Their canopies can fully develop with pruning requirements at a minimum. They provide more habitats for wildlife than street trees and provide key features within a park.



Figure 8: Louie Horrocks Park.

The formation of deadwood and standing deadwood is vital in creating a diverse habitat under *Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act 2006* (NERC), National Planning Policy Framework 2019 (NPPF), as it is colonised by many different species of fungi (saprotrophs), and invertebrates (*Saproxylic*) in which birds and bats can feed from. Deadwood needs to be managed in populated areas, however, it can be managed safely and effectively by highlighting activity levels within parks. Further information is provided in the Tree Risk Management Guidance.

Parks and open spaces provide a great place to retain larger and older specimens and are ideal for planting trees. Which would allow Blackpool to achieve our carbon offsetting targets and increase our tree population from 4% to 10%.

To work in conjunction with the Tree Strategy, park development plans will be created to detail areas of activity (zoning), types of tree management and classification of areas within the parks for example woodland areas, sports areas, play areas, amenity grassland, natural grassland, planting areas etc.

## 5.3 Transplanting, New and Replacement Trees

Tree planting is fundamental to increasing Blackpool's tree population from 4% to 10%. It is vital that the sourcing trees is done responsibly and carried out correctly to give the specimens the best chance of survival, along with a thorough aftercare programme.

When sourcing and purchasing trees, all specimens will be locally sourced and conform to BS 3936-1:1992 Nursery stock. Specification for trees and shrubs.

By locally sourcing trees, we will be able to reduce the risk of pests and tree diseases as discussed at [3.1 Pests and Tree Disease](#) and benefit local nurseries.

Tree sourcing for developers where possible will be locally sourced, tree stakes will be FSC approved and hessian will be used for tree ties, and when planting whips, developers will use cardboard tree guards such as cardboard Tree Guards. These practices will help to further reduce the risk from pests and disease, whilst contributing to creating sustainable and environmentally friendly practices.

In order to affectively provide guidance, a supplementary document (Tree Planting Specification) will be provided on planting specifications within soil and which conforms to BS 8545:2014 Trees: from nursery to independence in the landscape. Recommendations. Trees planted in hard surfaces will have custom specifications due to the different factors and considerations. Planting systems and tree pits which allow for SUDS, services and rooting areas to be created will be utilised in order to successfully plant trees in hard surfaces.

It is important to be aware of the boroughs soil types for species selection and according to *Soilscape* from the *Cranfield Soil & Agrifood Institute*: Blackpool has a Soilscape 21 at Cleveleys, 4, 15, 23 and 27 to the south, Soilscape 8 and 20 to the west/Marton Mere and a large central section at Soilscape 18 (See [7.3 Soilscape Descriptions](#)).

Species selection can make the difference of a tree surviving in a given environment and therefore, to provide a space where a tree can thrive and provide all the benefits previously discussed at [1.3 The Benefits Delivered by Trees and Woodland](#), further guidance can be acquired from *Tree Species Selection for Green Infrastructures – A Guide for Specifiers* (2019). The guide provides up to date advice and a simplified table on a trees environmental tolerances and their use potential, whilst informing the specifier on the trees overall dimensions and habits.

To coincide with the available guide, the tree survey will enable the creation of an improved re-planting system for development sites and unpopulated areas based on new tree population data. The information will provide data on what trees have survived and if their habits suit the location.

Therefore with a proactive and informed approach, specific trees will be highlighted for car parks, streets, grass verges and green spaces. Whilst taking in to account climate change and pests and disease. Thus, creating a sustainable planting specification and ensuring trees are within an appropriate location as a permanent and beneficial feature.

### Transplanting

Where possible, existing trees will be transplanted from dense copses or locations which will not benefit the future growth of a tree. The practice of transplanting will reduce issues relating to pests and diseases, save costs on purchasing new trees, improve sustainability and provide larger specimens for locations where a tree can thrive.

### New Trees

New trees can to be planted in accordance with the specified locations highlighted in the Parks Development Plans and the Street Planting Plans. New locations will be identified as part of a review of available locations or as part of additional projects on an adhoc basis. Minor open spaces will be planned as a whole, with general guidance provided in order to best suit their requirements, as they are all different shapes, sizes and situated in different locations. In addition, schools generally have open spaces and would benefit from tree planting, from an education point of view, environmental benefits and to assist with our aim of objective 2.

All streets, parks, open spaces and minor spaces will be placed in a priority order depending on their present tree cover, the benefits they provide to the highlighted locations and how they link areas together. The plans are been created and their timeline will be defined at [6.1 Action Plan](#).

### Replacement Planting

Replacement trees will be required at a ratio of 2:1 (2 trees are planted to every 1 tree removed) with a review planned to assess whether this ratio is helping to achieve Blackpool's tree cover target of 10%, as specified at [6.1 Action Plan](#).

Therefore, all proposed development where planned tree removals are proposed, a planting scheme will be required with an aftercare programme to provide mitigation. However, as previously discussed at [4.4 Developer Obligations](#), Parks Service and Planning may deem a planting scheme unnecessary.

### ASB & Trees

ASB to newly planted trees is a regular occurrence and it is has been found that whips and feathered whips are more likely to be damaged or pulled from the ground in Blackpool. The larger the tree, the less likely it is to be vandalised and therefore, larger trees will be standardised.

Standard to heavy standards will be used to plant most areas, with semi-mature trees planted as part of special and hopefully regular projects. However, whips will be used on sheltered sites or to engage with children on the importance of tree planting and the benefits they provide.

### Council Trees

All council owned trees regardless of their legal status shall be replaced with a 2:1 ratio. This is to ensure that we are following the objectives of the Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy 2019 – 2029, taking a responsible approach to climate change, conserving and increasing biodiversity net gain (*Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act 2006*) and achieving the objectives set out within the tree strategy.



## Non-Council Trees

If consent is given to remove a protected tree located on private land, in order to ensure best practices, the Tree Planting Specification will be provided and the location/s will be conditioned by Planning under advice from Parks Service. If the private land owners land is unsuitable for replacement trees, an alternative location will be made available.

For a £1000 per tree, Blackpool Council will choose the species and the location to replace the removed tree/s. This alternative will allow for additional trees to be placed in parks and street, and reduce tree plantings in unsuitable locations, causing future issues to the land owner. This approach can also apply to developers.

## 5.4 Asset Management, Finance and Standards of Service

### Asset Management

To ensure proactivity and best practice at managing Blackpool's tree population, as discussed at [1.2 The Resource – Area, Distribution, Type, Designation](#) - an informed approach is essential. A tree survey will be conducted to assess and quantify tree assets with specific data requirements such as risk ratings, recommendations and priorities. This will form the basis of an annual tree works programme.

Tree risks will always be present to some degree and the only method to remove the risks is total tree removal, however, this is clearly unacceptable! Therefore, tree risks will be managed by following the guidance provided by *NTSG – Common Sense Risk Management of Trees*, and will be referenced in the requirements for the tree survey.

*“The objectives of tree risk management*

*The management of risk, when properly organised, enables an organisation, among other things, to:*

- *Increase the likelihood of achieving its objectives*
- *Identify and control the risk*
- *Comply with relevant legal and regulatory requirements*
- *Improve stakeholder confidence and trust.”*

By applying effective risk management, we can remove the misplaced perceptions and retain healthy

trees with managed risks, to aid in achieving objectives 2 and 4.

All tree works will be carried out in accordance with BS 3998:2010 Tree Works – Recommendations.

Several supplementary documents will be created to provide further guidance with their timeframes place at [6.1 Action Plan](#):

- Tree Risk Management Guidance.
- Tree Planting Specification.
- Street Planting Plans.
- Parks Development Plans.

### Finance

In order to successfully implement the strategy, sufficient resources will be relied upon to protect, manage and enhance Blackpool's tree population. Blackpool Council as the lead organisation for implementation will ensure that the budgets reflect the requirements of the strategy. However, with local government funding been under pressure, other investments will be sourced to further supplement the tree strategy's objectives.

Local councillors will be contacted in order to fund tree planting projects within their respective wards, through local planning agreements, applications for commuted sums shall be put forward to fund community tree planting projects and successful grants will be used to increase our tree population on additional sites. Requests to friend of groups and volunteer groups will be made to assist with funding and tree planting projects.

To aid councillors and community groups with tree planting costs, a set of options will be produced based on the underground infrastructure for rooting spaces, and will be classed as gold, silver and bronze.

The supplementary documents to this strategy highlighted in Asset Management will allow for effective project planning and management, whilst also providing accurate costs. Therefore funding streams can be identified from the onset and money secured to successfully deliver a projects aims.

Major capital investments offer a potential opportunity for tree planting and landscape improvements. Whether this be developments and ensuring trees are classed as a priority to the design process or environmental projects. Environmental projects will allow us to improve existing habitat sites



such as Marton Mere (SSSI), Pond Trail and Kincaig. They will also assist in creating new habitat sites on designated land and aim to create threatened UK BAP priority habitats, such as traditional orchards, wet woodland, hedgerows etc.

On completion of the tree survey, significant savings will be identified and works based on priority can be effectively programmed. In addition, the effectiveness of having an annual structured tree works programme will allow for resources to be identified to meet the work demands and locations can be plan to increase logistical efficiency.

common enquiries can be found within Table 1: Tree Works Policy & Guidance.



*Figure 9: Moor Park.*

## Standards of Service

Tree enquires and related issues need to be addressed with a specific policy and therefore, a list of

**Table 4 Tree Works Policy & Guidance**

Suggested Policies	Advice
Each time we are contacted and asked to inspect a tree we will always consider safety as the most important aspect of the assessment.	Trees will be checked structural weaknesses/defects, pests and disease, obstructive branches and wildlife habitat. Private trees can be checked, however this will incur a cost.
The management of trees will be in accordance with BS 3998:2010 Tree Work. Recommendations. The public are encouraged to understand that the Council is not required to prune trees unless they are considered to be dangerous, obstructive to vehicles or pedestrians, are directly touching property or require intervention for arboricultural purposes.	No bad practices will be carried out i.e. topping, lopping or the removal of part of the canopy which affects a trees symmetry and health.
We will not prune or fell a Council owned tree to improve natural light in a property.	In law there is no general right to light. Any right to light would need to be established via a specific grant (rare) or by prescription, which can only occur where the right has been enjoyed uninterruptedly for a minimum of 20-years. Following this, a legal right to light can only be enjoyed in relation to a specific opening (such as a window) in a building; there is no right to light in connection with open land, such as a garden. Further, if these conditions are met then an owner of the building is 'entitled to such access of light as will leave his premises adequately lit for all purposes for which they may reasonably expect to be used. If natural light is being blocked by the growth of a hedge then action may be taken to reduce the problem under the High Hedges Act, Part 8 of the Anti-social Behaviour Act, 2003. For further information refer to the information below on High Hedges.
The Council will not fell or prune Council owned trees to allow for the effective installation of solar panels. The provider's survey prior to installation should highlight any foreseeable issues and therefore, provide recommendations.	When considering new planting, the Council will take into consideration position, distance and eventual size of trees in relation to property with existing solar panels. We will not fell or prune Council owned trees solely to allow for the effective installation of solar panels. Where solar panels have been installed prior to Council owned trees causing a shading issue we will consider what action is appropriate according to the amenity value and condition of the tree/s.
We will not fell or prune Council owned trees solely to alleviate problems caused by natural and/or seasonal phenomena.	The maintenance of gutters is the responsibility of the landowner and the Council is not obliged to remove leaves/blossom that may have fallen from Council owned trees. Where gutters are regularly blocked, gutter guards may be fitted to provide a low maintenance solution. Sap - Honeydew is caused by greenfly (aphids) feeding on the tree, and then excreting a sugary sap. Often the honeydew is colonised by a mould, which causes it to go black. There is little that can be done to remove the aphid which causes the problem and pruning the tree may only offer temporary relief and any re-growth is often more likely to be colonised by greenfly thereby

	<p>potentially increasing the problem. Where honeydew affects cars, warm soapy water will remove the substance, particularly if you wash the car as soon as possible.</p> <p>Bird droppings may be a nuisance, but the problem is not considered a sufficient reason to prune or remove a tree. Nesting birds are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (and other related wildlife law). Warm soapy water will usually be sufficient to remove the bird droppings.</p> <p>Fruit tree locations will be carefully considered when planting as not to cause slippery surfaces and in locations where ASB is a problem and fruit may be thrown.</p>
We will not prune or fell a Council owned tree to prevent interference with TV/satellite installation/reception.	It maybe that your satellite or TV provider will be able to suggest an alternative solution to the problem, for example relocating the aerial/dish or utilising means to boost the signal.
We will not prune or fell a Council owned tree to improve the view from a private property.	There is no legal right to a 'view'.
We will undertake work to a tree in Council ownership to maintain street light visibility, clear sight lines (where reasonably feasible) at junctions and access points (associated with a street, road or highway).	<p>Standards for visibility vary according to the class and speed limit in force, the council will adhere to these standards.</p> <p>If a privately owned tree is causing an obstruction to the visibility at a road junction, powers exist under the Highways Act 1980 to make the owner of the tree remove the obstruction. If they do not, the Council will carry out the work and recharge the owner.</p>
<p>Without sufficient conclusive evidence from the complainant we will not fell or prune trees that are suspected of causing damage to dwellings or services. Examples of conclusive evidence are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Structural Engineers Report</li> <li>• Arboricultural Subsidence Report</li> <li>• Soil Analysis and trial pit/borehole sampling</li> </ul>	<p>Soilscape 18 is present in Blackpool (Slowly permeable seasonally wet slightly acid but base-rich loamy and clayey soils), so there is a chance of subsidence.</p> <p>Footpath or general property damage - Where property or trees are poorly positioned, damage to roots and damage to property from roots can occur. The damage will be assessed with recommendations provided and developments will ensure effective design regarding tree and structural positioning.</p>
We will not prune, fell or cut the roots of a Council owned tree to prevent roots entering a drain that is already broken or damaged.	Tree roots typically invade drains that are already broken or damaged. Trees themselves very rarely break or damage the drain in the first place. Tree roots found in a drain are usually symptomatic of an underlying problem requiring repair of the broken pipe. If you are concerned about the condition of your drains then you are advised to contact your water and drainage company.
No trees will be removed to accommodate a driveway or a property that already has an existing sufficient driveway.	Existing trees are valuable assets and therefore, will take priority and be retained. New trees planting locations will be carefully considered and take in to account pedestrian and vehicular access/use.

## 6.0 Implementation

### 6.1 Action Plan

The management actions have been grouped in accordance with the objective that they support and within each group, they have been placed in order of priority.

<b>Objective 1: Implement the Tree Strategy in accordance with Blackpool's GBI Strategy, which aligns with Core Strategy Policy CS6</b>				
Priority	Action	Timeframe	Measurement	Lead Responsibility
1	Commission a borough wide tree survey	By 2021	Completed tree survey	Parks Service
2	Undertake a review of potential and desirable tree planting locations in the town centre, streets, open and minor green spaces.	By 2021/2022	Completed supplementary documents and mapped locations	Parks Service
3	Undertake feasibility study to identify potential and desirable tree planting locations on private urban land.	By 2021/2022	Mapped locations and list of private urban land	Parks Service
4	Develop and implement a communication plan to encourage private land owners to plant trees on planting spaces identified.	By 2021/2022	List of private land owner agreements	Parks Service
5	Continue to implement a tree planting programme that meets the needs of the strategy.	Ongoing	Accurate numbers created from tree survey and tree plantings	Parks Service
6	Instigate a tree protection programme that meets the needs of the Tree Strategy through Tree Preservation Orders.	By 2021/2022	Success on TPO placed on newly planted areas	Parks Service
7	Investigate tree sponsorship schemes to assist with costs and private land owners involvement	By 2021/2022	Amount of costings contributed to tree planting from sponsorship.	Parks Service
8	Ensure Planning follow the Tree Strategy and places conditions on proposed development outcome notices.	By 2021/2022	Planning take in to account objective 1 and adopt	Parks Service and Planning



<b>Objective 2: Establish and promote a healthy tree culture and adopt the practices specified</b>				
Priority	Action	Timeframe	Measurement	Lead Responsibility
1	Aim to retain large mature trees, veteran trees, woodlands and trees of special interest on private land, council land and developments, through TPO's and planning conditions.	Ongoing	Identified trees are retained and protected	Parks Service and Planning
2	Ensure Local Development Plan sets clear policy on trees and green infrastructure to ensure cross compliance with the Tree Strategy and to give clear guidance to developers.	By 2021/2022	Appropriate policies included in the LDP	Parks Service and Planning
3	Ensure Planning will not permit the loss of protected habitats under NERC Act 2006 i.e. hedgerows, traditional orchards, wood pasture and parkland and lowland mixed deciduous woodland through TPO's and CA's.	Ongoing	None of the protected habitats are lost to developments	Parks Service and Planning
4	Follow best practice biosecurity and create a sustainable supply of locally sourced trees, to reduce the spread of pests and diseases and in accordance with BS 3936-1:1992 Nursery stock.	Ongoing	Results of the tree survey and Observatree data	Parks Service
5	Developers to conform to biosecurity best practice and local sourcing of trees by Planning ensuring conditions are stated within the notice.	Ongoing	Evidence to be provided when the trees have been purchased	Parks Service and Planning
6	The promotion, learning and benefits of trees through Forest School activities by the Park Rangers.	Ongoing	Numbers of children attending the sessions and taking part in tree planting	Parks Service
7	Implement the Park Rangers to carry out tree planting with groups of children as part of Plant for the Planet and involve the local community as volunteer Tree Planters.	By 2021/2022	Trees plantings contributed to Plant for the Planet and volunteers	Parks Service
8	Volunteer Pack is created providing several roles to assist with Parks Service and to promote the importance of parks, trees and wildlife	By 2021	Completed pack	Parks Service
9	To establish a regular comms piece to highlight interesting and unique trees around Blackpool to engage the community in the benefit and wonder of trees.	By 2022	Tree of the month to be advertised by comms	Parks Service

**Objective 3: In accordance with BS 5837:2012, establish a responsible approach to developments and a re-planting specification for removed trees**

Priority	Action	Timeframe	Measurement	Lead Responsibility
1	Parks Service and Planning to ensure Parks Service Flowchart for BS 5837:2012 Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition & Construction. Recommendations is followed.	By 2021/2022	Record keeping in regards to maintaining ecological and tree benefits on development sites	Parks Service and Planning
2	The Tree Strategy to be made public, allowing developers and architects to be aware of our intentions, and so they fully embrace trees within their designs.	By 2021/2022	Changes in the development designs and tree count per site	Parks Service and Planning
3	Development sites aim to enhance tree canopy cover by retaining existing tree populations and by replacing removed trees at a 2:1 ratio.	By 2021/2022	Development site tree canopy cover preserved and enhanced	Parks Service and Planning

<b>Objective 4: 4. Manage our tree population with a proactive and informed approach, to maximise ecological, social and economic benefits</b>				
Priority	Action	Timeframe	Measurement	Lead Responsibility
1	A works programme to be developed from the tree survey to utilise the practices from NTSG – Common Sense Risk Management of Trees.	Ongoing	Tree works to be carried out over a specified period	Parks Service and Waste and Environmental Services
2	Protect trees and woodlands through the implementation and use of local planning policy, TPOs and planning conditions where amenity is a consideration or the trees are under threat.	Ongoing	Policies and guidance adopted	Parks Service and Planning
3	Instigate a rolling programme of reviewing trees protected by planning conditions to assess and implement, where appropriate, their protection by Tree Preservation Order.	Ongoing	Programme instigated and ongoing	Parks Service and Planning
4	Complete the supplementary documents to assist with objectives i.e. Tree Risk Management Guidance, Planting Specifications, Street Planting Plans and Parks Development Plans.	By 2021/2022	Completed documents	Parks Service
5	From the Park Development Plans and the Street Planting Plan, highlight priority areas where trees will provide the most benefits.	By 2021/2022	Priority list	Parks Service
6	Create useable data from the tree survey to provide guidance on how to further develop our tree population.	By 2021/2022	Percentage of tree cover, planting figures and relating data to figures climate change	Parks Service
7	To monitor pests and diseases through the commission of the tree survey and volunteer Tree Wardens and Park Ranger activities utilising Observatree toolkit to report found pathogens.	Ongoing	Results of the tree survey and Observatree data	Parks Service

## 6.2 Future Strategy Review

- Within the first year Parks Service will review the Tree Strategy in consideration to the new data from the Tree Survey.
- Within the first 2 years of the tree strategy, the Community and Environmental Services and Planning Service will undertake a review of their current management practices and associated policies. Appropriate changes where required will be adopted as specified in the [6.1 Action Plan](#).
- Within 5 years, the Tree Strategy will be reviewed by Parks Service in line with new practices and guidance.
- In year 9, the entirety of the Tree Strategy will be reviewed to establish an updated version.

## 6.3 Document Control

Document owner:	Paul Hodgson
Document number:	V1
Document category:	Environmental
Document location:	Parks Service
Last edited:	12/03/2021

### Record of Amendments

Date	Version	Amended by	Description of changes
11/06/2021	V2	Paul Hodgson	Added section on ASB, comms piece, community and councillor engagement.
28/06/2021	V2	Paul Hodgson	Changed period from 2020-2030 to 2021-2031.

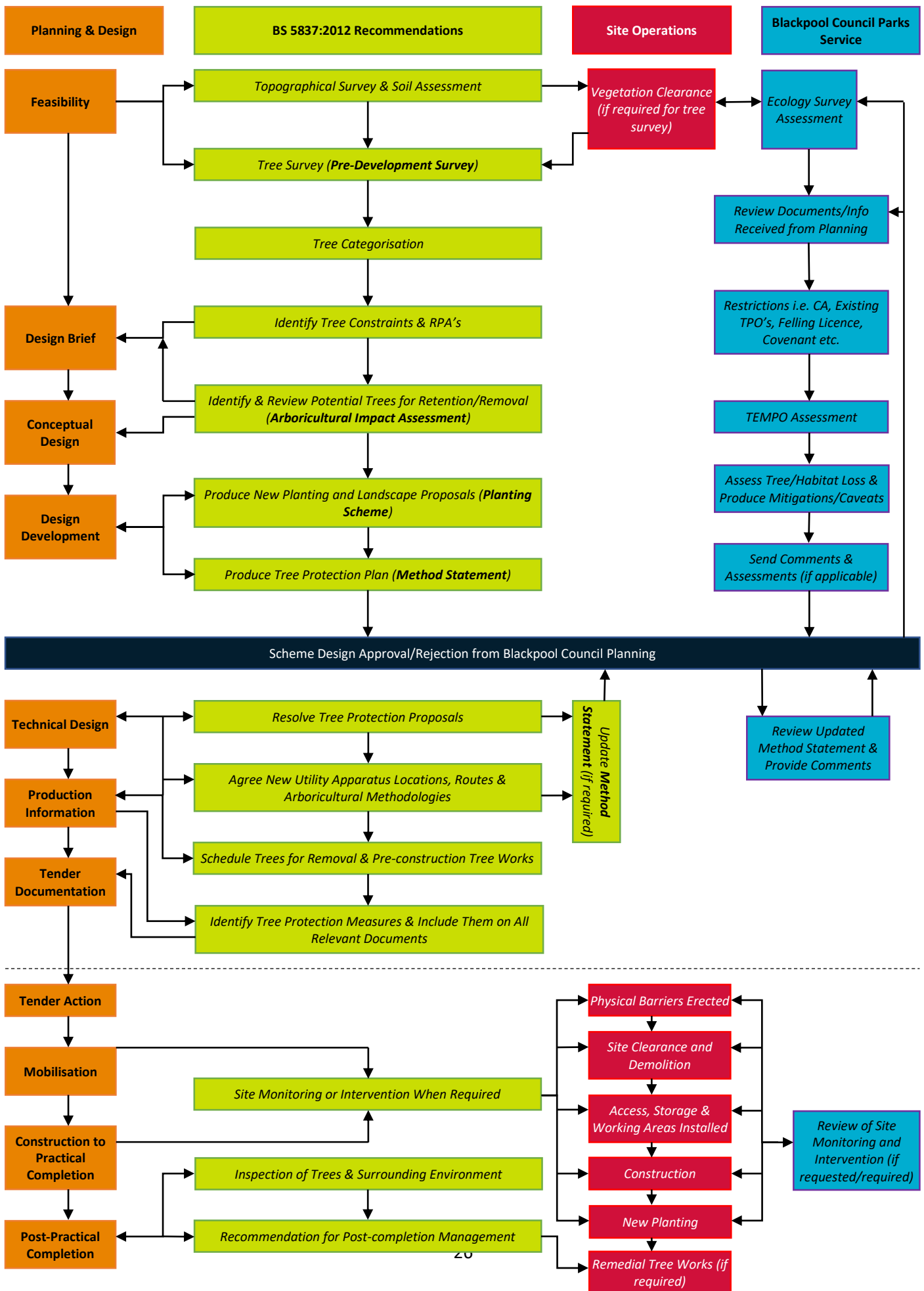
### Approved by

Name	Title	Signature	Date



## 7.0 Appendices

## 7.1 Parks Service Flowchart for BS 5837:2012 Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition & Construction. Recommendations



## 7.2 Example of a TEMPO Assessment

### Tree Evaluation Method for Preservation Orders (TEMPO) Survey Data Sheet Decision Guide

#### Tree Evaluation Method for Preservation Orders (TEMPO) Survey Data Sheet Decision Guide

Date:	12/06/2020	Surveyor:	Paul Hodgson
TPO Type e.g. Individual, Group or Woodland:			
Location:		Blackpool	
Species Observed:			

#### Part 1

##### a) Condition & Suitability for TPO

5	Good	Highly suitable
3	Fair	Suitable
1	Poor	Unlikely to be suitable
0	Dead or Dangerous*	Unsuitable

\* relates to existing context & is intended to apply to severe irremediable defects only.

Score	Notes

##### b) Remaining longevity (in years) & suitability for TPO

5	100+	Highly suitable
4	40-100	Very suitable
2	20-40	Suitable
1	10-20	Just suitable
0	<10*	Unsuitable

\* includes trees which are existing or near future nuisance, including those clearly outgrowing their context, or which are significantly negating the potential of other trees of better quality.

Score	Notes

##### c) Relative public visibility & suitability for TPO

Consider realistic potential for future visibility with changed land use

5	Very large trees with some visibility, or prominent large trees	Highly suitable
4	Large trees, or medium trees clearly visible to the public	Suitable
3	Medium trees, or large trees with limited view only	Suitable
2	Small trees, or medium/large trees visible only with difficulty	Barely suitable
1	Trees not visible to the public, regardless of size	Probably unsuitable

Score

Notes

##### d) Other factors

Trees must have accrued 7 or more points (with no zero score) to qualify

5	Principal components of arboricultural features or veteran trees
4	Tree groups, or members of groups important for their cohesion
3	Trees with identifiable historic, commemorative or habitat importance*
2	Trees of particularly good form, especially if rare or unusual
1	Trees with none of the above additional redeeming features

\* Obligations under NERC Act 2006 & NPPF

Score	Notes

#### Part 2

##### Expediency Assessment

Trees must have accrued 9 or more points to qualify

5	Immediate threat to tree
3	Foreseeable threat to tree
2	Perceived threat to tree
1	Precautionary only

Score	Notes

#### Part 3

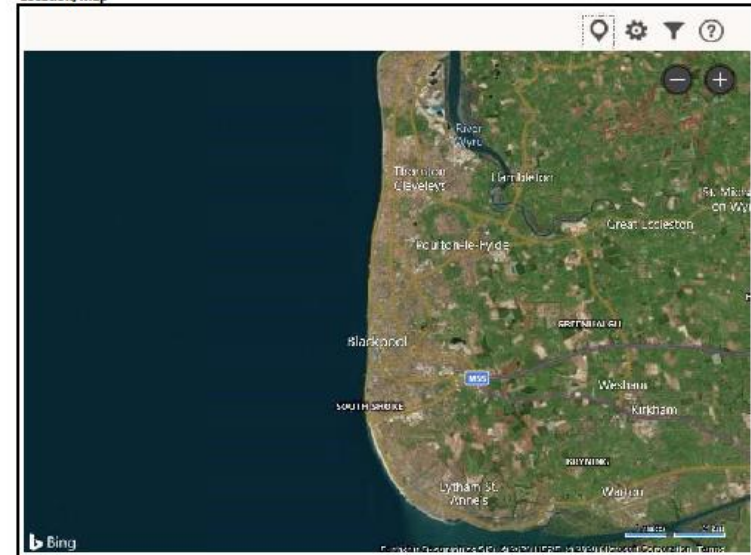
##### Decision

0	Do not apply TPO
1-6	TPO indefensible
7-11	Does not merit TPO
12-15	TPO defensible
16+	Definitely merits TPO

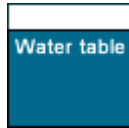
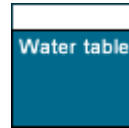

Total Score	Decision
0	

#### Part 4

##### Location/Map



## 7.3 Soilscape Description

Information from Cranfield Soil & Agrifood Institute soils dataset.									
	Soilscape	4 Sand dune soils	8 Slightly acid loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage	15 Naturally wet very acid sandy and loamy soils	18 Slowly permeable seasonally wet slightly acid but base-rich loamy and clayey soils	20 Loamy and clayey floodplain soils with naturally high groundwater	21 Loamy and clayey soils of coastal flats with naturally high groundwater	23 Loamy and sandy soils with naturally high groundwater and a peaty surface	27 Fen peat soils
	Texture	Sandy	Loamy some clayey	Sandy and loamy	Loamy and clayey	Loamy and clayey	Loamy and clayey	Peaty	Peaty
	Selected Area km <sup>2</sup>	6.0km <sup>2</sup>	1.5km <sup>2</sup>	18.1km <sup>2</sup>	41.0km <sup>2</sup>	1.3km <sup>2</sup>	18.8km <sup>2</sup>	6.6km <sup>2</sup>	3.0km <sup>2</sup>
	Drainage	Freely draining 	Slightly impeded drainage 	Naturally wet 	Impeded drainage 	Naturally wet 	Naturally wet 	Naturally wet 	Naturally wet 
	Fertility	Lime-rich 	Moderate to high 	Very low 	Moderate 	Moderate 	Lime-rich to moderate 	Low to high 	Mixed, very low to lime-rich 
	Habitats	Sand dune vegetation ranging from pioneer dune systems through to low shrub	Wide range of pasture and woodland types	Mixed dry and wet lowland heath communities	Seasonally wet pastures and woodlands	Wet flood meadows with wet carr woodlands in old river meanders	Wet brackish coastal flood meadows	Wet meadows	Wet fen and carr woodlands
	Landcover	Natural vegetation	Arable and grassland	Arable and horticulture some wet lowland heath	Grassland and arable some woodland	Grassland some arable	Arable some grassland	Mostly arable	Arable and horticulture
	Carbon	Low	Low	Medium	Low	Medium	Medium	Medium/High	Medium/High
	Drains to	Groundwater	Stream network	Shallow groundwater	Stream network	Local groundwater feeding into river	Local groundwater	Local shallow groundwater	Local groundwater



## 7.4 National Policy

### **A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment 2018**

The government's 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment sets out actions to meet the government's ambition to be the first generation to leave our environment in a better state than we found it. It calls for an approach to agriculture, forestry and land use that puts the environment first.

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/693158/25-year-environment-plan.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/693158/25-year-environment-plan.pdf)

### **Tree Health Resilience Strategy 2018**

This strategy sets out plans to reduce the risk of pest and disease threats. It also sets out how we will strengthen the resilience of our trees to withstand threats.

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/710719/tree-health-resilience-strategy.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/710719/tree-health-resilience-strategy.pdf)

### **Town & Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)**

The Town & Country Planning Act 1990 places a duty on Local Planning Authorities to protect trees and woodlands through the creation of Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) and the application of conditions when granting planning permission.

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/8/contents>

### **The Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation) Regulations 2012**

These regulations put into place procedures that enable Local Planning Authorities to make, confirm, vary and revoke Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) and for processing applications for works to trees protected by TPO and notifications for trees protected by Conservation Areas under the Conservation Area General Regulations 1992.

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2012/605/contents/made>

### **Forestry Act 1967 (as amended)**

This Act is primarily aimed at commercial forestry & woodlands, controlling the felling and subsequent replanting of trees; however, the felling of trees outside of woodlands is also controlled by the Act. A felling licence is required to fell 5 m<sup>3</sup> or more of timber in any one calendar quarter unless the work is part of an approved Forestry Commission scheme. Certain exemptions apply, which includes trees in domestic gardens and public open space, amongst others.

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1967/10/contents>

### **The Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981**

This Act prohibits the intentional or reckless destruction of certain plants and animals including all wild birds, their nests, or eggs. For example, it is an offence to disturb bird-nesting sites and bat roosts. Offences committed under the Act are investigated and enforced by the Police.

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69/contents>

### **The Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act 2006**

The NERC Act places a duty on public authorities, including Councils and Local Planning Authorities to conserve biodiversity when exercising their functions.

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/16/contents>

### **Conservation (Natural Habitats & c) Regulations 1994**

This regulation puts into place a European Union Directive that protects European protected species, such as bats and their roosting sites.

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/1994/2716/contents/made>

### **Hedgerow Regulations 1997**

These regulations are made under Section 97 of the Environment Act 1995. They prohibit the removal of most countryside hedgerows (or parts of them) unless a hedgerow removal notice is submitted to the Local Planning Authority (LPA) and the LPA consents to the removal. Removal includes acts which could result in the destruction of a hedgerow.

If the hedgerow is classed as 'important' in accordance with criteria set out in the Regulations, the LPA may prohibit its removal by issuing a retention notice within 42 calendar days from receipt of notification. The LPA can also require replacement of a hedgerow removed in contravention of the Regulations. These regulations do not cover hedgerows that form the boundary of a garden.

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/1997/1160/contents/made>

### **Highways Act 1980**

Section 154 of this Act gives the Council powers to deal with trees and vegetation considered to be a danger to highway users.

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1980/66/section/154>

### **Local Government Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1976**

This Act gives discretionary powers to the Council to deal with dangerous trees located on private land. Trees are the responsibility of the person who owns the land on which they are growing. However, if a tree on private land becomes dangerous in a way that could harm someone else or their property and the owner does not appear to be doing anything about it, the Council can act to make the tree safe. This can be by serving a notice on the owner to make the tree safe or, in exceptional circumstances, the Council can deal with the tree themselves and recover costs from the owner. These powers are used as a last resort and are only intended for situations when there is an imminent danger.

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1976/57/part/I/crossheading/dangerous-trees-and-excavations>

### **Health & Safety at Work Act 1974**

This Act places a duty on employers and employees whilst carrying out their work duties to take reasonable steps to avoid incidences that would be harmful to themselves or other people. This includes the prevention of the foreseeable failure of trees and tree surgery works undertaken by the Council.

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1974/37/contents>

### **The Occupier's Liability Act 1957 & 1984**

These Acts impose a duty on landowners and occupiers to take such care as is reasonable to see that visitors to their land, including those who do not have permission to be there, will be reasonably safe. Regarding trees, this means that the risks associated with them is as low as reasonably practicable.

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1984/3>

### **Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003 (Part 8)**

Part 8 of The Anti-Social Behaviour Act (2003) enables Local Authorities to investigate disputes between neighbours relating to the height of an evergreen hedge.

The Act requires the complainant to have taken initial steps to try and resolve the dispute amicably before involving the Council. The local authority is not required to mediate or negotiate between the complainant and the hedge owner but to decide whether the hedge is adversely affecting the complainant's reasonable enjoyment of their property.

When adjudicating on high hedge complaints, the authority has to take account of all relevant factors from both parties and ensure a balanced decision is made.

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2003/38/part/8>

## 7.5 Local Policy (including Local Plan/Core Strategy)

### Blackpool Council motion of a climate emergency

Make the Council's activities net-zero carbon by 2030

Achieve 100% clean energy across the Council's full range of functions by 2030

[www.blackpool.gov.uk/ClimateEmergencyDeclaration](http://www.blackpool.gov.uk/ClimateEmergencyDeclaration)

### Blackpool Green and Blue Infrastructure:

- New and improved parks and creative greening initiatives in the Inner Area, South Shore and the outer estates
- Increase tree canopy from 4% to 10%

<http://democracy.blackpool.gov.uk/documents/s40656/Appendix%20Green%20and%20Blue%20Infrastructure%20Strategy.pdf>

**Blackpool Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Blackpool 2016-2019:** this strategy aims to sharpen our focus on tackling the main drivers of Blackpool's health issues

<https://www.blackpool.gov.uk/Residents/Health-and-social-care/Documents/HWB-Strategy-2016-19-final.pdf>

### Blackpool Council Core Strategy 2012 – 2027:

Policy CS6 – Green Infrastructure: High-quality and well connected networks of green infrastructure in Blackpool will be achieved by Protecting existing green infrastructure networks and existing areas of Green Belt, Enhancing the quality, accessibility and functionality of green infrastructure, Creating new accessible green infrastructure, and Connecting green infrastructure with the built environment and with other open space.

Policy CS12 - Sustainable Neighbourhoods: Sustainable Neighbourhoods is to ensure future development and investment contributes to delivering sustainable communities, whilst focusing regeneration and improvement in several identified priority neighbourhoods. The improvement of these neighbourhoods is fundamental to creating more sustainable communities.

<https://democracy.blackpool.gov.uk/documents/s11068/Appendix%20ci%20-%20Word%20Adopted%20Version%20Final%20Dec%202015.pdf>

### Blackpool Active Lives Strategy (under development)

Increasing activity levels among Blackpool residents through increasing sport and physical activity and encouraging active transport methods.

## 7.6 Glossary

**Ancient tree:** A tree that has passed beyond maturity and is old, or aged, in comparison with other trees of the same species.

**Ancient Semi Natural Woodland (ASNW):** Broadleaf woodland that has existed continuously since at least 1600. ASNW comprises of mainly native tree and shrub species, with ground vegetation which reflects the naturalness of these woodlands. They frequently feature species which provide clear indication of long and continued woodland cover.

**Ancient Woodland Site of unknown category (AWSU):** Woodlands which may be ASNW, RAWs or PAWS. These areas are predominantly in transition where the existing tree cover is described as shrubs, young trees, felled or ground prepared for planting.

**Arboriculture:** The art and science of cultivating and managing trees as individuals and groups, primarily for amenity and other non-forestry purposes.

**Biodiversity:** The number and variety of organisms found within a particular habitat and/ or a specified geographic region.

**Biodiversity Net Gain:** An approach to development that leaves biodiversity in a better state than before.

**Canopy:** The topmost layer of twigs and foliage in a tree, group of trees or woodland.

**Carbon:** A chemical element present in all forms of carbon based life.

**Carbon dioxide:** A naturally occurring gas, also an important greenhouse gas. Burning of carbon based fuels since the industrial revolution has rapidly increased its concentration in the atmosphere, leading to global warming.

**Climate change:** The process by which man made emissions are causing changes in the Earth's climate system.

**Conservation Area:** These are areas of special architectural or historical interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve. Anyone wishing to cut down or carry out work on a tree in a conservation area is required to give the Council six weeks' prior notice.

**Ecosystem:** A collection of living things and the environment in which they live.

**Ecosystem Services:** The benefits that people obtain from ecosystems through ecological relationships, such as individual trees, groups of trees, woodlands or populations of trees. These benefits may be environmental, social, or economic. Some examples include; improved health and wellbeing, reduced storm-water runoff, reduced air pollution, increased carbon sequestration and storage, pollination of tree fruit crops, improved noise and wind buffers, increased recreational opportunities, increased amenity and increased property values.

**Green infrastructure:** Green infrastructure is a connected network of multi-functional green spaces and other features such as rivers and lakes that supports natural and ecological processes, delivering multiple benefits, goods and services that are integral to the health and quality of life.

**Green space:** Green space is defined as open, undeveloped land with natural vegetation. It can be maintained for recreation and community involvement or it can be wild. Examples include parks, woodlands, green corridors, playing fields, allotments, community gardens, grassland and wetlands and river corridors.

**Grey Infrastructure:** is a general term referring to man-made, constructed assets.



**Hazard:** Something which has the potential to harm persons or property. This can include trees, or parts of them, which are in such a condition that failure is predictable.

**Industry best practise:** This is the use of techniques, methods or process which have been industry proven to be the most effective.

**Native species:** These are trees which are considered to be naturally occurring in the UK.

**Notable trees:** Very large trees that stand out as they are larger than other trees around them, however do not qualify as a veteran or ancient tree.

**Open space:** all open space of public value, including not just land, but also areas of water (such as rivers, canals, lakes and reservoirs) which offer important opportunities for sport and recreation and can act as a community amenity.

**Pathogen:** A micro-organism causing disease.

**Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site (PAWS):** These are sites which are believed to have been continuously wooded for over 400 years. They have been replanted with native or non-native species, most commonly with conifers and currently have a canopy cover of more than 50% non-native conifer tree species. They will have varying levels of remnant features of ASNW.

**Restored Ancient Woodland Site (RAWS):** These are woodlands which are predominately broadleaves now and are believed to have been continually wooded for over 400 years. They will have gone through a phase when canopy cover will have been more than 50% non-native conifer tree species and now have a canopy cover of more than 50% broadleaf. The inventory designation does not mean that the woodland is fully restored or that it is in good ecological condition. Active restoration work may well be essential to consolidate the improvement in condition or to improve it further

**Risk:** The likelihood that something will cause harm to person or property. In the case of assessing risk associated with trees, three aspects are usually considered; target, size of part likely to fail and likelihood of this part to fail.

**Saproxyllic:** Invertebrate that depend on decaying wood for their habitat.

**Saprotrophic:** Is a process of chemoheterotrophic extracellular digestion involved in the processing of decayed (dead or waste) organic matter. It occurs in saprotrophs, and is most often associated with fungi.

**Trees of Special Interest:** All important trees, whether veteran, ancient or notable.

**Tree Preservation Order:** A Tree Preservation Order (TPO) is order made by a Local Planning Authority (LPA) in respect to trees, groups of trees, woodlands and areas of trees. The principal effect of a TPO is to prohibit the cutting down, uprooting, topping, lopping, wilful damage or wilful destruction of trees without the LPAs consent. Relevant legislation for TPOs is The Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation) Regulations 2012.

**Urban forest:** A collection of woody vegetation, trees, forests and woodlands that grow within a city, town or a suburb.

**Veteran trees:** Trees that exhibit signs of being ancient irrespective of age, such as crown retrenchment, decay in the trunk, branches or roots, such as exposed deadwood or fungal fruiting bodies.