BDC/067

tree strategy

Landscape Services
Development Management

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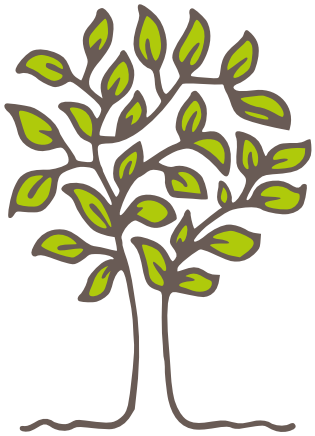
Braintree District Council



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Carbon Dioxide in Atmosphere at Highest Level for 5 Million Years – Average daily CO2 levels jumped by 2.74 parts per million (ppm) in the first 17 weeks of 2013, the biggest increase since the monitoring station high on the Hawaiian volcano of Mauna Loa began taking measurements in 1958…. the monitoring station recorded a CO2 concentration of 400.03ppm (on Thursday 9th May)… the elevated carbon-emission reading harks back to the Pliocene period of 3-5 million years ago, when global average temperatures were 3C or 4C hotter than today…It fuelled fears that CO2 emissions were increasing at a faster rate than previously thought, with potentially disastrous consequences across the world.

(The Independent - 11.05.13)

There has never been a greater need or urgency for us to embrace the importance of trees, both in the town and countryside, not least for our own health and well-being, but also to support the custodianship of all we hold to cherish and have undertaken to manage in a sustainable manner.

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Revised Draft

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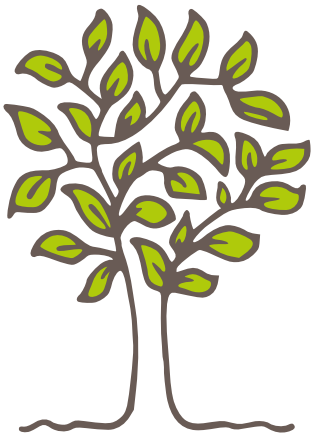


part 1:
policy framework

Plate i *Don't Forget The Trees - Blue Trees 'art installation' * in central London - summer of 2013*

** (The colour and the tree come together to transform and affect each other; the colour changing the Tree into something surreal, something out of this world, speaking of the importance of trees in our urban environment. "By colouring the trees blue, we want people to stop and notice these beautiful trees, which are so often taken for granted", says Sharon Johnson, Chief Executive of Trees for Cities on a project created in conjunction with the artist Konstantin Dimopoulos)*

introduction
the role of a tree strategy

This document aims to provide a comprehensive approach to the management and maintenance of trees in the geographical area administered by Braintree District Council.

The strategy has been prepared in two parts firstly to provide a policy framework that supports the Council's Core Strategy planning document and secondly to give practical guidance for the protection and management of trees. It is intended as an advisory (and informative) document for all those who wish to carry out works to trees or plant new ones in the district.

The role of the strategy is to

1. Confirm and justify the Council's approach to the protection and management of trees.
2. Provide guidance on the importance and protection of trees in the consideration of Planning Applications, making Tree Preservation Orders and evaluating Section 211 Notifications – for work to trees in conservation areas.
3. Promote good practice in the management of trees throughout the District.
4. Provide advice and support on the planting and maintenance of trees in the District.

section 1
trees in the 'braintree' landscape

If you look at the needle of a compass, you discover that one end always points more or less towards the north, while the other end points south. If you want to explain this you don't look to the needle but rather to the whole Earth…The position of the needle cannot be understood unless you know the needle's relationship to the whole Earth.

(Rudolf Steiner 1993)

1.1 The role of trees can be viewed in a similar manner – their importance in our everyday lives and landscapes is often overlooked but should never be understated. They are after all one of the most successful life forms on Earth.

1.2 Trees and the wider landscape form part of the backdrop to daily existence but it is also fair to say that most people have an expectation to live and work in attractive and comfortable surroundings, and it is widely accepted that trees make a recognizable contribution to the quality of the local environment. Their physical presence transforms and breathes life into the fabric of the villages, towns and greater countryside throughout the District.

Landscape Character

1.3 Trees form an important component in the lowland landscape and make a major contribution to the quality of the landscape character. An analysis of the landscape character for the whole District is not within the remit of this document but a previous report commissioned by The Council from Chris Blandford Associates in July 2007 has provided a more detailed analysis of the landscape setting for eight key settlements (on the basis that they were identified as having the potential for further development).

These are:

- Braintree and its environs
- Coggeshall
- Earls Colne
- Halstead
- Hatfield Peverel
- Kelvedon
- Silver End
- Witham

1.4 The methodology of this study was to focus on the sensitivity and capacity of the landscapes around these settlement areas to absorb new development. In broad terms the quality and character of each landscape was defined by the range of semi-natural, cultural and aesthetic components and the interaction between them. An additional study has since been commissioned by the Council from The Landscape Partnership; the results of this analysis are now available as separate documents. They provide a more detailed assessment of the landscape character around the key settlements and have a bearing on the assessment of these areas to absorb further development.

1.5 The quality and extent of the vegetation are key parameters in assessing the landscape character and sensitivity of a particular site and the surveyors were required to note hedgerows, type of tree cover and visually important woodland as part of the assessment for establishing the sensitivity of the landscape to change and its capacity to absorb that change.

1.6 From the perspective of this tree strategy the main areas of interest to the broader interpretation of the landscape can be summarised accordingly and identified for their immediacy and value to the visitor and the resident alike.

Plate ii *Bluebells under the emergent foliage of mixed woodland (Lyonshall Wood) at Stisted – this is also a local wildlife site.*

Landscape Character Sensitivity

- Natural Factors - vegetation – hedgerows, tree cover and type, woodland (visually important).
- Cultural Factors - land use and enclosure pattern.
- Landscape Quality - Landscape character as determined by the quality and management of field boundaries, trees and woodland

Visual Sensitivity

- General Visibility – trees/woodland cover – do they offer robust, filtered or open views

Landscape Value

- Historic Integrity - integrity of historic landscape patterns
- Ecological Integrity - presence of native deciduous woodland
- Tranquility - scenic value and noise attenuation, contribution to local amenity from parks and gardens. Public access and permeability

Potential Mitigation of Landscape and Visual Impacts

- Opportunities
  - development of green links
  - screening of visual detractors through woodland linkages
  - general enhancement of hedgerows/woodlands
  - conserve and enhance the landscape setting of settlements.

1.7 In summary the analysis from 2007 states that "trees, hedgerows and woodland make a significant and positive contribution to the appearance of the landscape in the strategy area. They help to break up extensive tracts of land into a more human scale, thus creating greater visual interest. They also provide valuable screening for new developments, allowing better integration with the existing landscape. This is particularly important in the open and plateau landscape, characteristic of many parts of the District."

1.8 A large proportion of the rural area in Braintree District consists of attractive and relatively tranquil landscapes. This is largely an agricultural mosaic comprising extensive undulating fieldscapes intermingled with parcels of copse and woodland and linked by various boundary features, usually ditches and hedgerows. Trees make a significant contribution to the tone and texture of these landscape settings providing character and depth to the vistas; the appearance, vibrancy and quality of these landscapes is also partly determined by the age and condition of the tree stock. As such the obligation on the planning authority and the individual landowner alike is to encourage a sense of custodianship which will seek to maintain the continuity of valuable landscape features and encourage the retention, management and planting of locally sourced native trees.

1.9 The landscape character assessment of the Districts carried out in 2007 also went on to identify three main landscape character types:

- River Valley Landscapes
- Farmland Plateau Landscapes
- Wooded Farmland Landscapes

1.10 The quality and extent of tree canopy cover in these different character areas is an important factor in their appearance and contributes to their sustainability, durability and appeal as distinctive types within the broader countryside. Such considerations have been particularly noticeable with the degradation of some Protected Lanes in the District over the last 40 years where agricultural practices and a move towards larger machinery, more efficient ways of working and a wish to create larger fields has seen a decline in the number of trees and hedgerows that border these attractive rural roads.

Braintree

1.11 The town of Braintree has benefited from a number of recent planting schemes associated with some of the larger new residential developments developed on the outskirts of the town over the last 30 years. For example the approach from Coggeshall Road is now lined by an established avenue of semi-mature London plane trees which will provide a welcoming sense of arrival to the town for many years to come. The centre of the town has number of public spaces where large trees are well established features. In parkland areas (notably Weavers Park and the Public Gardens) and in the centre of the town (- particularly around The Avenue, School Walk and the perimeter of the Sainsbury's store) trees make a major contribution to urban biodiversity and add to the character of the local conservation area. Here the Town benefits from the largesse and foresight of previous generations who provided the initiative and resources to plant and maintain both native and exotic trees of benefit to wildlife and the appearance of the surrounding townscape.

Plate iii *Mature oak on public open space at Maysent Avenue, Braintree*

1.12 For Braintree (Halstead and Witham) -tree foliage, decaying wood and bark provide habitats for numerous invertebrate species, which in turn are an important food resource for insectivorous birds, bats and animals. The trunks and canopies of larger trees also provide nest sites for birds, including several declining species, and roosts for bats. The trees populating the linear areas of semi-natural open space alongside the Bocking Blackwater, and Hoppit Mead/ John Ray Park, alongside the River Brain, provide many examples of this type of habitat.

1.13 Proximity to trees and woodlands is 'good for your health' and considered to be a vital component for a healthy life. Being around trees, even for a short while, is known to reduce stress levels, which in turn benefits our health generally. Recent studies have shown that living in an area with trees can significantly increase longevity and enhance our general sense of well-being. The challenge is ensuring that the continuity of tree canopy cover is maintained and increased despite the gradual but significant loss of many of the larger mature trees to fungal decay and severe weather.

Halstead

1.14 The undulating landscapes around the town provide a range of attractive vistas around the town and convey a sense of place in a bucolic, rural setting. This is an historic town with a reasonable distribution of older properties, often with large established gardens. Such gardens often contain significant mature trees which provide interest and amenity to the local streetscene. Similarly the public gardens and main cemetery are well stocked with trees of a reasonable age distribution; in these public spaces there is sufficient room and opportunity for them to flourish without complaints or concerns about nuisance and shading.

1.15 The wider landscape beyond Halstead is notable for the attractive setting for the River Colne, a lowland river valley typical in topography and treescape as other river valleys such as Blackwater, Chelmer, Stour and Waveney found elsewhere in Essex and Suffolk.

1.16 The town also has an attractive river walk, which lies upstream and downstream of the town centre with a link to the wider countryside beyond. There are a number of large ancient trees, mostly oak, scattered across the site, most notably in Nether Court.

Plate iv *Boundary oak in the woodland edge of Halstead River Walk*

These trees probably established in a more open setting despite now often being found within the woodland setting along the river corridor. They provide valuable habitat for species such as bats and many invertebrates; however the cavities and dead wood that provide this habitat constitute a potential hazard to the public and have to be managed with regard to the possible risks that may arise.

Witham

1.17 Many of the main access routes into the centre of the town are well furnished with mature trees, notable amongst these are The Grove, The Avenue and roads offering vistas across the Riverside Walk. The town has benefited from large town houses with mature gardens that have since been sub-divided into smaller plots but with the retention of many mature trees which collectively add character to the surrounding townscape.

1.18 Away from the commercial centre, the larger housing schemes managed by Greenfields Community Housing occupy large areas on the periphery of the town and contain a maturing tree stock that was planted as a contribution to the amenity of these residential areas. The tree stock in these areas has been surveyed and managed by the landlord on the basis of risk and nuisance to adjacent householders. Many of the trees that were planted at the time of the original development, notably cherry, poplar and willow have outgrown the space available and have had to be reduced significantly with some detriment to the amenity they now afford to their local setting.

1.19 The town has a number of attractive semi-natural areas, including a closed churchyard, which - with some appreciable foresight in earlier years, have been protected from development pressure for the enjoyment of the greater community.

- The River Walk - This linear park extends along the River Brain and runs like a green ribbon through the town for over two miles. The mosaic of meadows, manicured grass and banks is a valuable wildlife corridor bringing the countryside to the centre of Witham. The character of the area is dominated by trees that thrive in a wetland habitat, - alders, poplars and willows. This type of tree has a relatively short lifespan which requires regular coppice or pollard management if they are to be maintained as a safe sustainable asset within a busy urban setting.
- Whetmead Nature Reserve - The reserve is an attractive 25 acre site which provides areas of raised undulating land providing excellent views of the rural landscapes to the east and south.
- James Cooke Wood - This relatively new introduction to the local landscape was planted as native species community woodland in 1993. The original trees are now well-established and the site is being managed to create a peaceful area for walking and relaxation.
- Witham Tree Group - This group has been established since 2012 and aims to protect and increase the tree cover within Witham for the benefit of local residents and the environment.

Importance of Trees in the Greenheart of Essex

1.12 The tree canopy cover across the District is estimated to represent 18% of the total land area; this compares to a national average of approximately 8%. As always there are opportunities and threats to the fabric of this district-wide tree canopy, comprised as it is of single trees, trees as copses and trees in larger woodlands, all in different states of maturity, whether dying or healthy. Individual species within this overall tree population have suffered afflictions and disease which have taken their toll - Dutch elm disease, oak wilt and ash dieback have all gained recognition in the public consciousness but represent just a few reasons why trees decline and fail. Pathogens come in many forms and beyond their strict definition as pests and diseases could also be considered as a function of climate change.

section 2
tree survey

The trees are coming into leaf
Like something almost being said;
...Last year is dead, they seem to say,
Begin afresh, afresh, afresh.

(Philip Larkin 1967)

Tree Canopy Cover and Distribution

2.0 Braintree District is a largely rural administrative area within the County of Essex; most of the District's population live within the three main urban areas identified earlier – Braintree, Halstead and Witham. In the open countryside, the tree stock is primarily of native species, but the urban stock is much more diverse.

2.1 It is estimated that the Council owns approximately 10% of the overall tree population within the urban areas across the Distric; the remainder of the stock is privately owned, mainly in gardens.

Ownership and Responsibilities - Council Maintained Trees and Woodland

2.2 The Council is bound by the same legal obligations as any landowner or tenant. All landowners or occupants have a duty of care under common law to their neighbours. In essence, with regard to trees this means that anyone owning trees must take reasonable action to prevent them from causing injury or damage to neighbours or neighbouring property. Such injury or damage is recognised in law as a nuisance, including: direct damage to property through physical contact; indirect property damage such as subsidence; and the threat posed by dangerous branches or trees, or any damage or injury resulting from them.

Plate v a *Mature cedar tree on BDC land at Armiger Way, Witham in winter of 2014*

Plate v – b & c *Cedar after storm event and trimmed for canopy damage in early June 2015 – tear damage from falling limb evident in second photo.*

2.3 It is important to note that other consequences of trees, such as falling leaves, blossom, fruit, sap, or roosting birds are NOT regarded as a legal nuisance, these being regarded as a natural consequence of trees and therefore tolerated in order to experience the benefits provided by trees.

2.4 All landowners and occupants are also obliged under the Occupiers Liability Act to take all reasonable steps to ensure the safety of all those that can reasonably be expected to be present on their land, which includes anyone not invited onto the land if their presence can be anticipated. With regard to trees this again means that a landowner or occupant must take any appropriate action to prevent injury or property damage. In both situations such action is dependent on the nature of any threat and how foreseeable it is.

Trees in Private Ownership

2.5 All landowners are bound by the 'duty of care' examined above. This duty is laid down in the Occupiers Liability Acts of 1957 & 1984, the Highways Act 1980 (especially section 130), The Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1976 'Dangerous Trees and Excavation' and Health & Safety at Work Etc Act 1974 (for bystanders sec 3(1)). Criminal Liability can be pursued under Section 3 of The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, where there is a general duty of care at Common Law to take reasonable care to avoid injury to your neighbour. Offences under section 33 of the HSWA 1974 can result in fines of up to £20,000 if pursued in Magistrates' Court or be unlimited if pursued in Crown Court. A breach of that duty may give rise to a claim of negligence from the injured party. In an extreme case this may also lead to manslaughter charges or civil action by relatives of the injured party. In the case of trees, negligence may arise by the omission of the owner to take sufficient care of a tree and to deal reasonably with hazards that were foreseeable. Furthermore, under Civil Liability, person(s) can be found negligent if harm is caused or the potential for harm to occur is allowed to arise due to neglect or 'faults not being remedied within a reasonable amount of time'.

section 3
strategic opportunities & challenges for tree maintenance

Three hundred years growing. Three hundred years standing. Three hundred years decaying.

(Peter Collinson -1776 – on the life cycle of the English oak and sweet chestnut)

Climate Change

3.1 Strategies for dealing with climate change, air quality and bio-diversity are ongoing and the importance of trees in meeting the future challenges to our environmental welfare are universally acknowledged. However, retaining existing trees and planting new trees in urban areas and particularly in high density residential developments brings particular difficulties.

3.2 There is a growing appreciation of the value of trees in urban environments for the benefits they bring to the living spaces of large parts of the population. New planting is always to be encouraged but the scope for planting larger numbers of trees on the outskirts of an urban development offers many advantages and opportunities for greater community involvement where the potential for biomass energy and educational projects become more practically feasible. The prospect for biodiversity offsetting and creation of community woodlands offers the opportunity to significantly increase the amount of tree canopy cover across the District and is identified in the strategy action plan in Section 6.

3.3 However, climate change and the possibility of longer periods of dry weather also increase the risks and challenges arising from soil shrinkage. The liabilities, threats and practical implications from subsidence pose considerable threats to the removal of established mature trees from residential areas. Ironically, many of these trees were retained at the time of the development to provide an established landscape setting for the new housing but subsequently become a focus for concern from householders and insurance companies when property damage becomes apparent. For new developments with the application of rigorous building standards this is not much of an issue, but much early post-war construction and houses of all ages which sprout annexes, conservatories and porches with lower building standards continue to be an area of claims for subsidence damage, - and a significant challenge for local authorities trying to protect valued mature trees that offer appreciable amenity in local neighbourhoods. In this respect Braintree district is no exception.

Public Health and Landscape

3.4 Trees are a major part of the landscape and were used as a key component of Victorian parks and populate the vistas of many parkland estates across the County. It is now widely acknowledged that the quality of the landscape can have a strong influence on the quality of people's lives. In 2013 The International Federation of Parks and Recreation Administration released a report 'Benefits of Urban Parks' that concluded there is moderate to strong evidence that using public parks can improve people's health.

Plate vi *A view along the River Colne from the river walk at Alderford Mill, Sible Hedingham.*

3.5 The Landscape Institute released a position statement in November 2013, entitled Public Health and Landscape – creating healthy places in which the authors identify five key principles that underlie the creation of a healthy environment:

- Healthy places improve air, water and soil quality, incorporating measures that help us adapt to, and where possible mitigate, climate change.
- Healthy places help overcome health inequalities and can promote healthy lifestyles.
- Healthy places make people feel comfortable and at ease, increasing social interaction and reducing anti-social behaviour, isolation and stress.
- Healthy places optimise opportunities for working, learning and development.
- Healthy places are restorative, uplifting and healing for both physical and mental conditions.

3.6 Recent legislation in England (The Health and Social Care Act (2012)) has started to refocus attention on wellbeing in the community and the importance of environment to the health of the individual and the community.

Biodiversity

3.7 Local Agenda 21 arose out of the global action plan drawn up at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992 to tackle global social and environmental problems. It has been developed in recognition that in thinking globally many pressing issues need to be addressed at the local level by existing community networks if they are to be successfully resolved.

3.8 The collective 'woodland canopy' is a natural resource for Braintree District and provides a valuable gene pool which needs to be protected for the benefit of the individual species and the wider range of habitats that it provides. Veteran tree stock, areas of ancient semi-natural woodland, long-established agricultural field hedgerows and protected lanes are some of the key features in the Essex landscape that need to be retained for the value they have for wildlife conservation and their contribution to the biodiversity of the District.

Buildings and Subsidence

3.9 Trees and other vegetation growing on shrinkable clay soils can cause structural damage through subsidence. However, trees can also grow harmoniously close to properties if conditions are suitable;

3.10 The assumption that, where there is property damage with trees nearby, the trees must be the cause, is often incorrect, with other factors such as soil stability, leaking drains and poor quality construction often to blame; this is particularly noticeable where extensions and porches have been added at a later date with little or no recognition of the impact of surrounding vegetation on the requirements for a suitable depth of foundation.

3.11 Knowledge has improved, but we have a legacy of trees planted inappropriately, buildings inadequately designed for the obvious presence of trees (often where building regulations approval is not required) and self-sown trees left to develop close to buildings, all of which can lead to future damage and subsequent tree loss;

3.12 The impact of climate change, particularly periods of drought and heavy rain can exacerbate problems with clay based soils where the volumes are so readily determined by moisture content. A combination of insurance claims and fear of property damage increases the pressure for tree removal close to properties:

The Law and Trees – Tree root liability claims are usually made in nuisance (nuisance is a common law tort – a wrongful act, not including a breach of contract or trust, that results in injury to another's person, reputation, or the like, and for which the injured party is entitled to compensation). Nuisance is concerned with the protection of the use and enjoyment of the land and is defined as a condition or activity that unduly interferes with the use or enjoyment of an individual's ownership or occupation of land or of some other right or uses in connection with the land.

The Management of Risk

"Safety is but one of the many goals to which we aspire; the mistake that is often made is to focus on safety as if it is the only goal"
(Professor David Ball – Centre for Decision Analysis and Risk Management, Middlesex University)

"I do not need evidence to tell me that trees in the urban landscape have an important amenity value and should not be removed without good reason."
(Honour Judge Ellis – Martin v London Borough of Croydon)

3.13 Risk management of the Council's tree stock is founded on the identification and assessment of likely identifiable hazards from a regular ground level survey followed by the commissioning of parish based tree work orders to address the potential risk to life and property identified from these survey records.

3.14 The planned maintenance of trees includes the pro-active management of hedgerows, shelter belts and woodlands in proximity to residential properties; this is often an effective method of addressing some of the risk to property damage, particularly when growth from overhanging branches and canopies means they come into contact with properties during periods of windy weather. The preparation of Vegetation Management Plans for larger areas of tree cover has allowed the Landscape Services Team to identify regular and systematic programmes of maintenance – e.g. coppice, topping, facing back and reduction which will make a significant contribution to the reduction in reactive tasks. This type of maintenance is administered through external contracts and in liaison with the Council's ground maintenance section, when and where they have the capacity to assist, particularly as part of their winter work programme.

Plate vii *Fallen Poplars at Bocking Cemetery following a severe storm in February 2014.*

3.15 There are a number of caveats here: damage to trees and evidence of decay is not always visible from the ground and damage from stormy weather (as experienced in the winter events of 2013/14) does not restrict itself to trees that are in poor condition; damage from serious weather events also raises anxiety in the mind of householders and increases the volume of requests for tree work whether it is warranted or not.

3.16 Beyond the commitment to regular tree surveys and pro-active vegetation management, the general principles of a landowner's duty of care still apply and can best be summarised by the following extracts:
"to take reasonable care to avoid acts or omissions which you can reasonably foresee would be likely to injure your neighbour"
(Case of Donoghue v Stevenson 1932)

And similarly under the Occupier's Liability Act 1957 ("the common duty of care") is:
"to take such care as in all the circumstances is reasonable to see that the visitor is reasonably safe in using the premises for the purposes for which he is invited or permitted by the occupier to be there." (1957 Act S.2(2))

section 4
policy framework

Policy and Standards

4.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (2012) refers specifically to trees and woodlands in paragraph 118 (Ancient Woodland) and also Community Forests (paragraph 92). It refers to green infrastructure in a number of places. Trees and woodlands are key components of green infrastructure, and urban trees bring green infrastructure to the doors of the householders. Other recent national policy developments are included below:

- The Government's Response to the Forestry Regulatory Taskforce (2012) committed the Government to "Promote the UK Forestry Standard across Government as the consistent benchmark for sustainability in forestry."
- The Government's Forestry and Woodlands Policy Statement (2013)
- "Protection of our trees, woods and forests, especially our ancient woodland, is our top priority"
- "New and better managed woodland also has a role in making our rural and urban landscapes more resilient to the effects of climate change."
- "Where appropriate the Community Infrastructure Levy and Section 106 agreements can fund green infrastructure, including trees and woodlands, in order to ensure development is sustainable."

Braintree Local Plan Review (2005) and Core Strategy (2011)

4.2 The Braintree Local Plan Review 2005 sets out the relevant policies with regards to the natural environment. In respect to trees, the Local Plan indicates that it is not only crucial to preserve trees from built development, but also to agree suitable detailing of schemes to avoid long term damage to root systems, branches and healthy growth. The policies in the Local Plan aim to protect the character of the existing countryside and the inherent quality of the landscape trees, and allow for works in the interest of the long term health of trees where unavoidable, and benefits of development are clear cut, with replacement where felling is unavoidable.

4.3 There are six relevant policies within the plan are listed below:

Policy RLP 25 Garden Extensions within Built-Up Areas

Policy RLP 26 Garden Extensions into the Countryside

Policy RLP 80 Landscape Features and Habitats

Policy RLP 81 Trees, Woodlands, Grasslands and Hedgerows

Policy RLP 86 River Corridors

Policy RLP 87 Protected Lanes

4.4 In addition there are two policies within the Core Strategy document (September 2011) which refer to protection of the countryside and the natural environment. These policies are relevant to the broader issues of trees in the landscape and their value as a key indicator in biodiversity assessments and a marker for the quality of the natural environment.

Policy CS 5 The Countryside

Development outside town development boundaries, village envelopes and industrial development limits will be strictly controlled to uses appropriate to the countryside, in order to protect and enhance the landscape character and biodiversity, geodiversity and amenity of the countryside.

Policy CS 8 Natural Environment and Biodiversity

All development proposals will take account of the potential impacts of climate change and ensure the protection and enhancement of the natural environment, habitats and bio-diversity and geo-diversity of the District. ….inter alia…..Development must have regard to the character of the landscape and its sensitivity to change and where development is permitted it will need to enhance the locally distinctive character of the landscape in accordance with the Landscape Character Assessment. Landscape Character Areas will be defined in the new Local Plan and further guidance will be set out in a supplementary planning document.

Standards

4.5 The Council will require that work to and around established trees is undertaken in accordance with good practice and to the appropriate British Standard. There are two standards that are of particular relevance here and there will be an expectation that works to trees will comply to these guidelines:

BS3998 (2010) Recommendations for Tree Work, National Joint Utilities Guidelines No.10

BS5837 (2012) Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction

4.6 Adherence to these standards will be applied as a condition for consent to works to protected trees and when considering planning applications and the impact on established trees. With regard to the latter a tree survey would be expected to assess tree quality and assign trees a retention category according to this assessment.

4.7 In addition new landscape schemes submitted for approval to discharge a planning condition will be expected to comply with BS3936 Nursery Stock – Pt1. specification for trees and shrubs; BS4043 – Recommendations for transplanting root-balled trees; BS4428 – Code of practice for general landscape operations.

section 5
tree strategy objectives

5.1 The Management Objectives consist of the policies, and the application of those policies, by which Braintree District Council aims to carry out its part of the task to achieve the aims of the Strategy. These policies provide a framework for decision making, aid the targeting of resources, provide uniformity of purpose across all Council Departments, and help all interested sections of the community to understand Council decisions on the environment. The key corporate objectives supported by the management objectives in this strategy are:

- Protecting our environment
- Providing Green Space for everyone to enjoy

5.2 The Key Management Objectives Are:

- To promote a sustainable tree population by using best practice in arboriculture and forestry to enhance tree longevity, new planting design, establishment and maintenance.
- Maintain and, where possible, improve the character and appearance of the District.
- Maintain a diverse tree stock of mixed age and encourage species diversity.
- Adopt pro-active management and maintenance of trees and woodland in line with long term management plans.
- Promote the concepts of arboriculture, forestry and biodiversity inside and outside the Council.
- Promote community involvement to achieve these objectives.

5.3 Specifically:

i. We shall inspect our trees on a regular basis and undertake such works appropriate to their location as required by health and safety considerations for risk to life and property.

ii. Secondary considerations – such as falling leaves, blossom, fruit, sap, or roosting birds are NOT regarded as a legal nuisance, these properties are a natural consequence of trees and therefore tolerated in order to experience the benefits provided by trees.- as such priority will rarely be given to these considerations for instructing remedial work.

iii. We shall maintain our woodlands as a registered asset with the Rural Land Registry and to the agreed management prescriptions of the English Woodland Grant Scheme in a manner that is sustainable, and where possible to allow firewood and timber production to provide income and offset the cost of tree management works.

iv. Healthy trees of significant amenity and with a reasonable life expectancy will be protected by tree preservation orders if they are considered to be under threat from removal; crop trees such as poplar, willow and fruit trees will only be considered for protection under exceptional circumstances.

v. The five year action plan shown in Table 1 (on the following pages) will support the management objectives identified in this strategy document and the broader corporate objectives for Place in the Council's Business Plan. These actions will cover the period 2015 -2020 and will be subject to annual review.

Table1 Measuring Output – A Five Year Action Plan

A five year action plan will support the management objectives identified in the strategy and the broader corporate objectives for Place in the Council's Business Plan. These actions will cover the period 2016-21 & are subject to annual review.

Corporate Objectives	Management Objectives	Delivery	Measurement	Responsibility & Comment
Protecting Our Environment	To produce a sustainable approach to the management of the Council's tree stock	Managing the Council's woodland areas within an approved Forestry Commission Woodland Grant Scheme	Registration of woodland areas with the Rural Land Registry and approval of a management plan within the Forestry Commission's revised grant structure from 2015.	Finalisation of the reviewed grant structure may delay this aspect of the strategy.
	To produce a sustainable approach to the management of the Council's tree stock	The registered woodland areas will be maintained in a sustainable manner that allows firewood and timber production to provide an income	Income generation from biomass harvesting on woodland sites owned by BDC	
	To maintain a high standard of tree care, providing a healthier and safer tree stock on BDC land	Maintaining a computerised database of the Council's treestock	Survey information to be reviewed in 2015 with re-inspections for high risk items every 3 years in public parks and major open spaces (- 5 years elsewhere).	
	Exercising the Council's duty of care	Regular tree inspection as appropriate to location and health and safety considerations for risk to life and property.	Securing 80% of all maintenance as programmed or pro-active rather than by complaint over the 5 year period of this plan	Serious weather events may disrupt this approach – so remedial measures for storm damage will be recorded separately on a designated expenditure code.
	Exercising the Council's duty of care	Removal of vegetation growth where there is contact with the fabric of a property	We aim to inspect all reports following notification and authorise removal to ensure claims for damage are kept to a minimum.	

Corporate Objectives	Management Objectives	Delivery	Measurement	Responsibility & Comment
	Exercising the Council's duty of care	Implementing approved vegetation management plans (vmps)	In accordance with phased delivery for the works as identified in the vmps	
	Exercising the Council's duty of care	Falling leaves, blossom, fruit, sap, or roosting birds are not a legal nuisance and will be accorded a lower priority	Only 10% of the Council's tree management budget will spent on these remedial items	
	Tree Protection	Making Tree Preservation Orders	In response to Section 211 notifications or where trees are of significant amenity, good form, useful life expectancy and in a healthy condition - are considered to be under threat.	The TEMPO assessment form will be used to determine whether a TPO is appropriate.
	Tree Protection	Ornamental trees and priority for protection	Crop trees such as poplar, willow, eucalyptus and fruit trees will only be considered for protection under exceptional circumstances	The TEMPO assessment form will be used to determine whether a TPO is appropriate.
	Tree Protection	Reviewing existing Tree Preservation orders	10 TPOs will be reviewed on an annual basis, with priority given to the oldest orders (40 years plus)	
	Tree Protection	Investigating unauthorised works to protected trees where felling or surgery has taken place	Serious cases where landowners are considered to benefit financially from the removal of protected trees will be considered for prosecution	
	Tree Protection	Process applications for work to protected trees within 8 weeks	To maintain performance at 95% for the duration of the plan.	

Corporate Objectives	Management Objectives	Delivery	Measurement	Responsibility & Comment
Providing Green Space for Everyone to Enjoy	Tree Replacement	Expanding the total tree canopy cover established on BDC land	New tree planting with volunteers, grounds maintenance staff and offsetting to increase canopy cover on BDC land by 3% over the period of the action plan.	Opportunities to plan replacement trees & improve biodiversity through the planting of rare or threatened species of trees in appropriate locations
	Tree Replacement	Using biodiversity offsetting to provide new tree planting where new development has meant the loss of tree cover	Existing scheme with Greenfields has allowed a 3:1 replacement for trees lost to subsidence claims; a similar scheme is proposed for new developments where trees are lost as part of a planning approval.	
	To inform and involve local people	Providing up-to-date information about the Council's approach to trees and tree protection on the Council's website	Updating website with strategy documents by 2015	
	To inform and involve local people	Produce further information promoting the benefits of trees and their management on Council land	Vegetation Management Plans produced for areas of public open space	
	To inform and involve local people	Working in partnership with Friends Groups and other interest	Organize at least 3 nos. of work party events each year	2015 exploratory discussions have been held with representatives from Eden-Rose Coppice (Sudbury) and The Wilderness Foundation (Chatham Green, Chelmsford) about groups using these woodland sites for 'health and wellbeing' events. Other opportunities for the latter to be involved in outreach sessions with local schools.

Corporate Objectives	Management Objectives	Delivery	Measurement	Responsibility & Comment
	To inform and involve local people	Actively promoting National Tree Week	Organize two community/school based activities to coincide with National Tree Week	
	To inform and involve local people	Maintain a voluntary tree warden scheme	Effective response system at Parish Council level for local comment on tree work applications and unauthorised works	

section 6
achieving the objectives

I thought of walking round and round a space
Utterly empty, utterly a source
Where the decked chestnut tree had lost its place
In our front hedge among the wallflowers.
The white chips jumped and jumped and skilted high.
I heard the hatchet's differentiated
Accurate cut,the crack,the sigh
And collapse of what luxuriated
Through the shocked tips and wreckage of it all.
Deep-planted and long gone, my coeval
Chestnut from a jam jar in a hole,
Its heft and hush became a bright nowhere,
A soul ramifying and forever
Silent, beyond silence listened for.

(Clearances – Seamus Heaney)

How Braintree District Council Protects Trees

S6.1 The Council will consider the protection of established healthy trees with a significant amenity value to the local neighbourhood or community through the timely serving of a Tree Preservation Order. Trees within Conservation Areas require a Section 211 Notification providing six weeks written notice before any works can be undertaken.

6.2 When consideration is given to making a tree preservation order, the trees will be assessed individually or as groups using the standard Tree Evaluation Method for Preservation Orders (TEMPO); this assessment form was prepared in accordance with government guidance to local planning authorities so that they develop ways of assessing the amenity value of trees in a structured way in order to provide a reasonable, systematic and relatively objective ways of assessing the importance and quality of these trees in the landscape. Each tree has to score over a set threshold to qualify for formal protection based on its form, shape, age, useful life expectancy and contribution to the amenity of the local area.

Development and Trees

6.3 When considering the impact on established mature trees from proposals for new development the Council will expect the best practice guidance laid out in BS5837:2012 by the British Standards Institute in April 2012 to be adhered to and this document will be used as a reference for discussion at the early stages of a planning application.

6.4 The British Standard was developed through consultation with a broad spectrum of professional bodies and gives clear and current best practice recommendations and guidance on the principles to be applied to achieve a satisfactory juxtaposition of trees with structures.

6.5 Where development is proposed, this document provides suitable direction on how to assess the value and quality of trees and to decide which trees are appropriate for retention. The initial site survey of the tree stock is a valuable first step in the design process. A suitable tree protection plan will also normally be required as a condition of any development where significant trees are to be retained on the site. The protection plan will take account of the root protection zones for the tree stock and identify a suitable defensible boundary using 'Heras' style fencing to ensure that the roots are not damaged by compaction from heavy plant or the long term storage of aggregate and other associated building materials.

Management of Council Owned Trees

6.6 In common with all landowners the Council has a duty of care to visitors and owners of adjacent properties to ensure that its tree stock is maintained in a safe condition and can show evidence of a suitable maintenance/inspection regime concomitant with the acknowledged level of risk.

Plate viii *Fallen Poplar on Armond Road in Witham following a severe storm on St. Jude's Day in October 2013.*

6.7 The risk assessment examines three key elements identified below and links these in a suitable database:

- Zoning
- Frequency of inspection
- Identification of risk (severity x probability)

6.8 The Council maintains a tree survey database which holds inspection records for the trees in its ownership. At any one time this presents a snapshot of the arboricultural health for the Council's tree stock. A risk rating is attributed to each tree on the basis of its condition and the nature of the target area.

6.9 In addition there are many areas in and around the three towns where existing and recently established landscaping on land owned by the Council require a more comprehensive approach to tree management and this is being addressed in the form of Vegetation Management Plans.

6.10 These have been prepared or are being prepared for the following areas:

- Great Notley Garden Village
- Marks Farm Estate, Braintree
- Flitch Way, Braintree
- Powers Hall End, Witham

The work practices have been identified under a colour coded key and mapped for the various vegetation areas to show coppice, phased coppice, maintenance to top and sides, or sides only, as a formal hedge, selective removal, removal and no change.

Plate ix *A section of the pedestrian and cycle path on the Flitch Way in the centre of Braintree.*

New Trees and New Planting

6.11 The Council will prepare and implement an annual planting programme in accordance with the approved Action Plan (ref. Table 1). The Council will endeavour, as a minimum, to plant three trees for each one removed as part of its management programme.

Community Involvement

6.12 In line with national policy and its own commitments, such as that to the Local Agenda 21 process, the Council would wish to see a greater community involvement in the protection, promotion and management of trees, woodland and hedgerows in the borough.

6.13 The tree warden scheme offers an opportunity for members of the public to become involved in the care, protection and promotion of trees. The scheme is well supported in Braintree District with many wardens taking a strong pro-active approach and interest in the management and maintenance of trees in their areas. The Community Landscape Officer supports a network of tree wardens covering the whole District who assist the Council in protecting the current tree stock, caring for them and helping to plant more trees.

Plate x *Commemorative Planting of a liquidamber tree (November, 2014) in The Memorial Garden, Witham with BDC Councillor Wendy Schmitt, Barry Fleet, Chair of Witham Tree Group, (and local tree warden) and members of the Royal British Legion.*

6.14 Many wardens have been 'in post' for a number of years and have a well- grounded knowledge of the area and the local tree stock. It is hoped that wardens will assist the council in planting trees and raising awareness about trees and their associated habitat. As the scheme develops and the wardens gain more experience, knowledge and confidence, the council would wish to adopt a more 'hands-off' approach, encouraging and supporting wardens to develop a role or projects that helps to fulfill the objectives of this strategy. An example might be a warden who wished to develop a community tree nursery, develop environmental education projects with local schools or set up a community environment group to undertake environmental projects in their area. In these situations the council would be able to support through the provision of advice, training, assistance with grant applications and possibly project sites and financial assistance.

6.15 Tree Promotion and Environmental Education - A number of 'tree weeks' are organised by the Tree Council to promote trees across the country. These include a 'Tree Week' in November and a 'Walk in the Woods' week in June. These and other projects such as the 'Tree Dressing Day', 'Apple Day' and 'Trees of Time and Place' project to collect seed and grow trees locally, offer an opportunity for the council to positively promote trees, hedgerows and woodlands. The Council will actively support these and other appropriate national projects for the opportunity that they provide to promote the many positive aspects of trees in the District.

Plate xi *Julien Coutauld (Chair of Bocking Public Gardens) addressing a group of delegates to the Tree Council's 40th Anniversary Tree Warden event at Causeway House in October 2014.*

6.16 The celebration of trees can take place in a variety of ways including religious and arboricultural festivals and local community events. Festivals celebrating the importance of trees to the community can involve demonstrations of how to grow trees from seed, tree planting, future care and maintenance, which helps raise local awareness.

6.17 It is important to engage young people's interest in trees. In the majority of situations it is usually a minority of young people who are the main agents of vandalism. There is considerable evidence that when local young people are involved in tree planting and environmental education projects the problem of vandalism is considerably lessened. Where there is a demand, the Council will work with schools and youth groups to educate children and young people about trees (and the environment generally) and provide an opportunity for young people to contribute to and interact positively with their environment. The Tree Warden Scheme provides an opportunity for volunteers to get involved in environmental education.

Plate xii *Councillor Wendy Schmitt is joined by class 6E Great Bradfords Junior School and their teacher James Easter for a tree planting event in Weaver's Park, Braintree to mark National Tree Week during December 2013.*

6.18 Public Consultation and Involvement - There is often great public concern when major tree works, especially felling, is carried out in an area. For this reason the Council may decide to use a system of advance neighbour notice to inform the public of proposed major works. Tree removal on Coggeshall Road in Braintree during the winter of 2013-14 required a 50% reduction in the number of trees on an established avenue of London planes; suitable advisory notices to householders and press releases raised awareness of the work which then proceeded with little comment.

6.19 Major tree works projects have been identified on vegetation management plans for areas of particular concern, namely – Great Notley, Marks Farm - Braintree, Powers Hall End – Witham and The Old Hospital Site at Black Notley. However, given the amount of tree works undertaken by the Council and the resources available it will not always be possible to provide such notice with less extensive tree works. Advanced neighbour notice gives an opportunity for the reasons to be explained beforehand and any debate to take place. The Council will continue to use and develop a system of advance neighbour notice where it is undertaking major tree works in an area.

6.20 It is important that any consultation of the public is a two-way process rather than simply the provision of information by the council. Whilst in some situations work will be carried out due to safety or financial reasons which the council is best placed to judge, in other situations there is considerable scope to involve local communities at an early stage in the process. An example would be urban forestry schemes, where involving the community at an early design stage would result in a scheme that better met local needs. Where this approach has been adopted, accompanied by environmental education, there is usually felt to be a considerable benefit in reduced vandalism or complaints associated with urban forest planting projects. Tree wardens have a vital role in community consultation, as they are well situated to improve communication between the public and council.

Plate xiii *A commemorative tree planting (December 2014) with a disease resistant elm, in memory of Mel Crowe, and to mark the 20th Anniversary of the creation of the wood at John Ray School*

6.21 In addition to consultation over the design of the scheme, there is also considerable opportunity to involve the community in the practical implementation of certain tasks such as simple tree-planting and after care. There would be considerable long-term opportunity for tree wardens to get involved with this by organising promotion and assisting with supervision.

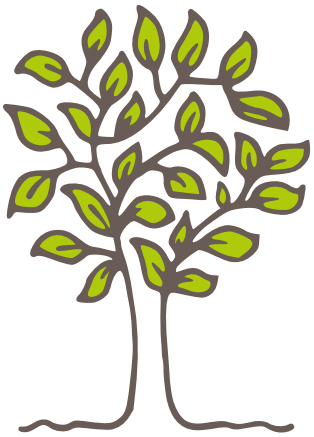
6.22 Sponsorship of Trees

Another way to involve the community in tree management is through sponsorship of trees. This encourages stewardship by the public of their trees and can be expected to reduce vandalism, especially where the sponsors are involved in the planting and subsequent aftercare of the tree and frequently visit the site. Besides increasing stewardship, sponsorship schemes contribute to the otherwise limited financial resources that are available to plant trees. This is especially so with public open space, where the Council's desire to plant trees in historical and new locations will be limited by the funds available required for essential maintenance of existing trees and replacement of recently felled trees. The Council will continue to seek and encourage sponsorship and offsetting opportunities for providing new trees in public open space where suitable positions can be identified.

6.23 Maintenance and aftercare is crucial if a tree is to establish successfully and the Council will encourage sponsors to contribute to this cost.

6.24 The involvement of businesses in planting, sponsoring and caring for trees provides another route to local ownership and promotion of 'green' values should be encouraged, particularly through partnership schemes and within the town centres. Businesses can be encouraged to develop the following:

- Initiating landscape schemes and planting trees on street frontages where space permits.
- Sponsoring and helping facilitate tree planting in the town centre, retail areas and commercial areas and other parts of the District.
- Caring for and managing existing trees on business premises in accordance with best practice.
- The Council will keep accurate records of the number of days worked by community volunteers. This can be valuable information in terms of justifying the level of its own resources it devotes to community involvement.



part 2:
practical guidance and implications

Plate xiv *The 'Hoppit Mead 'volunteers complete a circle of 5 new lime trees to mark the five years of the Great War (1914-18) in Marshalls Park, Braintree (winter 2014)*

Plate xv *Limes in leaf (spring 2015) denoting 'reflection' 'remembrance' 'renewal', 'resilience' and 'respect'.*

section 1
trees - damage and subsidence

1.1 Trees and property do not always make good neighbours. On those occasions where damage has been caused it will either be through direct or indirect action by the vegetation on the structure concerned.

1.2 Direct damage: where the canopy or root of the tree presses against the structure and /or lifts the structure. This often occurs with boundary walls and sectional buildings; on many occasions the structure has not been constructed to a high standard or in recognition for the proximity of trees, shrubs and other vegetation. Many of these smaller structures are not required to comply with current building regulations. Paths, driveways and patio areas are often completed on a poorly prepared or inadequate sub-base, which easily succumb to environmental changes.

1.3 Indirect Damage: where the trees and other vegetation are withdrawing moisture from a shrinkable sub-soil. In Essex the shrinkable sub-soil is likely to be clay but soils are very complex and clays can vary in their plasticity and potential for shrinkage.

1.4 Following the extended period of drought in the summer of 1976 and a number of dry summers that followed, insurance companies and mortgage lenders have become much more aware of tree issues. In many cases this has resulted in trees being removed or significantly reduced or 'pruned' with little regard or calculation for the actual risk of future damage.

1.5 In those cases where trees owned by the Council and/or protected trees are considered to be instrumental in causing subsidence damage to a building then the Council will require a full arboricultural assessment and a structural engineers report with supporting level monitoring information across the seasons. If necessary the Council may also request further evidence which will be produced at the cost of the plaintiff. As a guide, the information required will be in accordance with the Joint Mitigation Protocol developed by the London Tree Officers Association and representatives of the insurance industry.

section 2
trees and development

Let me cut no tree without holy need. Let me not tread into a flowering field. Let me always plant trees. The gods look with goodwill upon those who plant trees along roads, at home, holy places, crossroads and houses.

When you marry plant a wedding tree. When a child is born, plant a tree. When a loved one dies, plant a tree for his or her soul.

At all festivals, for all-important occasions, visit trees. Prayers are hallowed by trees.

(From a Lithuanian Prayer)

Damage to Trees through Construction

2.1 Trees and other important areas of vegetation are often damaged or killed during the development process, despite the requirements of planning conditions and the suitable tree protection plans.

2.2 The Council will continue to use appropriate conditions when granting planning permission to safeguard existing vegetation, and will monitor sites where such conditions are in place. Enforcement action will be taken to ensure that the highest standards of care are maintained to protect established trees.

Allowing for Trees on Development Sites

2.3 Trees and hedgerows retained as part of an approved layout and design will be protected in accordance with the approved Tree Protection Plan (BS5837:2012). All protective fencing will be installed prior to any works (including demolition) on the site. Once installed the fencing will remain in place and not moved without the prior permission of the arboricultural consultant or local authority tree officer, or on completion of the development.

2.4 Where construction falls within the root protection areas (RPAs) of retained trees, then the footings will be constructed in a manner to minimise the likelihood of damage from the building works on the trees' roots. Any excavations within the RPAs will be hand dug to ensure minimal damage to the roots of those trees.

2.5 Storage of machinery, materials and spoil will be stored outside the RPA of any tree to reduce the risk of compaction. This practice should be maintained, prior to and during all construction works.

Plate xvi *Mature Wellingtonia adjacent to Lord Butler's Cottage at Tilbury Juxta Clare*

Validation Checklist – Planning Applications and Notices

2.6 Local Authority Validation Statement - In accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government Circular 02/2008 and its guidance document Validation of Planning Applications, it would be expected that all reports meet the recommended national list criteria for tree survey/arboricultural information.

More specifically, each report should contain the following:

- A full tree survey compliant with the requirements laid out in BS5837: 2012 'Trees in Relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations' undertaken by a qualified arboriculturist.
- A plan to a suitable scale with a north point and showing tree survey information, retention categorisation and root protection areas.
- An assessment of the arboricultural implications of development detailing trees to be retained and removed as well as the relevant protection measures (Part 2).
- An arboricultural method statement detailing the means of tree protection, implementation and phasing of works (Part 3)
- An extract from the current local validation checklist relating to the details of a suitable landscape assessment and tree survey requirements are shown in Table 2 on the following pages:

	Requirements	requires the information	this information is required	Information required	Where to find the information
6. Landscape Impact Assessment	(1) NPPF (2) Local Plan Review Policies RLP 12, 13, 15, 16, 18, 21 26, 38, 40, 78-80, 86, 87, 89 (3) Core Strategy Policy CS8 (4) Landscape Character Assessment	All new developments in the countryside or on the edge of settlements.	In the countryside or on the edge of settlements	Demonstrate how the development will impact upon the character and appearance of the surrounding area and should take account of topography, site levels, impact upon skyline and existing landscape features and habitat.	1) NPPF www.gov.uk (2) Braintree District Local Plan Review 2005 (3) Landscape Character assessment - Section 3 (Landscape Character of Braintree District) September 2006 www.braintree.gov.uk (4) Landscape Character Assessment Guidance 2002 www.naturalengland.org.uk
7. Tree Survey	(1) NPPF (2) Local Plan Review Policy RLP 80, 81	All applications where trees/ hedges are potentially affected by development.	All sites, especially Conservation Areas	Scale plan showing position and size of trees within and adjacent the site, arboricultural implications assessment of the proposed layout, arboricultural method statement and appropriate tree protection.	(1) BS3998: 2010 (2) BS5837: 2012 (3) NPPF www.gov.uk (4) Braintree District Local Plan Review 2005 www.braintree.gov.uk

Tree Works

2.7 The Council will only undertake works where it is necessary to exercise its duty of care as a responsible landowner. Where works are considered appropriate then they will be carried out in accordance with the guidance contained in BS3998 (2010) 'Tree Work – Recommendations' giving appropriate weighting to the safety of people and property, wildlife, habitats and veteran trees.

2.8 In broad terms, pruning or reduction work will only be carried out when necessary to maintain a tree in a safe condition, improve the appearance of the tree, prevent a tree from causing problems by fouling overhead cables, obstructing streetlights, obstructing official direction signs or brushing against structures.

2.9 The nature and extent of the works will usually fall within the following categories

- Crown Lifting - the removal of lower branches back to the main branch or main stem to increase clearance from ground level.
- Crown Thinning - the removal of a specified percentage of branches throughout the crown.
- Crown Reduction -the removal of a specified percentage at the outer edge of the crown.
- Pollarding - where a tree has previously had its crown removed completely and removed from the main stem. The tree will normally develop decay at the pollard point and make the attachment of the re-growth potentially weak. Re-pollarding may be required on a regular basis.
- Coppicing – a technique commonly used in woodland management, where certain tree and shrub species are periodically cut to a point just above ground level and allowed to regrow for a period of 3-7years depending on species and management requirements.

section 3
trees health

Threats from Pests and Diseases Climate Change

3.1 Since the advent of the last wave of Dutch elm disease in the late 1970s and its progressive sweep of destruction through the majority of the country's standing population of semi-mature and mature elm trees, there have been a series of additional threats to the health and well-being of our native tree species. The increasing impact of imported pathogens on the native tree stock may partly be due to changing climatic conditions but the relentless growth in the global trade in plant and tree species has largely removed the sanctuary and scope for protective quarantine arrangements previously offered by an island location. The combination of a changing climate and trading practices with poor biosecurity is expected to present even more unforeseen challenges for our native tree population in the future.

3.2 The recent outbreak of a fungal pathogen, Chalara fraxinea, and the subsequent dieback of ash trees represents the latest assault on the tree population affecting one of our much loved native trees. The impact in this District, the greater Essex countryside and elsewhere will become more apparent over the next few years but even at this early stage it is clear that the progress and infection of windblown spores from this fungus will be difficult to impede with any effectiveness.

3.3 The survey information carried on the Council's Arbortrack system would suggest that ash trees on this authority's land form about 9% of the overall tree stock, (nationally, it is estimated that ash trees form approximately 15% of the standing UK hardwood resource stock). It is realistic to assume that the disease may well have infected some of these trees already; and although the latest guidance from central government in the form of the Chalara Action Plan (CAP) produced by DEFRA (March 2013) states "that the pathogen was first discovered in Great Britain in a nursery in Buckinghamshire in February 2012" it also notes that it was also found "in the wider environment in woodland in Norfolk" (and probably Suffolk) with anecdotal evidence suggesting areas of infection elsewhere in East Anglia.

3.4 Following extensive consultation with key stakeholders in the forest and tree nursery trade, the CAP concludes that the objectives set out in the interim Control Plan (December 2012) should remain:

These are:

- Reduce the rate of spread of the disease;
- Develop resistance to the disease in the ash tree population;
- Encourage landowner, citizen and industry engagement and action in tackling the problem; and
- Build economic and environmental resilience in woodlands (and other non-woodland trees) and in associated industries.

3.5 The CAP stresses the importance of focusing on appropriate actions for the short, medium and long term and concentrates largely on tackling Chalara in larger woodland settings. However, in practical terms the impact in Braintree District will be just as much about the impact for all those trees found on the side of roads and paths, in streets and gardens, along fields and hedgerows where the threat to mature established trees is as yet uncertain and largely unquantifiable.

3.6 Observations elsewhere in Europe would suggest that some mature trees are more resistant to infection and either may not succumb at all or survive despite infection. However young trees that become infected fail much more readily and seem to die almost immediately. This evidence notwithstanding, it is regrettable that the visual impact of many dead and dying ash trees will create an impoverished canvas in the countryside bringing back memories and pictures that recall the early days of Dutch elm disease.

3.7 Climate change has the potential to increase the number and frequency of pests, diseases and mammalian pests. Examples of these are the horse chestnut leaf miner (Cameraria ohridella); Asian longhorn (Anoplophora glabripennis); Phytophthora root diseases; honey fungus (Amillaria sp.); rabbits, deer, grey squirrels, mice and voles.

Amenity Value

3.8 It is generally held that the utility value of a tree and its importance is largely a reflection of its size, appearance and wellbeing. In short a tree as a thing of beauty which can be admired and treasured for its own sake as a living entity. It is also important in this assessment to remember that trees are often ‘mini ecosystems’ and the habitat they provide to other fauna and flora must not be overlooked and are germane to their qualities as items of amenity and community worth.

3.9 Government guidance on this matter provides a useful checklist of attributes that need to considered when Braintree District Council as the local planning authority is preparing to make a tree preservation order (ref: Blue Book 2000).

section 4
trees risk

From upland wood pastures to urban parks and streets, trees are perhaps the most evocative and important manifestations of the natural world to most people. Conserving, managing and nurturing our trees and woods remains a huge task for those charged with responsibilities – of ownership, custodianship, management, conservation and, last but not least, safety….these are a challenging time to be a tree or to care for trees

(Editorial – Arboricultural Journal
Volume 34 Issue 2 – June 2012)

Duty of care

4.1 There is a responsibility on every landowner to exert a duty of care for those who may come within vicinity of a tree. The definition of reasonable care has been produced from the endeavours of many court cases which in the context of tree safety have stated that the standard of care is that of "the reasonable and prudent landowner".

4.2 In these circumstances the landowner's responsibility as a reasonable and prudent duty-holder is to consider the risks posed by trees in their ownership. Prioritising the level of risk is dependent on an appropriate inspection regime that takes account of the condition of the tree stock and applies a level of inspection proportionate to the level of hazard and the nature of the risk and whether it is to life, limb or property.

4.3 Definition of the inspection regime has not been expressed in more detailed terms by the courts. In this context, the tone and attitude seems to be set after due consideration of the level of expertise and resources available for the scale of the task. The HSE states in its Sector Information Minute – Management of the Risk from Falling Trees (HSE 2007), that "for trees in a frequently visited zone, a system for periodic, proactive checks is appropriate".

4.4 In broad terms the existing tree management regime at Braintree District Council seeks to provide a reasonable and proportional response to the management of the risk presented by its trees, prioritising the budget for those works that are required to make safe or remove trees, which have been identified as high risk and as such are likely to present a significant hazard to health and safety. The inspection regime is determined by the overall condition of the trees and the anticipated level of use of the area by the public.

Plate xvii *Fallen, mature cedar at the rear of a residential retirement home in Witham following a period of heavy rain on Saturday 20th September 2014*

Dangerous Trees

4.5 Trees may become dangerous for many reasons, -decay, disease, accidental damage or as a consequence of severe weather events. The nature of the hazard determines the action that the Council will need to take to make safe. Immediate dangers from broken branches hanging in the canopy or root damage where the tree is moving in the ground require urgent attention. More chronic long term problems from decay may need regular assessment before action is taken.

4.6 On many occasions a tree is perceived to be dangerous because of its size or proximity to a house or road. The tree may not be in a dangerous condition but perceived to be because of its existence. The Council's first priority will be an assessment of public safety and the Council operates a 24/7 emergency service with named contractors to ensure that those trees owned by BDC are assessed and made safe (or removed) as and when necessary.

4.7 The Council also has certain powers under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 to ensure that dangerous trees on land owned by third parties are made safe in the interests of the wider community. Where such trees have been inspected by a local authority tree officer and considered dangerous, the Council will serve notice on the owner requiring them to make the trees safe within a specified period. If the owner fails to comply with the notice, then the Council can carry out the works and charge the owner accordingly. Outstanding costs can be recovered from the owner through the courts if necessary.

4.8 On highway verges and where trees on adjacent land are a risk to users of the public highway (including permissive rights of ways) then these will be dealt with by the local highway authority - Essex County Council - under the provisions of the Highways Act 1980. Similar powers are held by The Environment Agency to cover fallen trees that are impeding navigation or water movement on the local rivers.

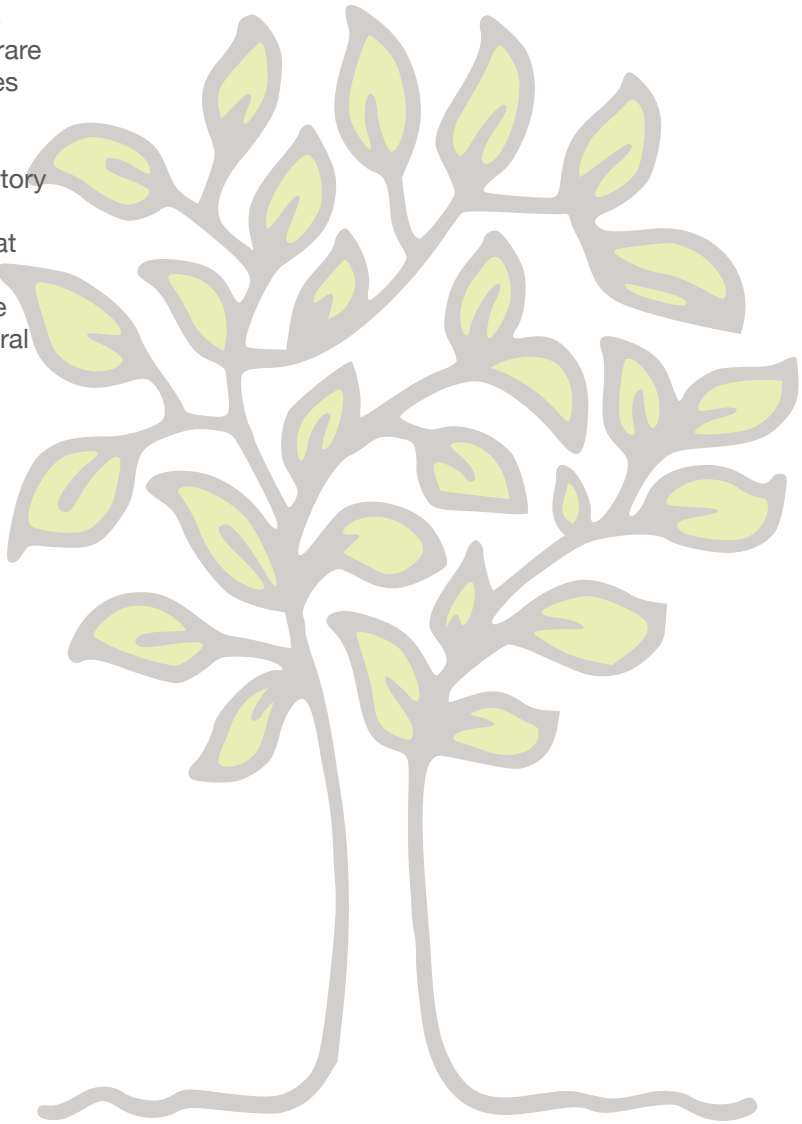
Appendix 1

Location of ancient semi-natural woodlands in Braintree District

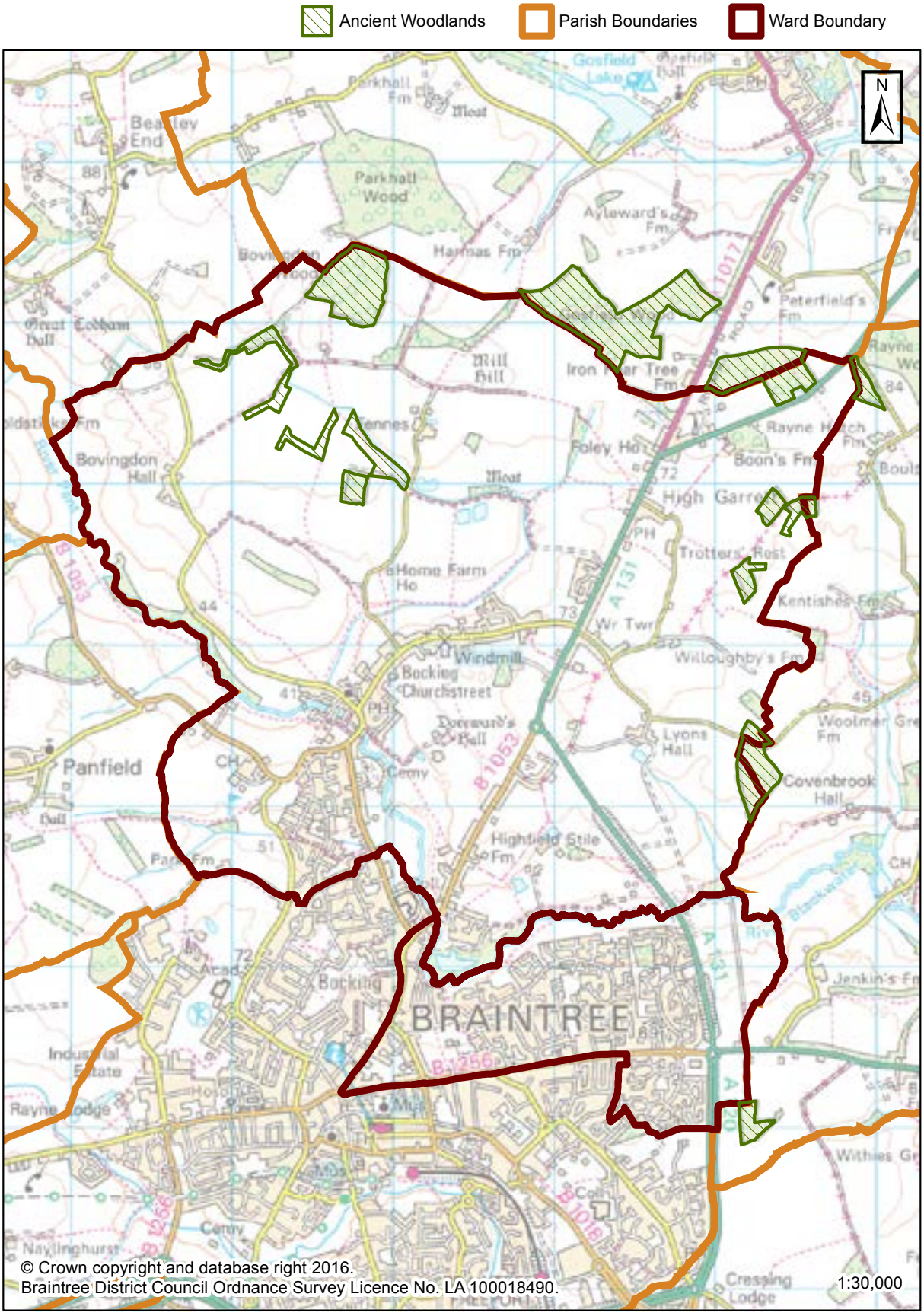
ancient woodland

Background

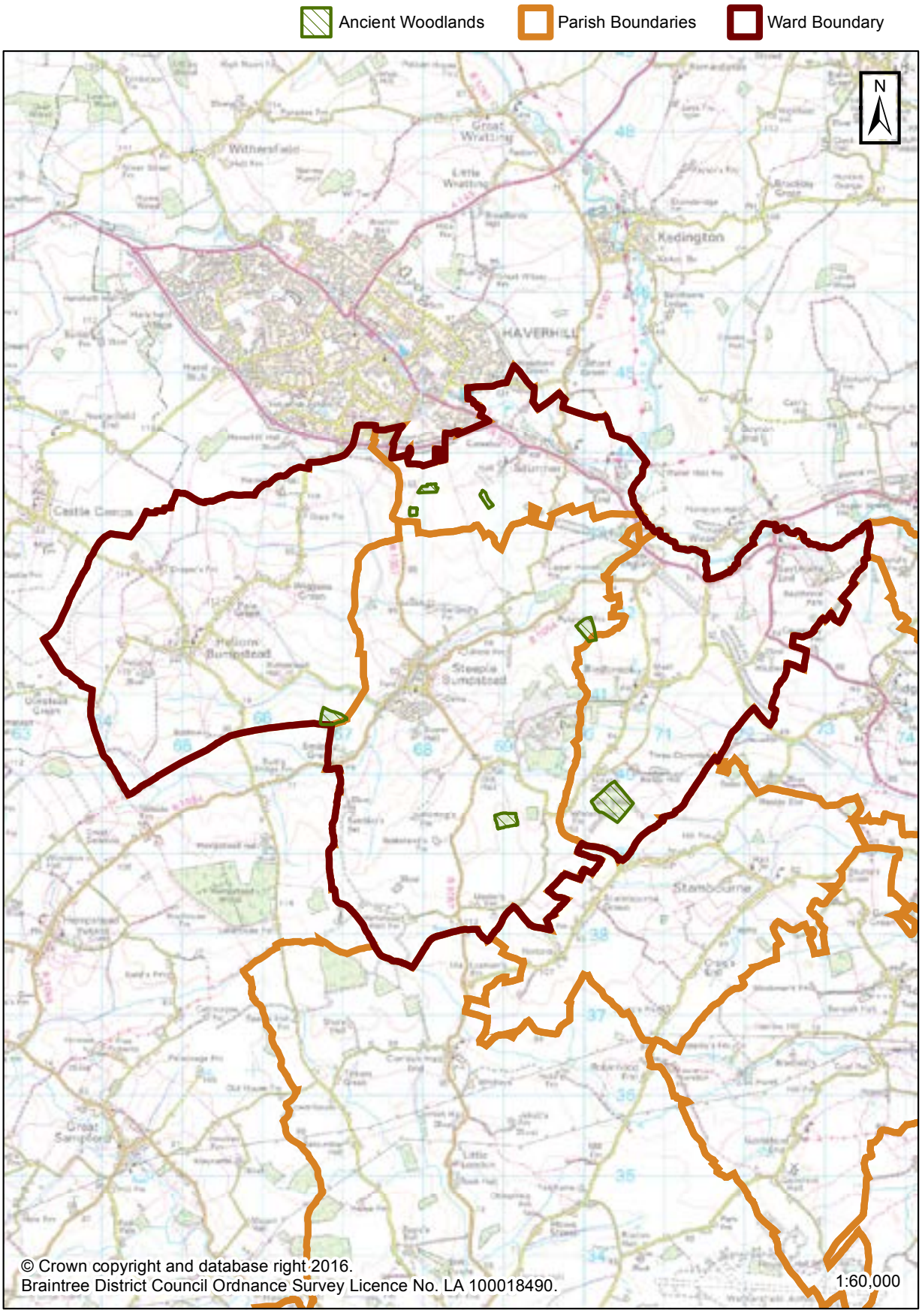
Ancient woodlands are sites that have been in existence since 1600 and in some cases may even link back to the original woodland that covered the UK around 10,000 years ago after the last Ice Age. Most ancient woods have been managed by man for timber and other products over the centuries – but they have always had woodland cover. These sites have developed over long timescales and contain rare features such as undisturbed soils and communities of plants and animals that depend on the stable conditions found in these long established sites. Ancient woodlands can be considered as living history books, with features such as medieval boundary banks, charcoal hearths and old coppice stools that tell us how the woods were used in centuries past. The location of ancient woodland sites found in the District are shown on the following maps by electoral ward and parish.



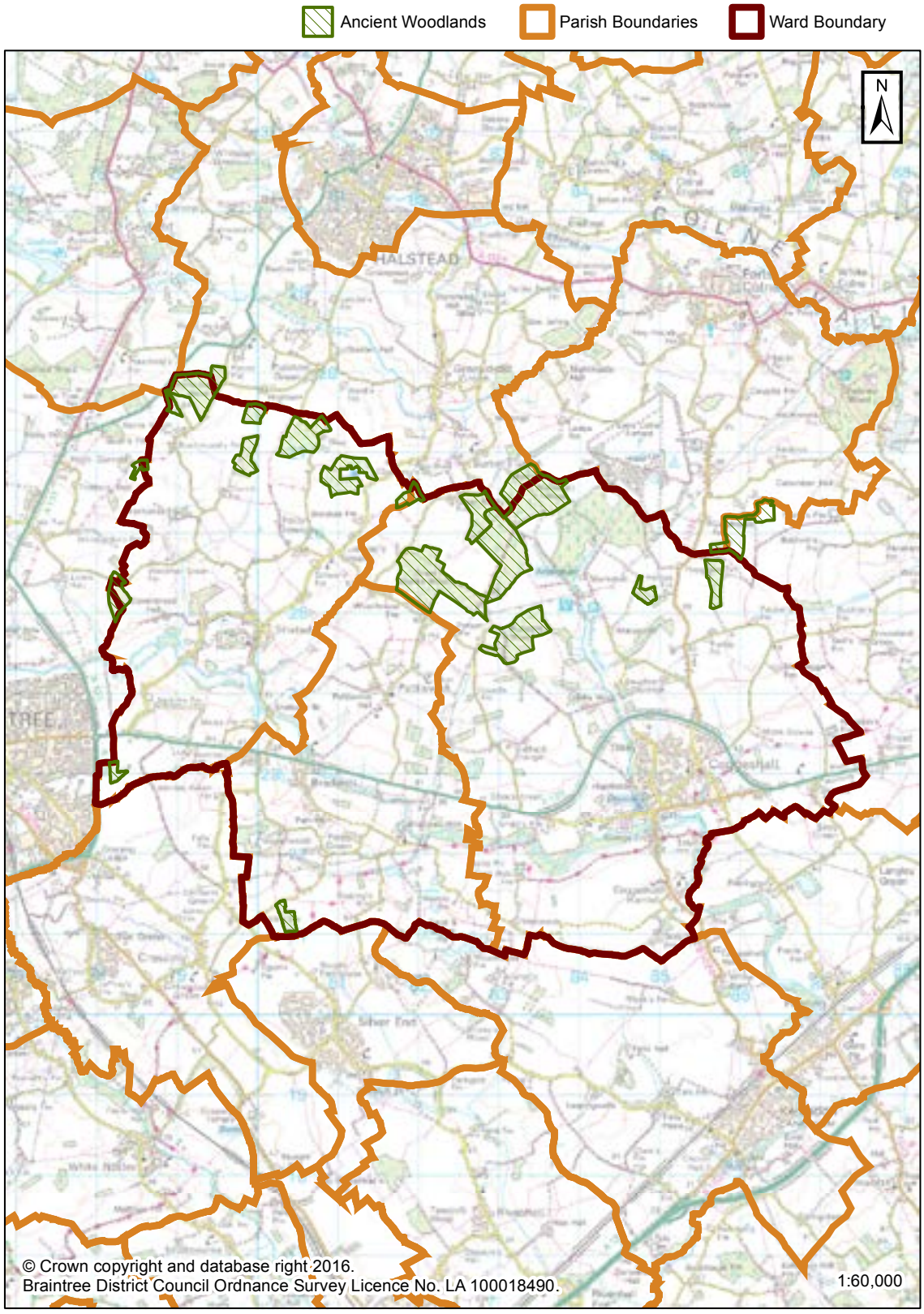
Location of Ancient Woodland sites in Bocking North Electoral Ward



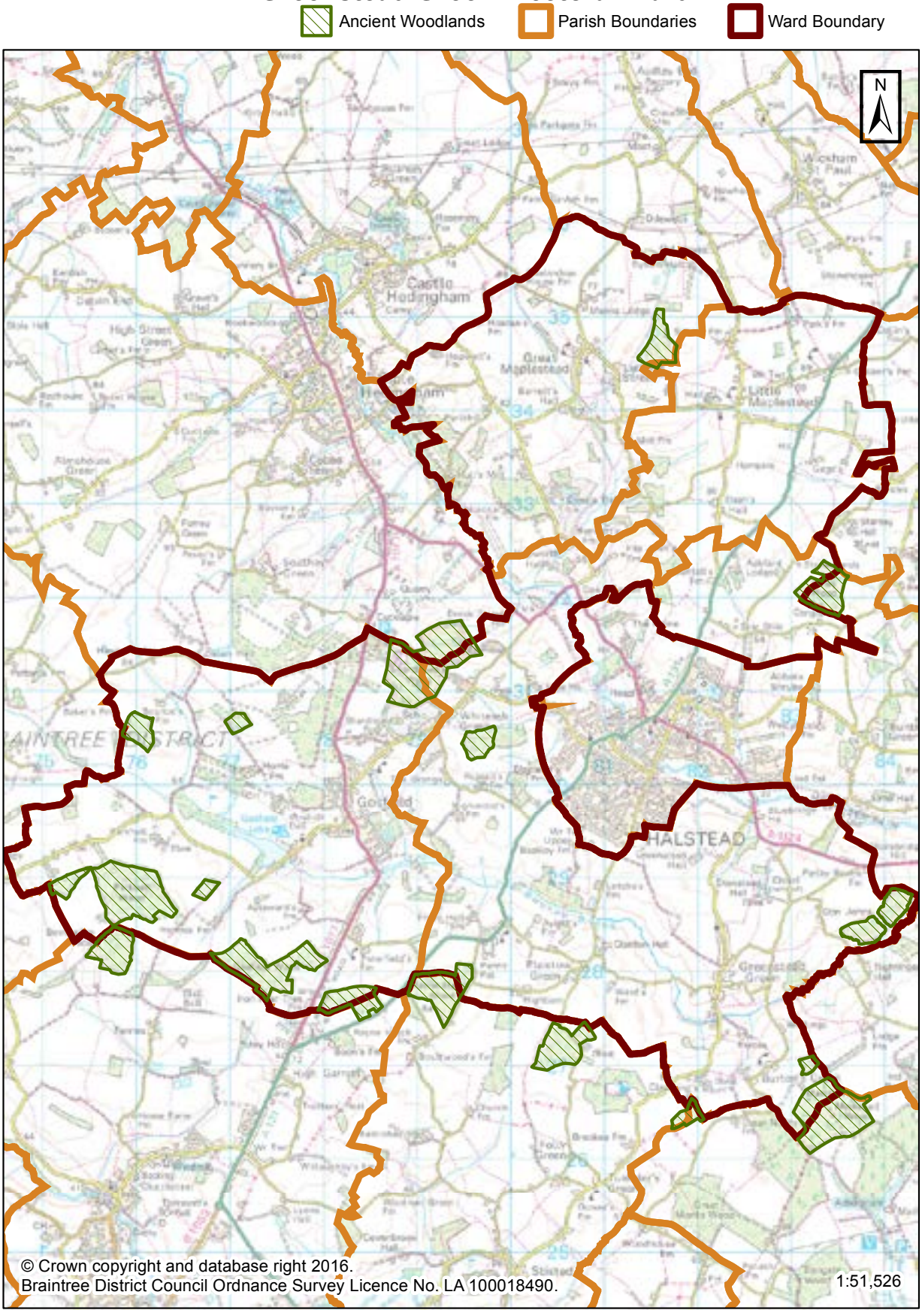
Location of Ancient Woodland sites in Bumpstead Electoral Ward



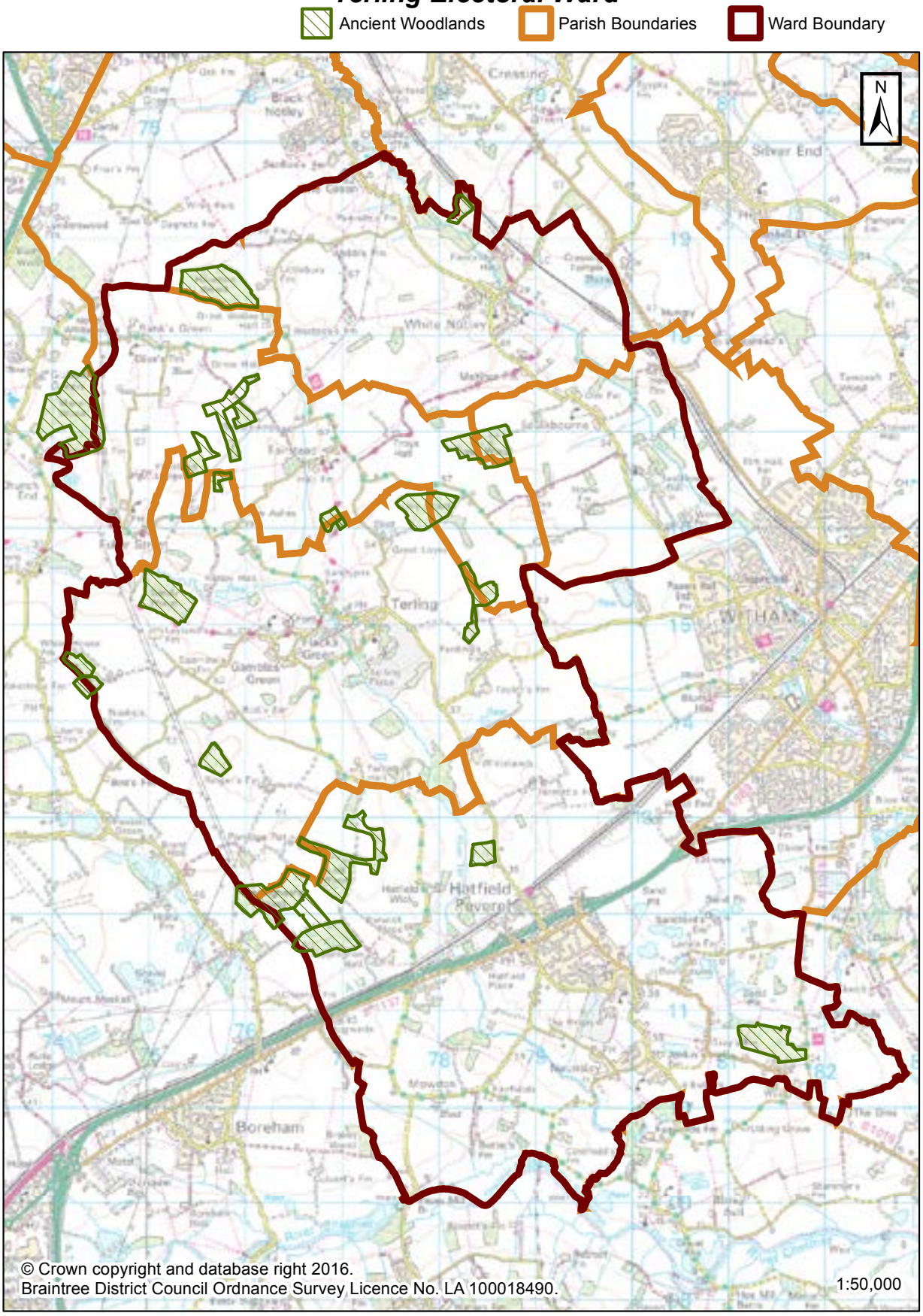
Location of Ancient Woodland sites in Coggeshall Electoral Ward



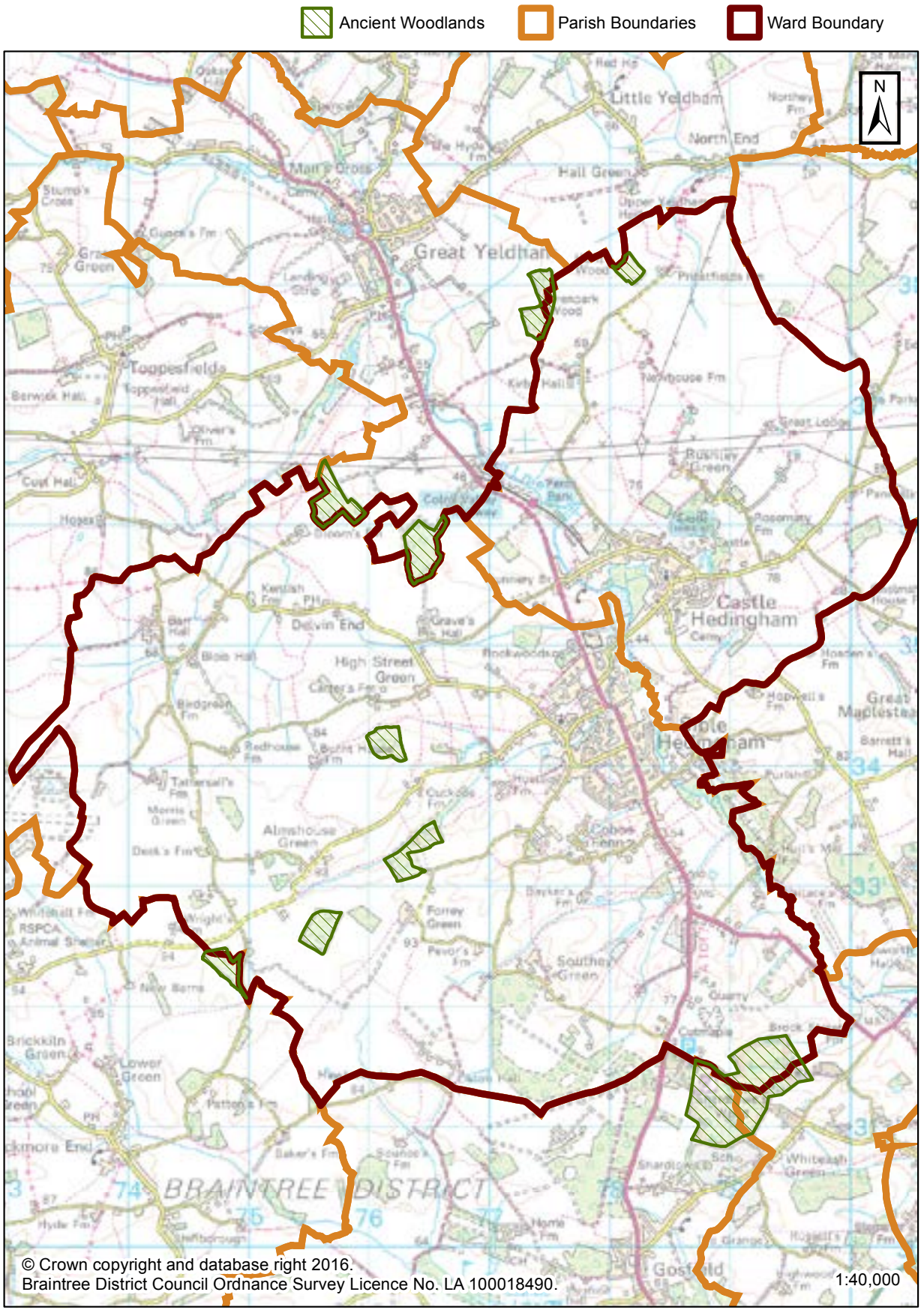
Location of Ancient Woodland sites in Gosfield and Greenstead Green Electoral Ward



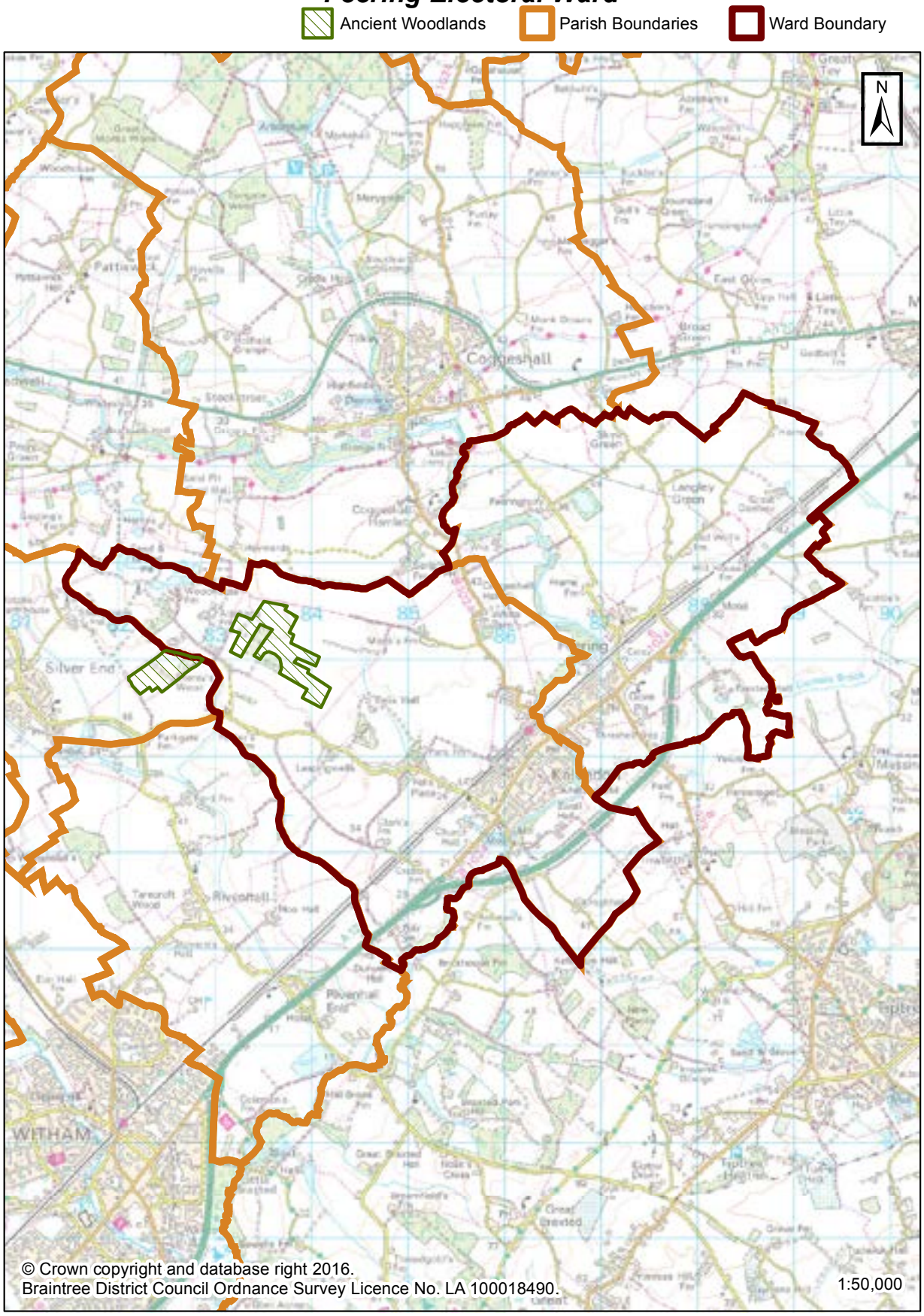
Location of Ancient Woodland sites in Hatfield Peverel and Terling Electoral Ward



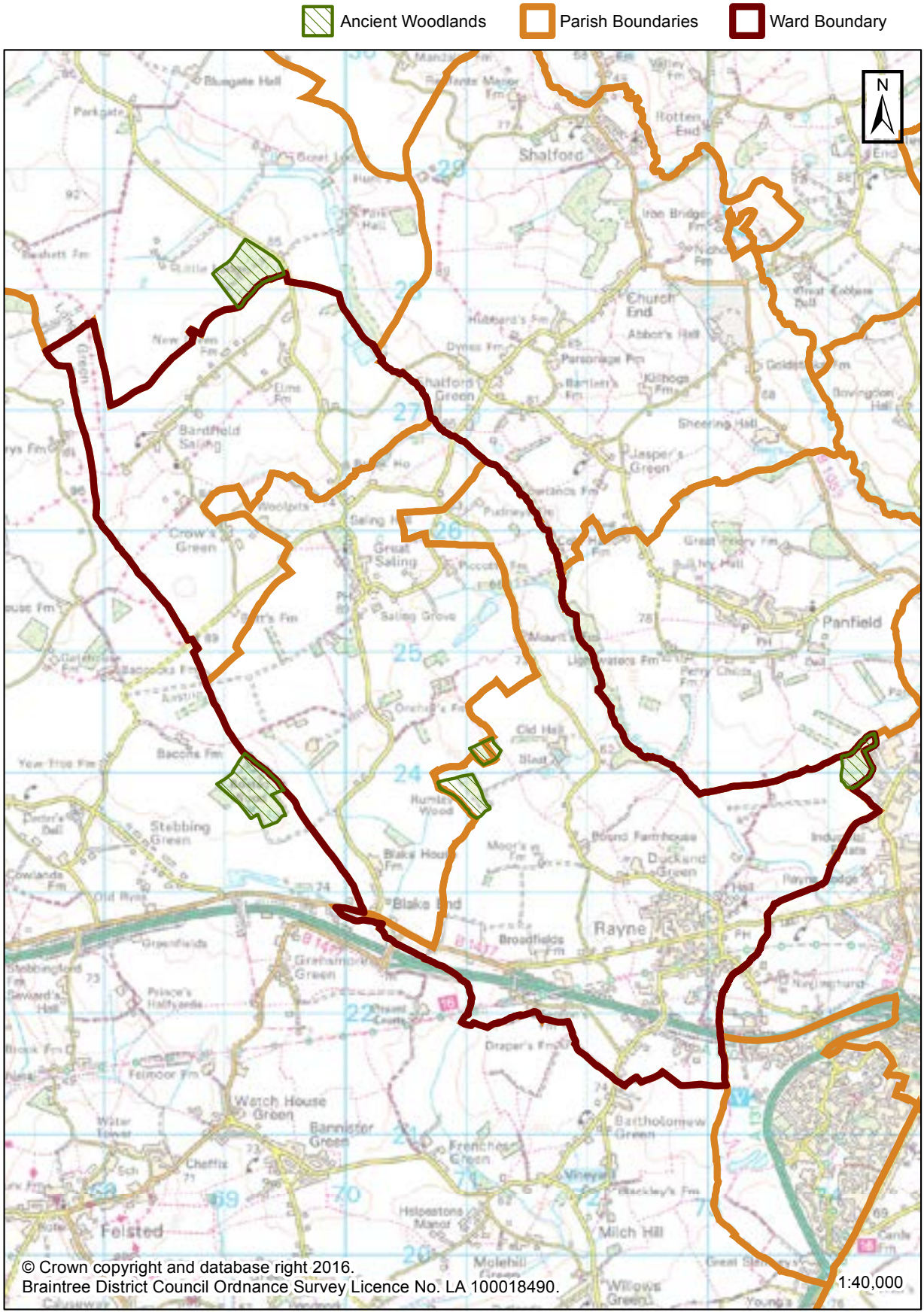
Location of Ancient Woodland sites in Hedingham Electoral Ward



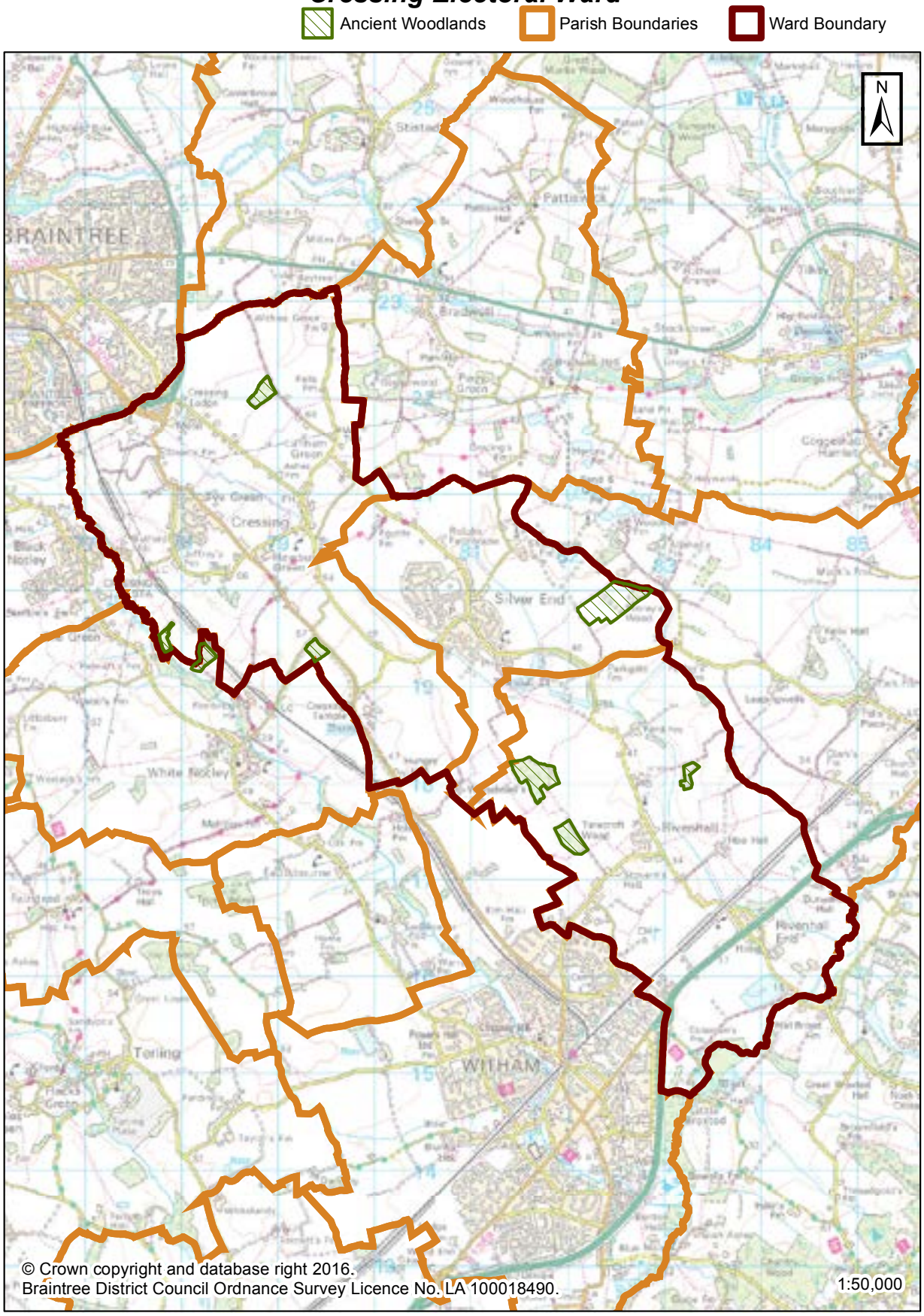
Location of Ancient Woodland sites in Kelvedon and Feering Electoral Ward



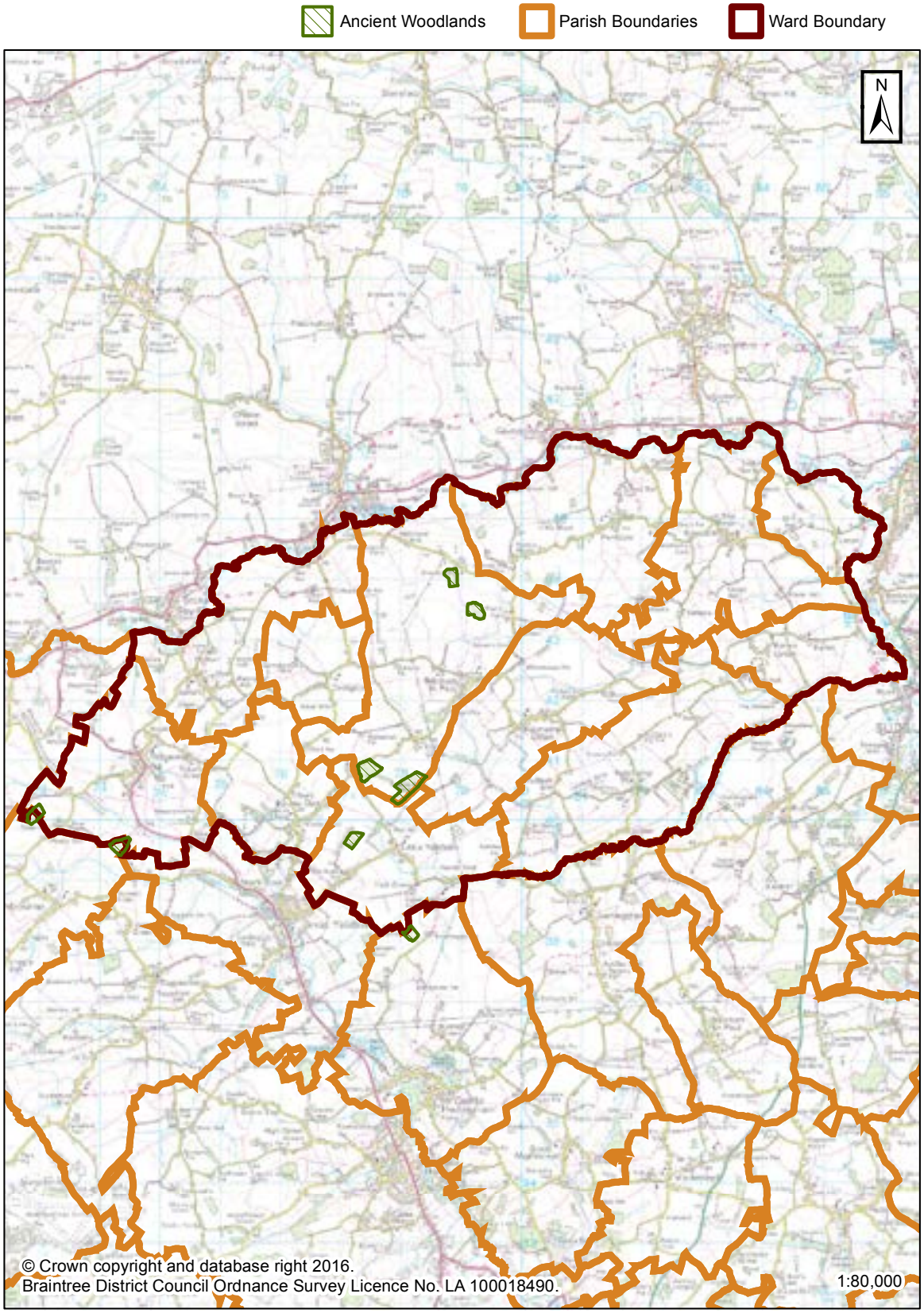
Location of Ancient Woodland sites in Rayne Electoral Ward



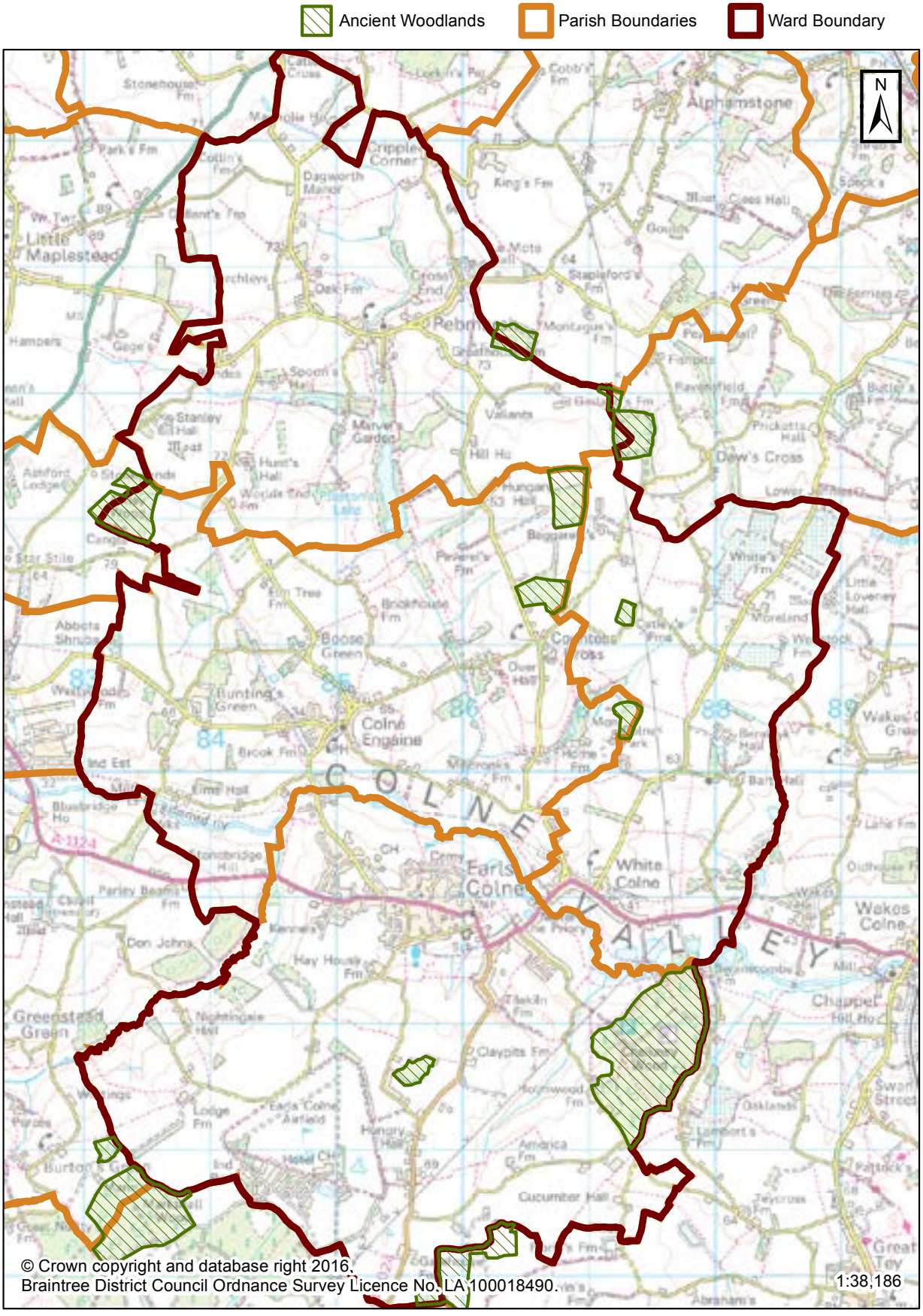
Location of Ancient Woodland sites in Silver End and Cressing Electoral Ward



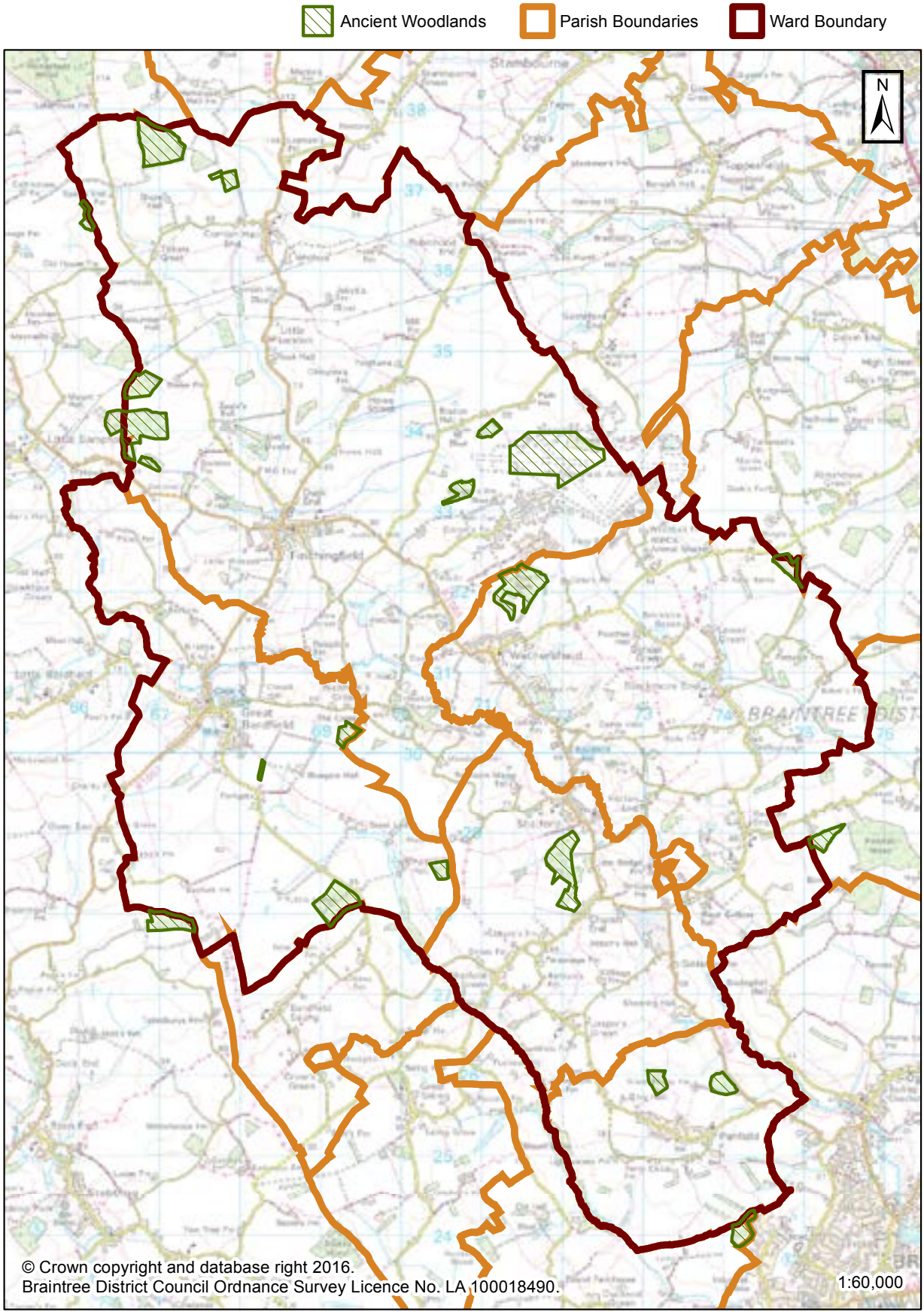
Location of Ancient Woodland sites in Stour Valley North Electoral Ward



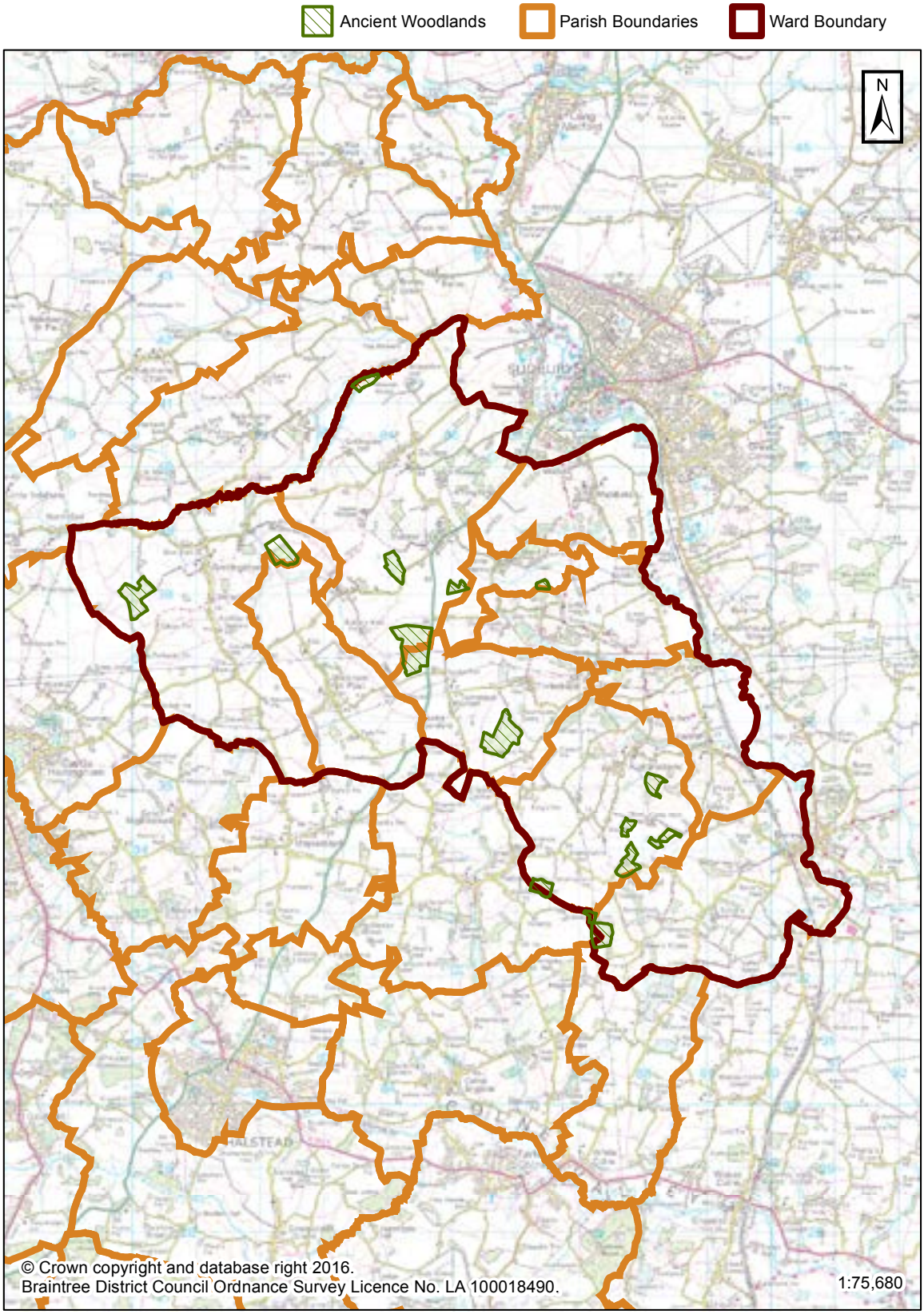
Location of Ancient Woodland sites in The Colnes Electoral Ward



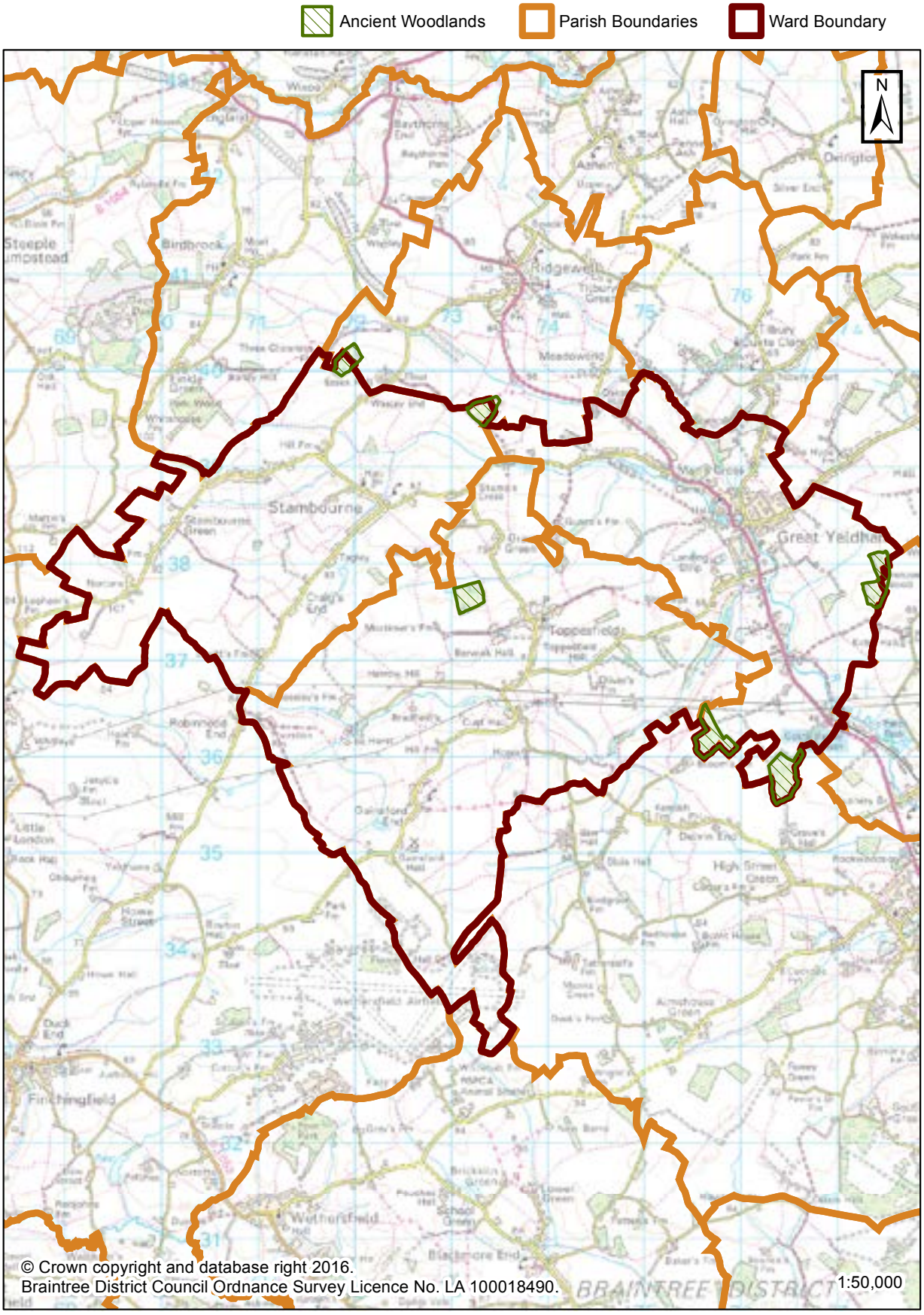
Location of Ancient Woodland sites in Three Fields Electoral Ward



Location of Ancient Woodland sites in Stour Valley South Electoral Ward



Location of Ancient Woodland sites in Yeldham Electoral Ward



Appendix 2
Community Woodland Priority Sites and Existing Council Woodlands

community woodland

Background

The possibility of community woodland creation within the District has been put forward. For any site to work as community woodland it would have to be located adjacent to or within easy walking distance of a major residential centre.

Whilst on its own community woodland creation provides many benefits (e.g. habitat creation, carbon sequestration, community engagement), by selecting sites that are adjacent to existing woodland or other habitat of higher ecological value additional benefits can be provided (e.g. buffering to prevent chemical drift from agriculture, increased core area, improved connectivity and connectedness, increased habitat diversity).

A desk top study has been carried out to identify those sites around the three main towns that offer potential to provide such additional benefits. The criteria for selection were:

- Proximity to residential areas;
- Current use as agricultural land (determined using Google Earth and BDC aerial photography, so current use may vary);
- Presence of public footpaths;
- Presence of existing woodland, meadow, parkland, Local Wildlife Sites or other habitat of relatively ecological value, and;
- Opportunity to link two or more such habitats.

It is accepted that the study is somewhat simplistic and some circumstances may have altered from the information available via the desk top.

Given that any such scheme will involve land either being provided under agreement by the current owner or purchased, the final location/s will be dependent upon the willingness of land owners to cooperate. Ultimately it may be that only sites of lower importance are available. However, the intention is to identify the best potential sites to prioritise efforts in securing land.

Categorisation

A basic rating has been given to all sites identified. For each area sites are numbered and categorised as either 'A' for those sites delivering the greatest benefits (generally those that abut or link Local Wildlife Sites and other designated sites) and 'B' for those that deliver greater benefits than an isolated site (linking or abutting other woodland, meadows, ecological corridors).

All other potential sites are not listed and can be assumed to be of relatively equal value, consisting of agricultural fields with no adjacent habitat of any great value and/or limited public accessibility. It is a somewhat crude approach, but it is quick!

Results

These are displayed in a table for each town, identifying the site by its label and setting out the main advantages and disadvantages.

Some sites shown on the maps have since been omitted following consultation with Planning Policy over land already or likely to be allocated for development.

Abbreviations:

LCA – Landscape Character Assessment

LNR – Local Nature Reserve

LWS – Local Wildlife Site

PRoW – Public Right of Way

TPO – Tree Preservation Order

Braintree

LCA relevant landscape planning and land management guidelines

A5 Pant River Valley – (A5)

- Maintain cross-valley views and characteristic views across and along the valley.

A9 Blackwater River Valley – (A6, B8, B9)

A10 Brain River Valley – (A2, B3, B4)

- Maintain cross-valley views and characteristic views across and along the valley.

A12 Pods Brook River Valley – (A4, B6)

- Maintain cross-valley views and characteristic views across and along the valley.
- Predominantly pastoral and heavily wooded.

B13 Rayne Farmland Plateau – (A5, B7)

- Maintain cross-valley views and characteristic views across the farmland.

B16 Felsted Farmland Plateau – (A3, B5)

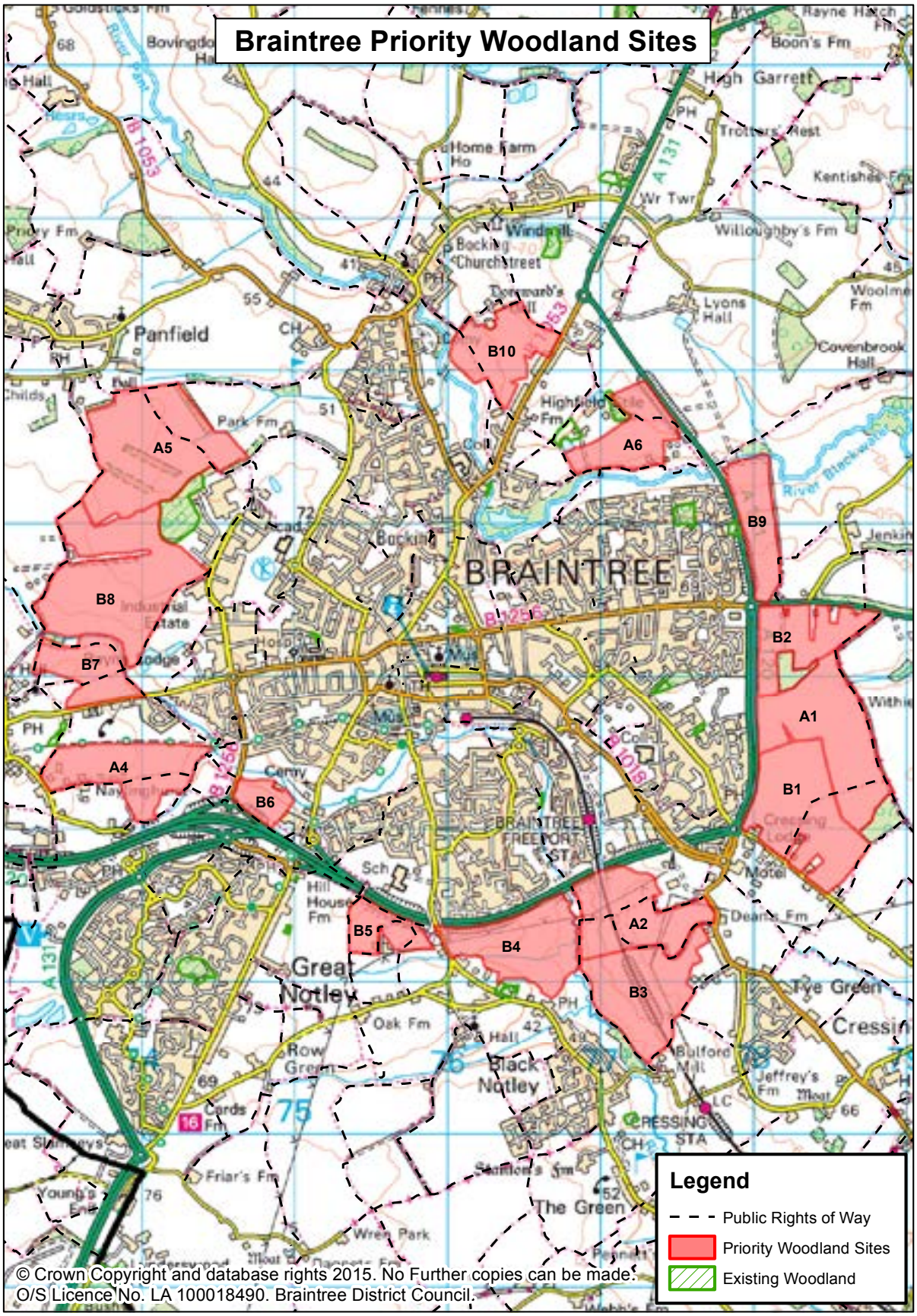
- Maintain cross-valley views and characteristic views across and along the valley.

B18 Silver End Farmland Plateau – (A1, A2, B1, B2, B3)

- Maintain characteristic open views across the farmland.

Agricultural Land Classification

Grade 2 except A3, A4, B4, B5, B6, and parts of A2, A5, B3 & B9 which are Grade 3


Braintree Priority Woodland Sites
BRAINTREE
Great Notley
Black Notley
Panfield
A1
A2
A4
A5
A6
B1
B2
B3
B4
B5
B6
B7
B8
B9
B10
Legend
Public Rights of Way
Priority Woodland Sites
Existing Woodland
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Site	Advantages	Disadvantages
A1	Removed due to potential future development	
A2	• Connects woodland, pasture, railway and river corridor • Adjacent to residential area • Contains PRoWs • Provides buffer between Braintree and Cressing	• Separated from Braintree by A120 • May obscure existing views
A3	Removed due to potential future development	
A4	• Connects woodland, pasture and Flitch Way LWS • Easy access from both Rayne and Braintree • Contains PRoWs • Provides buffer between Braintree and Rayne • Compliant with LCA	• Not immediately adjacent to residential areas • May obscure existing views
A5	• Connects woodland, TPO woodland, shelter belts and golf course • Potential easy access from future development • Contains PRoWs	• Currently not easily accessible from residential areas • May obscure existing views
A6	• Connects woodland, lake, stream, grassland and river corridor • Easy access from Bocking Blackwater LNR • Potential easy access from future development • Contains PRoWs	
B1	Removed due to potential future development	
B2	Removed due to potential future development	
B3	• Connects river corridor to railway line and hedgerows • Easy access from Black Notley and Cressing • Bordered by PRoWs	• Somewhat remote from Braintree residential areas • May obscure existing views
B4	• Connects river corridor, A120 buffer strip and hedgerows • Close to residential area	• Poor accessibility due to lack of PRoWs and presence of A120 • May obscure existing views
B5	• Connects woodland, A120 buffer strip and hedgerows • Contains PRoWs	• Not readily accessible from residential areas due to distance and presence of A120 • May obscure existing views
B6	Removed due to potential future development	
B7	• Connects woodland, churchyard and pasture • Contains PRoWs • Easy access from Rayne • Compliant with LCA	• Not immediately adjacent to residential areas in Braintree • May obscure existing views
B8	• Connects woodland, TPO woodland and hedgerows • Bordered by PRoW	• Not immediately adjacent to residential areas • Potential future development on part of site • May obscure existing views
B9	• Connects river corridor with hedgerows and A120 shelter belt • Bordered by PRoW	• Not readily accessible from residential areas due to presence of A120
B10	• Connects river corridor, pond, pasture and hedgerows • Contains PRoWs • Easy access from Bocking and north Braintree	• Not immediately adjacent to residential areas • Potential conflict with Landscape Character and current open views

Halstead

LCA relevant landscape planning and land management guidelines

A4 Colne River Valley – (A1, A2, B1, B2, B3, B4, B5)

- Conserve and enhance areas of semi-natural woodland as important landscape and nature conservation features.
- Conserve and enhance the ecological structure of woodland, copses and hedges within the character area

B6 Wickham Farmland Plateau – (A3, A4, B4, B5)

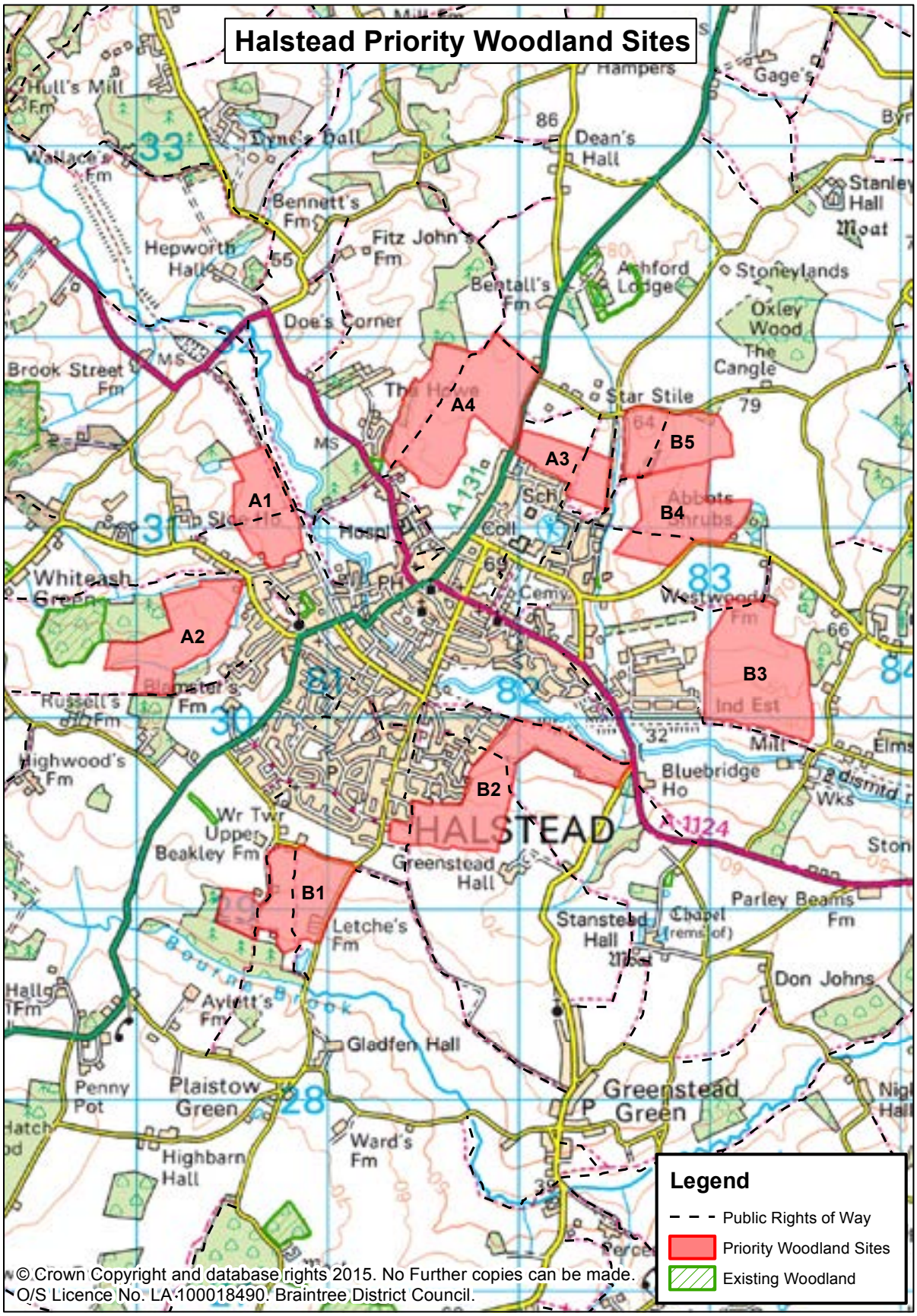
- Conserve and enhance the ecological structure of woodland, copses and hedges within the character area.

F1 Gosfield Wooded Farmland – (A2, B1, B2)

- Strong pattern of large and small woods, including ancient woodland.

Agricultural Land Classification

Grade 3 except parts of A4, B4 & B5 that are Grade 2


Halstead Priority Woodland Sites
A1
A2
A3
A4
B1
B2
B3
B4
B5
HALSTEAD
Legend
Public Rights of Way
Priority Woodland Sites
Existing Woodland
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Site	Advantages	Disadvantages
A1	• Connects woodland, river corridor, parkland, Sloe Hill Meadows LWS and Sloe Cottage Meadow LWS • Contains PRoW • Adjacent to residential area • Compliant with LCA	
A2	• Connects woodland, pasture, Chapel Hill Meadow LWS and Great Spansey Wood LWS • Close to two PRoW • Easy access from residential areas • Compliant with LCA	• Not immediately adjacent to residential areas
A3	• Connects woodland, rough grass and Coggeshall Pieces LWS • Contains PRoWs • Adjacent to residential area • Compliant with LCA	• Possible future development potential
A4	• Connects woodland, pasture, rough grass, hedgerows, TPO woodland and Fitz John's Grove LWS • Contains PRoWs • Easy access from residential areas • Compliant with LCA	• Possible future development potential for part of site • Not immediately adjacent to large residential areas
B1	• Connects extensive hedgerow network and pasture • Contains PRoWs • Easy access from residential areas • Compliant with LCA	• Not immediately adjacent to residential areas
B2	• Connects river corridor, railway line, parkland and hedgerows • Contains PRoWs • Adjacent to residential areas • Compliant with LCA	• Possible future development potential
B3	• Connects woodland, railway line, meadow, hedgerows and shelter belts • Bordered by PRoWs • Compliant with LCA	• Separated from residential areas by industrial estate
B4	• Connects woodland, hedgerows and meadows • Contains PRoW • Adjacent to residential area • Compliant with LCA	
B5	• Connects woodland and hedgerows • Contains PRoW • Compliant with LCA	• Not adjacent to residential area

Witham

LCA relevant landscape planning and land management guidelines

A9 Blackwater River Valley – (A1, B1, B2)

- Enhance the screening of the A12 and the railway line.

A10 Brain River Valley – (A2, A3, B4)

- Maintain cross-valley views and characteristic views across and along the valley.

B17 Terling Farmland Plateau – (A2, B3)

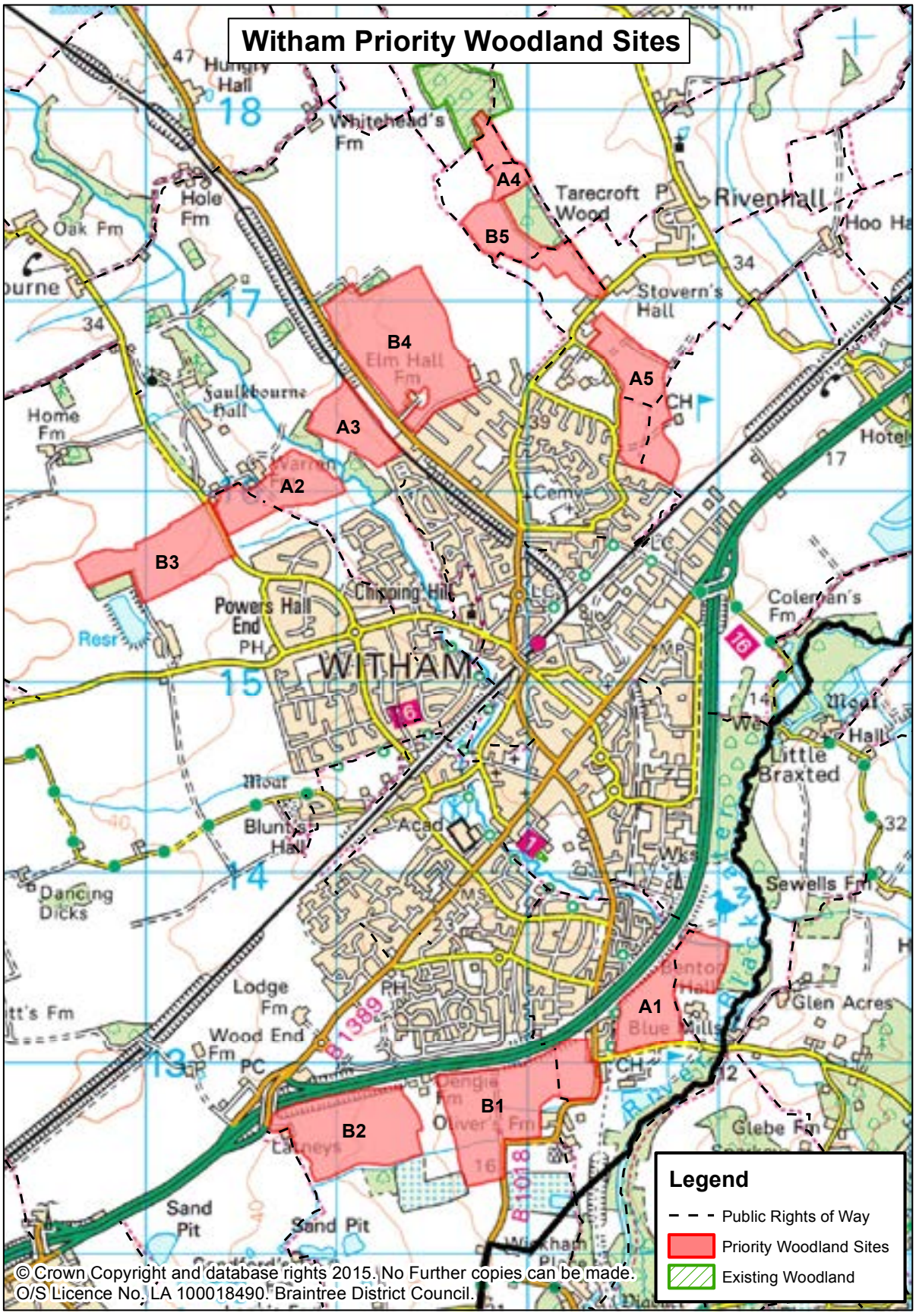
B18 Silver End Farmland Plateau – (A4, A5, B4, B5)

- Maintain characteristic open views across the farmland.

B21 Boreham Farmland Plateau – (B2)

Agricultural Land Classification

Grade 2 except A1, A2 & A3 – all Grade 3


Witham Priority Woodland Sites
A1
A2
A3
A4
A5
B1
B2
B3
B4
B5
WITHAM
Legend
Public Rights of Way
Priority Woodland Sites
Existing Woodland
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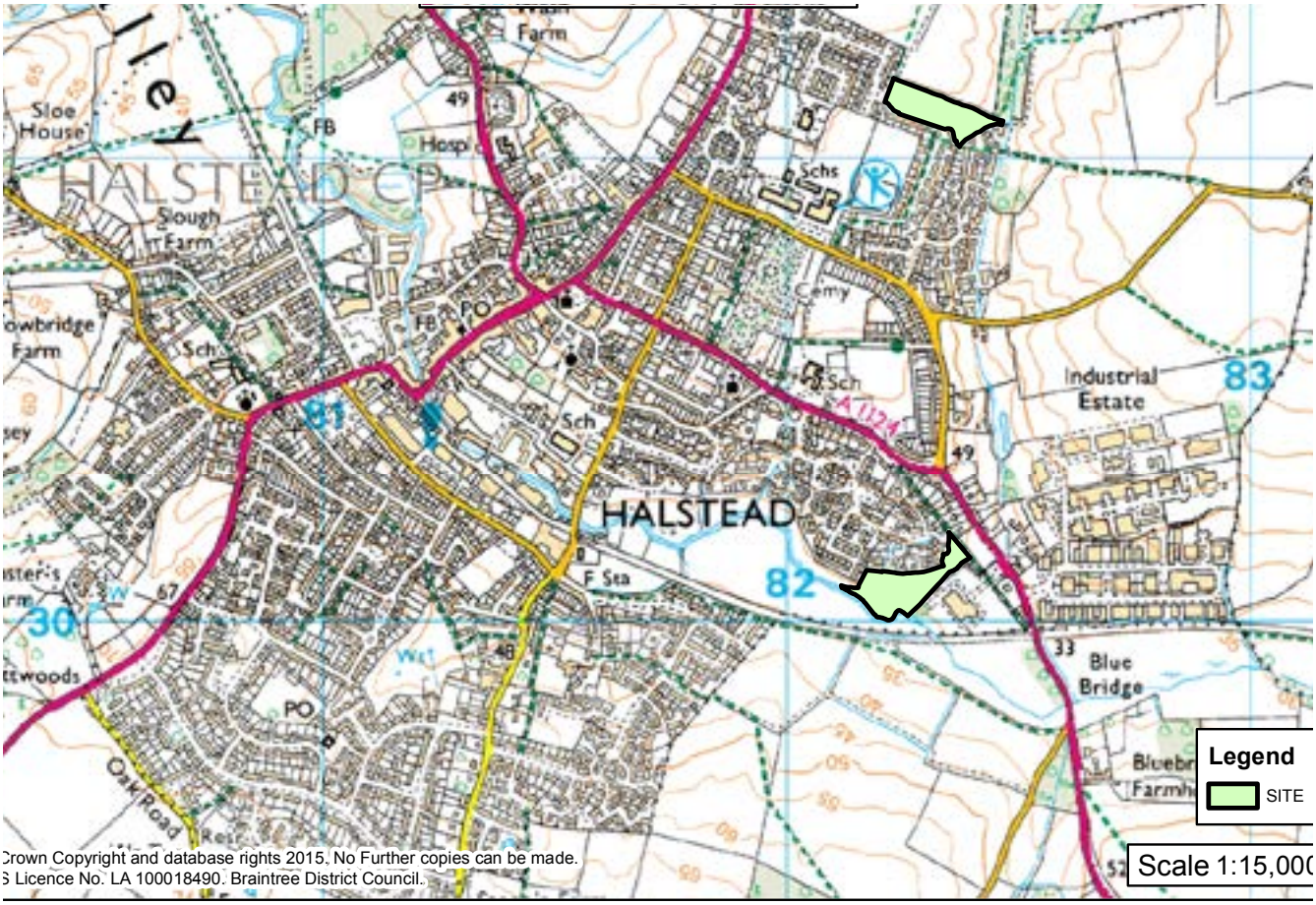
Site	Advantages	Disadvantages
A1	• Connects woodland, hedgerows, rough grass, river corridor and Whet Mead LWS • Contains PRoW • Compliant with LCA	• Restricted access due to presence of A12
A2	• Connects woodland, parkland, river corridor and Witham Marsh LWS • Contains PRoW • Easy access from residential area	• Not immediately adjacent to residential areas
A3	• Connects woodland, rough grass and Coggeshall Pieces LWS • Contains PRoWs • Adjacent to residential area • Compliant with LCA	• Connects woodland, river corridor, railway line, hedgerows and parkland • Adjacent to residential area
A4	• Connects two ancient woodland LWS and hedgerows • Contains PRoWs	• Remote from residential areas
A5	Removed due to potential future development	
B1	• Connects hedgerows, A12 shelter belt, pasture and community woodland • Contains PRoW • Compliant with LCA	• Restricted access due to presence of A12
B2	• Connects hedgerows, A12 shelter belt and pasture • Bordered by PRoW • Compliant with LCA	• Restricted access due to presence of A12 • Not adjacent to residential area
B3	• Connects woodland, reservoir, hedgerows and pasture	• No PRoW connecting site • Not immediately adjacent to residential area
B4	• Connects woodland, hedgerows and grassland • Adjacent to residential area	• Possible future development potential • No connecting PRoW
B5	• Connects ancient woodland LWS, hedgerows and grazing • Contains PRoWs	• Not immediately adjacent to residential areas

Braintree District Council Woodland Management - Provisional Action Plan
Qualifying Woodland - Sible Hedingham

Site	Designations & Description	Issues	Actions	Funding Sources	Ward Members
Hedingham Riverside Walk	Part of LoWS Hedingham Station Marsh. Mixture of new planting, plantation poplars, natural regeneration (wet woodland) and developing scrub. Limited informal access other than main pathway.	• Over-mature poplar plantation at risk of failure • Adjacent to residential boundaries causing shade and property damage • Lack of species diversity • Surfaced path stops part way through site	• Fell poplars and replant – potential for income from cricket bat willow • Coppice all small trees within 6m of boundaries; selective removal of larger trees • Encourage natural regeneration to develop increased wet woodland • Complete surfaced path and link to access points	• Low value of poplar may partially offset felling cost • Woodland Regeneration Grant • Path development linked to Premdor S106	Cllr Jo Beavis Cllr Hylton Johnson

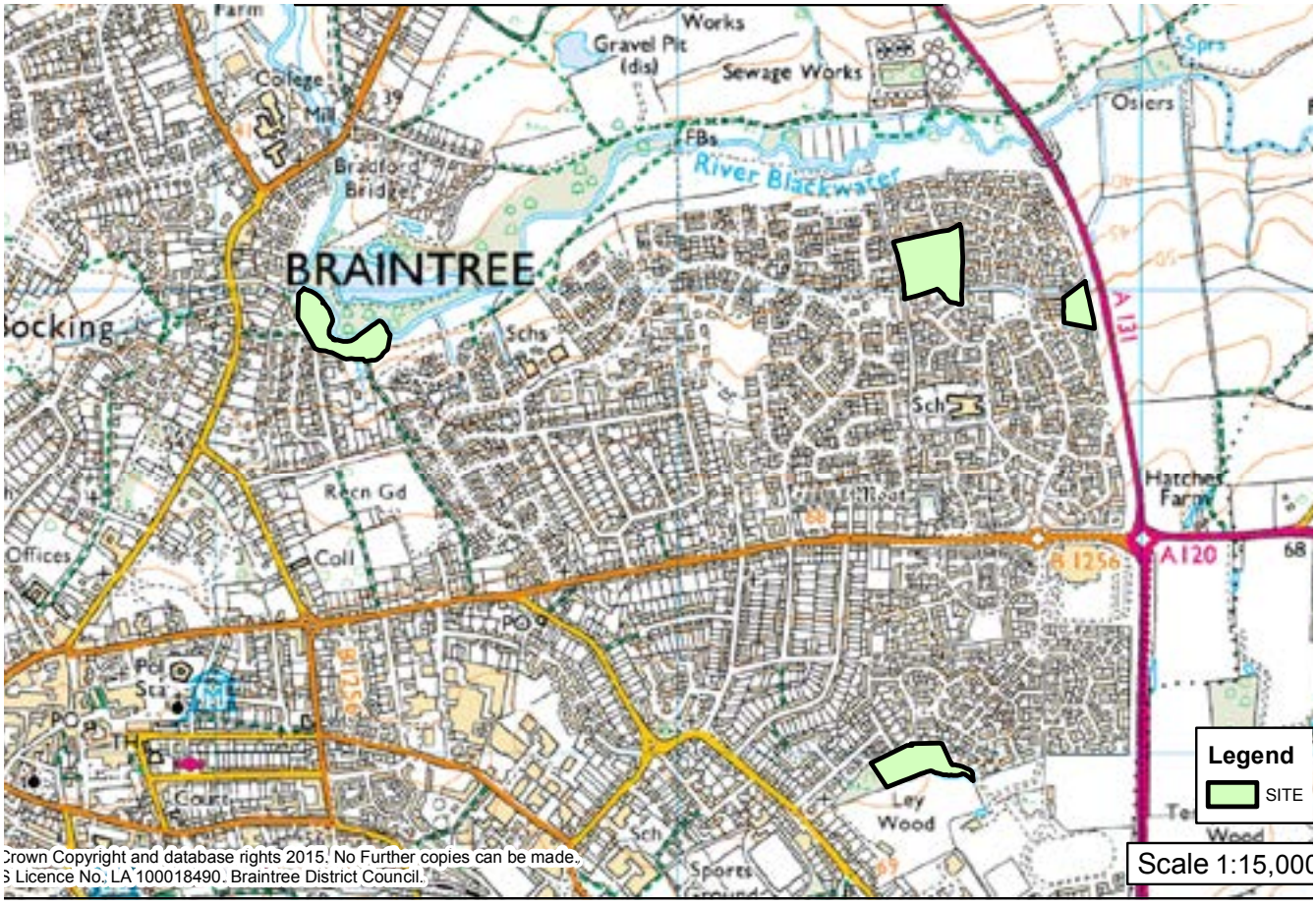
Qualifying Woodland - Halstead



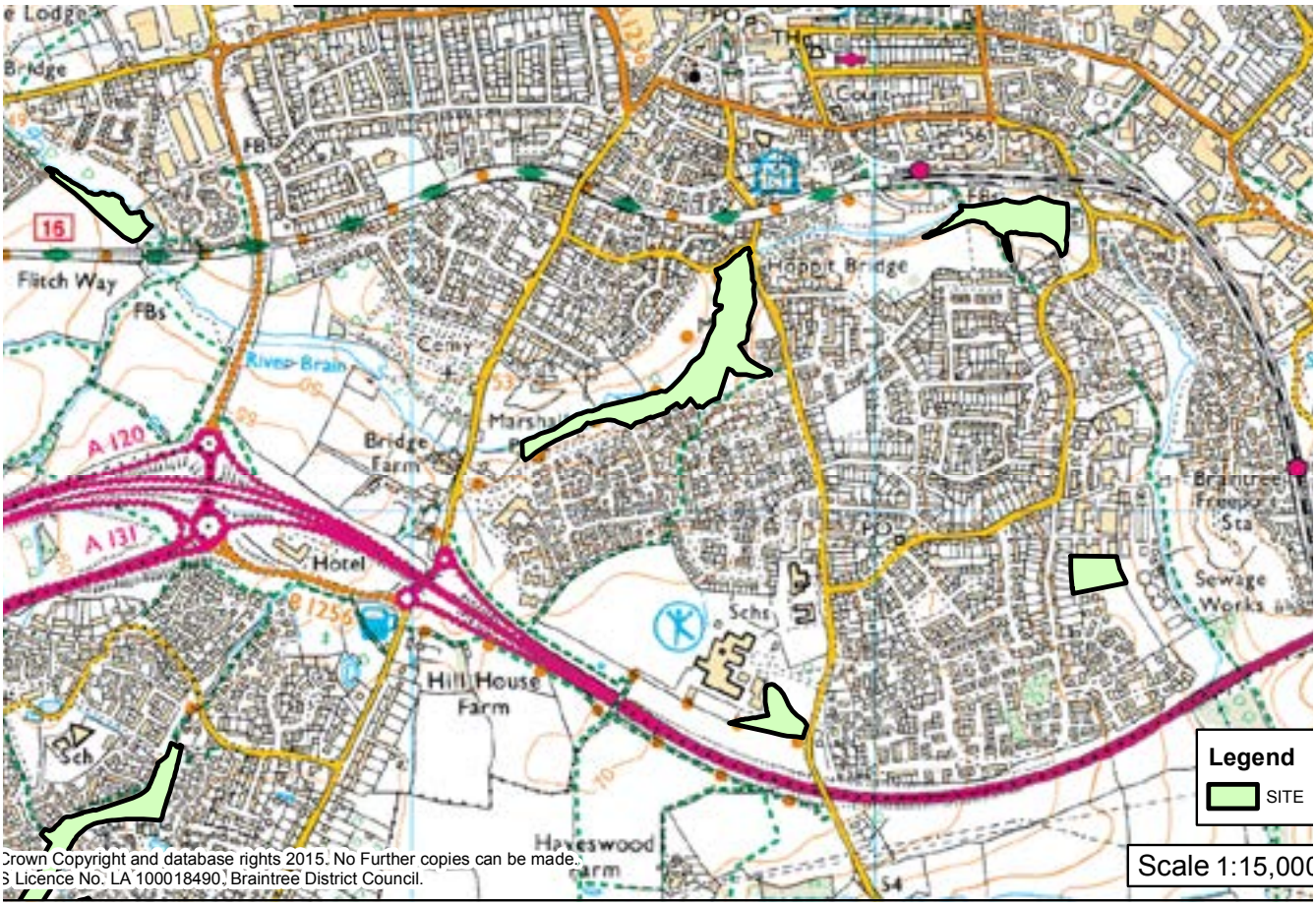
Site	Designations & Description	Issues	Actions	Funding Sources	Ward Members
Coggeshall Pieces	LoWS Star Stile Mosaic. Mixture of scrub, mixed woodland and meadow. Good formal access. Well managed by local community group.	• Partially adjacent to residential boundaries and highway • Occasional use by motorcycles • Some wetter areas on paths in winter	• Control boundary vegetation as required • Discuss with ECC possible structures to prevent motorcycle access • Improve footpath surfaces	• Woodland Access Grant	Cllr Stephen Kirby Cllr David Hume

Site	Designations & Description	Issues	Actions	Funding Sources	Ward Members
Nether Court	Some TPOs Mixture of new planting and secondary woodland with veteran trees, and meadow. Formal and informal access	• Poor structural diversity • Large trees adjacent to residential boundaries • Disturbance of wildlife and public safety concerns	• Partial coppicing and thinning of secondary woodland to improve structural diversity • Monitor stability of trees adjacent to properties and over paths • Encourage access on informal paths by regular mowing; allow development of vegetation to discourage access in sensitive areas;	• Woodland Improvement Grant	Cllr Julia Allan Cllr Stephen Kirby Cllr David Hume Cllr Jackie Pell

Qualifying Woodland - Braintree North & East



Qualifying Woodland - Braintree South & West



Site	Designations & Description	Issues	Actions	Funding Sources	Ward Members
Marks Farm Wood West	TPO Ancient woodland containing lapsed coppice and standard trees. Formal and informal access	• Gradual decline of coppice stools, woodland structure and ground flora • Bordered on three sides by residential properties with tree condition often deteriorating • Fly tipping • Poor path surface in places, existing board walk will require replacement soon	• Resume coppice regime in selected areas to prevent loss of stools, restore structure and improve conditions for ground flora • Coppice all vegetation within 10m of residential boundaries except large trees, which will be regularly surveyed • Repair/replace entrance structures to deter fly tipping; active management by residential properties should deter fly tipping – prevents assumption that no-one cares • Regularly cut back vegetation and improve paths to encourage walkers to stay on designated routes; replace and extend boardwalk	• Potential income from value as firewood may partially offset coppicing costs, with future income potential as regrowth is of greater value • Potential present and future timber value to offset management costs • S106 funding for woodland management • Woodland Improvement Grant • Woodland Woodfuel Management Grant • Woodland Access Grant	Cllr Stephen Canning Cllr Lynn Walters Cllr Wendy Schmitt

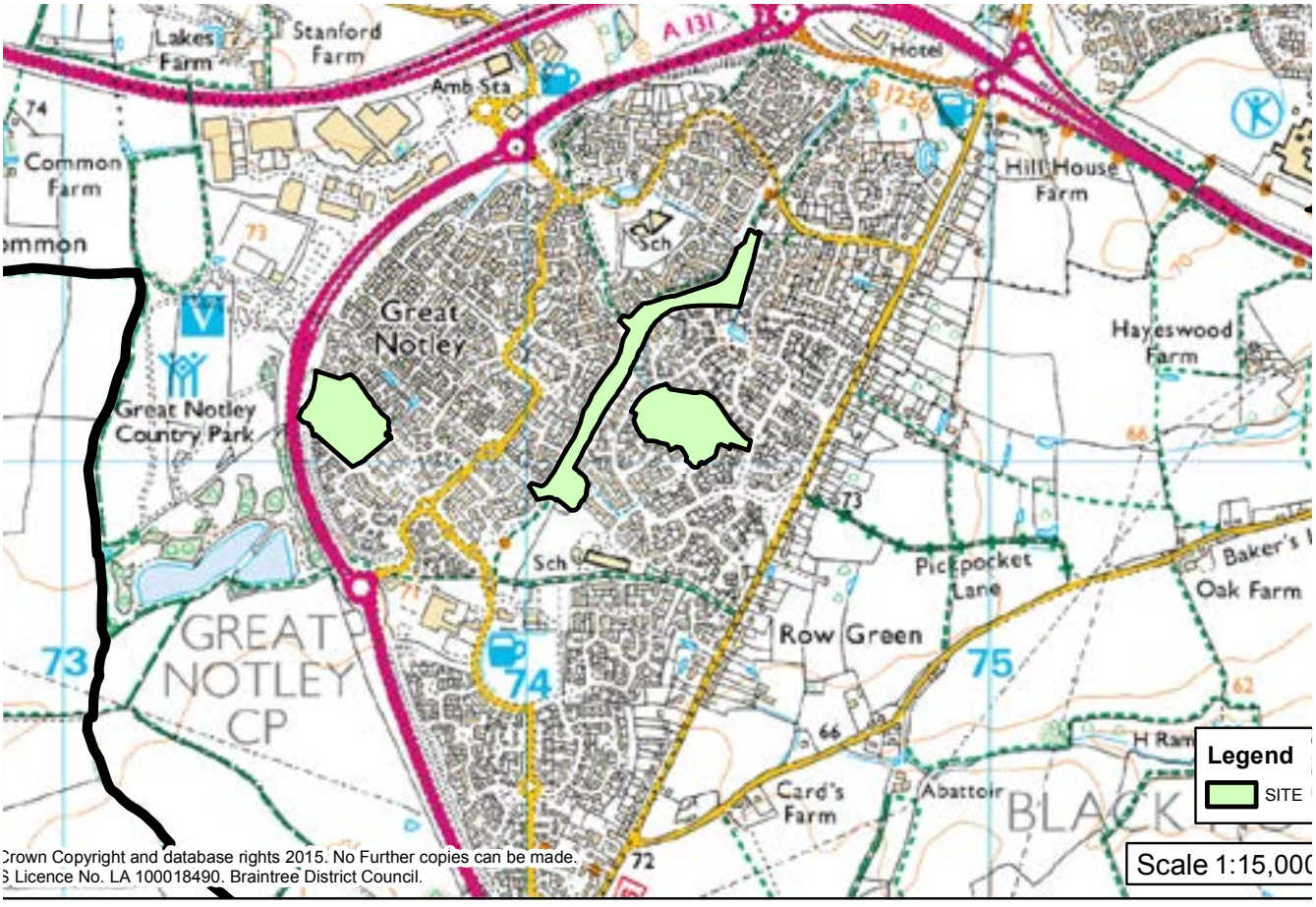
Site	Designations & Description	Issues	Actions	Funding Sources	Ward Members
Marks Farm Wood East	TPO Mostly ash, fairly damp site with limited informal access use	• Poor condition of many ash trees • Lacking diversity • Adjacent to residential boundaries on two sides • No known desire for increased access – may cause concern from residents	• If public access is encouraged coppicing will need to take place; alternatively discouraging access means that natural processes can take place (trees allowed to fall and regenerate at will) • Coppice to encourage regeneration and improve structure; alternatively leave site to develop naturally • Coppice boundary vegetation within 6m of residential properties • Monitor site use to determine if safety concerns arise	• Potential income from value as firewood may partially offset coppicing costs, with future income potential as regrowth is of greater value • S106 funding for woodland management • Woodland Improvement Grant • Woodland Woodfuel Management Grant • Woodland Regeneration Grant	Cllr Stephen Canning Cllr Lyn Walters Cllr Wendy Schmitt

Site	Designations & Description	Issues	Actions	Funding Sources	Ward Members
Rivermead	Part of LNR. Wet woodland species, much from natural regeneration, some previously coppiced. Some open grassland Some formal and limited informal access	• Coppiced material and large willows will eventually collapse if left • Residents raise concerns over loss of views, size of trees and partial obstruction of pavement • Angling Club on opposite bank request vegetation control to improve fishing	• Establish regular coppice regime • Prevent encroachment onto open grassland	• Potential income from value as woodfuel may partially offset coppicing costs, with future income potential as regrowth is of greater value • Woodland Woodfuel Management Grant	Cllr Stephen Canning Cllr Lyn Walters Cllr Wendy Schmitt
Ley Wood	Mixed woodland, possibly ancient, some former coppice stools and transient ponds. Formal and informal access.	• Borders residential properties along northern edge • Non-native species deliberately planted or escaped from gardens • Fly-tipping • Excessive shading of ponds • Concern over anti-social behaviour within wood	• Regular monitoring of boundary vegetation to ensure public and property safety • Removal of non-native species • Tipped material to be removed; enforcement action taken as required; engage residents and inform of impacts of fly-tipping, particularly garden waste • Coppice programme around ponds • Coppice along main path to improve public safety and visibility	• Potential income from value as woodfuel may partially offset coppicing costs	Cllr Andrew Hensman Cllr Mary Cunningham Cllr John Cunningham

Site	Designations & Description	Issues	Actions	Funding Sources	Ward Members
Sun Lido Gardens	Mixed woodland, probably secondary. Limited public access, mainly along western edge	• Lack of public access	• Investigate potential for increases public access	• Woodland Access Grant	Cllr Ron Ramage Cllr John McKee
Hoppit Mead	LNR; LoWS Mixed native woodland, some wet woodland and possibly ancient. Formal access in areas but much inaccessible. River frontage and wet ground containing cricket bat willows and coppiced willow	• Gradual loss of wet meadow through regrowth of willow and other species • Himalayan Balsam present in places • Fly-tipping from residential gardens • Den building in some sensitive areas	• Commence regime of coppicing on wet meadow area • Regular clearance of Himalayan Balsam through organised events • Clearance of all litter and information given to residents on correct disposal of garden waste • Use of natural vegetation to deter activity in sensitive areas with some opening up of less sensitive areas to encourage activity there	• Woodland Woodfuel Management Grant	Cllr Ron Ramage Cllr John McKee Cllr Malcolm Dunn
John Ray Park	Secondary woodland, mostly scrub and wet woodland species. Formal access to some areas	• Limited public access • Clearance took place in 2012 to facilitate cycle path and bridge work – yet to be completed	• Creation of informal walk • Replanting of areas cleared once construction work completed	• Woodland Access Grant • Woodland Regeneration Grant	Cllr Vanessa Santamouro Cllr Malcolm Dunn

Site	Designations & Description	Issues	Actions	Funding Sources	Ward Members
Warrenside	Secondary woodland mostly of middle-aged oaks at dense spacing. Limited use by public due to being in a cul-de-sac. Borders residential and industrial properties on two sides	• Dense spacing of oaks prevents ideal development raising the potential for future failure • Lack of access • Residents have cut down vegetation near boundaries in | places • History of vegetation-related property subsidence	• Thin oaks to leave better specimens • Look at formal path creation, possibly in conjunction with expected eventual transfer of adjacent open space which may provide opportunity for pedestrian links • Coppice all vegetation within 6m of residential/ industrial boundaries • Selective removal of large trees close to properties	• Potential timber value of oak trunks may partially offset thinning costs, with future long-term increase in timber value of standing oaks • Woodland Access Grant	Cllr Vanessa Santamouro Cllr Malcolm Dunn

Qualifying Woodland - Great Notley



Site	Designations & Description	Issues	Actions	Funding Sources	Ward Members
Cuckoo Wood	LNR; LoWS; TPO Ancient woodland containing a range of species and ground flora. Previously managed as coppice with standards. Outer buffer zone of new planting. Restricted gated access with informal paths. Badger sett.	• Lapse in coppicing means that old stools are prone to failure • Gradual loss of ground flora through shading due to lapse in coppicing • Borders residential properties and roads on three sides • Dense planting of buffer zone is preventing ideal development of trees • Little public use other than Forest Schools • Both inner and outer fences in poor condition – beyond reasonable repair, with occasional incidents of intrusion • Restricted access for less mobile users due to steps to bridge	• Resume coppicing in areas of greatest stool density; manage the rest as continuous cover high forest • Combination of coppicing and natural loss/removal of trees will increase light levels on ground • Coppice selected areas of the buffer zone to prevent property damage and nuisance to residents • Thin planting within buffer zone • Arrange public access events to promote the wood • Replace outer fence – inner fence now redundant due to growth of buffer planting • Build bridge at higher level to remove steps and improve accessibility	• Potential income from value as firewood may partially offset coppicing costs, with future income potential as regrowth is of greater value • Potential timber value of larger trees • S106 funding for woodland management • Woodland Improvement Grant • Woodland Woodfuel Management Grant • Woodland Access Gran	Cllr Graham Butland Cllr Francesco Ricci

Site	Designations & Description	Issues	Actions	Funding Sources	Ward Members
Central Spine	Mostly new planting but with remnants of pre-development field boundaries and secondary woodland. Formal access through entire site with informal use of Leven's Wood	• Adjacent to many residential boundaries, private driveways and roads • Concerns from residents over obstruction, shade, debris and safety • Dense planting makes surveying mature trees difficult • Fly-tipping within new planting	• Phased coppicing of selected areas within 6m of residential boundaries to reduce complaints and allow access for surveys • Selective removal of larger species where future conflict with residential properties is identified • Coppicing allows access to clear fly-tipping and demonstrates area is not abandoned.	• Limited S106 funding for management of open space within Great Notley	Cllr Graham Butland Cllr Francesco Ricci

Site	Designations & Description	Issues	Actions	Funding Sources	Ward Members
White Courts Wood	TPO Mixed secondary woodland containing some non-native species. Widescale informal access	• Adjacent to residential boundaries on two sides • Widescale public use creates numerous paths and disturbance of wildlife; paths often partially obstructed by vegetation and overhung by dead wood	• Coppice all smaller vegetation within 6m of residential boundaries • Ensure large boundary trees are in safe condition • Commence periodic mowing of main paths to prevent obstruction and encourage use of these, as opposed to smaller temporary path network, allowing vegetation to develop and restrict access to sensitive areas • Encouraging use of main paths limits areas where dead wood removal may be a priority, so allowing retention for wildlife value elsewhere	• Potential income from value as firewood may partially offset coppicing costs • Potential timber value of some larger trees • Limited S106 funding for management of open space within Great Notley	Cllr Graham Butland Cllr Francesco Ricci

Appendix 3

London Tree Officers Guidelines on Tree Roots and Structures

Tree Roots & Structures

SUBSIDENCE

Movement resulting from soil shrinkage is termed subsidence.

• Roots removing soil moisture beneath buildings may cause damage to structures. However structural damage can occur for a variety of reasons, including shallow foundations in shrinkable soil; normal seasonal soil movements; inadequate foundations for structures which are tied to the main building (e.g. bay windows, garages and conservatories); overloading of control walls; lack of flank wall restraint; land slip; drainage defects; and vibrations caused by constant passage of vehicles.

Thus the effects of trees are rarely the sole cause of subsidence.

• There are some 3.9 million trees in London, the vast majority of which co-exist happily with buildings.

• The presence of a tree near a building does not mean that subsidence is inevitable.

• Even if it is established that a tree is affecting a property removal is not usually necessary. Tree surgery (i.e. reduction in the number of leaves) will reduce the tree's potential to extract soil moisture and allow some soil rehydration to occur. The soil will then increase in volume leading to some closure of structural cracks. Subsequent tree surgery frequently achieves 'stability' of the foundations, offsetting the need for costly works to the building.

Tree Roots & Structures

HEAVE

Movement resulting from soil expansion is termed heave.

• This is the opposite of subsidence. It occurs as a result of soil expansion caused by an increase in soil moisture.

• Heave can occur as a result of leaking drains, overflow pipes or the removal of a tree growing close to a property. Heave is potentially more destructive than subsidence, therefore advice should always be sought before such trees are removed.

The London Tree Officers Association would like to thank Dr D F Cutler (Former Head of Plant Anatomy, Jodrell Laboratory, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew), for his help in compiling this leaflet.

For more information on trees, roots and buildings contact the Arboricultural Officer at your local Council or read the publication 'Subsidence of Low Rise Buildings' by the Institute of Structural Engineers.

The reprint of this leaflet is kindly sponsored by

For a list of approved tree consultants and tree surgeons contact the Arboricultural association on (01794) 368717 or trees.org.uk

Tree Roots & Structures

TREE ROOTS & STRUCTURES

Tree Roots & Structures

INTRODUCTION

Hot summers and dry winters frequently give rise to subsidence related damage to buildings. In some cases, trees are blamed for this damage.

Many householders have become concerned about trees close to their properties. In reality tree root damage is less frequent and less inevitable than the publicity would suggest. Even when it is shown that trees may be contributing to damage, removal or severe tree surgery is often neither necessary nor desirable.

This leaflet describes how a tree may affect buildings and what may be done to reduce the problem.

TREES, ROOTS AND WATER

There are many popular misconceptions surrounding trees and roots. These are the facts: There are two types of roots, woody and fibrous.

• Woody roots radiate away from the trunk. They store food produced by leaves and anchor the tree. Their girth increases annually but not at the same rate as the trunk or the branches. These may give rise to altered drainage to structures (see damage roots may cause on next page).

Tree Roots & Structures

• Beyond the woody roots, fibrous roots extract water and mineral nutrients from the soil. They are hair-like (less than 0.5mm in diameter) in appearance and may only last for one year. These may give rise to indirect damage to property (see damage roots may cause on next page).

• Tree roots extend radially from the trunk (see fig.1 below).

Fig 1

However their direction and depth is hard to assess or predict. Foundations, roots, impervious surfaces and utility trenches can inhibit or influence their spread.

• Roots require oxygen to live and are usually found close to the soil surface. Mature trees rarely have an anchoring "tap" root, or supportive roots, deep in the soil (see fig.2 above).

Fig 2

• Roots can only grow through moist soil. They cannot search for distant sources of water or detect water inside a sound pipe. When a root reaches an area of dry soil it will stop growing in that direction.

• Trees need water to grow. Leaves produce the energy for this growth using water largely supplied by the roots. Over time, as a tree produces more leaves, its potential to take up water from the soil is increased. If the number of leaves is reduced, i.e. by tree surgery, the amount of water taken up by that tree is also reduced.

• Tree height bears no special relation to its potential to extract water from the soil; this is related to the type of tree, number of leaves and their surface area.

Tree Roots & Structures

DAMAGE ROOTS MAY CAUSE

Direct damage may be caused by the physical expansion of woody roots as they grow. This can affect light structures with shallow foundations, e.g. porches, boundary walls, patios, driveways or pavements. The solution is usually to modify the affected structure, allowing for any future expansion of the root.

• Root pruning should be avoided wherever possible as this may introduce disease, 'rob' the tree of vital food reserves, or make the tree unstable.

• Roots may also grow into and block cracked and leaking drains or sewers. Before roots can enter such services, they must be leaking water. If by chance a root encounters the wet soil caused by a leak, increased root growth can occur and may result in entry and blockage of the service. The remedy is to make the service watertight.

Indirect damage results from the extraction of soil moisture by fibrous roots of trees and other vegetation. This only occurs on certain soil types which are shrinkable, usually clays. The volume of these soils is dependent on their ability to contract (by moisture contained within them) a reduction in soil moisture, caused for example, by fibrous tree roots, leads to soil shrinkage. If this occurs beneath foundations, movement and damage may occur.

• Irrespective of tree root action shrinkable soils contract and expand during the course of a year as a result of seasonal weather conditions. This natural ground movement alone can result in damage to structures.

Appendix 4

London Tree Officers Association - Legal Cases Involving Trees

Khan and Khan v. (1) London Borough of Harrow; and (2) Helen Sheila Kane [2013] EWHC 2687 (TCC)

Date: 2013-09-03

Expertise: Property Damage

Reasonable foreseeability and private individual owners of domestic property

3 September 2013

1. This morning, Mr Justice Ramsey handed down judgment in Khan and Khan v. (1) London Borough of Harrow; and (2) Helen Sheila Kane, which considered whether tree root subsidence damage was reasonably foreseeable to a private individual owner of a domestic property whose trees caused damage to a neighbouring property.

2. The judgment is required reading for all practitioners handling tree root subsidence claims. It is particularly relevant to insurers claiming against, or defending, private individual owners of domestic properties.

The Facts

3. Mr and Mrs Khan owned a house in Stanmore, Middlesex. Mrs Kane owned the neighbouring property to the right[1] of the Khans' property.

4. There was a Lawson Cypress hedge on Mrs Kane's property about 10.0m high and 0.5m away from the Khans' house. There was also an oak tree on Mrs Kane's property.

The Issues

5. Mrs Kane admitted that her Lawson Cypress hedge and oak tree caused and/or contributed to the damage to the Khans' house.

6. However, Mrs Kane asserted that the damage was not reasonably foreseeable to her as an ordinary private individual owner of a domestic property. She also raised breach of duty, contributory negligence, failure to mitigate and points on quantum.

Reasonable Foreseeability – The Law

7. The Judge considered a number of leading authorities on reasonable foreseeability including the Wagon Mound No. 2.

8. The Judge found that the issue of reasonable foreseeability is not a subjective test depending on the peculiar characteristics of the particular defendant but is an objective test as to what ought to have been known to a reasonable person in the position of the defendant. "In this case, the relevant person is a reasonably prudent landowner."

9. A defendant's lack of subjective knowledge cannot lower the standard. However, a defendant's subjective knowledge can impose a higher standard. The Judge found:

"In my judgment, the purpose of the standard being set by the knowledge imputed to a class of persons is to impose a higher standard on persons in that class. It therefore creates a floor but not a ceiling on the level of knowledge so that subjective knowledge can raise the standard. However, lack of actual knowledge cannot lower the standard or exclude liability which would be imposed based on the standard generally imposed."

Reasonable Foreseeability - The Decision

10. The Judge found on the facts that Mrs Kane did not have actual subjective knowledge about the risk of damage to the Khans' property from her trees.

11. However, on a close analysis of the facts, he found that a reasonably prudent landowner would have been aware of the real risk of damage from the Lawson Cypress hedge but not the oak tree.

12. So, the Judge gave judgment for the Claimant for the damage caused by the Lawson Cypress hedge.

Significance

13. This important decision is significant for private individual owners of domestic properties and their insurers.

14. In part, because of the ABI Domestic Subsidence Agreement, cases against private individual owners of domestic properties do not frequently come before the Courts.

15. Further, a misconception has developed that, if a private individual owner of a domestic property can assert that she does not have actual subjective knowledge of the risk of tree root subsidence damage from her trees (or generally), she is then immune from claims against her for such damage caused by her trees.

16. This judgment makes clear that the starting part is the objective test of what would be reasonably foreseeable to a reasonably prudent landowner in the Defendant's position.

17. Thus, liability for tree root subsidence damage can be established against a private individual owner of domestic property despite the individual's lack of actual subjective knowledge of the risk.

Daniel Crowley of 2 Temple Gardens acted for the successful Claimants instructed by Kennedys.

For further information of a copy of the Judgment please contact the Clerks at 2 Temple Gardens on 020 7822 1200 or clerks@2tg.co.uk

[1] The claim against LB Harrow who owned land to the left of the Khans' property was settled before trial.

Authors:

DANIEL CROWLEY FCIArb

Judge backs trees in drains root damage claim showing a judge with a practical approach

Kennedy v Bournemouth Borough Council, 17.09.12, Bournemouth County Court

The claimant, C, owned and occupied a property in Bournemouth. The defendant, D, is responsible for a maple tree standing next to the property.

C alleged that in early 2009 the drains to her property became blocked and her garden was flooded. Later that year a survey was carried out showing roots from the tree had encroached into the drains, causing the blockage. C said she cleared the roots on several occasions.

C said that despite repeatedly notifying D of the problem they failed to address her complaints adequately. She therefore sought damages from D, alleging nuisance and negligence. Her claim included reimbursement of the costs of repairing and restoring her property.

C's allegations included that D permitted a tree to be planted which was unsuitable for the area, that they failed to carry out proper measures to protect the surrounding drainage, and failed to prevent the roots from encroaching into the drains to her property.

C also applied for an injunction requiring D to carry out works to prevent to roots from blocking her drains.

D denied liability. They said, among other things, that roots will not damage drains but they can grow into drains through existing cracks caused by other means. D denied the tree constituted a nuisance or a hazard.

The court held that by the spring of 2009 it was reasonably foreseeable to D that the maple tree's roots could cause blockages to the drains to C's property. D was then under a duty to consider what, if anything, would be reasonable to do about this, having regard to the amenity value of the tree and the cost of dealing with the problem.

The court noted that local authorities are responsible for thousands of trees and that expenditure has to be prioritised. Ordering this maple tree to be felled due to a blocked drain would, the court held, be a disproportionate response.

The court held that the roots did not cause cracks in the drains. The owner of a property is primarily responsible for closing gaps in their drains and this would be the most effective way to solve the problem. The claim was dismissed.

Comment: The council defended this claim for damages for root encroachment to drains, citing the recent judgment in Berent v Family Mosaic Housing (Court Circular, September 2012). In that case, the Court of Appeal held that if a tree creates a 'real risk' of property damage, consideration should be given to what action, if any, should be taken to address that risk. It might be appropriate to take no action if the risk of damage is reasonably assessed as very low. In this claim, the court also supported the council defending it from a costs perspective, accepting that, in the current economic climate of strict financial constraints, care must be taken to prioritise expenditure; had it not defended the claim there was the risk of the floodgates being opened to require councils to deal with thousands of trees for which they are responsible.

Berent v Family Mosaic Housing and London Borough of Islington

A Tree Manager's Perspective by Jake Tibbetts

This is a very important and welcome decision regarding alleged subsidence claims involving trees. This case re-emphasises how the law should be applied, and sets a positive precedent for lower courts (who decide the majority of these claims). It also goes someway towards rebalancing the law's view on trees and reasonableness between 'neighbours'. As the manager of Islington's Tree Service, I thought it important to give my perspective on the outcome of this case.

I believe that this case could result in reducing significantly the numbers of subsidence claims and the value of those claims against councils who manage trees in a reasonable manner. Tree owners can now argue that they are not liable for damage that has occurred prior to them being made aware that damage has occurred, solely on the basis of a potential risk. In this case, it was only when the potential risk became a real risk that the liability for damage passed to the tree owners.

This judgement recognises the importance of urban trees and the social benefit that they bring. More importantly it clarifies what foreseeablity actually means. This decision moves the perception away from the position that a tree on clay soil near a building equals a "reasonably foreseeable" risk, as has previously been presumed.

In this case all of the damage (some £200,000) occurred prior to Islington Council being informed that there was damage or that the trees were implicated in that damage. Once Islington Council were presented with evidence, we felled two street trees and also allowed for a tree with a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) on the neighbouring property to be removed. Mature plane trees grow on clay soil in this part of the borough, but we do not have a local history of subsidence cases. The claimants argued that it was reasonably foreseeable that the damage would occur (because there were trees on clay soil near buildings) and therefore we should be found liable for all of the costs.

The trial court found that neither Islington Council nor Family Mosaic (who owned the neighbouring property) could reasonably be expected to foresee that their trees might pose 'a real risk' of causing damage to the property until they had been notified that the property had suffered damage, and reasonable evidence had been provided. Until that point we had satisfied our duty to eliminate or minimise potential nuisance and could therefore not be held liable for prior damage, as we had acted reasonably.

This case does not change the situation for damage that occurs after tree related subsidence has been identified as the cause, or in other words when a potential risk has become a real risk.

How we manage trees was also looked into. The argument that 'pruning does not work' damaged the claimants case as the judge was faced with an interesting dilemma – if pruning does not work, what can a reasonable owner do to manage their trees? This argument promotes the notion that the only way to remove the risk of subsidence is to fell all trees near a property on clay soil! This is a disproportionate and unreasonable response which would result in the "desertification" of the urban environment.

What do tree managers need to do in light of this case? I believe it remains critical that we assess our trees, our claims history, our soils, and from that knowledge identify areas which we consider present "real risk".

Tree managers must identify areas where they have a number of claims, or "hotspots", and adopt appropriate management regimes, based around this understanding.

Crucially, the judgment does not go as far as to say that tree owners can simply wait until damage occurs and then maintain implicated trees.

This approach would fail to take account of the real risk that a tree might pose. However, where you have determined that there is low risk, in some areas, it may be appropriate not to prune at all.

The other area that this judgment reinforces for me is that reasonableness between neighbours is a key factor.

At all stages of the claims process, and through the management regimes we set up, tree managers need to be able to demonstrate that they have been reasonable in their approach. If we can do this, as previously mentioned, we should be able to see the number of claims and the amount we pay out for subsidence cases reduce drastically.

Seeing the wood for the trees - Article by Clyde & Co

The Court of Appeal confirms that when assessing whether there is a 'real risk' of tree related subsidence damage, one must consider whether the relevant trees present a risk, the nature and extent of which imposed upon the owner a duty to take preventative or remedial action over and above any regime of tree management already in place.

The Court of Appeal on Friday 13 July 2012 handed down its judgment in the matter of Berent v Family Mosaic Housing and London Borough of Islington [2012] EWCA Civ 961, and dismissed the Claimant's appeal.

The claim was advanced on the misapprehension that mere proximity of trees to a building equated to a reasonably foreseeable risk of damage. Both the trial judge and now the Court of Appeal found that there was no 'real risk' of reasonably foreseeable damage from the adjoining trees.

The Trial Judge, His Honour Judge Wilcox sitting at the Technology and Construction Court, dismissed the claim finding that prior to damage occurring to the Claimant's property, neither Defendant could have appreciated that there was a 'real risk' that their trees would cause damage. The Claimant's interpretation of the test of 'reasonable foreseeability' in that where a building is within influencing distance of a tree there was a risk of damage, lead the trial judge to say obiter that:

"[Islington] mindful of its obligation under Town and Country Planning Acts and the preservation of such amenities as a treed environment could not reasonably contemplate the desertification of such a neighbourhood by wholesale tree felling to avoid the risk of damage. Such an approach it seems commended by the Claimant almost gives rise to strict liability"
[emphasis added].

The obstacles to the Claimant succeeding on her appeal, required her to show either (i) that the trial judge was wrong to find that Islington had in place a prudent regime of pruning or (ii) that Islington should have had a cyclical pruning policy thereby showing an alternative to wholesale removal or the 'desertification' the trial judge referred to. Had she overcome those hurdles, she would still have needed to persuade the Court of Appeal that the judge's findings on causation were incorrect.

The Claimant had pleaded that the Defendants had failed to 'pollard, crown or otherwise manage or control the growth' of the implicated trees. However, the evidence of her arboricultural expert, Mr Kelly (the co-author of a paper entitled "Tree related subsidence: Pruning is not the Answer"), as found by Lord Justice Tomlimson, "did not support the Claimant's pleaded case insofar as that alleged a failure properly to manage trees by pruning prior" [to the damage occurring]. The expert arboricultural evidence had not identified the implicated trees as posing a greater risk than others, or that they should have been subjected to a regime other than the one adopted, or indeed that pruning would have eliminated or minimised the risk in any event.

The Court of Appeal reiterated that a balance needed to be struck when assessing the reasonably foreseeable 'real risk' of damage and the inter- related enquiry of what it is reasonable to do in light of that risk. Ultimately, it may be reasonable to take no steps to eliminate an unlikely risk.

The Court of Appeal again highlighted that a further factor to be balanced in this process is the 'social utility' of the act which leads to the risk. Had the Claimant been correct, and that trees which were merely proximate rather than 'a real risk' needed to be felled, this would be to ignore the social and amenity value of trees.

What can be taken from this decision?

In this matter the Claimant's property is situated on a road in which there are 276 trees and approximately 300 properties. The properties are of

a similar age and similar distance from the trees and given the age of the properties, it was likely that the properties had shallow foundations. The difficulty for Islington was to assess which of the properties was likely to be damaged and whether there was 'a real risk' of damage being causes to a particular property by a particular tree.

The decision is of considerable importance to local authorities and housing associations managing their tree stocks. It confirms that simple proximity of a tree to a building does not elevate the risk of damage from being a potential to 'a real risk' of damage. An assessment needs to be made as to whether there is a 'real risk'. Factors that should be considered include whether there have been previous claims in the vicinity and any other factor that might mean that a tree poses 'a real risk'. The importance of frequent and severe pruning of trees identified as 'a real risk', prior to damage occurring, is again highlighted. However, where the reasonably foreseeable risk of damage is small, it is reasonable to match a pruning regime to the risk, and in some possible scenarios, not to maintain at all. The social benefit of 'a treed' environment was highlighted, in that it would not be reasonable to fell all trees that pose a risk (but not 'a real risk') to eliminate or minimise that risk.

Tree owners are advised to assess their stock and focus works on the trees assessed as posing 'a real risk'

Kal Sandhu of Clyde & Co acted on behalf of Islington in both the trial and the appeal. He was instructed by Zurich Municipal, who supported Islington's stance that the risk of damage was not reasonably foreseeable.

Appendix 5

Chalara - EATALOG toolkit for Local Authority Tree and Landscape Officers

Introduction

The Chalara action plan issued by the Government in March (www.defra.gov.uk) provides no specific guidance for Local Authorities regarding third party trees and trees covered by constraints. This will be contained in the next management plan due in March 2014.

The Government will work with public and private land owners to understand the potential health and safety implications of Chalara. by March 2014.

The Government will work with stakeholders to address the impact of Chalara on non-woodland sites. by March 2014.

The Government will develop the next version of the Chalara Management Plan for publication by March 2014. It will also provide an initial response to the independent Tree Health and Plant Biosecurity Expert Taskforce final report later in 2013.

The last time Tree and Landscape Officers had to deal with a tree disease on the same scale as Chalara was Dutch Elm. Although many of us did not have to deal with that outbreak we can learn from history. Although Chalara is not a major problem in the scheme of things the media interest, in a time of reducing resources will impact on Officer time.

The Dutch Elm problem showed that the Government concentrated on woodlands and large estates and then left the rest to Local Authorities to sort out.

With Elm being a strong tree when dead the problem of public safety was much reduced. Ash trees are a different problem and affected trees will have to be managed accordingly. Add this to the increased calls from the public due to the media interest and no extra resources for Officer time it was clear that a package to assist Officers was needed.

At an EATaLOG meeting it was decided that a “toolbox” for Officers would be a good idea to pool information

This toolbox has been put together to assist Tree and Landscape Officers deal with issues relating to Chalara.

It provides links to information for different groups and “tools” for proactive action. The reports and flyers are provided to be adapted by Officers for use in their own areas. The links to the information have been provided so that Officers can get the latest up to date information as it is changing all the time.

This Toolbox is not a “how to” but a practical resource for Officers.

Identification

The Forestry Commission has produced guides and a You Tube video to help identify Chalara, for more info: www.forestry.gov.uk/planthealth.

As someone who has personally seen it “in the wild” I would strongly advise that Officers visit infected sites to see it in the flesh as it is difficult to identify.

Main issues for consideration

Support

Officers are advised to write a report on the potential impacts of Chalara on the Local Authority with regards to resource and opportunities to gain support and understanding from senior management and members.

How to deal with infected trees?

This depends on where you are in the Country. Check the DEFRA Chalara action plan to see which area you are in and the suggested options for management.

Ash trees in the Eastern region should be managed with the assumption that they should be retained and as Chalara does not actually kill the tree then it is not a valid reason for removal if it is protected. For management advice keep up to date with the Forestry Commission website.

Impact on resources

Government will not make any resources available for Chalara management for Local Authorities unless evidence of the scale of the problem is made available.

There is an opportunity for Officers to involve Parish Councils in this and also assist the Authority in delivering the localism agenda. A survey flier is included in the Toolbox that can be sent to parishes to encourage them to survey the Ash trees in their area.

This information collected with the Officers own (not sure how to do this yet) can be used to apply for funds.

This approach will also raise awareness of Chalara with parishes so that they can be a point of contact for local people thus reducing calls to the Officer.

Public Safety

Under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 Local Authorities are under an obligation to manage the safety of its residents. This includes dangerous trees that are a risk to third party persons or property. A guide to the Miscellaneous Provisions Act is contained in the Toolbox with standard letters.

Information for: General Public

Basic Info for Council's own info sheets or newsletters/website

Ash Dieback (Chalara fraxinea)

Ash Dieback is a fungal pathogen specific to Ash trees (Fraxinus excelsior)

Ash dieback has infected and killed a large proportion of ash trees in Europe.

It was first discovered in the UK in nursery stock in 2009 and has recently been discovered in ash trees growing in woods and plantations especially in Eastern England. It is thought that the fungus spores have been carried on the wind from Europe to infect trees here.

It is unlikely that the disease can now be eradicated from Britain and it will ultimately infect most of our ash trees in a similar way to Dutch Elm Disease in the 1970's. There are hopes that perhaps some ash trees may show some form of resistance but this is largely aspirational.

Ash Dieback is now firmly established in North Norfolk and also in other local authority areas in East Anglia. Council officers are sharing information between authorities so that a well informed and consistent approach can be made in terms of managing the disease on publicly accessible land and also in the provision of advice to the public.

The Council has received many questions regarding Chalara:

Q1 How do I tell if I have infected ash trees?

The main symptoms are:

- Dead branches
- Blackening of leaves which often hang on the tree
- Discoloured stems often in a diamond shape where a leaf was attached
- Double check the symptoms at the website; www.forestry.gov.uk/chalara or report them to the helpline: 08459 335577.

Q2 What can the public do to help slow down the spread of Chalara

- If you see symptoms of the disease report them to the helpline
- If you walk in woodlands stick to the paths and clean your boots and dogs before you leave to remove any mud or leaves. Bike tyres should also be cleaned. Do not take away any leaf litter or wood.

Q3 I am a householder with affected leaves from a confirmed infected tree. What do I do?

- Leave them where they fall
- If you need to clear the leaves you should compost, bury or burn them in your garden. Do not remove compost made from infected leaves from your garden. Do not put infected leaves in your brown garden waste bin. If you burn the leaves please be considerate of your neighbours and do not cause nuisance from smoke.
- For more information: http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-92gjvb

Q4 Do infected mature trees have to be cut down?

- No. At present infected mature ash trees do not have to be cut down.
- If infected trees need to be cut down for safety or other reasons the wood branches and leaves should be disposed of on-site by composting or burning. If you burn the material please be considerate of your neighbours and do not cause nuisance from smoke. Where on-site disposal is not feasible please contact the council for further advice.
- Please check with the Council to check if there are any tree constraints effecting your property (tel 01263 516165).

Q5 How do landowners request permission to undertake tree works on ash trees that could be affected with Chalara fraxinea?

Any application should follow the existing established procedure for consenting to tree works as undertaken by the Council's Landscape Officer.

Q6 Where do I seek advice if I am concerned that trees on my land may be infected with Chalara fraxinea?

Owners should seek advice from a qualified arborist, unless it is considered that there may be an immediate risk to safety, then the Council's Landscape Officer should be contacted (Tel:).

Information on Forestry Commission website: http://www.forestry.gov.uk/chalara

Chalara dieback of ash (Chalara fraxinea)

Latest:

Report on potential impacts in Scotland

Biosecurity measures video

Description

Chalara dieback of ash is a serious disease of ash trees caused by a fungus called Chalara fraxinea (C. fraxinea), including its sexual stage, Hymenoscyphus pseudoalbidus (H. pseudoalbidus). The disease causes leaf loss and crown dieback in affected trees, and usually leads to tree death.

Outbreak stage

Ash trees suffering with C. fraxinea infection have been found widely across Europe since trees now believed to have been infected with this newly identified pathogen were reported dying in large numbers in Poland in 1992. These have included forest trees, trees in urban areas such as parks and gardens, and also young trees in nurseries.

In February 2012 it was found in a consignment of infected trees sent from a nursery in the Netherlands to a nursery in Buckinghamshire, England. Since then it has been found in a number and variety of locations in Great Britain, including urban landscaping schemes, newly planted woodland, and more nurseries.

In October 2012, Fera scientists confirmed a small number of cases in Norfolk and Suffolk in ash trees at sites in the wider natural environment, including established woodland, which do not appear to have any association with recently supplied nursery stock. Further similar finds have since been confirmed in Norfolk and Suffolk and in Kent, Essex and other counties. So far, though, the majority of such cases have been concentrated along the south-eastern seaboard of Great Britain, with a small number further north and west. (See map below)

C. fraxinea is now being treated as a quarantine pest under national emergency measures and any suspected sighting should be reported.

Hundreds of staff from government agencies checked ash trees across the UK for signs of the disease during early November. It was one of several actions to emerge from a meeting of the Government's emergency committee, COBR, which Environment Secretary Owen Paterson chaired in November 2012.

Plant health experts are also undertaking a survey of about a thousand sites which have received saplings (young trees) from nurseries where Chalara dieback has been found.

Distribution

Confirmed findings at 4 March 2013:

- Nursery sites - 19
- Recently planted sites - 202
- Wider environment,
  e.g. established woodland - 170
- Total: 391

Large size map

Symptoms

Video: Spotting winter symptoms (above)

Video: Year round symptoms

Symptoms picture guide

Pdf guide

Exotic pest alert which gives more information about the disease.

The Food & Environment Research Agency (Fera) has also produced this video presenting and explaining the main symptoms.

Managing infected trees

You are not required to take any particular action if you own infected ash trees, unless we or another plant health authority serves you with a statutory Plant Health Notice requiring specified actions. You should, however, keep an eye on the trees' safety as the disease progresses, and prune or fell them if they or their branches threaten to fall and cause injury or damage. You can also help to slow the spread of the disease to other ash trees in your area by, where practicable, collecting up and burning, burying or composting the fallen leaves, and by following our detailed advice and guidance.

Reporting suspected cases

If you think you have spotted the disease, please check our symptoms video and symptoms guide , and our guide to recognising ash trees, before using our Tree Alert form.

You can also download our free Tree Alert app to your smartphone or tablet.

We are very grateful for the many reports we have received from the public and partners. We are working through the reports, and are sorry that we might are not able to respond to each report individually. However, every one of them will be assessed, and for each report we will:

- prioritise action according to our existing knowledge of the disease's distribution; and
- decide it isn't Chalara dieback of ash; or
- ask for more information, which might include asking for photographs; or
- arrange for someone to do a further investigation on site.

The disease does not spread via spores from the fungus during the winter, so we have the time to carefully examine all the reports.

The disease

Government scientists have set out the most up-to-date understanding of the disease. Their assessment agreed with the earlier Pest Risk Analysis carried out in August, and concluded that:

- the spores are unlikely to survive for more than a few days;
- spore dispersal on the wind is possible from mainland Europe;
- trees need a high dose of spores to become infected;
- the spores are produced from infected dead leaves during the months of June to September;
- there is a low probability of dispersal on clothing or animals and birds;
- the disease will attack any species of ash;
- the disease becomes obvious in trees within months rather than years;
- wood products would not spread the disease if treated properly;
- once infected, trees can't be cured; and
- not all trees die of the infection, and some are likely to have genetic resistance.

Government scientists are working with their counterparts in other countries to learn from existing and emerging research and practical experience in combating the disease in countries which have had it for longer than the UK. They are also approaching companies with proposed treatment solutions for Chalara to rapidly evaluate their research to see whether they have potential for further testing and development.

A key scientific facts paper has been prepared by the expert group led by the Chief Scientific Adviser, Sir John Beddington.

Origins

Ash trees were first recorded dying in large numbers from what is now believed to be this newly identified form of ash dieback in Poland in 1992, and it spread rapidly to other European countries. However, it was 2006 before the fungus's asexual stage, C. fraxinea, was first "described" by scientists, and 2010 before its sexual stage, Hymenoscyphus pseudo-albidus, was described. It is believed to have entered Great Britain on plants for planting imported from nurseries in Continental Europe. However, now that we have found infected older trees in East Anglia, Kent and Essex with no apparent connection with plants supplied by nurseries, we are also investigating the possibility that it might have entered Britain by natural means. These include being carried on the wind or on birds coming across the North Sea and English Channel, or on items such as footwear, clothing or vehicles of people who had been in infected sites in Continental Europe.

Video: history of the pathogen.

Pest risk assessment and consultation

A Pest Risk Assessment (PRA) on C. fraxinea was published, and a formal consultation on its management held by Fera in September/October 2012.

Import and movement restrictions

A Plant Health Order 2012 (pdf) prohibits all imports of ash seeds, plants and trees into Great Britain, and all movement of ash seeds, plants and trees within Great Britain. This is to prevent further spread of the disease.

Explanation of the legislation

Advice on how the new legislation applies to the timber and firewood trades.

New requirements for statutory notification of imports of Fraxinus (Ash) - as well as Castanea (Sweet chestnut), Platanus (Plane) and Quercus (Oak) - came into effect on 17 January 2013.

Further information

Please first see our Questions and Answers brief (added below) or contact:

England and Wales
Chalara helpline: 08459 33 55 77 (8am - 6pm daily) or plant.health@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

Scotland
Forestry Commission Scotland: 0131 314 6156 (9am - 5pm weekdays + out-of-hours messaging system) or fcscotlandenquiries@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

Chalara dieback of ash - Questions and Answers

1. What exactly is it / Background?

   Chalara dieback of ash is a disease of ash trees (Fraxinus species) caused by an asexual fungal organism called Chalara fraxinea (C. fraxinea) and its sexual stage, Hymenoscyphus pseudoalbidus (H. pseudoalbidus). For ease of reference, Chalara fraxinea is used as the common term. The disease causes leaf loss and crown dieback in affected trees, and it usually leads to tree death. The C. fraxinea fungus has caused widespread damage to ash tree populations in continental Europe since it was first reported as an unknown new disease in Poland in 1992. It is especially destructive of common ash (Fraxinus excelsior), including its 'Pendula' ornamental variety. Narrow-leaved ash (Fraxinus angustifolia) is also susceptible. Chalara dieback of ash is particularly destructive of young ash plants, killing them within one growing season of symptoms becoming visible. Older trees can survive initial attacks, but tend to succumb eventually after several seasons of infection.

2. What is the situation in Great Britain?

   It was unknown in Great Britain until the first case was confirmed in ash plants in a nursery in Buckinghamshire early in 2012, in a consignment which had been imported from The Netherlands. Since then, more infected plants have been confirmed in nurseries in a wide range of locations in England and Scotland, and in recent plantings of young ash trees at a variety of sites supplied by nurseries, including a car park, newly planted woodland and a college campus. Our colleagues in Fera and the Scottish Government are continuing work to trace and inspect plants which had already been sold on to retail customers from the infected nursery consignments.

   In October and November 2012 infection was confirmed for the first time in the wider natural environment in longer-established situations, such as woodlands and hedgerows, in East Anglia, Essex and Kent. These trees appear to have had no recent connection with nursery supplied plants or imports of ash plants from mainland Europe, so we are investigating how the fungus got to these sites. Given their proximity to mainland Europe, we cannot rule out the possibility of some sort of natural introduction, such as wind-borne spores from mainland Europe, and we are investigating the likely consequences

   We are treating C. fraxinea as a 'quarantine' plant pathogen, which means that we may use emergency powers to contain or eradicate it when it is found. This is being done in the form of Statutory Plant Health Notices which are served on affected owners. In the case of nursery plants and recently planted young trees, we require the owners to contain the site, and we may require that infected plants be destroyed to prevent disease spread. Equivalent measures are being taken on land managed by the Forestry Commission, and this is the only available treatment to get rid of the disease.

   In the case of trees in established woodland and similar situations, where many of the affected trees are much larger, less accessible and in a mixture with other tree species, we require biosecurity measures to be taken to contain the infection on the site while we work to gain an overall national picture of the extent of the disease, and the likelihood that it will spread. Once we have completed that assessment, we will develop a Chalara control strategy.

   On 29 October 2012, following the publication of a Pest Risk Analysis and a consultation with the industry and affected parties, the UK Government passed emergency legislation restricting imports into and movements within Great Britain of imported ash plants, seeds and trees in a bid to prevent any more accidental introductions into and spread within Britain of the disease. Details of this legislation are available in this Questions and Answers document.

   Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland have introduced similar legislation.

3. What are the symptoms?

   See our Symptoms Guide and Pest Alert for a description and pictures of the symptoms.

4. What should I do if I think my ash trees have the disease?

If you think you have spotted the disease, please check our symptoms video and pictorial guide to symptoms before reporting it using our Tree Alert form.

5. How much of a threat is it to Britain's ash trees?

It is potentially a very serious threat. It has caused widespread damage to ash populations in continental Europe, including estimated losses of between 60 and 90 per cent of Denmark's ash trees. We have no reason to believe that the consequences of its entering the natural environment in Britain would be any less serious. Experience on the Continent indicates that it kills young ash trees very quickly, while older trees tend to resist it for some time until prolonged exposure causes them to succumb as well.

6. How is it spread?

Local spread, up to some tens of miles, may be via wind. Over longer distances the risk of disease spread is most likely to be through the movement of diseased ash plants. Movement of logs or unsawn wood from infected trees might also be a pathway for the disease, although this is considered to be a low risk.

7. How did it get into Britain?

The first interception of diseased ash plants found in a Buckinghamshire nursery had entered Britain in a shipment of plants for planting from a supplier in the Netherlands, who had obtained them from a nursery in Belgium. Many of the other interceptions of infected plants had come from suppliers in mainland Europe. The discovery in October and November 2012 of infected trees in established woodlands near the south-east coast of England raises the possibility that a natural introduction of the fungus might have occurred, such as spores borne by the wind from mainland Europe across the North Sea and English Channel.

8. What other countries have Chalara fraxinea?

According to the European Plant Protection Organization (EPPO), Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Slovenia and Sweden have confirmed its presence. On the basis of symptoms, the disease has also been observed in Denmark, Estonia, Latvia and Switzerland.

9. How were diseased ash plants allowed to enter Britain? What regulatory protection measures were in place to stop it coming in?

C. fraxinea is not a "regulated" plant disease in European Union plant health law, which means that ash plants moved between Member States are not subject to inspection. EU legislation allows Member States to take national measures to prevent the entry and spread of pests and diseases not found on their territory, and the UK introduced such legislation for Great Britain on 29 October 2012. Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland have similar legislation.

10. What are you doing to deal with the current known introductions?

Fera and Scottish Government inspectors have been following up plants involved with the different interceptions, requiring destruction of associated plants. A multi-agency, cross-border Outbreak Management Team has been formed, including representatives from all five countries in the British Isles. Forestry Commission staff have been redeployed from usual duties to survey the British countryside for signs of the disease, and a strategy to deal with it is being developed as research information and information about its extent is obtained and analysed.

11. Will you be able to eradicate it?

Where the disease is established it will be impossible to eradicate, but we are giving ourselves the best prospects by responding promptly to findings. We need to determine the extent to which the organism is present and whether it is established, which is why we encourage all those with an interest in trees and woodland to work with us to report any suspected findings.

12. Why did FC/Fera not act before now?

This has been an evolving situation. The organism which was at one time thought to be causing this disease has been present in Great Britain since the 1800s and is already widespread, so legislative action against it would not have been appropriate. But with better scientific techniques we now know that a different organism is responsible. The origins of this organism are not known.

13. Why is this organism not regulated at EU level?

The disease is already established in much of eastern and northern Europe, so action across the EU is not realistic. However, parts of the UK which remain free of the disease can be considered for "protected zone" status, which would introduce requirements for ash plants being moved into the UK to come from a designated "pest-free area" for C. fraxinea. This could be the next step after having introduced national legislation on this issue. No such pest-free areas have yet been designated in any country.

14. Why can't we grow our own ash trees here instead of importing them?

We can and do grow our own trees, and people have the option to specify British-grown trees and plants if they wish. We strongly advise tree and plant buyers to be very careful to specify healthy stock from reputable suppliers, to practise good plant hygiene and biosecurity in their own gardens and woodlands etc to prevent accidental spread of plant diseases, and to report any plant diseases. Buyers should also be aware that seed gathered from British trees is sometimes sent to nurseries in continental Europe to be cultivated before being reimported as seedlings.

15. I own or manage ash trees - how can I help?

There are several things you can do to help us get this disease under control.

a. Be vigilant – Chalara dieback could appear in ash trees anywhere in Britain. Early action is essential if we are to eradicate this disease from Britain before it becomes established. We therefore urge you to inspect frequently any ash trees in your care, and especially any which have been planted during the past five or so years. Make yourself familiar with the symptoms of Chalara dieback from the materials here. There are other causes of ash dieback, so it is important to distinguish them from Chalara dieback. However, if in doubt, report it.

b. Report it - Report suspicious symptoms to us or Fera - see Question 3 for details of where to report them.

c. Buy with care – Be careful when buying plants to buy only from reputable suppliers, and specify disease-free stock. A list of countries where C. fraxinea is known to be present is at Question 7.

d. Be diligent - Practise good plant hygiene and biosecurity in your own gardens and woodlands etc to prevent accidental spread of plant diseases. See our biosecurity advice for guidance on basic hygiene and biosecurity measures which you can take.

e. Keep up to date – Check our website regularly for updates on developments. 'Follow' our Tree Pest News account on Twitter at www.twitter.com/treepestnews to receive rapid intelligence of new developments, delivered by text or email.

Information about a wide range of other tree pests and diseases can be accessed via our Tree pests and diseases page.

16. I have a woodland planting grant or felling-licence agreement with the Forestry Commission to plant ash trees this season. If I do not wish to take the risk of losing the ash trees to Chalara dieback, may I plant another species instead?

Now that movements of ash plants are prohibited, it is not possible to plant ash seedlings which are not already on the site. We are operating a flexible approach for those customers with existing grant or licence agreements which specify ash as a planting species, but it is essential that owners discuss the situation with their local Forestry Commission woodland officer before planting alternatives.

Further information about felling licences and how to obtain them is available on the following pages:

England

Wales

Scotland

17. What species can I plant instead?

Species choice should be guided by management objectives and site conditions, and the decision tool Ecological Site Classification ESC3 is the key tool to help review options which are likely to be sustainable in the future climate.

Detailed guidance on species choice in native broadleaved woodland can be found in Harmer, R., Kerr, G. and Thompson, R. 2010 Managing Native Broadleaved Woodland, from The Stationery Office, Edinburgh.

There is a wide range of alternatives species for sites with brown-earth soils, including aspen, beech, birch, field maple, hornbeam, oak, lime, rowan, sweet chestnut and sycamore.

The species range is more restricted for calcareous soils, particularly shallow ones, and includes beech, birch, field maple, hawthorn, holly, lime, rowan, whitebeam and yew.

Alder, aspen, willows and oaks are possible alternatives on moist to wet soils.

On sites where there are few restraints, non-native species can also be considered, and guidance can be found in the tree species information on the Forest Research website and links therein.

Some of the alternative species to ash, such as beech, sycamore and Norway maple, are particularly susceptible to bark stripping by grey squirrels.

There is a wider range of species to choose from for the urban environment, and the Right Tree for a Changing Climate website provides information on more than 300 species.

18. What advice do you have for the trade?

Be careful about the sourcing of, and the specification for, your plants. (See question 7 for countries where C. fraxinea is present.) Keep good records of any imported stock, remain vigilant, inspect any recent plantings of ash, and report any suspicious signs to Fera or the Forestry Commission – see Question 3.

19. What advice do you have for the public?

We welcome reports of ash with Chalara dieback symptoms. We do ask that you take care first to ensure that the infected tree really is an ash, because they can look very similar to rowan trees (Sorbus aucuparia), which do not get the disease. (To add to the confusion, rowan trees are sometimes called mountain ash.)

Please also take care to ensure that the symptoms you report are Chalara dieback symptoms, and not the symptoms of some other, less-serious form of dieback or disease of ash tree. You can familiarise yourself with the symptoms with our guide, symptoms pdf and this video.

You should also follow the ‘biosecurity’ advice on any signs at affected sites, to avoid accidentally spreading the disease on your boots, clothes, bicycle wheels etc.

20. What does a Plant Health Notice involve?

Owners of any recently planted ash plants which are found to be infected, or infected ash plants in nurseries or garden centres, can be served with statutory Plant Health Notices requiring them to destroy the plants, either by burning or deep burial on site, or to take steps to contain the disease on site.

All ash plants in a new-planting site will initially be contained on the planting site, using biosecurity measures to prevent the disease spreading. We may require that all ash plants on the site are destroyed to prevent the disease spreading, regardless of whether they express symptoms of the disease. This is because experience with other plant diseases shows that we must presume that asymptomatic plants in close proximity to symptomatic plants are almost certainly infected, but are not yet showing symptoms.

In an established woodland or similar site, the Plant Health Notice will require movement restrictions and biosecurity measures to prevent the disease being spread from the site while we consider our disease control strategy.

21 Is there any compensation available for people who have to destroy ash plants under a Plant Health Notice?

Unfortunately we are unable to offer compensation for plants destroyed to comply with a Plant Health Notice. It is felt that the available resources are best used for surveillance, research and eradication work. Plants are therefore purchased and planted at buyers' risk, and any questions about recompense would be between the customer and supplier of the plants involved.

22. Can the timber from infected ash trees still be used?

The implications for growers of ash for the timber trade would be significant if the disease were to become established in Britain. The timber in infected trees might still be usable for some purposes, although staining by the fungus might limit the range of end uses. However, it is not currently possible to move ash material out of confirmed infected woodlands or other sites which have been served with a Statutory Plant Health Notice. See our separate Questions and Answers about the details of the legislation imposing movement restrictions on ash material.

23. How many ash trees are there in Britain?

Common ash (Fraxinus excelsior) is the third most common native broadleaved tree species in Great Britain after oak and birch. The National Forest Inventory interim report 'Preliminary estimates of quantities of broadleaved species in British woodlands', published in December 2012, estimates that ash trees in woodlands greater than 0.5 hectares (1.25 acres) cover about 142 thousand hectares in Great Britain. It also estimates there are approximately 126 million live ash trees in woods greater than half a hectare. The report is available in the National Forest Inventory pages of this website.

In addition, the complementary Countryside Survey Report estimates there are 38,500 hectares of ash trees in woodland smaller than 0.5 hectares, and that there are approximately 2.2 million individual ash trees outside woodland.

24. What is the distribution of ash trees?

Common ash is a deciduous, broadleaf species native to much of continental Europe and the British Isles, and a map of its European distribution is available on the pest alert.

This map of ash distribution shows its distribution in Great Britain, and indicates those managed by the Forestry Commission and those belonging to other owners. (Note that this map does NOT show where Chalara dieback has been found.)

25. How important are ash trees in Britain? What are their benefits?

Ash is a common component of many native woods and makes an important contribution to biodiversity and wildlife habitat. It is popular for landscaping urban facilities such as car parks. It is grown commercially for its dense, strong but elastic, easily worked hardwood, which was traditionally and commonly used for making tool handles and furniture. Usage has declined in these markets due to the advent of other materials, but the good-quality timber is still sought after for flooring and high-end, bespoke uses. It also makes excellent firewood, smoking wood and barbecue charcoal.

26. Where can I find more information?

There is further information about Chalara fraxinea on the EPPO website

Appendix 6

Example of Newsletter from The Ancient Tree Forum - Sept 2013

No. 17 ANCIENT TRE(E-News) –the newsletter of Sep 2013 THE ANCIENT TREE FORUM

Welcome to the latest issue of the E-newsletter of the Ancient Tree Forum Cumbria June 2012 Annual Forum at Levens Deer Park

ATF at The Arb Fair – Cirencester Park June 2012

1 A sad story

From The Board – Events

Advance notice

The ATF Summer 2014 Forum 12th and 13th June will be held in Scotland.

ATF Autumn Field Meeting 10th October 2013

St George's (Byrkley) Park, Needwood, Staffs

Set in the National Forest, in 330 acres of beautifully landscaped parkland, St George's Park is the training base for the 24 England football teams. In August 2001 the Football Association put in a planning application to develop Byrkley Park as their national training centre. Our plan is to visit this prestigious site to see how the development has integrated within the site and to discuss the parkland management of the important ancient and other veteran trees in the parkland.

In the afternoon if there is time will visit Staffordshire Wildlife Trust's Brankley Pasture. This is a very special wood pasture with ancient and other veteran trees just to the south of St. George's Park.

Board meeting – Friday 11th October

On Friday the 11th October 2013 the Ancient Tree Forum holds its next Board Meeting in Burton on Trent. In the second session, commencing mid-morning, the Board of Directors of The Ancient Tree Forum will be discussing progress made with the VETree Project following our successful bid for European Funding under the Leonardo scheme. You will learn more about our thoughts for the future of the ATF and how our bid for funding a Project Development Officer post is progressing. We would be pleased for supporters of The Ancient Tree Forum to come along and hear about these exciting developments.

When finalised, details of these events will appear of the ATF website events page – www.ancient-tree-forum.org.uk.

To request booking forms, please e-mail EventsATF@aol.com

Because of constraints of space at Board Meetings, we ask that you indicate that you wish to attend by booking, using the same form as for the field visit on the previous day.

NEW HANDBOOK PUBLISHED

The Ancient Tree Forum is delighted to announce the publication of its new handbook.

Ancient and other veteran trees: further guidance on management, David Lonsdale (Editor).

This 212- page handbook from the Ancient Tree Forum brings together the collective wisdom on the management of ancient and veteran trees for the benefit of owners, advisers and practitioners. It is a new, updated standard for the care and management of ancient and other veteran trees, which will serve those who own and manage old trees for decades to come. The book recognises that, alongside the appreciation of old trees, there are responsibilities for their continuity, protection and care.

Order your copy now at £30 from www.treecouncil.org.uk/shop-donate?page=shop.browse&category_id=1

Byrkley Park – the venue of our autumn field meeting

ATF Spring Field Meeting 13th March 2014

Maesllwch Castle/Cwm Byddog near Hay on Wye

Maesllwch Castle and surrounding Grade II* historic parkland is owned by Mr de Winton. The large park with its big old trees forms the setting for the grand mid-19th-century mock castle, set on a terrace above the River Wye with views to the Black Mountains.

Cwm Byddog nature reserve is a small wooded dingle managed by Radnorshire Wildlife Trust.

The main interest is a cluster of lapsed pollards, several ancient, mainly oak but including an ash and an alder. Oak polypore has been found on the largest tree which has a girth of over 6.3metres.

Maesllwch Castle

Filming for the VETree Project

The VETree Project

Spreading best practice in veteran tree management

The VETree project is making good progress and we have been working on the outlines for both courses and are now tackling the content of the basic level course. We also have decided on the contractors for making the videos that will be used in the courses and also placed on the website and have a meeting planned with them on 13th May to discuss the videos in more detail. The one day basic level courses will be trialled in Belgium and Romania this autumn but we have arranged for a very similar course in the UK on 8th October (officially outside of the project) with bookings handled by CIEEM (see their webpage www.cieem.net to book places). The three day advanced level courses are currently planned to take place in Spain (April 2014), Sweden (May 2014) and the UK (September 2014). The VETree website is up and running (www.vetree.eu). Sadly the person responsible for the content is currently in ill health and so it does not have much information on yet, but we hope this will be rectified soon. For any further information about the project contact Helen (helen.read@ancienttreeforum.co.uk).

1 Royal Forestry Society: RFS calls for swift implementation for all tree health report recommendations and welcomes sweet chestnut import ban.

The RFS has welcomed both a comprehensive report from the Expert Taskforce on Tree Health and Plant Biosecurity and Defra's call to the EU to ban sweet chestnut imports from areas where sweet chestnut blight is prevalent.

The RFS praises a pledge from Environment Secretary Owen Paterson to start work on the report's recommendations to improve procedures to predict, monitor and control pests and diseases, improve biosecurity measures, and communicate relevant information to woodland owners in a more timely way. And it calls for all other recommendations in the report to be implemented in full and swiftly.

The Expert Taskforce was set up last year by the Environment Secretary in the wake of the spread of ash dieback (Chalara fraxinea) in the UK to consider and address the current and possible future threats to tree health.

RFS Development Director Simon Lloyd said: "The Taskforce's recommendations will, if implemented in full and with speed, significantly reduce the risk of a repeat of the experience with Chalara and build confidence that we have learned the lessons from this and other diseases that have arrived in the UK from overseas.

"In addition, the Government's call to the EU to ban imports from areas affected by sweet chestnut blight shows that tree health is now, and not before time, in the forefront of Government thinking. In making the call before the start of the next planting season any ban will help protect our native stocks from the potential spread of another disease, and will, we hope, set a precedent for future disease alerts "It is encouraging that the Government is putting plant health on the same level of importance as animal disease."

The Taskforce comprises academics whose specialism is plant health, chaired by Professor Chris Gilligan of the University of Cambridge. The Taskforce key recommendations are:

- Develop a UK Plant Health Risk Register;
- Appoint a Chief Plant Health Officer to look after the Plant Health Risk Register;
- Develop and implement procedures to predict, monitor, and control the spread of pests and diseases;
- Review, simplify, and strengthen governance and legislation;
- Improve the use of intelligence from EU/other regions and work to improve the EU regulations concerned with tree health and plant biosecurity;
- Strengthen biosecurity to reduce risks at the border and within the UK;
- Develop a modern, user-friendly system to provide quick and intelligent access to data about tree health and plant biosecurity; and - Address key skills shortages.

2 FERA & FC jointly published update to Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) for Chalara fraxinea for the UK & ROI

Chalara fraxinea (Chalara ash dieback) is a damaging organism of certain species of Fraxinus (ash), including F. excelsior, which is the third most common broadleaved species in the UK. As C. fraxinea represents a substantial threat to the UK's forests, Forest Research prepared a risk assessment, which described the nature and extent of that threat and possible risk management measures. The risk assessment was subsequently published for consultation on the Fera website with comments invited by the end of October 2012.

Following a review of the responses received to the consultation and of subsequent developments in our understanding of the organism, an updated, more comprehensive PRA is now available and can be accessed via the following link:

Chalara fraxinea (Chalara ash dieback) revised PRA

A further update appeared in August to their Rapid Risk Assessment document.

3 The Tree Hunter's website

The Tree Hunter's website and blog can be found at: www.thetreehunter.tumblr.com and www.thetreehunter.com

4 Melbourne's Exceptional Tree Register
www.theage.domain.com.au/singular-tree-given-exceptional-status-20130617-2oekq.html

I like the title of this scheme in Oz. And I like the scheme "Any proposal that has the potential to harm a tree on the new Exceptional Tree Register will now require a planning permit." Just exactly what we have been calling for, that is: community identifies important trees, and if appropriate, they are put on a register and then a Section 211 (as operates in Conservation Areas) applies – notification for works needs a permit (or could be like a Felling Licence approval). Well done Melbourne!

5 160-year-old Gua tree recognized as Vietnam heritage

The Vietnam Association for Preservation of Nature and Environment has recognized the Gua tree of nearly 160 years old in Can Tho city, as the heritage tree of Vietnam. Great news....shame UK is so bad!
www.english.vietnamnet.vn/fms/environment/77006/160-year-old-gua-tree-recognized-as-vietnamheritage.html

6 Junipers at Risk

In the depths of the caves of Altamira in North Spain, archaeologists have found traces of juniper and it seems like it was a favourite of our ice age ancestors. It is a shame that our ancient juniper forests might be threatened and now lost.

Photo: Daily Telegraph
www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/earthnews/10130525/Juniper-tree-disease-threatens-GandT.html

7 Time to tackle ivy infestations that strangle trees?

An interesting, and perhaps controversial, letter to the Telegraph, go to: www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/letters/10130745/Time-to-tackle-ivy-infestations-that-strangletrees.html

8 The Conservation Value of Traditional Rural Landscapes:

The Case of Woodpeckers in Transylvania, Romania

Full paper here: www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0065236

(Our italics /bold in the abstract below)

Land use change is a major threat to global biodiversity. Forest species face the dual threats of deforestation and intensification of forest management. In regions where forests are under threat, rural landscapes that retain structural components of mature forests potentially provide valuable additional habitat for some forest species. Here, we illustrate the habitat value of traditional wood pastures for a woodpecker assemblage of six species in southern Transylvania, Romania. Wood pastures are created by long-term stable silvo-pastoral management practices, and are composed of open grassland with scattered large, old trees. Because of their demanding habitat requirements, woodpeckers share habitat with many other bird species, and have been considered as possible indicator species for bird species diversity. We first compared woodpecker

assemblages between forests and wood pastures. Second, we grouped features of wood pastures into three spatial contexts and addressed how these features related to the occurrence of three woodpecker species that are formally protected. Woodpecker species composition, but not the number of species, differed between forests and wood pastures, with the green woodpecker occurring more commonly in wood pastures, and the lesser spotted woodpecker more commonly in forests. Within wood pastures, the intermediate context (especially surrounding forest cover) best explained the presence of the grey-headed and middle spotted woodpecker. By contrast, variables describing local vegetation structure and characteristics of the surrounding landscape did not affect woodpecker occurrence in wood pastures. In contrast to many other parts of Europe, in which several species of woodpeckers have declined, the traditional rural landscape of Transylvania continues to provide habitat for several woodpecker species, both in forests and wood pastures. Given the apparent habitat value of wood pastures for woodpeckers we recommend wood pastures be explicitly considered in relevant policies of the European Union, namely the Habitats Directive and the EU Common Agricultural Policy.

Citation: Dorresteijn I, Hartel T, Hanspach J, von Wehrden H, Fischer J (2013) The Conservation Value of Traditional Rural Landscapes: The Case of Woodpeckers in Transylvania, Romania. PLoS ONE 8(6): e65236.

doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0065236

9 ITV Wales News films Pontfadog Oak.

Rob McBride –aka The Tree Hunter, reports: “They were great and I gave them my idea for the new champion oak tree of Wales”

Please visit here to see Rob’s blog.
www.thetreehunter.tumblr.com

10 Old rural parks can provide important refuges for forest biodiversity
www.ec.europa.eu/environment/integration/research/newsalert/pdf/334na3.pdf

We know this:

“In parks, however, many old deciduous trees remain, which are essential for much woodland diversity. Changes in management to reduce clearing of dead wood in parks would increase their dead wood score.

Overall, the researchers conclude that park woodland needs to be recognised not only for its cultural value, but also for its important role in providing habitat for declining forest species.” Good to have European evidence of this to back up the case, although Jill thinks they are misguided.

She says: “The Parks are the host site and not just refuges for modern forests. Completely the wrong way round....”.

11 Tree disease research published

The City of London Corporation is taking proactive steps to help effectively manage the threats to London’s trees. They commissioned a special interest paper that was written on ‘Tree Diseases in London: the economic, social and environmental impact’ see link at www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/business/economic-research-and-information/researchpublications/Pages/Tree-diseases-in-London.aspx?utm_source=website+blog&utm_medium=Blog&utm_campaign=Trees+video+blog

12 Call for papers for Trees, People and the Built Environment

II - conference next April:
www.charteredforesters.org/resources/multimedia/news-and-features/item/147-trees-people-andthe-built-environment-ii/

Well worth thinking if there is anyone who would like to represent ATF and/or submit a paper?

13 4 Million Euros for combating tree disease on precious old pollards in Europe!

Vikki Bengtsson reports of a project that will be working with ash dieback researchers at the Swedish Agricultural University both in relation to DED, but also with regard to identifying ash trees which may have resistance. One of the project actions is to produce a database of apparently symptom free ash trees.

Gotland in Sweden have been granted over 4 million Euros from the EU for a LIFE project to try and combat Dutch Elm Disease. This is a fantastic boost for nature conservation given that Gotland is home to some 200 000 old pollards most of which are ash and elm. Fantastic news!

Karin Wågström and Gunilla Oleskog are the project managers www.ec.europa.eu/environment/life/project/Projects/index.cfm?fuseaction=search.dspPage&n_proj_id=4596 - PD

14 Three courses

The National Trust at Hatfield Forest are running three courses, The Biology of Decay in Trees, Veteranisation and Veteran Tree Management. Flyers are attached to the end of this newsletterl sit

15 Oaken Wood falls under Government's axe

Following the public enquiry into Oaken Wood we have received the devastating news that Eric Pickles, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, has approved the planning application for a quarry extension into Oaken Wood near Maidstone. This means 32 hectares of ancient woodland we fought for in a 2-year campaign, has been consigned to destruction, in one of the UK's largest losses of ancient woodland in the last five years. This outcome is being seen as the first real test of whether the Government's recent planning reforms offer sufficient protection to ancient woodland and could define the level of protection given to ancient woods in all future planning decisions across England. www.woodlandtrust.presscentre.com/News-Releases/Ancient-woodland-falls-under-Government-saxe-in-first-real-test-of-new-planning-rules-ed1.aspx

16 Oak Workshop to be held in South Spain

"Oak forests coping with global change: Ecology and management" Baeza, Spain September 30th -

October 2nd 2013 Information and registration at www.unia.es/content/view/798/537/

17 'The British Oak' By Archie Miles Published

See a note about this here www.wyevalleyaonb.org.uk/index.php/events/view/the-british-oak-by-archiemiles

18 Treework Environmental Practice and Laverstoke Park

Laboratories launch Partnership

Leading Arboricultural Consultancy, Treework Environmental Practice and Laverstoke Park Laboratories have launched a partnership called Soil-is-Key with the aim of improving the health of trees through deeper understanding of the soil that they depend on. For more information visit the Soil-is-Key page at: www.treeworks.co.uk/treework_laverstoke_park_project.php

19 Project Award

www.woodlandtrust.presscentre.com/News-Releases/Project-to-enable-early-tree-disease-IDawarded-1-1m-EU-funding-f36.aspx

20 Venerable Trees: The lives of Ancient Trees in the Kentucky

Bluegrass
www.facebook.com/#!/events/420439191401917/

Sadly though look at the horse damage to the trees – one dead and one in steep decline (plus others in the background).....

21 Fungi for forest ecologists: 8th October

A one day workshop in Wytham Woods (Oxford) for forest ecology research professionals, postgraduate students or other interested parties to increase their understanding of the roles of fungi in forest ecosystems.

The day will consist of a combination of classroom and field based activities within Wytham Woods, focussing on saprotrophic and mycorrhizal fungi and their roles in forest ecology. Sessions will be lead by Prof Lynne Boddy (Cardiff University), Dr Andy Taylor (James Hutton Institute) and Dr Martha Crockatt (event organiser; Earthwatch). The event is sponsored by the British Ecological Society.

Costs are £50 (£30 students), plus a booking fee.

Please contact mcrockatt@earthwatch.org.uk

22 Chalara

A further case of the tree disease Chalara, also known as ash dieback, has been confirmed in woodland in Dorset, near Dorchester.

Dorset is the 13th county in England where Chalara has been discovered in the wider environment (forests and woodland); the other counties are Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, Cambridgeshire, Kent, Surrey, West Sussex, East Sussex, Devon, Lincolnshire, Yorkshire and Northumberland.

23 Deadwood

Here's a nice example of deadwood management and sensible risk assessments - features being integrated into the fantastic design of a kids play area in Kimberley Park in Falmouth. Contractors were Earth Wrights Ltd .

24 American Forests

American Forests are just like WT: American Forests, the oldest national nonprofit conservation organization in the country, advocates for the protection and expansion of America's forests. But they run the Champion Tree Programme – Trobi does that in the British Isles. www.americanforests.org/blog/the-importance-of-big-old-trees/

25 Parco dell'Etna and Ancient Tree Forum

The ATF has signed a memorandum of Understanding with Parco dell'Etna who, in collaboration with the University of Catania and other entities, is putting together a very interesting LIFE project that aims to improve the conservation of large trees and mature forests in the protected area, including but not limited to the oak trees on Mt. Egitto.
www.parks.it/parco.etna/Eindex.php

26 Cynefin: Mapping Wales' and Discovering Swansea & Gower's Ancient Woodland"

"Cynefin: Mapping Wales' Sense Of Place" is a pan-Wales HLF project by Archives and Records Council Wales (ARCW) which aims to digitise all the tithe maps of Wales. "Discovering Swansea & Gower's Ancient Woodland" is a local extension of this project, and will be divided into 2 main elements:

- Desk based comparison of the newly digitised tithe maps with existing ancient woodland map data, aerial photos and old OS maps – winter 2013
- Ground survey verification of the current health and extent of ancient woodland (recording ancient woodland features, indicator species and ancient/ veteran trees) – spring 2014

27 Vancouver's Tree

Following the reporting of the demise of the Pontfadog Oak in Toronto's Globe & Mail this story came in.

We had a crisis here in Vancouver with our own millennium-old tree. The 'Hollow Tree' is the name given to an ancient Western Red Cedar in Stanley Park, once a leading tourism attraction. It stopped growing in the late 19th century and nearly fell over in 2008. When municipal officials decided to take it down, a number of us private citizens stepped in. We convinced the authorities to give the tree a stay of execution, and then we were left with the task of conserving it and paying for it -- which we did. An article in the bulletin (Vol XLII, No4 2011) of the Association for Preservation Technology tells the story of both the advocacy and technical conservation (and fundraising) stages.

The ATF at Knepp – June 2013

This is an occasional publication disseminating information, as a Forum should. At the moment it is sent just to those who have registered their e-mail address on our website. Please forward to anyone you think might be interested and ask them to sign up.

The aim is to include information on courses, policy, consultation, research, management, training and professional development, work experience, funding and grants etc - as well as bits about ATF groups, events, topics on the Forum and maybe even communications from the ATF board!

It is intended to be a way to reach particularly those professionally involved with ancient trees and those lucky enough to own them, as well as enthusiasts.

Very much more information is to be found on our website at www.ancient-tree-forum.org.uk, where you can also subscribe and receive this automatically alternatively just e mail ATFNews@aol.com with "Subscribe" in the subject line. If you wish no longer to receive this newsletter, please e mail

ATFNews@aol.com with "Unsubscribe" in the subject line.

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ANCIENT TRE(E-News) is circulated to over 1000 individuals

If you have any important news, send it in and we will try to include it ATFNews@aol.com

Remember, the Ancient Tree Forum is also on Facebook
www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100001041494565#!/pages/Ancient-Tree-Forum/123146591083583

We have a weekly reach of over 1600 on Facebook with 1000 "likes", 600 of those from overseas and it is right up to date with news items and images

And don't forget to go to the ATH webpage to record trees that you have 'found' recently or to find out about and visit trees that may be nearby
www.ancient-tree-hunt.org.uk

New blogs are being added to our website as well.

Appendix 7

Tree Contractors commissioned to work on land owned by Braintree District Council in 2015-16

1. Bartlett's Tree Experts
   Writtle Park Farm, Writtle Park Drive
   Edney Common, Highwood, Chelmsford
   CM1 3QF
   01245 248033 (01707 649018 for Consultancy)

2. Colne Valley Tree Care
   David Whiting, Highfields,
   Earls Colne, Colchester,
   CO6 2JT
   07850334473

3. RBS Tree Surgery Ltd
   Rick Sprunt
   The Willow
   Rectory Road
   Copford Green
   CO6 1DH

   Tel: 01206 211184
   Mobile: 07771 691159
   Email: rbstreesurgery@aol.com

4. TJS Tree Services Ltd.
   01522 805109
   Mobile 07774433679
   Email tomjs@live.co.uk

5. Treetop Services (Essex Tree Surgeons) Ltd
   Sam Blackwell
   Gatehouse Farm
   Coggeshall Road
   Earls Colne Colchester
   Essex CO6 2JZ
   Tel: 01787 221870
   Info@treetopservices.net

Appendix 8

Guideline Distances Between Trees and Properties on a New Development

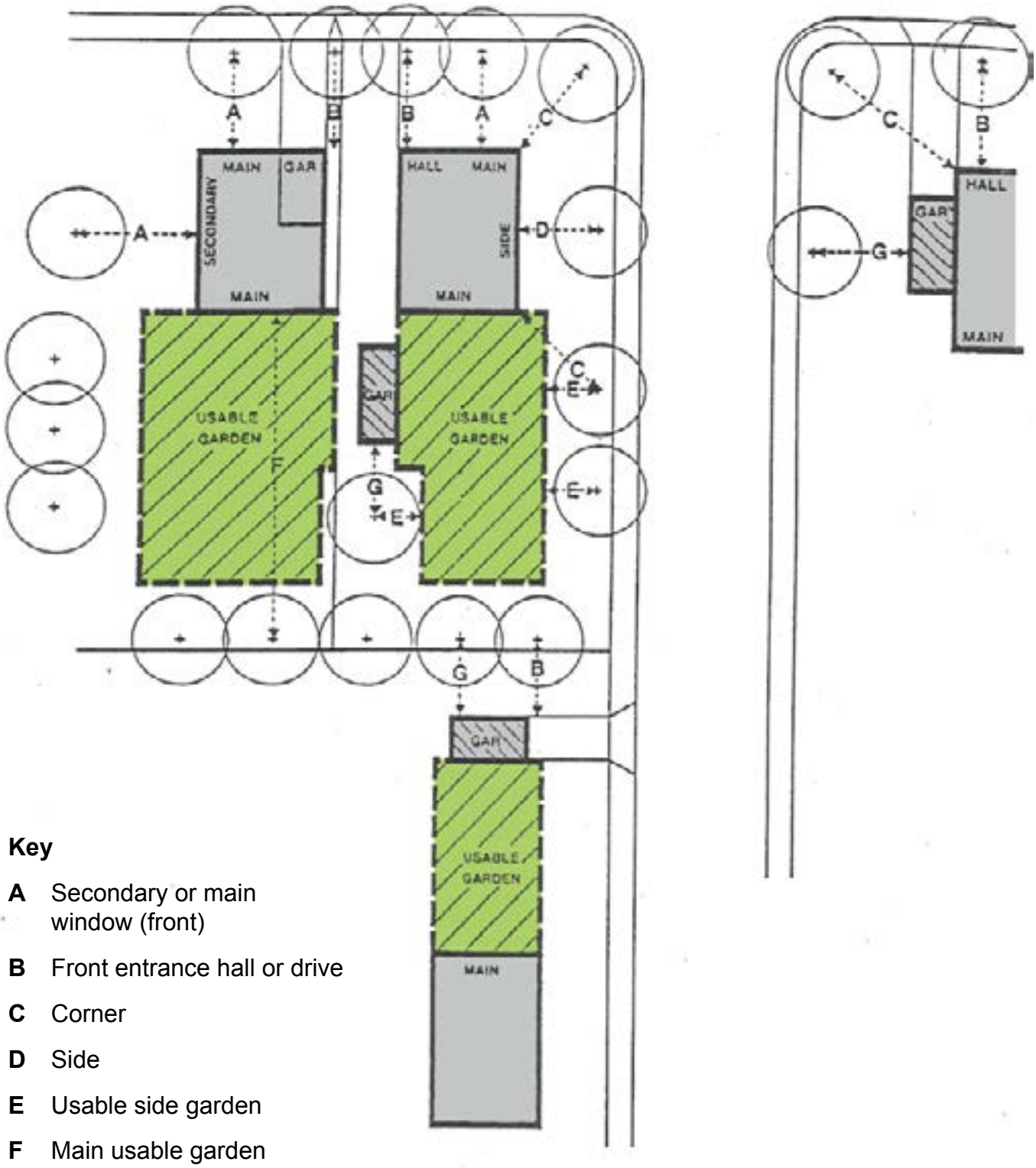
(abridged from a guidance document prepared by Leeds City Council rev. March 2011)

The Dimensions Drawing (Figure below) provides information on the possible location for trees on a development with the various distances labelled with letters - A, B, C – etc. These locations are cross-referenced to the Dimensions Table which gives actual dimensions for the minimum distances in each situation. The distances are measured from the centre of the trunk and at right angles to the dwelling or garage

The distance dimensions are suggested for both existing and proposed new planting, to allow growth to maturity without conflicting with the perceived amenity of the householders or inducing anxiety because of their growing proximity; the distances will vary for different species depending on the size, canopy shape and density of foliage; variation in light and shade, the nature of the root system and specific water demands of different species of trees.

These distances are for guidance only; these may need to be adjusted on the particular circumstances; for example trees to the south side of a building may cause issues around shading and the recommended distances may need to be increased depending on the local topography. The tree heights and spreads shown in the Dimensions Table are typical dimensions for these trees as they are found in East Anglia but local conditions will always influence and limit the size of these trees at maturity.

Dimensions Drawing



Key

A Secondary or main window (front)

B Front entrance hall or drive

C Corner

D Side

E Usable side garden

F Main usable garden

G Garage

Dimensions Table **Recommended Minimum Distances of Built Development to Trees** (all dimensions in metres)											
Botanical Name	**Common Name**	Height	Spread	Front: Main	Front: Hall	Corner	Side	Usable Side	Main Garden	Garage	Ultimate Size Category S = Small M= Medium L = Large VL= Very Large
Reference key as used on distances to trees plan (Dimensions Drawing)				**A**	**B**	**C**	**D**	**E**	**F**	**G**	
Acer campestre	Field Maple	12	8	8	8	5	6	4	14	4	S-M
Acer capillipes	Red Snake bark Maple	10	6	6	5	4	5	3	12	4	S-M
Acer cappadocicum	Cappadocian Maple	15	8	10	6	5	6	4	14	5	M-L
Acer davidii	Pere David's Maple	10	7	7	5	4	5	3	12	4	S-M
Acer ginnala	Amur Maple	6	4	5	4	3	4	3	12	3	S
Acer griseum	Paper-bark Maple	8	R	R	R	R	R	3	12	3	S
Acer hersii	Hers' Maple	10	7	7	5	4	5	3	12	4	S-M
Acer negundo	Box Elder	10	8	8	6	5	6	4	12	4	M
Acer palmatum	Japanese Maple	5	4	4	4	2	2	2	10	2	S
Acer platanoides	Norway Maple	18	10	10	8	6	7	5	16	6	L
Acer pseudoplatanus	Sycamore	20	12	12	10	8	10	6	18	8	L
Acer rubrum	Red Maple	18	10	10	8	6	7	5	16	6	L
Acer rufinerve	Grey-budded Snake Bark Maple	10	7	7	5	4	5	3	12	4	S-M
Acer saccharinum	Silver Maple	18	10	10	8	6	7	5	16	6	L
Aesculus x carnea "Briottii"	Red Horse Chestnut	14	10	9	7	6	7	5	14	5	M-L
Aesculus hippocastanum	Horse Chestnut	18	12	12	10	8	10	6	18	8	L
Ailanthus altissima	Tree of Heaven	18	10	10	8	6	7	5	16	6	L
Alnus glutinosa	Common Alder	16	8	10	6	5	6	4	14	4	M
Alnus cordata	Italian Alder	16	8	10	6	5	6	4	14	4	M
Alnus incana	Grey Alder	16	8	10	6	5	6	4	14	4	M
Amelanchier laevis	Snowy Mespilus	6	4	6	5	2	3	2	10	2	S
Araucaria araucana	Monkey Puzzle	16	5	6	5	4	6	2	12	4	M
Betula pendula/pubescens	Silver Birch	18	10	8	6	5	6	4	12	5	M
Betula jacquemontii, B. utilis	Himalayan birch	14	8	6	4	5	4		12	5	M
Carpinus betulus	Hornbeam	14	8	10	8	5	7	4	14	5	M
Carpinus betulus 'Fastigiata'	Fastigiate Hornbeam	14	8	8	5	4	6	2	12	4	M
Castanea sativa	Sweet Chestnut	18	12	14	12	8	10	6	18	8	L
Cedrus atlantica	Atlas Cedar	18	12	14	12	8	10	6	18	8	L
Cedrus deodara	Deodar	18	12	14	12	8	10	6	18	8	L
Chamaecyparis lawsoniana "Ellwoodii"	Lawson Cypress	8	3	6	5	3	4	1	10	3	S
Chamaecyparis l. "Fletcheri"	Lawson Cypress	8	3	6	5	3	4	1	10	3	S
Cotoneaster frigidus	Tree Cotoneaster	5	4	5	4	2	3	2	10	3	S
Crataegus crus-galli	Cockspur Thorn	6	4	5	4	2	3	2	10	3	S
Crataegus lavallei	Hybrid Cockspur Thorn	6	4	5	4	2	3	2	10	3	S
Crataegus "Paul's Scarlet"	Red Hawthorn	12	5	6	5	3	4	2	10	3	S-M
Crataegus x prunifolia	Broad-leaved Cockspur Thorn	5	5	5	4	3	3	2	10	2	S
X Cupressocyparis leylandii	Leyland Cypress	20	5	12	10	6	7	3	18	4	L
Cupressus glabra	Smooth Arizona Cypress	12	12	12	10	8	8	6	16	6	M-L
Cupressus macrocarpa	Monterey Cypress	20	10	12	10	6	8	5	18	5	L
Davidia involucrata	Dove Tree	12	8	8	6	5	7	4	12	5	M
Eucalyptus niphophila	Snow Gum	6	4	5	4	3	4	2	10	3	S
Fagus sylvatica	Beech	25	20	16	14	10	12	8	22	8	VL
Fraxinus excelsior	Ash	25	16	16	14	10	12	8	20	8	VL
Fraxinus excelsior "pendula"	Weeping Ash	8	10	10	8	5	7	3	16	4	S-M
Fraxinus oxycarpa "Raywood"	Raywood Ash	20	14	16	14	10	12	8	20	8	VL
Fraxinus ornus	Manna Ash	10	6	8	6	4	5	3	12	3	S-M
Ginkgo biloba	Maidenhair Tree	16	6	10	8	5	6	3	14	4	M-L
Ilex x altaclarensis	Highclere Holly	10	6	8	6	3	4	3	12	3	S-M
Ilex aquifolium	Common Holly	10	6	8	6	3	4	3	12	3	S-M
Juglans regia	Walnut	18	12	12	10	8	10	6	18	8	L
Laburnum x waterii	Voss's Laburnum	8	4	6	5	3	4	2	10	3	S
Larix decidua	Common Larch	16	6	8	6	4	5	3	16	3	M-L
Liriodendron tulipifera	Tulip Tree	16	10	12	10	6	8	5	16	5	M-L
Malus floribunda	Japanese Crab	5	6	6	5	3	4	3	10	3	S
Malus hupehensis	Hupei Crab	6	6	6	5	3	4	3	10	3	S
Malus 'John Downie'	Crab	7	5	6	5	3	4	3	10	3	S
Malus tschonoskii	Pillar Apple	10	5	8	6	4	5	3	12	3	S-M

Metasequoia glyptostroboides	Dawn Redwood	18	6	10	8	5	8	5	18	3	L
Morus nigra	Black Mulberry	5	5	6	4	3	3	2	10	3	S
Nothofagus oblique	Roble Beech	18	12	12	10	8	10	6	18	8	L
Pinus cembra	Stone Pine	16	6	8	6	4	5	3	16	4	M
Pinus nigra	Austrian Pine	20	8	10	8	5	6	4	18	4	
Pinus nigra maritima	Corsican Pine	20	6	10	8	5	6	4	18	5	
Pinus parviflora	Japanese White Pine	8	6	8	6	4	5	3	12	3	
Pinus sylvestris	Scots Pine	16	6	8	6	4	5	3	16	4	
Picea omorika	Serbian Spruce	20	3	12	10	6	6	1	18	6	L
Platanus x hispanica	London Plane	18	12	14	12	8	10	6	18	8	L
Pyrus calleryana “Chanticleer”	Ornamental pear, common pear	12	6	8	6	4	4	3	10	3	S-M
P. Communis		18	14	12	10	6	8	5	18	5	
Populus alba	White Poplar	18	14	12	10	8	10	5	20	5	L
Populus nigra betulifolia	Native Black Poplar	20	4	14	12	6	8	6	18	6	L
Populus nigra ‘Italica’	Lombardy Poplar	20	18	16	14	8	10	6	20	6	VL
Populus x ‘Serotina’	Black Italian Poplar	14	8	10	8	6	8	4	16	4	M
Populus tremula	Aspen	16	12	12	10	8	10	6	18	6	M-L
Prunus avium	Wild Cherry	6	4	6	5	3	3	2	10	3	S
Prunus cerasifera	Myrobalan Plum	6	4	6	5	3	3	2	10	3	S
Prunus pissardii	Purple/leaved Plum	6	4	6	5	3	3	2	10	3	S
Prunus dulcis	Almond	6	5	6	5	3	3	2	10	3	S
Prunus x hillieri “Spire”	Ornamental Cherry	8	3	6	5	3	3	2	10	3	S
Prunus lusicanica	Portugese Laurel	5	5	6	5	3	3	2	10	3	S
Prunus sargencii	Sargent’s Cherry	8	6	7	5	4	5	3	12	4	S
Prunus padus	Bird Cherry	10	6	8	6	4	5	3	12	4	S-M
Prunus serrulata	Cheal’s Weeping Cherry										
P S “Amanogawa”	Japanese Cherry	10	8	8	6	5	6	4	12	5	S-M
P S “Hokusai”	Japanese Cherry	6	5	6	5	3	4	2	10	3	S
P S “Kanzan”	Japanese Cherry	10	8	8	6	5	6	4	12	5	S-M
P S “Pink Perfection”	Japanese Cherry	6	5	6	5	3	4	2	10	3	S
P S “Shirofugen”	Japanese Cherry	6	6	6	5	3	4	2	10	3	S
P S “Shirotae”	Japanese Cherry	8	8	8	6	5	6	4	12	5	S-M
P S “Tai-Haku”	Japanese Cherry	10	8	8	6	6	6	4	12	6	S-M
P S “Ukon”	Japanese Cherry	8	5	6	5	4	5	2	10	4	S
Prunus subhirtella	Spring Cherry	8	5	6	5	4	5	2	10	4	S
Prunus subhirtella “Autumnalis”	Autumn Cherry	8	5	6	5	4	5	2	10	4	S
Prunus x yedoensis	Yoshino Cherry	10	8	8	6	5	6	4	12	5	S-M
Pyrus salicifolia	Weeping Pear	6	4	5	4	3	3	2	10	3	S
Quercus rubra	Red Oak	20	12	14	10	8	8	6	18	8	L
Quercus cerris	Turkey Oak	20	12	14	10	8	8	6	18	8	L
Quercus coccinea	Scarlet Oak	20	10	14	10	8	8	6	18	8	L
Quercus ilex	Holm Oak	16	10	12	10	6	8	5	14	6	M-L
Quercus petraea	Sessile Oak	20	10	14	10	8	8	6	18	8	L
Quercus robur	English Oak	20	16	16	12	10	12	8	20	10	L
Robinia pseudoacacia	False Acacia	18	10	12	10	6	7	5	16	6	L
Salix alba	White Willow	25	16	16	14	6	10	8	22	8	VL
Salix caprea	Goat Willow	14	6	8	7	4	6	6	14	6	S-M
Salix fragilis	Crack Willow	18	14	14	12	6	8	7	18	7	L
Salix x ‘Chrysocoma’	Weeping Willow	18	20	16	14	10	12	8	20	8	VL
Sorbus aria	Whitebeam	10	6	8	6	4	5	3	12	4	S-M
Sorbus aucuparia	Rowan	18	6	6	5	4	5	3	10	4	S
Sorbus “Embley” (Discolor)	Chinese Scarlet Rowan	8	6	6	5	4	5	3	10	4	S
Sorbus hupehensis	Hupeh Rowan	8	6	6	5	4	5	3	10	4	S
Sorbus x intermedia	Swedish Whitebeam	8	6	6	5	4	5	3	10	4	S
Sorbus sargentiana	Sargent’s Rowan	8	6	6	5	4	5	3	10	4	S
Sorbus x churingiaca	Bastard Service tree	10	5	6	5	4	5	2	10	4	S-M
Taxus baccata	Yew	10	8	8	6	5	6	4	12	5	M-L
Tilia cordata	Small-leaved Lime	20	10	12	10	8	10	5	18	8	L
Tilia x euchlora	Caucasian Lime	16	8	10	8	5	7	4	16	5	M-L
Tilia x europaea	Common Lime	30	16	16	12	8	10	8	20	8	VL
Tilia platyphyllos	Large-leaved Lime	25	16	16	12	8	10	8	20	8	VL
Tsuga canadensis	Eastern Hemlock	20	10	12	10	8	10	5	18	8	L
Ulmus glabra	Wych Elm	18	10	12	10	6	8	3	18	7	M-L
Ulmus procera	English Elm	20	10	14	12	8	10	6	20	7	L
Ulmus wheatleyi	Wheatley Elm	18	8	10	8	4	6	3	16	6	M-L

glossary

Arboriculture
The scientific cultivation of trees and shrubs.

Biodiversity Offsetting
Biodiversity offsets are conservation activities that are designed to give biodiversity benefits to compensate for losses - ensuring that when a development damages nature (and this cannot be avoided) then new, bigger or better nature sites will be created.

Geodiversity
Geodiversity is the process of recognizing and assessing the value of geological features, collections, sites, monuments, artworks, and landscapes and the application of practices for their care, maintenance and management for their long-term benefit of all.

Heras Fencing
Heras panel fencing is a temporary mesh panel typically 2 metres high and used for internal demarcation and tree protection on development sites.

Root Protection Plan
An approved document to show the line of protective fencing erected on site for the purpose of guarding against damage to the rooting zones of trees - through compaction from vehicles, materials and/or spillage from chemicals and fuel.

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