

Broadsheet

The Magazine for Broadland Tree Wardens

Issue 249—December 2025



Happy Christmas

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The Monthly Magazine for
Broadland Tree Wardens



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Happy Christmas

IT may be hard to believe but this is the 27th time Broadsheet has wished you all a happy and peaceful Christmas. It will also be the last time, of course, as January will see the last issue of our magazine.

We have been so lucky in all that time to have enjoyed peace ... or should I say peace in our land? Sadly, during that time our brave forces have had to fight in other lands and many have died or been left with horrific injuries.

It is all too easy to overlook the fact that we are very lucky in this country. Even the bad times have been better than not having a roof over our heads, having nothing to eat, not knowing if we will survive until tomorrow.

We actually have a roof over our heads on which there is a chimney via which Santa can deliver the presents to our children ... and grandchildren.

So appreciate what we have. Enjoy Christmas for what it is. Enjoy over-eating. Enjoy our loved ones. Have a wonderful, peaceful Christmas ... but think of those not as fortunate as us.

HAVE you asked your town/parish council yet about making an annual donation to the Network? £200 is not a great deal to ask for and will make a great difference to the Network.

The early worm really does catch the worm in these matters so please ask the Clerk to your council to ensure that the matter is on the next agenda.

I have to say that I am disappointed by the lack of requests so far this year for trees and hedging for planting projects. I fear that it will be a continuation of the trend for our Network planting less each year.

Other Networks would be over the moon to have access to such funding, so come on. Liaise with your parish councils, draw up some planting plans and get those requests in.

I would hate my successor as your Co-ordinator to be faced with Broadland District Council withdrawing its generous budget because we don't use it. Where would you be then?

So come on. Let's get more trees in the ground.

I cannot possibly publish this edition of our magazine without giving my personal views on Cop30 ... or should we call it "Cop Out"? I personally found it nothing short of a total disgrace!!

Over 5,000 Indigenous people were there, and they certainly made their voices heard, but they had only 360 secured passes to the main negotiating "blue zone", compared to 1,600 delegates linked to the fossil fuel industry.

Inside the negotiating rooms it was business as usual, with Indigenous groups remaining as observers, unable to vote or attend closed-door meetings.

The choice of location was nicely symbolic but logistically tough. Hosting the conference in the Amazon cost hundreds of millions of dollars in a region where many still lack basic amenities.

In Donald Trump's first turn as president, the US sent, at least, a skeletal group of negotiators. This time, in a historic first, America did not send an official delegation at all.

Trump recently described climate change as "the greatest con job ever perpetrated on the world" and since returning to power the US has slowed renewables and expanded oil and gas. It even helped scuttle plans for a net zero framework for global shipping in October.

As the US is rolling back its ambition, it is allowing other oil producing countries like Saudi Arabia to ignore their own climate pledges and to try and undermine others.

China has stepped into the void and become one of the loudest voices in the room. As the world's largest supplier of green technology, Beijing used Cop30 to promote its solar, wind and electric vehicle industries and court countries looking to invest.

However, for many delegates the absence of America came as a relief. Without the distraction of the US attempting to "burn the house down" as it did at the shipping negotiations, the conference was able to get on with the business at hand: negotiating texts and agreements that will limit global warming.

As Simon Chin-Yee, UCL Lecturer in International Development, Mark Maslin, UCL Professor of Earth System Science and UNU Lead for Climate, Health and Security, UCL and Priti Parikh, Professor of Infrastructure Engineering and International Development, at UCL reported, "So this was another divisive climate summit. The gulf between oil-producing countries (in particular in the Middle East) and the rest of the world has never been wider".

One positive to come out of the summit was the power of organised people: Indigenous groups and civil society made their voices heard, even if they weren't translated into the final text.

With next year's summit to be held in Turkey, these annual climate summits are increasingly migrating to nations with authoritarian leanings where protests are not welcome or completely banned. Our leaders keep stating that time is running out, yet negotiations themselves remain stuck in never ending circles of delays.

Iwish you all and your loved ones a very happy and peaceful christmas and ask you to spare a thought for those poor souls all over the world who will spend the season simply trying to survive.

John Fleetwood

Compromises, voluntary measures and no mention of fossil fuels: key points from Cop30 deal

By Damian Carrington and Jonathan Watts for The Guardian

THE UN climate summit Cop30 moved forward the fight against the climate crisis and the damage it is already causing to lives and livelihoods, but the measures agreed are steps, rather than the leaps needed. Let us take a look at those measures and just what they should deliver.

1. Multilateralism survived ... just

The negotiations between more than 190 countries came close to collapse, as ambitious countries and petrostates threatened to block any deal or walk out. However, global heating requires a global response and in today's fractured geopolitical climate sealing a deal backed by all countries keeps the UN climate show on the road.

"At a time of great political challenge, 194 countries have come together within the Paris agreement to recommit to acting on the climate crisis," said the UK energy secretary, Ed Miliband. "This agreement does not have all the ambition we would have wanted but it commits to keeping 1.5°C alive."

The US did not send a delegation. Donald Trump has dismissed the climate crisis as a "con job". Some at Cop30 in Belém said the US stance had emboldened Saudi Arabia and other petrostates to fight even harder to block progress.

2. Adaptation funding tripled but critics say it isn't enough

The nations at Cop30 agreed to triple funding for adaptation. Money provided by rich countries and desperately needed by vulnerable countries to protect their people from the accelerating impacts of the climate crisis. It is a significant advance but the goal of \$120bn (£92bn) a year was pushed back five years from the initial suggested date of 2030.

Many countries and observers reacted angrily. "The outcome on adaptation is an insult to every community currently underwater or on fire," said Harjeet Singh at the Satat Sampada Climate Foundation. "The refusal to commit to scaling up finance to the necessary \$300bn annually for adaptation leaves the unprepared defenceless against inevitable ruin. The timeline ignores the urgency of the climate disasters striking us today."

3. Plan for a just transition welcomed

A major outcome was the agreement of a just transition mechanism (JTM), a plan to ensure that the move to a green economy around the world takes place fairly and protects the rights of all people, including workers, women and Indigenous people.

Climate Action Network International, a huge coalition of campaign groups, welcomed the JTM as one of the strongest rights-based outcomes in the history of the UN climate negotiations.

"The adoption of JTM was a win shaped by



years of pressure from civil society," said Tasneem Essop, the executive director of the network. "This outcome didn't fall from the sky: it was carved out through struggle, persistence and the moral clarity of those living on the frontlines of climate breakdown. Governments must now honour this JTM with real action. Anything less is a betrayal." Efforts early in the talks to attach funding to the JTM failed.

4. No mention of fossil fuels in final text

Fossil fuels were not mentioned in the key final decision, despite a coalition of 90 developed and developing nations having pushed for a commitment to a roadmap to phase out fossil fuels to be included. Petrostates including Saudi Arabia and its allies fought fiercely to block this and succeeded.

The final text did add a reference to the "UAE consensus", the overall package from Cop28 in Dubai in 2023 that contained the first pledge to move away from fossil fuels. However, the obliqueness of this reference is a retrograde step according to Dr Joanna Depledge, a Cop expert at the University of Cambridge: "The UAE consensus is [a] broad package including fully eight decisions adopted in Dubai on a whole range of issues. The Dubai fossil fuel transition language is therefore being deliberately diluted and obscured, not highlighted."

5. Roadmap for transition away from fossil fuels survives – but it is voluntary

The roadmap for the transition away from fossil fuels was blocked from the formal Cop30 decision and the Brazilian presidency announced the plan would proceed outside the UN process. It will be merged with a plan backed by Colombia and about 90 other countries, with

a summit set for April. This "coalition of the willing" could push progress forward.

The Cop30 president, André Corrêa do Lago, said the plan to develop the roadmap had the support of President Lula and would involve high-level dialogues over the next year, led by science and involving governments, industry and civil society. Once complete, he said they would report back to Cop.

"Those governments committed to tackling the climate crisis at its source are uniting to move forward outside the UN, under the leadership of Colombia and Pacific Island states, to phase out fossil fuels rapidly, equitably, and in line with 1.5°C," said Nikki Reisch, at the Center for International Environmental Law. "The international conference next April is the first stop on the path to a liveable future."

6. Rainforest conference fails to create deforestation roadmap ...

Cop30 was deliberately sited in the Amazon to put focus on the vital role in climate of forests. Brazil's environment minister, Marina Silva, tried to include a roadmap on ending deforestation in the core agreement at Belém.

However, it was killed after being tied to the fossil fuels roadmap. The tying of the two appears to have been either an awful diplomatic blunder or sabotage by the Brazilian foreign ministry, which has long had a focus on selling the country's oil abroad.

Toerris Jaeger, of Rainforest Foundation Norway, said: "The Amazon insisted on being heard. She forced her way into the climate negotiations with tropical heat, torrential rain, and the largest Indigenous delegation of any previous Cop.

"It is disappointing that countries did not agree to develop concrete plans to halt

deforestation.”

7. ... but new fund launched to help keep trees standing

Brazil did launch the Tropical Forest

Forever Facility, again outside the UN process, but a multibillion-dollar investment fund that will pay nations to keep trees standing.

“The TFFF reflects a growing recognition that climate integrity and forest protection are inseparable,” said Dr Fernando Barrio, at Queen

Mary University of London. “Whether it will be effective depends on its design. But the political signal is important because there is no path to 1.5°C that does not involve ending deforestation this decade.”



UK Government gives voice to nature at COP30

UK representatives have championed the protection and restoration of critical ecosystems around the world and the essential work we’re doing back home to restore our forests, landscapes and seas for the British people as part of the Plan for Change. During COP30, the first payment to the Cali Fund by a British business, a British start-up, was announced.

This marks a major milestone since its launch earlier this year. The Fund enables companies such as pharmaceutical and biotech companies to share profits with Indigenous Peoples and local communities who protect the nature that provides genetic resources for their products.

The UK is working closely with the private sector and other governments to support effective implementation of the Fund, including through the Friends of the Cali Fund, and this first contribution is a real milestone in these efforts.

UK-based startup Tierra Viva AI proudly kickstarts contributions to the Cali Fund, paving the way for others to follow and contribute to the Fund at scale.

Nature Minister Mary Creagh said “British families are already feeling the impact of climate change, from flooding that destroys homes to heatwaves that put vulnerable people at risk.

“We cannot tackle nature loss and climate change in isolation; in Brazil we have built the

global coalition for ambitious action on nature which is the only way to protect our home for future generations”

At COP30, the UK government has made further commitments to halt and reverse nature loss This includes:

- Launching the UK-Brazil Fertilisers Declaration – a global push to cut emissions from fertiliser production and use. It’s about improving food security and protecting jobs and growth by supporting farmers’ resilience and boosting agricultural productivity.
- Joining the Saltmarsh Breakthrough – protecting these vital coastal ecosystems which anchor key marine food chains, shield communities from floods and lock away more carbon than most forests.
- Becoming a Food Waste Breakthrough Country Champion – driving the global goal to halve food waste by 2030 and cutting methane emissions by keeping food waste out of landfills.
- Nature actions - COP30 showcased the UK’s role in advancing the global ‘nature actions agenda’. The summit saw the launch of the biodiversity credits policy

forum founded by Indonesia and supported by global partners to attract private investment in nature.

- Congo call to action - The UK also furthered its long-standing partnership with the Congo Basin region, joining a Call to Action, to ensure the world recognises the importance of Congo’s forests and funds solutions developed by Congolese institutions and communities.

The UK’s leadership at COP30 echoes our commitments to support the environment at home.

We announced that the second National Forest will be in the Oxford-Cambridge corridor, where millions of trees will be planted as part of a wider commitment to allocate over £1 billion this parliament to tree planting. This will support nature recovery, green jobs, and net zero goals.

Further detail on this government’s plan to restore the environment will be set out in the upcoming Environmental Improvement Plan, which will outline the next phase of the UK’s nature recovery ambitions.

Small Woodland Grant Scheme opens for applications

By Aisling O'Brien for www.agriland.co.uk

MINISTER for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, Andrew Muir, has announced the 2025 Small Woodland Grant Scheme is now open for applications. The scheme supports landowners to plant new native woodlands that will provide a wide and diverse range of ecosystem services and benefits for citizens, including contributing to mitigating climate change.

The measure provides up to £6,425/ha for establishment costs and annual premiums over a 10-year period.

Support is also available for new stock fencing, where required, to protect newly planted woodlands from livestock. Applications for the fund can be made through the DAERA online services until January 7, 2026.

Commenting on the scheme, Minister Muir said this grant “offers landowners financial support to establish new native woodlands that shape our landscapes, livelihoods, and legacies for future generations. Expanding our native woodlands has a vital role to play in improving biodiversity and tackling climate change.

“Woodlands can also support the long-term sustainability of farm businesses as they offer nature-based solutions to riparian management

and protecting our water quality. I strongly encourage landowners to take advantage of this grant as we work together to increase woodland cover across Northern Ireland,” he added.

DAERA said that land that was eligible and on which Single Farm Payment (SFP) was paid in respect of the 2008 scheme year and is subsequently converted to forestry under an EU scheme remains eligible for the duration of the Forestry Scheme.

What do trees remember?

*By Estrella Luna-Diez, Anne-Marie Culhane and Bruno Barcante
Ladvocat Cintra, published on The Conversation*

THE FEANEDOCK OAK stands out so clearly in Derbyshire's section of the National Forest, you would think it was calling to you. Surrounded by open fields, hawthorn hedges and young beech forest, a majestic old oak like this anchors the English countryside. As the highest expression of our woodlands, oaks support more life in the UK than any other native tree. At the foot of the Feanedock oak, you can hear and see at a glance wrens, blackbirds, spiders, squirrels, song thrush, hoverflies, butterflies, blackcaps, woodlouse, ants and chiffchaffs. For more than two centuries, it has provided an anchor habitat, including for humans. A tumbled-down dwelling lies under its shade.

How well any English oak *Quercus robur* thrives affects everything living on and around it, from canopy to soil. In recent years of heat and drought, the Feanedock Oak has lost two large boughs.

In the summer of 2023, dendrochronologists who research and date trees through their growth rings, took samples from the tree's trunk to study its "healthy" and "poor" years of growth. They counted 195 rings but did not get to the centre of the tree, so it was probably seeded in the early 19th century, if not earlier. As a sapling it would have greeted Derbyshire miners walking across the fields from nearby villages to work in the newly-dug coal shafts or the many industrial potteries in the area.

More than 200 years later, in July 2023, the Feanedock Oak (now measuring around 120 feet) played a central role in Ring of Truth. This creative collaboration between tree scientists and artists from the Walking Forest collective imagined a legal case set in the year 2030 between a claimant, the oak (in whose shadow the case was heard), and the UK government. See the picture on this page.

The counsel for the claimant, real-life rights of nature lawyer Paul Powlesland, set out his argument to the judge and jury, claiming the government had breached legal obligations set out in the 2008 Climate Change Act. Scientists from the University of Birmingham, including one of us (Bruno), acted as expert witnesses, bringing evidence of the threats posed to the tree from increased heat, atmospheric CO₂, soil damage and disease.

After hearing all the evidence, the assembled audience, in the role of jury, voted for their verdict. Many were acutely conscious that the claimant had been standing in this spot far longer than anyone else present. A silent witness to the damage done by humans on the environment and landscape. They ordered the secretary of state for climate and ecological breakdown (as the job is known in 2030) to cease breaching legal obligations to protect this and all "anchor oaks", and the communities that thrive or suffer with them.

That powerful moment under the Feanedock Oak opened a door to a deeper question: how and what do trees remember?

Until recently, little was known about how memory might function in long-lived organisms like trees which experience decades, even centuries, of shifting environmental pressures. So this is what our multi-disciplinary research collaboration, featuring artworks, performances



and even a musical composition as well as groundbreaking science, set out to discover.

For trees, memory is not a metaphor but a biological reality, written into their cells. One of the most remarkable forms this takes is epigenetic memory: the ability of a tree to record its life experiences and allow those experiences to shape its future, without changing the sequence of its DNA.

As Membra (full name: Understanding Memory of UK Treescapes for Better Resilience and Adaptation), we've studied a number of ecologically vital and culturally significant UK species including oak, ash, hazel, beech and birch. Together, they have helped us understand how trees register and respond to environmental stress, offering a powerful glimpse into how their memories are carried through woodlands.

At the heart of this process is DNA methylation, where chemical tags known as methyl groups are added to the tree's DNA over time. While not rewriting the genetic code, they do alter how it is read. These chemical signatures can turn genes on or off, dial responses up or down, and fundamentally shift how a tree grows, adapts, or defends itself. In oaks, for example, long-term drought exposure over decades is associated with changes in DNA methylation, suggesting that trees may adjust their gene expression in response to repeated stress.

These epigenetic memories may allow trees to respond more quickly to drought, disease or climate extremes, and could even be passed to the next generation. In some plant species, this kind of inheritance is well documented, but in long-lived trees, it remains an open question. One with critical implications for forest regeneration and resilience.

So far, our research has shown trees respond to stress in ways that can extend well beyond the immediate event. Exposure to drought or high CO₂, for example, can leave lasting marks on a tree's growth and internal chemistry, and may shape how it responds to future conditions. However, the strength of this memory appears to depend on the nature of the stress: it is more pronounced when the stress is particularly strong, such as disease, or when it occurs repeatedly over time, such as chronic drought.

A surprising result came from oak, where we observed that DNA methylation itself changes depending on the time of year, with methylation levels lowest in early spring, then increasing as the seasons progress. This suggests the imprinting of memory in trees may be far more dynamic than previously thought, and that the timing of stress events within the growing season could influence how strongly that memory is encoded.

All our studied species and associated environmental conditions have now been

sequenced. In every case, we have found evidence of these memories of past stresses. In ash trees, for example, we've begun to detect methylation changes linked to ash dieback pressure, offering clues as to how trees regulate their defences over time as a disease progresses.

Trees are certainly resilient. They bend, adapt and endure, holding the memory of storms and seasons within their very bodies, but even their deep-rooted strength has limits. The challenges they now face are faster, more frequent and more severe than at any point in their evolutionary history.

This means what we are learning from their memories is not just a story of survival, but a warning. They are telling us there could come a point when they can no longer cope.

It is easy to be awed by a centuries-old oak, but what often goes unnoticed is the quiet crisis beneath the canopy. Across many UK woodlands, the next generation is missing.

Surveys show steep declines in most species of young trees (seedlings and saplings) due to a growing list of pressures: prolonged drought, warming temperatures, shifting herbivore populations, and an expanding wave of pests and pathogens. According to a study of nine sites in England and Scotland, co-authored by one of us (Bruno) and currently under review, the sapling mortality rate has increased from 16.2% in the period up to 2000 to 30.9% two decades later.

In some species such as elm and now ash, diseases have brought populations close to the point of lack of regeneration, when a woodland can no longer sustain itself. To counter this threat, young trees must be highly adaptable. Not just in form, but at the molecular level. At Membra, scientists are exploring whether young trees imprint environmental stress more readily than older ones, and whether that memory, recorded through changes in DNA methylation, influences their survival.

One way we have tested such trans-generational changes is to expose trees (oak and hazel) to the elevated levels of CO₂ that are expected in the UK by 2050. This was done in the Birmingham Institute for Forest Research (Bifor) facility in a Staffordshire woodland. One of the world's largest climate change experiments, where tree "arrays" (circular patches of woodland) are exposed to 150 parts per million (ppm) of CO₂ above ambient concentrations.

Membra's research there has found that the offspring of trees exposed to these CO₂ levels respond very differently to further environmental stressors, in ways that can make them more resilient. For example, acorns from CO₂-exposed oaks were notably larger and their seedlings showed both faster growth and improved resistance to pathogens like powdery mildew. A strong sign that environmental conditions experienced by parent trees can shape offspring resilience.

To date, molecular analysis shows the inherited memory of this exposure is imprinted in the tree genes that are involved in defence mechanisms. The direct link with resilience should be identified in the next few years as our data analysis progresses.

Strikingly, these beneficial effects were most pronounced during "mast" years, when trees produce a bumper crop of seeds, suggesting that the reproductive cycles of mature oaks as well as resource availability are key to the oaks' successful inheritance of stress-adaptive traits. Similarly, seedlings from oak trees that had undergone repeated drought exposure have shown increased drought



tolerance which suggests some trees may "prime" their offspring to be more resilient in the face of repeated climate stress.

Our work also shows that young trees can be artificially primed for resilience. For instance, early treatment with certain natural compounds enhances oak seedlings' resistance to powdery mildew disease, triggering biochemical and transcriptional responses that allow them to mount a faster and stronger defence. This priming acts like a kind of immunological memory, in this case not inherited but induced, and could potentially open up new avenues for improving forest health and regeneration.

Importantly, species differ widely in how they pass on environmental experiences to their progeny. Hazel trees subjected to the same elevated CO₂ conditions in the Bifor woodland produced both smaller nuts and seedlings that often failed to thrive after germination. So, rather than assuming a one-size-fits-all strategy for seed sourcing, forestry managers may need to tailor decisions based on species-specific responses to past environmental stresses. Recognising the importance of parental environmental history, especially for stressors like drought, could shape how we select and prepare the next generation of trees.

This may also mean rethinking how and when we collect seeds. In species such as oak, collecting from mast years may improve the odds of transmitting beneficial adaptive traits. In all cases, understanding how trees' memory works, not just within a tree's lifetime but across generations, offers a crucial tool for building more adaptive, resilient treescapes in this rapidly changing world.

Tree rings such as those sampled from the Feanedock Oak record much more than just a tree's age. They hold evidence of how trees respond to changing climates, rising carbon levels and extreme events.

Studies using these natural archives (the rings) have shown that rising atmospheric CO₂ is already changing how trees grow and photosynthesise. In some oaks, it has led to faster growth and more carbon being stored. A hopeful sign.

However, this acceleration may come with hidden costs. Trees that grow quickly not only reach maturity sooner but may also die younger, potentially limiting the long-term stability of forest carbon storage.

Furthermore, these shifts are not just a concern for the trees themselves. They ripple

outward. Faster growth can alter forest structure, affecting biodiversity and resilience. In the UK and globally, trees face an escalating cascade of challenges including pollution, drought, storms and disease and, increasingly, these pressures overlap.

Understanding how different trees' memories will mediate their responses to new, more stressful conditions is key to predicting which species will thrive, adapt or decline. Artificially priming young trees by exposing them early to stress may enhance their memory and survival.

In recent years, a wave of tree planting, often tied to carbon offsetting schemes, is rapidly reshaping landscapes across much of the UK. National and local governments have launched large-scale initiatives such as the England Tree Action Plan. These programmes aim to restore canopy cover, improve biodiversity and contribute to net-zero goals. Local authorities, environmental charities, landowners and corporate offsetting partners are among those overseeing the planting, with guidance and funding provided by the Forestry Commission and Defra.

However, the choice of species is often constrained by budget and availability, which can result in limited diversity and mismatches between trees and local ecological conditions. Fast-growing species like sycamore, alder, and hybrid poplar are frequently used, while slower-growing native species with deeper ecological value may be underrepresented.

Planting trees without understanding their long-term ecological roles, or their capacity to remember and adapt, also risks repeating old mistakes that could compromise long-term resilience. Selecting the right trees to face future climate threats requires more than just numbers. A forest full of fast-growing, short-lived trees may have a very different effect on the local ecosystem than one with long-lived, memory-bearing individuals. In the worst-case scenario, such woodlands will fail to regenerate and die out.

Climate models indicate a future of warmer, wetter winters and hotter, drier summers in the UK, which will challenge many native species. Diseases such as ash dieback have already transformed landscapes, with over 80% of ash trees expected to be lost in many areas. This is not just a loss of a species but a loss of the biodiversity that depends on it.

Our work highlights the value of sourcing

seed from trees that have survived historic drought and understanding how memory, resilience and adaptation are embedded in the biology of many older individuals. Future woodlands will need to blend ancient wisdom with modern science, combining genetic diversity, environmental memory and community stewardship to thrive.

The idea that nature has rights is no longer just a philosophical concept. Legal recognition is growing globally, from Ecuador's Constitutional Court ruling to protect the Los Cedros forest, to the Welsh National Assembly's creation of the Well-being of Future Generations Act and UK-based cosmetics company, Faith in Nature, giving nature a legal position on its board.

This legal shift complements the scientific insight from Membra: that mature woodlands, with deep memory and biodiversity, are not replaceable and, as Ring of Truth's imagined court case made clear, it is a travesty if trees such as the Feanedock Oak are thought of as little more than machines to extract human-created carbon from the atmosphere.

Their social, cultural and ecological roles are vast. Listening to Indigenous and local communities with long-held tree knowledge, and empowering tree guardians in cities and villages alike, is vital to fostering a meaningful public practice of tree stewardship.

As one Walking Forest participant put it, time spent with trees creates space and renewed agency for surviving the climate and nature crises: "We are like trees. The stronger we root and allow ourselves, like them, to be nurtured by those around us, the better we are at withstanding the strongest of storms".

Another said: "I see the bigger picture now, of how we are related to the forest. At one with nature because we too are part of the ecosystem."

By weaving together artistic performance, scientific insight and ancestral knowledge, the Walking Forest collective has sought to expand how we understand our relationship with woodlands. Connecting women, trees and ecological justice across time.

One powerful example is the 107-year-old Monterey pine planted by suffragette Rose

Lamartine Yates, the last known survivor of a historic arboretum planted by women activists at Eagle House in Batheaston, Somerset. A place of recovery for women who were politically active as part of the suffrage movement, this was the home of the Blathway family and known as the Suffragettes' Retreat.

Between April 1909 and July 1911, at least 47 trees were planted in the grounds of Eagle House to commemorate individual suffragists and suffragettes, many of whom had been imprisoned and tortured. The arboretum afforded the suffragettes an opportunity to imagine the future into which their young trees would grow.

The trees were all bulldozed in the late 1960s to make way for a housing estate, other than Lamartine Yates's Monterey Pine, planted in 1909, which survives to this day, protected in a private garden. The seeds of this tree are a touchstone of Walking Forest: we have gathered and propagated them, shared them with communities, and created performances and ceremonies that honour the tree's legacy, connecting past and future generations (of trees and people) in a project to create a woodland that mirrors the original Eagle House arboretum.

Since 2018, Walking Forest artists have travelled overland to UN climate talks to gift seeds from the Monterey Pine to women and youth activists, climate negotiators, Indigenous community leaders and environmental campaigners, connecting with them in this story of resilience and renewal.

In another act of collective mourning and protest, a 100-year-old silver birch cut down for the HS2 rail link was carried through Coventry by more than 40 women during Coventry's year as City of Culture in 2021. The act made visible the loss of ancient woodland and connected it with human grief, resistance and care.

These stories are not isolated. Across the UK, trees have become flashpoints for protest and protection. From the Sycamore Gap tree at Hadrian's Wall to Sheffield Council's felling of more than 5,000 healthy street trees between 2014 and 2018 as part of road maintenance.

Walking Forest has collaborated with Membra not only to share scientific knowledge

but to offer new ways of knowing through storytelling, ritual and creative action. As climate pressures grow, so too does public awareness of how irreplaceable mature trees are.

We are still only beginning to uncover the complexity of tree memory. Future research may reveal exactly how memory is transferred between generations, how trees prepare for challenges they've never seen, and how entire forests might adapt together.

However, our collaboration between scientists, artists and communities is already helping to shift how people think about trees, from passive backdrop to learning beings. Through this work, we understand that trees are not just survivors. They are storytellers, record keepers and even teachers.

As our understanding of their memory deepens, so too does our responsibility to listen, learn and act. The future of forests depends not just on what trees can remember, but on what we choose not to forget.

A recent return to the Feanedock Oak, two years after its case was argued in Ring of Truth, found the tree still standing but visibly altered. Its two large, fallen limbs lay cloaked in bramble and nettle, but under its canopy foxes burrowed, birds sang and fruit trees flowered.

Though imbalanced, this grand old oak holds its ground. A tree of memory and now a symbol of care. We will return again and again to honour its survival, and admire its provision for so many other species in the natural world. The tree reminds us that people need ways to anchor ourselves too, as we navigate uncertain times ahead.

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Four new woodlands to be created

By Grace McGrory for BBC News

FOUR new woodlands are to be created to increase the number of trees in Lincolnshire. Forestry England has bought about 965 hectares (2,380 acres) of land at Cadney, North Carlton, Newball and Mickleholme on which it intends to plant trees and shrubs. Lincolnshire is one of the least wooded counties in England, according to Forestry England.

Regional director Paddy Harrop said: "It really is about helping to provide more public access for those small rural villages that often don't have a lot of public green space."

Forestry England is part of the Forestry Commission, and is responsible for managing woods owned by the government.

The new woodlands will be able to be accessed by the public, but will also create new habitats for nature, as well as resources of sustainable timber. Different varieties of trees

and shrubs will be planted in each woodland, which will be appropriate for the area.

The sites are part of a wider project to grow the nation's forests, which is supported by the government's Nature for Climate Fund, set up in 2022.

Mr Harrop said Forestry England had incorporated feedback from local residents into the final plans for the 228 hectare woodland planned for Cadney.

He said "Examples of this would be leaving land closer to the village itself a little bit more open. We're also not going for huge recreational facilities that might draw in lots of visitors. We

don't think that would be the right thing to do in this place, and that's kind of what local people have told us as well.

"It will just be very informal recreation, so people will be able to go and walk their dogs, go for a run, that kind of thing."

Mr Harrop said the land chosen was of a lower agricultural quality and "not the best for producing crops on".

Work will begin on preparing the Cadney site between now and autumn 2026, with tree planting due to start during winter 2026/27.

Planting at the Newball, Mickleholme and North Carlton sites is due to start this winter.

Mongabay Latam wins Global Shining Light Award for investigative journalism

By Rhett Ayers Butler for Mongabay

FEW newsrooms venture far into the darker corners of the Amazon. Fewer still return with evidence detailed enough to shift policy. Mongabay Latam managed both, and the feat has now earned the outlet a Global Shining Light Award in the Large Newsroom category at the Global Investigative Journalism Network's bi-annual conference (GIJC) in Kuala Lumpur.

The prize honours reporting done under genuine threat and in this case the danger was not abstract. The project took shape in regions where reporters think twice before lingering, where a wrong turn can bring you face to face with the emissaries of a drug economy that has seeped into Indigenous territories.

Mongabay Latam's team spent a full year mapping a network of clandestine airstrips cut into remote forests in Peru, areas where organized crime has expanded its reach and where Indigenous leaders have been killed for resisting it. Fifteen such leaders have been

murdered in recent years; dozens more live under threat.

What the journalists uncovered was bigger than local rumour. After a long phase of information requests, travel, and interviews with more than 60 sources, they identified 67 illegal runways in three regions: Ucayali, Huánuco, and Pasco. Thirty of the strips lie inside Indigenous territories. One cluster in Atalaya, a province now defined as much by fear as by forest, forms a rough ring around seven communities. As the project noted, these territories are not simply infiltrated but encircled.

The method was as striking as the findings. Reporters worked with Earth Genome, a nonprofit that develops analytical tools for environmental monitoring. Using an AI-driven search system, they scanned satellite images for deforestation patterns that resembled those

at known narco sites. The technology flagged likely candidates, which were then checked manually through additional imagery, travel, and open-source sleuthing.

Drone footage filled gaps where the forest canopy hid telltale clearings. Every airstrip was catalogued with its location, condition, proximity to rivers and roads, and any overlap with protected areas.

The resulting database was difficult for authorities to ignore. The investigation drew national and international coverage and forced uncomfortable conversations in Lima. It also gave Indigenous leaders something they rarely have: independent evidence that supports their claims of invasion and intimidation. In regions where political attention drifts quickly, that kind of documentation can shift the balance, if only slightly, toward those who have the most to lose.

Rare fungus spotted in New Forest for first time

Published on the BBC News website

A fungi, which looks like a candelabra, has been found in a national park for the first time. The New Forest National Park Authority (NFNPA) said the nationally rare fungus, Candelabra Coral, known for its striking crown-tipped creamy white branches, had been spotted growing in recent weeks at six sites in the forest.

Professor Russell Wynn, director of Wild New Forest, who made one of the finds said the "sudden arrival of the Candelabra Coral in the New Forest this autumn is remarkable."

He said the reason for its appearance was not clear but "given its distinctive and identifiable species, it is unlikely that it would have been overlooked in the past."

After not being seen for decades the fungus was rediscovered in Suffolk in 2012 and has since been recorded in at least 10 English counties during the past five years.

The fungus, can grow up to 10cm high and thrives on decaying deadwood in moist woodland environments. One of the areas where it was found is within part of the Species Survival Fund (SSF) project.

Led by the park authority, SSF is a £1.3m project with five partner organisations.

It is working to help halt species decline and restore habitats in the New Forest covering an area the size of 350 football pitches.

So far, the scheme has planted wildflower



meadows, crated ponds, and restored heathlands and woodlands to help wildlife flourish.

As part of the project, Wild New Forest has

carried out wildlife surveys to understand the area's biodiversity and identify priority species before restoration work was carried out.

This ancient cypress has lived through 5 ice ages and is still growing today

By Scott Travers for the Forbes website

NOT many living organisms have been around long enough to witness the transition from the Ice Age tundra to the warm, human-dominated world we know today, but on a remote hillside in southern Chile there is a Patagonian cypress known as the Alerce Milenario that may be as old as 5,000 years. Should its age be confirmed by ongoing studies, it would secure a spot among the oldest living trees on Earth.

This ancient cypress has withstood volcanic eruptions, glacial cycles, colonial logging and climate change. It has lived longer than recorded human civilization itself and despite everything, it continues to grow.

The Patagonian cypress *Fitzroya cupressoides* grows in the cool, wet forests of Chile and Argentina. It is a relative of the redwoods, which are famous for towering over 200 feet tall and living thousands of years.

However, this particular tree, nicknamed Alerce Milenario (“the millennial larch”) or Gran Abuelo (“the great-grandfather”), is something altogether different. Specifically, it has somehow lived through:

- Five glacial cycles
- The rise and fall of ancient civilizations
- The entire history of written language
- The warming and cooling pulses of the Holocene

It’s so old, in fact, that its earliest rings formed at a time when mammoths still roamed Siberia.

As research from Selbyana notes, long-lived trees have three essential traits that enable them to outlive their counterparts:

Exceptional decay resistance. Their wood contains natural chemicals that slow down the process of rotting while also repelling insects. In *Fitzroya cupressoides*, this resin-rich heartwood is so durable that logged pieces are known to survive for centuries. Even when left in seawater.

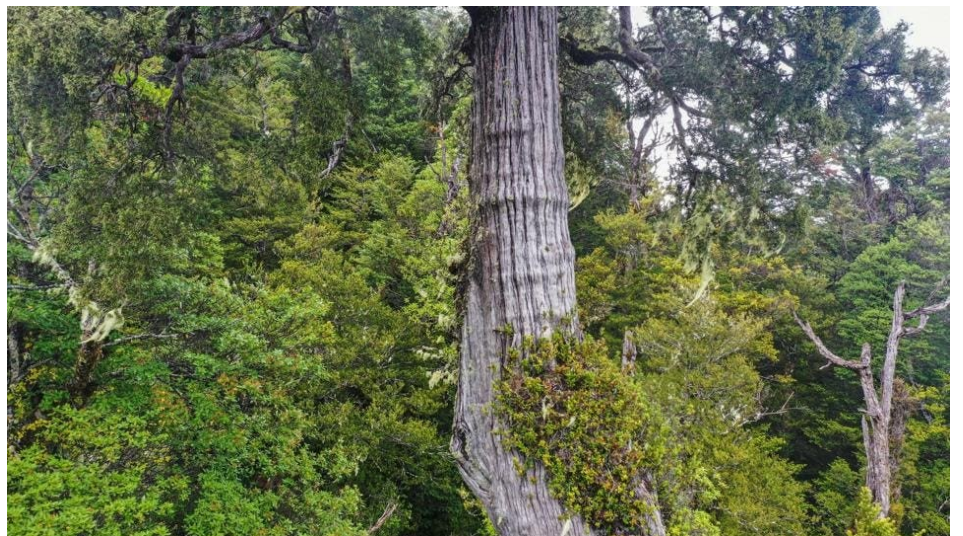
Stable, cool climate. The temperate rainforests of Chile and Argentina are among the most stable on Earth. In turn, they offer cypresses like Alerce Milenario ample moisture and few lightning storms.

Slow, deliberate growth. Trees that grow slowly produce much denser wood than those that grow faster. This dense wood, in turn, becomes almost like a suit of armour.

However, the Patagonian cypress has an additional advantage: isolation. Much of the forest where the oldest individuals grow is remote, steep, and historically difficult for humans to access.

Tree ages are typically measured by coring. This refers to the process of drilling a pencil-thin tube through the trunk in order to count their number growth rings. However, Gran Abuelo is so massive that its heartwood is inaccessible; even the most advanced of drills can’t reach the centre.

Given this barrier, researchers have instead started to combine several partial cores, fragmented samples from fallen branches and growth-rate models. These resources, when



compared with similar trees, have eventually enabled an estimation of its age. Current analyses suggest an age between 4,000 and over 5,300 years, making it a contender for the oldest tree in the world.

During its lifetime, this single cypress has endured the advance and retreat of Andean glaciers, massive volcanic eruptions throughout Patagonia, centuries of forest fires, as well as European colonisation and widespread deforestation and, still, it stands today.

Today, paradoxically, the biggest threat to this ancient cypress is the sheer amount of interest that its age has garnered. The once-secluded area has drawn hikers, tourists and attention on social media. As such, increased foot traffic is increasingly compacting the soil around the tree’s roots, while also damaging the already fragile forest floor.

Park guards now monitor the area daily. Scientists urge the public to admire the tree from a distance to ensure that something which has survived five ice ages doesn’t meet its end through human curiosity.

After all, it wouldn’t be the first time a historic tree was felled due to human activity/incompetence. The famed tree of Tenere lived for hundreds of years in the centre of the Sahara desert before allegedly being struck and knocked over by a drunk desert driver.

Some organisms outlive civilizations. Some outlive epochs. The Alerce Milenario, if current research holds, has outlived eras of climate on Earth. It began as a seedling when the world felt like a different planet.

It isn’t just a tree; it’s a stamp of nature’s enduring presence, carved in wood.

Nation to benefit from two new national forests backed by £1 billion investment in tree planting

From DEFRA, published 5 November 2025

COMMUNITIES across England will benefit from expanded access to nature, with the creation of two new national forests supporting nature recovery, green jobs, and net zero goals. A new national forest was confirmed 5 November for the Ox-Cam corridor and a competition will launch in early 2026 to determine the location of a third forest in the Midlands or North of England.

The new forests will see millions of trees planted in the years ahead as part of a wider commitment to allocate over £1 billion this parliament to tree planting and support to the forestry sector.

The announcement delivers on our manifesto commitment to create three new national forests. The Western Forest announced in March was the first new national forest in 30 years and will stretch from the Cotswolds to the Mendips.

The second national forest is confirmed for the Ox-Cam corridor, and a competition will launch in early 2026 to determine the third forest's location in the Midlands or North of England. These new forests will see millions of trees planted in the years ahead as part of a wider commitment to allocate over £1 billion this parliament to tree planting and support to the forestry sector.

These new national forests will help deliver national renewal for communities, drive economic growth while enhancing nature and

bringing trees closer to where people live. Meeting tree planting targets across Great Britain could result in over 14,000 jobs being created and supported.

The announcement came ahead of the Prime Minister's attendance at COP30 on 6 November, where the UK will champion the country's interests including supporting investment into clean energy. The UK is a global leader on climate action, with the Prime Minister announcing new climate goals in Baku at COP 29 including reducing emissions by 81% by 2035.

The government is also committing today to exploring a Woodland Carbon Purchase Fund, offering upfront payments to landowners to plant carbon-rich woodlands, which would help us meet net zero targets.

Environment Secretary Emma Reynolds, said "Our woodlands are vital for regulating our climate, supporting wildlife and increasing access to nature for us all.

"We are delivering on our manifesto commitment with three new National Forests in the West Country, a second between Oxford and Cambridge and we will launch a competition

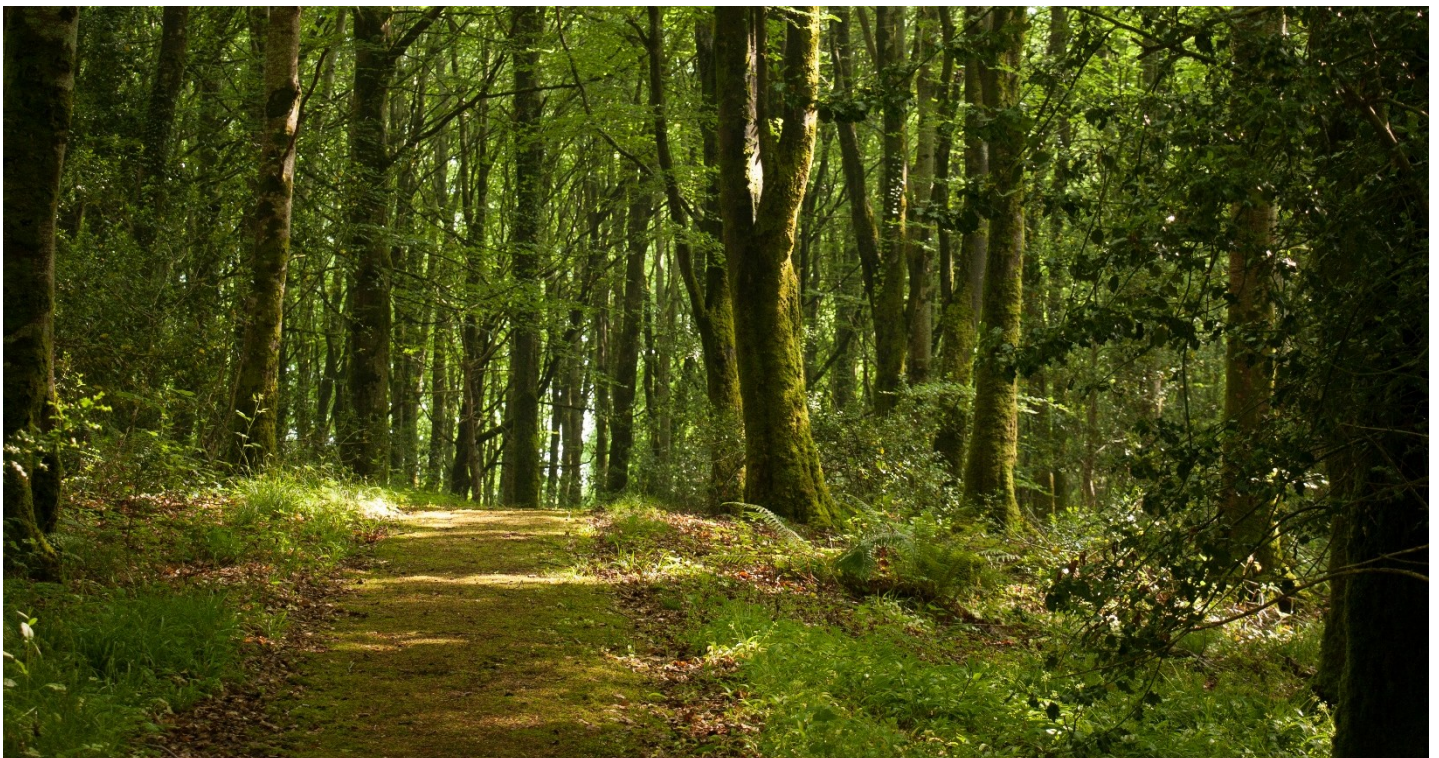
for a third next year.

Our ambitious tree planting programme will help unlock growth, restore nature and create green jobs for the future – all part of the Plan for Change."

The exact location of the Ox-Cam national forest award is subject to design work and discussion with partners. The forest will embed nature recovery into development, with green spaces designed alongside new homes, jobs, and infrastructure.

A new Woodland Carbon Purchase Fund is also set to be explored offering upfront payments to landowners to plant woodlands and thereby tackling one of the major barriers to tree planting. The fund, backed by up to £250 million, will give growers financial certainty and help accelerate tree planting. Alongside this, investment in apprenticeships and training will boost rural employment and equip people with skills for green jobs.

Further detail will be set out in the upcoming Environmental Improvement Plan, outlining the next phase of the UK's nature recovery ambitions.



Insurers calling for trees to be felled as cheap fix for subsidence, say critics

By Kevin Rawlinson for *The Guardian*

WHEN Linda Taylor Cantrill finally found her dream family home in Exmouth, Devon, it wasn't the location, the square footage or the local amenities that finally made up her mind. It was the 200-year-old oak tree in the garden. She told the *Guardian* "The way we felt about just standing in the shade of the tree was: 'We need this house, because look how beautiful it is'".

Little wonder then, that when an insurance company suggested chopping the tree down in an effort to arrest the subsidence affecting the house, Taylor Cantrill says she turned "into Boudicca", to stop the chainsaws, launching a years-long battle that, this year, she finally won.

Hers might seem like an isolated example of arboreal activism, but the issue of insurers recommending tree-felling as a cheap fix to building issues is one played out daily in Britain.

The problem, according to some campaigners, is so common that they fear it could bring about the loss of irreplaceable ancient trees.

Data on insurance-related tree-felling is difficult to pin down, but underwriters are braced for an increase in subsidence claims this year. The Association of British Insurers (ABI) said there had been "unusually high spring temperatures", often a cause of such claims.

As part of the Haringey Tree Protectors group, Gio Iozzi has been heavily involved in efforts to save a 120-year-old plane tree in north London. "I see it as big a problem, on a par with the water pollution scandal," she said.

Like Taylor Cantrill, she chose her home because of the trees nearby and believes insurers prefer to fell trees suspected of causing subsidence rather than pursuing engineering solutions such as underpinning houses.

It is a view shared by the Woodland Trust, which said it was a "significant concern". Caroline Campbell, who leads the trust's work on bringing the benefits of trees to the urban areas that need them the most, said: "Mature and veteran trees are often removed before causation is proven, and in many cases where alternative engineering or root management solutions could resolve the problem while retaining the tree. The general approach from many insurers remains risk-averse, defaulting to removal as the quickest or cheapest option."

The ABI said: "It is not the case that insurers default to tree removal as a matter of convenience or cost-cutting. Insurers will assess each claim on a case-by-case basis, and will consult with experts to determine the most appropriate course of action."

In Billingshurst, in West Sussex, another group is still fighting to save two oak trees villagers believe are at least 200 years old, and that insurers say are the cause of damage to nearby homes.

After hiring a lawyer, and thousands of people signing a petition in support, the Save Billi Oaks campaigners have fought their local authority to a standstill. The authority had



*The tree that the Taylor Cantrills' insurers blame for subsidence.
Photograph: Jim Wileman/The Guardian*

initially granted permission to fell the trees, despite tree preservation orders being in place.

In September, councillors voted unanimously to pause those plans while they took legal advice. It is understood the council will revisit the matter on 5 November.

One of those fighting for the trees, Gabi Barrett, said: "If it weren't for the community stepping up, both trees would have been felled." She added: "The trees are stunning, perfectly balanced and over 200 years-old. They are the only trees of that age and status that remain on the estate. They provide shade in summer and mitigate flood risk in the wetter months."

She said that "from the get-go, saving these trees has been a community effort".

However, it has not yet secured the future of the trees. They remain vulnerable, partly because the council fears incurring liability if it does not agree to the insurer's request to cut them down.

Campbell said the effect of losing the trees could be devastating for the local environment: "Even a single insurance claim can lead to the felling of multiple street or garden trees, and subsidence is known to be one of the largest claim types facing the insurance sector."

"The cumulative impact over time is substantial, contributing to canopy loss in exactly the urban areas where trees are most needed for cooling, air quality and flood mitigation."

Furthermore, while mature trees are effective at taking CO₂ out of the atmosphere, newly planted ones, often cited as mitigation when an ancient tree is felled, are much less so. Chopping down mature trees can also release the CO₂ back into the atmosphere.

The ABI said firms "explore alternative solutions" to felling, but these were not always suitable. A spokesperson also said underpinning "itself has an environmental impact through the use of carbon-intensive concrete". They added: "The insurance industry takes its climate responsibilities seriously."

Taylor Cantrill's successful defence of her beloved tree will be an inspiration to others with a similar fight on their hands. For those, like Barrett, the battle to preserve their local greenery is personal. She said: "My children were born in Billingshurst. I have fond memories of stopping for a snack in the shade under those trees on the way back from toddler group. I would find their loss devastating."

How vanishing wildflower meadows affects bees and risks driving up food prices

By Martha Kearney, Presenter of BBC Radio 4's This Natural Life

EVER since I was a child I have loved wildflowers. I have fond memories of the woods in Sussex, where I grew up, filling with primroses early in the year and carpeted with bluebells in the spring. I always used their nicknames, "Eggs and bacon", for birds-foot-trefoil (a native plant known for its yellow slipper-like petals) and "bread-and-cheese" for the young shoots of the British tree hawthorn, which my friends and I would eat ... and pretend to like!

We picked rosehips from hedges too, which we split open to make itching powder, perfect for playground pranks.

However, later in life, on my walks through the countryside, I began to notice dwindling numbers of wildflowers. I missed the grasslands, bursting with colour, that I'd so enjoyed in my childhood.

According to the charity Plantlife, approximately 97% of wildflower meadows have been lost across the UK since the 1930s, while species-rich grassland areas, which used to be a common sight, are now among the most threatened habitats.

"It's definitely a story of severe overall decline, both in the cover of flowers but also the diversity," explains Simon Potts, professor of biodiversity and ecosystem services at Reading University.

So, what will happen if there isn't more intervention to save wildflowers? What will the future look like?

"Awful, in a word," says Prof Potts. "If we, let's say, take a scenario where we just continue business as usual as we are now, we will still keep losing our wildflowers. With that, we lose the beneficial biodiversity like the pollinators and the natural enemies of pests."

As a bee lover I am on team pollinator which is one of the reasons why my husband and I decided to plant our own wildflower meadow. Not just for the beautiful colours but for the vibrancy of the bees, butterflies and moths flying around, which need that habitat.

Yet since then, I've come to understand that the loss of wildflowers could bring other perhaps more unexpected consequences too.

"The consequence will be for farmers," argues Prof Potts. "They will get low yields and poor quality crops. Consumers will have to pay higher prices. Our environment will be degraded, eroded, will have less wildlife. Many of them [wildflowers] produce nectar and pollen, which is super important for things like wild bees, hoverflies, and butterflies, that can pollinate crops."

Prof Daniel Gibbs, food security lead at the University of Birmingham's School of Biosciences, also has concerns about the long-term consequences.

"Over time, and alongside pressures from climate change and land degradation, this could make our food system more fragile, and negatively impact food security," he says, meaning we could, for example, find ourselves with more limited access to fresh fruits and vegetables.

There are also studies showing that fields



near wildflower-rich margins or meadows produce better-quality fruit and higher yields.

"Wildflowers can also support some bugs, like spiders and carabid beetles... [which] do an absolutely fantastic job in controlling some of the pests that we get on crops - that can either damage the crop or sometimes lower the quality of the produce," adds Prof Potts.

He describes wildflowers as almost like little factories, pumping out beneficial bits of biodiversity that can help with food production.

"Farmers may have to rely more on manual pollination," Prof Gibbs says. "Or we may need to look to increasing food imports, both of which can drive up prices."

Multiple factors are behind the decline. Sarah Shuttleworth, a botanist with Plantlife, argues that certain intensive farming methods have contributed. However, some intensive farming methods have also allowed farmers to grow food for the country and farmers I spoke to pointed out that they face tough financial choices.

Though there have been government subsidies in place for years, meaning farmers are paid by the government to support wildlife on their land, since Brexit the way these grants are paid has changed, with different schemes designed in each of the devolved nations.

In England, there has been frustration in some quarters about the speed and rollout of the grants and the fact that some schemes have been paused, such as the Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI), though this is due to reopen, while others extended at the last minute, leaving farmers less able to plan ahead.

Speaking about the SFI scheme, a Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) spokesperson told the BBC: "We inherited farming schemes which were untargeted and underspent, meaning millions of

pounds were not going to farming businesses. We have changed direction to ensure public money is spent effectively, and last year all the government's farming budget was spent."

They also acknowledged that wildflowers are vital, providing food and habitats for pollinators and wildlife, as well as improving biodiversity, and added: "We are backing farmers with the largest nature-friendly budget in history and under our agri-environment schemes we are funding millions of hectares of wildflower meadows."

As part of its new deal for farmers, Defra said it has committed nearly £250m in farming grants to improve productivity, trial new technologies and drive innovation in the sector.

Mark Meadows, Warwickshire chair of the National Farmers' Union (NFU), maintains 6m (20ft) wildflower strips around many of his fields. He feared that without an extension to his current agreement with Defra he'd have to return some wildflower margins to crop production.

"I'd love [to] be profitable enough [to] say 'Look, we'll leave 5% of our farmland,'... but agricultural costs have gone up a lot," he says.

Other farmers share similar tales. David Lord is a third-generation farmer in Essex and member of the Nature Friendly Farming Network.

"I'm 47 and I've never known farming to be under so much strain," he says.

Knowing what funding for nature recovery on farms will be in place in future years is, he says, crucial. "It takes time and care and cost to maintain [wildflowers]... A lot of farmers aren't going to be minded to just keep these habitats in place without the funding."

Prof Potts says there has at least been a slowdown in decline over the last couple of decades and perhaps a limited recovery for

some species.

"I think [this] reflects some of the agricultural practices that have been a bit more nature-friendly."

Nature writer, and author of *Flora Britannica*, Richard Mabey, agrees that the decline in wildflowers is far from universal.

Certain species such as cow parsley, yarrow and knapweed are in fact spreading, and he welcomes an influx of non-native plants and "garden escapes", such as snowdrop and buddleia.

Even so, Prof Potts says: "It is the most precious things that we're losing the most of." This includes cornflowers, corncockle and corn marigold, what he terms the iconic British countryside flowers.

The overall decline is why my husband and I decided to create our own wildflower meadow from an overgrown arable field.

There was a field next to our house, which I had put beehives in, with permission from the owner. I had often thought it would be wonderful to create a wildflower meadow around those hives, so when the opportunity arose to buy the field, we decided to go ahead.

A conservation specialist advised us on where to buy the seed. It was particularly important to get some yellow rattle seed, which helps keep more dominant grasses in check. This in turn gives other wildflowers more opportunity to gain a foothold.

Our first year after sowing was amazing. A patriotic bloom of red, white and blue burst across the field. The red was from poppies which came from the disturbed ground. The white was ox-eye daisies, bladder campion and wild carrot, with spires of bright blue from viper's bugloss.

The colour has changed over time. The splash of red did not return, but different wildflowers arrived in their place.

The most spectacular year was last summer. Orchid seeds I'd scattered many years before and almost forgotten about, managed to flower. We counted more than 100 bee orchids, which to a bee lover like me was the climax of years of work.

In fairness, I should admit it's years of my husband Chris's work. He found an old-fashioned seed fiddle for us to use. A hand-held device used to scatter the seeds in a controlled way, operated as though drawing a bow across a violin.

He also cut the hay at the end of summer, initially trying with a scythe, Poldark-style, but ultimately finding a small tractor does the trick in a less backbreaking way.

Of course, many people are not in the fortunate position we found ourselves in, of being able to create a wildflower meadow and in the UK, you cannot plant wildflowers just anywhere. You would most likely need the landowner's permission.

However, growing numbers of people are trying to create their own patches of wildflowers. Plantlife reports that more and more are joining its No Mow May initiative, an annual campaign to let wildflowers grow freely, by packing away the lawnmower.

Sarah Shuttleworth says just a small spot can make a difference, especially when it comes to pollinators. "Anyone who has a patch of grass could do their bit... the idea is that you're recreating a meadow-type management scheme, but in a very, very micro scale."

The charity would like to see wildflower habitats being given the same kind of protection as other precious landscapes. Meanwhile Prof Potts thinks, "We need a bit more of a radical think about how to support farmers to do the right thing."

New housing developments could also prove a way to create wildflower meadows.

Under the government's Biodiversity Net Gain scheme, set up under the Environment Act, developers creating building sites are obliged to ensure the same amount of biodiversity at the end of the project, as they had at the start, plus 10%.

Ben Taylor manages the Iford Estate, farming land near Lewes in Sussex. For a recording of *Open Country* on Radio 4, he showed me with great pride around a new wildflower meadow, which was part of a 90-acre site, funded as a pilot by the scheme.

"We have seen hares here now, which we never had a year or two ago, before we started doing this. So it's really exciting..."

However, I wondered, does it make sense to take all of those acres of land out of food production?

Mr Taylor says the soil was poor there anyway. "You have to have nature to be able to grow food," he adds. "Because you need the pollinators as you need the ecosystem, the food chains, the soil webs and everything else to be able to grow food sustainably in the long-term - so I like to think of it as a reservoir of biodiversity."

Many ecologists also want us to look beyond the benefits the wildflowers provide for us.

"Those species are just valuable in their own right, regardless of what they do or what they provide... They've also got their own right to be," argues Dr Kelly Hemmings, associate professor in ecology at the Royal Agricultural University.

Richard Mabey stresses a similar point. "They are important, in my view, for ethical reasons, simply because they exist. Beyond that they are the infrastructure of all other life on the Earth, the fundamental base of the food chain."

How two abseiling horticulturalists rescued specimens from an endangered tree

By Tory Shepherd for The Guardian

TWO horticulturalists have undertaken a daring abseiling mission to rescue gumnuts from an endangered tree on a 300m cliff face. Stan Wawrzyczek, a threatened flora ecologist at the Threatened Species Conservancy, spotted an endangered tree, Jillaga ash *Eucalyptus stenostoma*, 90m down the cliff in Wadbilliga national park in southern New South Wales.

Coincidentally, he had heard that Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria (RBGV) horticulturist Amy Downie could abseil. She cared for the RBGV's Grey Garden, which has hard-to-reach plants on a steep slope.

She was roped in, along with her colleague Ollie Sherlock, rock climber, abseiler and acting team leader for natural systems.

Downie said "The abseiling site had never been descended before. We had to tie two ropes together because they weren't long enough."

The pair collected gumnuts from four trees

using a pole pruner. They will be used to grow seedlings to create back-up populations, saving the Jillaga ash from extinction. Cuttings will also be stored and dried.

Jillaga ash is only found in Wadbilliga and nearby Deua national park, and the Wadbilliga population was nearly destroyed in the black summer bushfires. It grows up to 25m, lives for up to 400 years, but does not have the post-fire regeneration capability of other trees.

It usually grows on very steep slopes, rocky hilltops and ridgelines with shallow soils, and "often has a characteristic downhill lean", according to the NSW government.

The government has funded the conservancy to save six species in the area,

including the Jillaga ash.

"The five-day trip involved camping, four-wheel driving, hiking through dense vegetation, climbing and abseiling, surveying, collecting and botanising," Downie said.

"Following the success of this mission, we are considering new locations in which abseiling can be used to rescue endangered plants."

Sherlock said they had to work without mobile phone service, and tackle some tough 4WD tracks. He thinks drones could be used in the future to spot plants and assess any risks before going in for retrieval.

The Jillaga ash seeds will be stored in RBGV's state botanical collection, which has more than 1.5m specimens.

An accidentally introduced parasitoid could save box trees from ecological extinction

By CABI. Edited by Sadie Harley, reviewed by Robert Egan

CABI scientists, who have published their research in the journal *CABI Agriculture and Bioscience*, suggest that an accidentally introduced parasitoid could help save wild box trees from ecological extinction. The study highlights how an unidentified species of *Eriborus* could be used as a classical biological control for box tree moth *Cydalima perspectalis* (Lepidoptera: Crambidae) in Europe and North America.

Scientists, which included those from the Natural History Museum Basel, Switzerland, and Seoul National University in South Korea, say that high parasitism rates observed at several sites in Switzerland and Germany provide hope for protecting and saving wild box trees from the box tree moth pest.

Dr Marc Kenis, Head of Risk Analysis and Invasion Ecology at CABI and an author of the paper, said, "This parasitoid likely arrived unintentionally some years ago with the importation of box trees from East Asia. *Cydalima perspectalis* is seriously threatening the survival of European wild *Buxus* spp, and very few control options are presently available.

"The presence of this *Eriborus* spp opens new perspectives for classical biological control in all invaded areas, including North America, where the box tree moth has become a serious pest of ornamental *Buxus* spp and could threaten native *Buxus* spp in Mexico and the Caribbean."

In spring 2024, an *Eriborus* spp adult was caught in a botanical garden in Basel, Switzerland. To the scientists' knowledge, this was the first detection of this parasitoid in Europe. In spring 2025, surveys were made to assess parasitism of *C. perspectalis* populations



at various sites in northwestern Switzerland and at one site in southwestern Germany.

These surveys showed that the parasitoid is well established in the region, both in gardens and in wild box tree stands.

Morphological observations and molecular analyses showed that the specimens found in Switzerland and Germany belong to the same species as specimens collected on *C. perspectalis* in South Korea. Parasitism was highest in wild stands, reaching 68% in Germany and 32% in Switzerland.

The scientists argue that *Eriborus* sp is only one of many cases of adventive biological control of invasive species through the non-intentional introduction of natural enemies from the area of origin of the pests.

In recent years, several similar cases have

been observed in Europe and elsewhere. These include, among others, the introduction of *Trissolcus japonicus*, parasitoid of *Halyomorpha halys*, *Leptopilina japonica*, parasitoid of *Drosophila suzukii*, several parasitoids of invasive Eucalyptus pests, and even herbivores of invasive weeds such as the beetle *Ophraella communa*, an accidentally introduced biological control agent of *Ambrosia artemisiifolia*.

These natural enemies take advantage of the high abundance of their host in the invaded areas to establish themselves and spread. In the case of *Eriborus* spp, the parasitoid being the lytokous, a single cocoon or a parasitized larva imported on box trees may be sufficient for successful establishment.

Dr Lukas Seehausen, Research Scientist, Risk Analysis & Invasion Ecology at CABI and a co-author of the paper, said, "*Eriborus* sp. could be distributed elsewhere in Europe, Western Asia and North America but, before that, it remains to be seen whether the species is sufficiently specific to avoid non-target effects on native moths.

"The first non-target experiments conducted in quarantine are promising, but the presence of *Eriborus* spp in Swiss and German forests will allow us to assess its realized host range in nature, by collecting a large variety of caterpillar species present at the right places at the right moments to determine whether they are parasitized by *Eriborus* spp"

Wildlife charities a third of the way to buying key UK nature refuge

By Shanna Hanbury for Mongabay

A conservation alliance in the UK has raised nearly one-third of the 30 million pounds it needs to buy land in north-eastern England to turn into a refuge for wildlife and local communities. The land, known as the Rothbury Estate, is roughly the size of the Greek capital of Athens, at 3,839 hectares (9,486 acres), and is located next to a national park.

Wildlife Trusts, a network of UK conservation charities, says the land's management would help protect local species such as red squirrels, pine martens, curlews and skylarks.

The group says it will reintroduce European bison and beavers.

The area could also serve as a habitat for golden eagles, recently spotted in northern England for the first time in several decades.

"The Wildlife Trusts have launched an appeal to buy this very special place," renowned

naturalist and broadcaster David Attenborough said in a video shared by the charity. "They will work with local farmers to care for the area and breathe new life into it with the communities who live and work at Rothbury."

Rothbury Estate was put up for sale in 2023 by a 35-year-old English aristocrat, Max Percy,



who grew up in the castle used as Hogwarts for the Harry Potter movies.

In October 2024, Wildlife Trusts, in partnership with Northumberland Wildlife Trust, purchased the first part of the estate, known as Simonside Hills, made up of open expanses of

moorland and forest, and home to Neolithic and Bronze Age rock carvings.

Percy agreed to give the charity a two-year window to raise the funds to purchase the remaining areas, largely agricultural land. Local media reported that some residents have

argued the land should be returned to the community and its fate shouldn't be decided by one person.

"There were several interested parties in the Rothbury Estate, and Max selected the purchaser he believed would be most suitable for the long-term interests of the Estate," Northumberland Estates, which manages the family's assets, told Mongabay by email.

The Estate was marketed at £35 million [\$46 million], but the agreed sale price remains confidential.

A Wildlife Trusts spokesperson told Mongabay by email that they're now one year away from their deadline and have raised nearly 10 million pounds of their 30-million-pound goal. "Along with local support, we've received donations from £5 to £5m from people all over the country and abroad."

If they don't reach their goal amount, Wildlife Trusts warns the land may be broken up into smaller parts and sold off to different buyers, threatening to disrupt one of the nation's few remaining natural strongholds and raising concerns for the region's farmers and residents.

UK opts out of flagship fund to protect Amazon and other threatened tropical forests

By Fiona Harvey for The Guardian

THE UK will not contribute to a flagship fund for the world's remaining tropical forests, in a bitter blow to the Brazilian hosts on the eve of the Cop30 climate summit. Keir Starmer flew to Belém, at the mouth of the Amazon, on 5 November to join the summit of world leaders hosted by Brazil's president, Lula da Silva.

The key announcement for Brazil at the leaders' summit on 6 November, which took place a few days before the start of the main Cop30 UN climate summit, was the Tropical Forests Forever Facility (TFFF).

This fund aims to raise \$125bn for governments and local communities that protect existing forests, such as the Amazon and the Congo basin. Lula hopes to raise \$25bn from public sources, mainly developed countries attending Cop30, with the rest to come from the private sector and financial markets.

However, he has had difficulty persuading cash-strapped governments, many of which are already cutting their aid budgets, to provide money. Under Joe Biden, the US was seen as a possible contributor, but with Donald Trump as president that will not happen.

The UK's decision will be a major letdown, as Britain has previously played a big role in stopping deforestation. "The Brazilians are fuming," one source told the Guardian.

However, the Guardian understands Downing Street may consider contributing directly to the fund in future. The TFFF is regarded as being at too early a stage at present, and there are concerns about how it will work in practice. The UK has contributed to the structure financially underpinning the fund, but not directly to the fund itself, despite Brazil

urging it to do so for months.

Norway is likely to hold firm to its commitment to the TFFF, but the Guardian understands that the German government may also be wavering.

The UK's decision will embarrass Prince William, who is in Brazil to present the Earthshot prize, for which the TFFF is nominated.

Zac Goldsmith, the Conservative peer and climate minister under Boris Johnson, who led UK efforts on deforestation at the Cop26 summit in 2021 in Glasgow, told the Guardian the UK was making a mistake. "The UK helped design the fund, having catapulted forests to the top of the agenda when we hosted Cop. But this government seems only interested in one-dimensional carbon accounting and has just walked away," he said.

Goldsmith believes TFFF is the best way to preserve threatened forests worldwide. "At last there's a plan on the table to save the world's remaining tropical forests, on which we all ultimately depend. It doesn't require grants or aid. It is a fund, with the first tranche provided as an investment by governments, and the remainder – the vast majority – by the private sector," he said.

"The fund will last in perpetuity and will provide returns to investors as well as annual income to those forest countries that protect their forests. At a time of reduced availability of funds, and increased decimation of the great forest basins, this is as close as you get to win-win."

He accused the UK government of trying to persuade Germany not to invest, which the UK denies.

Green groups criticised the decision. Tanya Steele, the chief executive of WWF-UK, said: "Failing to invest in the TFFF at this stage is a missed opportunity for the UK government. The TFFF is an innovative new finance mechanism that will quadruple the amount of money available to keep the world's forests standing and ultimately underpin our food security at a time when rising food prices are hitting UK shoppers."

She added: "It is telling and concerning that the UK, as one of the world's richest countries, has not announced an investment to match those from less wealthy countries. We urge the prime minister to reconsider and invest in the TFFF after Cop30."

Zoe Quiroz Cullen, director of climate and nature linkages at the conservation organisation Fauna & Flora, said: "Helping Brazil to shape the TFFF but then leaving others to front the initial cash at its launch is an abandonment of leadership by the UK government, while others, including the global south, step up."

"The irony and injustice in this should not be lost. We need all of the tools we can get to tackle the dual climate and nature loss crises, and the TFFF offers an additional way of channelling finance to protecting the lungs of our planet, while promising a financial return on investment."

Amazon tree-felling blamed for polluting UK rivers

By Steffan Messenger, BBC Wales environment correspondent

TREE-FELLING in the Amazon rainforest is partly to blame for pollution that is plaguing UK rivers such as the Wye, a new report suggests. It points the finger of blame at soy which is imported from vast plantations overseas and used as livestock feed, calling this a "hidden link" to the poor state of many waterways in Wales, and around the UK.

The report from environment groups *Size of Wales* and *WWF Cymru*, says the soy is high in phosphorous and becomes a pollutant when animal manure spread on land runs off into rivers.

It calls for action to stop the import of commodities linked to deforestation, while the Welsh government said it was already taking "ambitious steps".

"What we eat and produce here... can have a profound effect on the future of forests and those communities that depend on them," explained Barbara Davies-Quy, deputy director of *Size of Wales*.

"Every time we buy cheap chicken fed on soy or buy corned beef from South American countries linked to deforestation risk, Wales is contributing to a system that drives the destruction of the Amazon and the Atlantic Forest and harms indigenous peoples."

The report was released as representatives from 190 countries gathered in the Brazilian city of Belém - described as a "gateway to the Amazon" - for COP30 climate talks.

Rainforests such as the Amazon are vital in the fight against rising global temperatures, acting as carbon sinks as well as being irreplaceable hotspots for biodiversity.

World leaders pledged to halt and reverse deforestation by the end of this decade at Glasgow's COP26 summit four years ago, but this report says rainforest destruction continues at "an alarming pace", pointing to recent data, suggesting 6.7 million hectares of tropical forest were lost in 2024.

Shea Buckland Jones of *WWF Cymru* said "Wales' reliance on imported soy" had left "a trail of destruction from the forests of Brazil to the rivers of Wales".

The report calls for governments and local councils to do more to influence the situation by changing the food they buy in - avoiding goods which could have contributed to deforestation.

It says every year Wales imports around 190,000 tonnes of soy and 12,000 tonnes of beef. Nearly three-quarters of the soy comes from countries that are at high risk of deforestation and social issues, as does 26% of beef imported.

In western Paraná, Brazil, the Avá Guarani people have lost much of their ancestral lands to vast soy plantations.

Karai Okaju, an Avá Guarani leader, said "Agribusiness came and destroyed everything. Our rivers, our forests, our food. The land is sick. It cannot breathe."

The community has established a link with Wales, alongside the Wampis nation from Peru,



whose leaders recently visited the Senedd to meet with ministers.

About 80% of soy brought into Wales is used as livestock feed for poultry and dairy farms. High in phosphorus, it can become a problem when excess nutrients from animal manure leaches into rivers and groundwater.

The issue has been hugely controversial along the River Wye in recent years, with as many as 23 million chickens - a quarter of the UK's poultry production - raised in the river's catchment area.

Several of Wales' other most protected river networks are also failing to meet targets around phosphate pollution, including the Usk and Cleddau.

The report calls on the Welsh government to support farmers through its new subsidy system, the Sustainable Farming Scheme, to reduce reliance on imported soy feed.

It wants the public sector and businesses to commit to deforestation-free supply chains by 2028 and an outright ban on corned beef from Brazil. It calls too for the promotion of diets with "less, but better" meat and dairy.

Despite what it describes as "stark findings", the report highlights positive examples of leadership on the issue in Wales.

Caerphilly council has new mandatory deforestation-free criteria for food procurement. This means reducing the use of ultra-processed foods, sourcing higher welfare and organic meat and dairy, and Fairtrade coffee and cocoa.

Monmouthshire council became Wales' first Deforestation Free Champion council, external, in a move brought about as a result of lobbying by the county's school pupils. It has involved scrutinising school meal provision across the

county, reducing the use of palm oil and sourcing all beef from Wales

A "deforestation-free chickpea korma" has replaced chicken curry on school menus across the county.

A delegation of school pupils from Monmouthshire have been invited to speak at an event at the COP30 summit via video link about what they have achieved.

Leader of Monmouthshire council Mary Ann Brocklesby said it was now starting to look at meals offered in care homes and tourist sites.

"We want as many other councils across the UK to do the same - it makes sense for our future and it's even better when it's our young people who are holding us to account."

Wales' Future Generations Commissioner Derek Walker has also called for a "deforestation-free public sector" by 2028.

Asked if it was affordable for councils to move away from cheap imported food at a time of squeezed budgets he said "the cost of not doing this is huge... to the climate emergency".

Mr Walker added it could also help the Welsh economy, saying: "Hopefully we'll be buying more locally-produced products whilst also doing the right thing globally."

The Welsh government said it recognised the importance "of playing our part in reducing deforestation-linked impacts, particularly through our supply chains and international partnerships".

"However, it is a challenge that requires a whole Wales effort, and one that we must face together to protect our planet for future generations," a spokesperson added.

Shocking images show 500ft 'catastrophe' fly-tipped in Oxfordshire field

By James Cheng-Morris and Andy Wells for Yahoo!news

THESE shocking pictures show a 150m-long pile of fly-tipped waste dumped on a field in Oxfordshire. The heap of rubbish, next to the A34 dual carriageway in Kidlington, is about 6m deep. The waste, discovered by anglers in October, is also near the River Cherwell and the Friends of the Thames charity told the BBC: "This is an environmental catastrophe unfolding in plain sight."

"Every day that passes increases the risk of toxic run-off entering the river system, poisoning wildlife and threatening the health of the entire catchment."

Calum Miller, the Liberal Democrat MP for Bicester and Woodstock, raised the issue in the House of Commons on 13 November, saying: "Criminals have dumped a mountain of illegal plastic waste... weighing hundreds of tonnes, in my constituency on a floodplain adjacent to the River Cherwell."

"River levels are rising and heatmaps show that the waste is also heating up, raising the risk of fire. The Environment Agency said it has limited resources for enforcement, and the estimated cost of removal is greater than the entire annual budget of the local district council."

The Environment Agency said it "is aware and investigating", while environment minister Mary Creagh said a restriction order is in place.

Fly-tipping, as per Keep Britain Tidy, is the "illegal deposit of any waste onto land that does not have a licence to accept it".

The term originates from "tipping" waste on the "fly", implying quick disposal to avoid being caught. It is a criminal offence that can range from small-scale - such as a mattress, electrical items or a bin bag of rubbish being left in a street to large-scale: for example a truckload of construction and demolition waste being tipped onto land.

Small-scale fly-tips can be reported to local authorities, while the Environment Agency deals with large-scale incidents, including hazardous waste and tipping carried out by organised

Fly-tipping incidents in England



PA graphic. Source: Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs
Figures for 2018/19 onwards not directly comparable with earlier years due to methodological changes

Figures show a gradual increase in fly-tipping in England. (PA)

criminals. These can be reported its national hotline number: 0800 807 060.

Fly-tipping is an offence under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and there are a range of penalties, depending on severity.

For minor fly-tips, local authorities can issue fixed penalty notices (FPNs) of up to £1,000, though some councils issue reduced penalties such as £250 if paid within 10 days.

Householders who fail to ensure their waste is disposed of legally, such as passing it to an unlicensed carrier that fly-tips, can face FPNs of up to £600.

More serious cases could see court

prosecutions, where penalties escalate significantly. In a magistrates' court, convictions can lead to fines of up to £50,000 or imprisonment for up to 12 months. More serious cases tried in a crown court could see offenders face unlimited fines and up to five years in prison.

The government's latest figures show local councils dealt with a record 1.15 million incidents in 2023/24. That was a 6% increase on the previous year.

London had the highest proportion of cases, with 50 incidents per 1,000 people. This was more than double the North East, which had the second highest proportion with 25 cases per 1,000 people. The South West had the least, with nine cases per 1,000.

Croydon, a London borough, was the worst-affected council area in England with over 35,000 incidents reported.

Some of the other worst-hit council areas included Nottingham, Birmingham, West Northants, Bradford and Liverpool, as well as London boroughs Camden, Hackney, Hounslow and Lewisham.

If you find rubbish accumulating in your neighbour's garden, your rights depend on how severe the issue is. Fly-tipping can be an offence even if the waste is on private property, especially if it poses a health or safety risk. If the waste is causing a nuisance, such as attracting vermin or obstructing access, you may have grounds to take action.

You can make an official complaint but you should not take any action yourself as you could fall foul of trespassing laws. The first step should be to speak to your neighbour and attempt to resolve the issue amicably.



Drax still burning 250-year-old trees sourced from forests in Canada, experts say

By Jillian Ambrose for The Guardian

DRAX power plant has continued to burn 250-year-old trees sourced from some of Canada's oldest forests despite growing scrutiny of its sustainability claims, forestry experts say. A new report suggests it is "highly likely" that Britain's biggest power plant sourced some wood from ecologically valuable forests as recently as this summer. Drax, Britain's single biggest source of carbon emissions, has received billions of pounds in subsidies from burning biomass derived largely from wood.

The report, by Stand.earth, a Canadian environmental non-profit, claims that a subsidiary of Drax Group received hundreds of truckloads of whole logs at its biomass pellet sites throughout 2024 and into 2025, which were likely to have included trees that were hundreds of years old.

The report could raise fresh questions for the owner of the North Yorkshire power plant, which has been forced in recent years to defend its sustainability claims while receiving more than £2m a day in green energy subsidies from UK bill payers.

The report's findings suggest that the power plant was burning "irreplaceable" trees even as its owners lobbied the UK government for the additional green energy subsidies, which were granted in October.

The company has claimed that it sources wood only from "well-managed, sustainable forests" to manufacture the pellets that are shipped from its sites in Canada and the US to be burned at its UK power plant.

However, these claims have been questioned by Britain's energy regulator and the Financial Conduct Authority after a BBC Panorama documentary in 2022 reported that Drax had cut down primary forests in Canada to turn into wood pellets.

The latest investigation into the company's green credentials, seen by the Guardian, uses official data from the government of British Columbia, along with satellite monitoring, to back claims that a Canadian subsidiary owned by Drax sourced 250-year-old trees to manufacture biomass pellets as recently as this year.

The report claims that the company received 90 truckloads of logs sourced from "old-growth forests" in the Skeena region of British Columbia, home to some of Canada's largest undeveloped wilderness areas.

Old-growth forests are defined by the local government as areas that include trees older than 250 years in slow-growth ecosystems, or older than 140 years in ecosystems in which trees are replaced more quickly.

Drax said in October 2023 it had stopped sourcing wood from areas designated by the government of British Columbia as "protected" or "deferred" old-growth forest stands, but it did not dispute that it was still sourcing wood from other sites containing old growth.

Responding to the Stand.earth report, a spokesperson for Drax said: "Our sourcing policy means Drax does not source biomass from designated areas of old growth and only



sources woody biomass from well-managed, sustainable forests."

These designated areas of old growth amount to less than half of the total old-growth forest areas in British Columbia. Figures from the BC government show that designated areas total 5.3m hectares, while the total area of old-growth forest in the province spans 11.1m hectares. Another 3.7m hectares are protected under separate designation schemes.

Stand.earth claims that in 2024 and 2025 Drax received at least an additional 425 truckloads of whole logs from "cutblocks" (areas of forest land designated for timber harvesting) which contained old-growth forests.

The report claims that 63 of these loads came from three cutblocks that contained more than 90% old-growth forest, "meaning that this purchase almost certainly contained old growth".

It added that the remaining 362 lorry loads of whole logs came from 22 cutblocks in the Skeena region that were more than 80% old growth, meaning that it was "likely" they contained old growth.

"The true volume of old growth sourced by Drax is likely higher than what our research was able to track, because of spatial data limitations," the report said.

Tegan Hansen, the lead author of Stand.earth's report, told the Guardian that the

loss of British Columbia's old-growth trees was "a big problem that's getting bigger".

"The region where Drax is operating is an area where we've tracked a disproportionate amount of logging in high-risk forests with our satellite monitoring system Forest Eye. With how logging works here in BC, there isn't really a way for Drax to be operating in these areas and not include old-growth forests in their wood supply. The people of the UK should know that the risk of old-growth trees being cut down to produce wood pellets is higher than ever," Hansen said.

As part of the investigation, Hansen visited a biomass pellet production site, owned by a Canadian subsidiary of Drax, where the company's reliance on whole logs was apparent.

"It was quite stark. The yards are sprawling and there were huge piles of logs there. These were large, healthy trees of different ages. We saw some trees which had been scorched by fire, but they were still alive when they were cut, which was apparent by the oozing sap," she said.

Drax said the "low-grade" wood used to make biomass pellets had typically been rejected by commercial sawmills and either sold to the biomass industry as waste wood or burned to prevent wildfires. A spokesperson said it was "far better to use [waste wood] to

generate renewable electricity rather than leaving it to burn”.

The rules that allow companies in the forestry industry to disregard old growth as commercial waste are part of the problem, Hansen said.

“Even exceptionally old trees can rot in the

middle, which is one of their features that makes them so important for wildlife, but could mean the tree is called defective by the logging industry. This could mean that the tree is dismissed as waste wood. But a tree standing up in a forest is not waste,” she said.

“Drax has come into British Columbia

claiming to solve some of the problems that our forestry industry has, but they have not. It’s very disheartening, and offensive, to hear Drax claiming to be solving these problems when really they’re entrenching some of the problems that we have in forestry here,” Hansen said.

Bacterial scents from sick oaks attract beetles that worsen tree decline

By Rothamsted Research, edited by Stephanie Baum, reviewed by Andrew Zinin, published on <https://phys.org/news>

THE deadly decline of Britain’s native oak trees may be driven by an unexpected accomplice: their own smell. Scientists have discovered that trees affected by acute oak decline (AOD) emit distinct odours that are highly attractive to the beetle *Agrilus biguttatus*, a key contributor to the decline. The findings suggest that beetles use chemical cues in these odours, emitted by infected leaves and the bacteria involved in AOD, to locate ideal sites to lay their eggs.

The study, published in *Current Biology*, sheds new light on the complex interplay between trees, microbes and insects in one of the UK’s most concerning woodland health crises.

AOD is a fast-progressing condition affecting thousands of mature oaks across England and Wales. It is characterised by dark, weeping lesions on tree trunks and the presence of larval galleries from *A biguttatus*, a jewel beetle whose larvae burrow through the tree’s inner bark, disrupting nutrient flow.

Researchers found that female beetles were strongly attracted to airborne chemicals produced by infected oak leaves and by two bacterial species central to AOD: *Brenneria goodwinii* and *Gibbsiella quercinecans*. The effect was even more pronounced when the scent of the bacteria was combined with scents from oak bark.

Crucially, scientists identified three specific chemical compounds within the odour emitted by the bacteria, two of which are entirely new to science. These natural products appear to serve as olfactory cues, helping the beetles zero in on stressed and susceptible trees, although they do not directly trigger egg-laying behaviour.

Dr Jozsef Vuts, who led the study, said, “What we’re seeing is a sophisticated chemical signalling system. The beetles are essentially using the scent of illness, from both the tree and the bacteria, as a beacon. It’s a remarkable example of how insects can exploit microbial activity to guide their behaviour.”

The team’s findings point to a possible feedback loop in which the beetles are drawn to declining trees already infected by AOD bacteria, facilitating further damage as their larvae open new pathways for infection and decay.

Understanding this chemical dialogue could open the door to novel management strategies.



that can detect the compounds, foresters may be able to monitor or even slow the spread of AOD in vulnerable woodlands.

More than 120,000 trees are estimated to be affected by AOD in the UK, many in ancient or ecologically important forests. As climate change places further stress on native species, the need for innovative approaches to forest health has become increasingly urgent.

“This research provides a new piece of the puzzle,” added Dr John Caulfield. “If we can interfere with the beetle’s ability to detect infected trees, we might be able to tip the balance back in favour of the oaks.”

By developing beetle traps based on synthetic versions of these odour compounds, or sensors

Government plans to construct ‘forest cities’ between Oxford and Cambridge

By George Porteous for Cherwell, Oxford’s oldest student newspaper

GOVERNMENT officials have confirmed plans to construct “forest cities” within a new national forest stretching between Oxford and Cambridge. The announcement is part of the government’s broader ambition to create an “Oxford-Cambridge Growth Corridor” that connects the university towns and facilitates innovation. It also aims to address environmental concerns about the impact of development on green spaces.

Alongside new towns, homes, and railway connections, the government will fund tree planting to create a new forest within a ten-minute walk of homes in the corridor, though its exact boundaries remain undefined.

During a speech in January, the UK’s Chancellor Rachel Reeves outlined the goal of transforming the region between Oxford and Cambridge into “Europe’s Silicon Valley” by investing in rail connections, building new homes, and attracting research and development activity. Proposed infrastructure in the region could add around £78 billion to the British economy, by some estimates.

The government’s forest announcement seeks to balance such concerns with its economic strategy. Environmental groups have criticised similar proposals since the late 2010s, expressing reservations about their climate effects on the climate and potential regional inequality.



Emma Reynolds MP, Secretary of State for the Environment, said: “Our ambitious tree planting programme will help unlock growth, restore nature and create green jobs for the future.”

Plans for two other national forests are underway, including the Western Forest between the Cotswolds and the Mendips, which the government announced in March. A competition next year will decide the location of a third forest in northern England.

The forestry plans coincide with Keir Starmer’s presentation at COP30 in Brazil last

month, where he was expected to call for a greener economy. The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) has also estimated that planting millions of trees could help create and support around 14,000 jobs.

Environmental groups remain somewhat sceptical of the scheme. Abi Bunker, Director of Nature Recovery at the Woodland Trust, said: “As global climate negotiations at COP30 begin in Brazil, and the world is focused on how we can protect the world’s most valuable remaining forests, this feels like a lost opportunity to demonstrate domestic leadership in the protection and restoration of the UK’s own precious temperate rainforests.”

The forest cities plan is one of several ongoing government initiatives to promote science and technology in Oxfordshire. Other projects include the development of a 221-acre site next to the Harwell Science and Innovation Campus, as well as the conversion of an abandoned Debenhams building in central Oxford into a laboratory.

13,000 new trees to be planted across Milton Keynes, the city of trees

By Sally Murrer for the Milton Keynes Citizen

A massive planting programme of 13,000 new trees is to be carried out across Milton Keynes to boost its existing reputation as the ‘city of trees’. The Parks Trust will plant 13,000 new young trees, three new orchards and hedges across the 6,000 acres it cares for in the city. The scheme has been made possible thanks to funding from Defra through The Tree Council’s Trees Outside Woodland (TOW) Fund.

This offers grants of up to £40,000 for local authorities and larger charities such as The Parks Trust to grow trees on land that is publicly accessible or of benefit to the public.

This year, The Parks Trust successfully secured a grant of over £18,000 through the TOW Fund and this will be used to purchase over 13,000 trees and 2,000 metres of hedgerow plants.

Planting will take place between now and February next year and be carried out by The

Parks Trust volunteers and local community groups including Community Trees MK as well as students from local Secondary and Primary Schools.

Frank Gill, Head of Operations and Forestry at The Parks Trust, said: “We are delighted to have received this grant from Trees Outside Woodland Fund. This additional funding will allow us to plant three new orchards, 1.3km’s of new hedgerows, two shelterbelts and individual trees across the parks.”

CEO of The Tree Council, Sara Lom, said: “Trees outside woodland are the trees we all come across most often. Those in our parks, on

our streets, and even the hedgerows that help capture carbon and act as heritage highways for a rich array of wildlife.

“We’re delighted to be partnering with Defra to offer this additional Tree Council grant opportunity to benefit people, wildlife and our planet, and especially The Parks Trust!”

National Tree Week is between November 22 and November 30 and this will mark the official start of the tree planting season for The Parks Trust, which will be running more than 15 tree planting sessions for local school groups.

You can find out more about the planting work carried out by The Parks Trust [here](#).

Climate and Environment

FOSSIL fuel emissions have risen again, but a renewables boom offers hope for our climate reported Mark Poynting, climate reporter, and Matt McGrath, environment correspondent, for BBC News. It is another sign that efforts to fight climate change by cutting emissions are moving far too slowly to meet international targets, as countries met in Brazil for UN climate talks COP30.

However, emissions have grown much less quickly over the past decade as renewables have taken off, providing hope that the world's warming trend can still be curbed.

Furthermore, separate analysis by clean energy think tank Ember suggests that fossil fuel use in electricity generation has flat-lined in 2025, largely thanks to the rapid growth of solar power.

It adds weight to the idea that global emissions may be nearing a peak, even though it's hard to say exactly when that might come.

Carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions for 2025 are of course an estimate, with the year not yet complete, but they show a mixed picture. Emissions from fossil fuels and cement are forecast to increase yet again to 38.1bn tonnes of CO₂, according to the Global Carbon Budget team, which comprises more than 130 scientists from 21 countries. That would be up 1.1% on 2024.

Emissions from changing land-use, such as permanent deforestation, are forecast to be lower than last year, however. That's largely due to the end of the natural El Niño weather pattern which can drive higher forest losses but is the continuation of a longer-term trend.

It means that, altogether, total emissions from all human activities are expected to reach 42.2bn tonnes CO₂ in 2025, down from the 42.4bn in 2024, albeit marginally.

What is clearer, the team say, is that emissions have grown more slowly over the past decade. 0.3% per year compared to the previous decade's 1.9% per year.

Furthermore, over the past 10 years 35 countries significantly cut their fossil fuel emissions while also growing their economies, they say. That is nearly double the number in the decade before.

"We're not yet in a situation where the emissions go down [as] rapidly as they need to, to tackle climate change, but at the same time there are a lot of positive [developments]" said Corinne Le Quééré, professor of climate change science at the University of East Anglia.

Emissions have been growing much less rapidly than before "because of that extraordinary growth in renewable energy in China and elsewhere", she added.

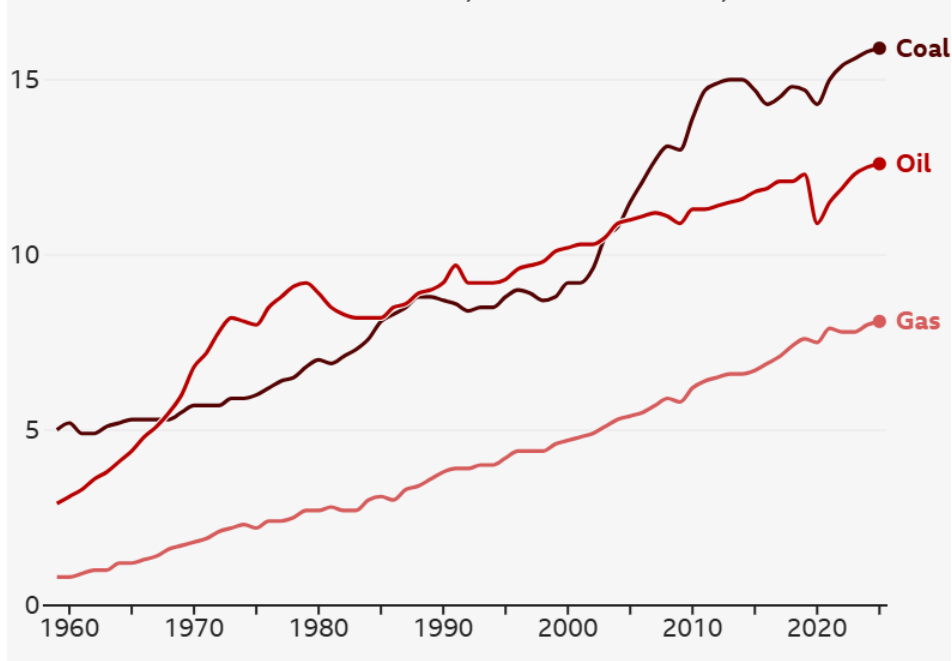
This effect of the renewables boom is highlighted by emissions in the power or electricity sector. Electricity generated from fossil fuels is forecast to flatline or even decline slightly this year, according to the think tank Ember, for the first time since the Covid-19 pandemic.

What's unusual about this year, Ember says, is that this has happened even though electricity demand increased sharply, rather than resulting from an economic recession and this year's extra electricity demand has been more than met by wind and, particularly, solar.

"We've had decades and centuries where fossil fuels were the only way that we could really grow our economy, and over the last

Fossil fuel emissions to reach new high in 2025

Annual carbon dioxide emissions, billions of tonnes, 1959-2025



Source: Global Carbon Budget / Friedlingstein et al., 2025 • Note 2025 is projected



decade, that's changed for the first time," said Nicolas Fulghum, senior data analyst at Ember.

"Solar power is growing at a record pace, and faster than any electricity source in history," he added.

What happens in the power sector is particularly important in the fight against climate change. It is the single biggest emitting sector and is expected to play an increasing role in the energy system as more people buy electric cars, heat pumps and other technologies.

"Whatever happens in the power sector has an outsized influence on what happens for emissions worldwide," said Mr Fulghum.

Ember is confident that emissions from using fossil fuels to generate electricity are now plateauing and could begin a permanent decline in a few years. That echoes yesterday's message from the International Energy Agency, the global energy watchdog.

Carbon emissions from energy systems, more than just electricity, could peak within the next few years, based on countries' stated policies, it said.

While there is still uncertainty about the exact timing of a peak, it would undoubtedly be a landmark moment in the fight against climate change. It would not halt warming, however, as countries would still be adding CO₂ to the atmosphere. Just at a slower rate.

"As long as we emit CO₂, the warming will continue... to stop further warming, we have to bring [net] emissions to zero," said Prof Pierre Friedlingstein, chair in mathematical modelling

of climate systems at the University of Exeter.

Furthermore another analysis released on 13 November to coincide with COP30 offers a reality check.

The Climate Action Tracker research group finds that warming could reach 2.6°C above pre-industrial levels by the end of the century based on current policies. A figure which has barely changed over the past few years.

"It's very clear that we have never had a better chance to do this. It's also clear that we've never been in a worse situation," said Dr Bill Hare, from the Climate Action Tracker team.

"So it's a diabolical dilemma. Things could go really badly. We could walk away from this COP without taking the right kind of action, and entrenching fossil gas and oil, and we'll push towards 2.5°C [or] 3°C warming for sure," he added.

"But on the other hand, the chance is there... to do exactly the opposite, and to build on the momentum of the technology changes going on globally."

AUSTRALIAN environment laws are set for the biggest overhaul in decades reported Lana Lam for BBC News. After a years-long deadlock, the Labor government struck a last-minute deal with the minority Greens party to get the laws passed, after talks with the opposition stalled.

The changes include more protections for native forests, stricter rules for land clearing and

a limit on fast-tracking of coal and gas projects but critics say more is needed.

Australia's Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said the laws were a win for nature and business and would speed up major projects linked to housing, renewable energy and critical minerals.

With support from the Greens, Labor's proposed changes are expected to pass through the Senate on Thursday, the last sitting day for parliament this year.

For months, the opposition - a coalition of the Liberals and Nationals - had also been negotiating with the government on the bill, with a focus on gaining more concessions for businesses.

Liberals' leader Sussan Ley labelled the Labor-Greens deal as "dirty" and said it would lead to job losses in forestry.

The latest development comes five years after an independent review into Australia's nature laws found they were no longer fit for purpose.

The government said the reforms would protect the environment for future generations

and speed up projects in "key areas of national priority like housing, renewable energy and critical minerals".

"Everyone agrees that the laws as they stand are broken and need to be reformed," Albanese said.

"Getting these laws passed is vital to protect our environment and to boost productivity in our economy."

Once passed, the new laws will also establish Australia's first-ever national environment protection agency as well as a set of national standards which would include rules on protecting endangered wildlife.

It will also remove exemptions for "high-risk land clearing" and bring regional forest agreements under federal laws, instead of state ones.

Greens leader Senator Larissa Waters said her party had negotiated significant wins but criticised the government for not including a so-called "climate trigger" that could stop fossil fuel projects based on carbon emissions.

Instead, a project must report its carbon emissions and provide plans on how they plan

to reduce those to net zero by 2050. A "water trigger" will be included in the laws, meaning coal and gas projects must get federal approval for their water use.

Amanda McKenzie, the head of the independent climate organisation Climate Council, said while the deal would help native forests, new coal and gas projects "still get a free pass on climate pollution".

"That is a gaping hole in a law that should protect nature from the ravages of climate change," she said.

On 27 November, Climate Change Minister Chris Bowen said Australia - one of the world's biggest polluters per capita - would miss its 2035 emissions reduction targets unless it made significant changes.

Earlier this year, the government announced it would cut emissions by at least 62% compared to 2005 levels over the next decade. Current projections forecast emissions will fall by just 48 to 52% instead.

Saving our trees and woodlands

PEOPLE who live on Hawthorn Close have complained to Salisbury City Council about the size of a tree on their road reported Isaac Maddock for the Salisbury Journal. It is a sycamore that is owned by the city council and they say, because of their Tree Policy, they won't trim or prune or remove trees following complaints.

Steve Taylor lives at number 12 and says the tree drops sap and mess on his car and driveway, and blocks a huge amount of light.

He said: "The tree is getting bigger and bigger, and it causes such a mess on the floor and on my car. I have got a blower and I have been blowing the leaves to the pavement, but it really needs a trim, and the council just won't do it because they say it is a healthy tree."



Cllr Chris Taylor has met with Steve and has given his support to the residents, saying the council needs to change their policy.

He said: "At a recent Salisbury City Council Environment Committee meeting, the council's Tree Policy was debated. It basically means Salisbury City Council will never trim or prune, or remove offending trees, following complaints.

"Personally, I believe this is unacceptable. Along with Cllr Suddard, we both proposed amendments to the policy to allow some discretionary pruning, but this initiative was blocked.

"Steve and other residents have to suffer with this enormous tree on their doorstep that has not been pruned in recent years.

"I have done my best for now, but the

council will not budge from its rigid interpretation of the policy. I stated in the meeting that our current policy was appalling and unacceptable. I will now have to gather support for a further motion at a full Council meeting."

In response, Marc Read, Head of Environmental Services at Salisbury City Council, said: "Under Salisbury City Council's Tree Policy, we can only undertake pruning or removal where there is evidence of danger or direct damage to property.

"While we understand that large trees can sometimes cause inconvenience, issues such as leaf fall or shading are considered a normal part of living near trees and do not meet the criteria for intervention. "The policy requires the balancing of public safety considerations with the need to protect Salisbury's tree canopy."

CONTRACTORS working for super-market giant Lidl "inadvertently" chopped down woodland as the site was being cleared for a new store that is being built in Telford, it has emerged, reported David Tooley for the Shropshire Star.

Now the store company is seeking to make amends with a legal agreement and an offer to pay an extra £13,020 following the mistake at the site near the Old Park Roundabout at The Rock.

Lidl has apologised for the error and is in talks with Telford & Wrekin Council about it. Bosses say the store remains on track to open in time for Christmas.

Planning agent Daniel Williams, of Leeds-based WSP, has told landowner Telford & Wrekin Council that the woodland to the west of the approved store should have been retained.

The agent wrote: "During the initial site clearance for the approved scheme, contractors inadvertently removed a portion of the woodland area to the west of the approved store location



that was originally designated for retention."

Developers have to make sure that their plans show a net gain in biodiversity but the issue has altered the approved approach. The company has now lodged an application with planners at Telford & Wrekin Council to address the issue.

"It should be highlighted that Lidl is proactively undertaking measures at its own expense to regularise the situation and address these issues," the agent added.

On October 16 this year Lidl held an informal meeting with council officers to discuss the strategy.

"It was agreed that Lidl would fund the restoration of woodland situated on third-party land through a separate legal agreement. Lidl will liaise directly with the council's estates team at the earliest opportunity to progress the necessary legal agreement."

The planning application documents say that although a portion of woodland previously intended for retention was inadvertently cleared, the applicant has proactively collaborated to develop a "robust and viable revised approach to landscaping and biodiversity net gain, ensuring meaningful ecological mitigation and enhancement".

It is understood that the contractors raised the error with Lidl.

A spokesperson for Lidl said: "We were very sorry to learn of this and raised this immediately with Telford & Wrekin Council. We'd like to assure the community that we are in direct conversations with the council and are working to agree on terms to remedy this."

ONE of the only rainforests in Britain is at risk of disappearing because of climate threats reported Maxine Denton Senior Reporter and Steph Spyro for DevonLive.

Buckland Wood, a 104-hectare temperate rainforest in Devon, is amongst the habitats under threat due to climate change, disease and pests.

The UK's temperate rainforests are globally rare and cover less than 1% of Great Britain, a drastic reduction from the fifth of the land they once occupied. Danielle Semple, engagement and communications officer for the Woodland Trust, said: "It is a really, really important temperate rainforest site - partly because of the beauty but also because of the species that live within it", reports the Express.

"Just one example of a type of lichen that lives here; 25% of the global population of this one species of lichen is found on two trees just down the valley here. The fact that this woodland can hold so much biodiversity is really, really critical in the temperate rainforest's future.

"When we talk about the future of temperate rainforests, the threats largely are climate change - so more intense heat and longer summers and less rainfall spread evenly throughout the year which is what is critical to temperate rainforest habitats.

"We've also got other threats such as invasive, non-native species coming along. We have rhododendrons and some pests that are coming through that we see with climate change which proliferate further throughout the woodland."

The scheme aims to reconnect the flowing River Webburn with its flood plain, construct additional dams and reduce the speed of water flow. Danielle explained: "This will have lots of benefits, largely for the rainforest in the way that they would be more resilient in times of drought by raising the humidity levels. There'll be more wildlife - birds, bats, insects, fish. It would be a great carbon sequester too."

The temperate rainforest's damp, moderate climate provides perfect conditions for lichens, mosses and liverworts. However, centuries of devastation have left only small, fragmented areas remaining. Representatives from the Asháninka and Guarani communities recently explored the moss-covered landscape of Buckland Wood.

These indigenous communities from the Amazon maintain a profound relationship with their rainforest homeland and confront issues including deforestation and territorial intrusion. Their arrival preceded a pivotal milestone for international climate efforts as global attention focused on the United Nations Climate Change Conference COP30 in the Amazonian city of Belém in Brazil.

Similar to the moss-covered oak trees of Devon, the expansive canopy of the Amazon also confronts the dual threats of climate change and human activity. Andy Egan, the head of conservation policy at the Woodland Trust, said: "At COP30, the Government needs to combine global leadership with leadership at home to address both the climate and nature crises.

"We are therefore calling on the Government to commit to protecting and

investing in restoring our ancient woods and the UK's own unique temperate rainforest. We need to ensure these precious places that are rich in biodiversity, significant carbon stores and so valued by people and communities survive and thrive for present and future generations."

The Woodland Trust highlighted their restoration work at Avon Valley Woods, an ancient semi-natural woodland nestled in the steep-sided valley of the River Avon. The charity explained the importance of re-wetting the woodland for the restoration of the temperate rainforest.

The re-routing of a brook will aid in creating a wetland, attracting more wildlife, capturing carbon, and maintaining consistent humidity. In 2023, the then Conservative government unveiled a strategy to restore England's degraded temperate rainforest, aiming to double its size by 2050.

JASON HUGHES reported for the Gazette & Herald that Forestry England has informed Marlborough Town Council that it expects to release documents about the future management of Savernake Forest by early 2026.

A revised Forest Plan for the ancient forest, which is also a Special Site of Scientific Interest, is currently being drafted and is expected to be shared during a public consultation this winter.

A Forestry England spokesperson told the town council that this document will detail the specific management plans for the forest and its facilities during the coming decades.

They said: "The revised Forest Plan for Savernake Forest, which will prescribe more specific management for the coming decades, is currently in draft. We hope to share this for public consultation during the winter."

This information was relayed to the town council after councillors posed a series of questions about the future of Postern Hill Campsite, which closed at the beginning of October.

The popular campsite closed when its operator made the decision to leave for financial reasons.

Forestry England is yet to confirm its plans for the future of the site, and some hope this will become clear with the publication of the draft Forest Plan.

Responding to the town council, a spokesperson added: "Forestry England did not consult on the withdrawal of the site operator. It was a matter for the operator alone to make the decision to renew their lease or not.

"We understand that their decision was a commercial one, based upon the costs of running and maintaining the site against the income derived.

"Forestry England recognises the strength of local affection for the campsite, and we are actively looking at a range of options for its future when the current lease ends.

"We're exploring solutions that will be sympathetic to the site, beneficial for the



community, and financially viable for the tenant, but it wouldn't be appropriate to share speculative details at this stage."

A group has already been formed to try and safeguard the future of the campsite and has received support from the town council.

Town councillors are currently exploring the possibility of having the campsite listed as an Asset of Community Value by Wiltshire Council.

This application process has begun and the town council is waiting for documentation from the Land Registry to move it forward.

GREIG WATSON reported for BBC News that staff and relatives have voiced concern after thieves stole dozens of trees which were to be used for a special service at a burial ground in Leicestershire.

The Willows Natural Burial Ground holds a tree planting event for families over Remembrance weekend but on the evening of 4 November 52 trees and bushes were taken after a secure compound was broken into.

Chris Scroby, who runs the site, condemned the crime as "outrageous" and said they had replaced most trees at their own expense.

Leicestershire Police have also been made aware.

The site, near Barsby, opened in 2011 and contains around 750 burials. The weekend is part of a programme which sees 4,500 native British bluebells, snowdrops, daffodils and narcissi planted.



Bereaved families and those with plots can select trees or bushes, which are then placed in the ground as part of an event which, through the sale of refreshments and donations, raises money for a local hospice.

The trees were only brought onto the site earlier in the week but were taken when a padlock was cut from a gate.

Mr Scroby said: "They probably think it is fair to steal from a burial ground and the mourners - and these are the families of loved ones who we have here. I think it is outrageous, it is like stealing from the dead. We don't want people to be worried a fearful about coming to see their loved ones."

Steven Plant bought a tree in memory of his wife Susan, who died in April.

He said: "It leaves me feeling more depressed than I was already with Sue passing and that is quite a lot. [The thieves] lack self-respect and all in all it is a pretty sad condition for a human being to be in although they won't realise it, they will think what they have done is clever."

Alison Thompson had also bought a tree for the weekend.

She said: "We have plots here for ourselves, we have plots here for family members and I have friends who are buried here. I just think it is really sad. Not only because of what has happened but it shows they have no respect, I just can't believe people can do such a thing."

Most of the trees have been replaced - at the cost of thousands of pounds to the business - but some families have been told it will take longer to source the chosen varieties.

The owners said they did not think their

insurance would cover the cost and extra spending on new security measures would have to be considered.

Police confirmed they had been informed and were offering support.

TEST Valley planners have voted to enforce a tree preservation order in West Wellow reported Christopher Atkinson for the Hampshire Chronicle.

The order, which was decided by Test Valley Borough Council's (TVBC) Southern Area Planning Committee on 4 November, covers land north of Kings Farm, Foxes Lane.

According to a council officer's report, the order was made in response to "a potential threat arising from works that may have caused damage, creating a risk of long-term adverse effects on existing trees and on natural species regeneration within the site."

Terry Williams, of Lackford Avenue, Totton, who owns the neighbouring land to where the TPO will be enforced, objected to the plans.

Addressing the committee, he said that the TPO is "like using a sledgehammer to put a nail in."

He said: "When I bought the neighbouring land, it was just wilderness. It was fit for nothing. In that time, we have turned it into a haven for wildlife, and Mr Stephen Holland has allowed this to happen on the parcel of land we would not have been able to before.

"I do not feel that (the officer's photographs) are representative of what is going on down there. The blanket TPO is like using a sledgehammer to put a nail in. I feel, in this instance, the council is going in the wrong direction."

There were no public speakers who were in support of the application.

Cllr Alan Dowden said: "From the two speakers, I have no doubt that they are dedicated to what they are doing, but what people have to understand is that wilderness comes first. There is no guarantee that they will always be the owners. My concern is that the trees get managed properly."

The committee has voted to approve the TPO. Ten councillors voted for it, while Cllr Sandra Gidley abstained from the vote.

APeterborough resident claimed their neighbour's tree has had a major impact on their mental health reported Ashlea Hickin, Content Editor, and Joe Griffin, Local Democracy Reporter, for CambridgeshireLive.

Peterborough City Council's planning committee met on November 11 to decide whether or not to grant a TPO for a magnolia tree outside a resident's property on Curlew Grove, Stanground.

The owner of the tree applied for a TPO in May. However, an objection to this was received by the owner's neighbour who claimed the tree overshadowed a significant section of their front garden and blocked out light.

The neighbour wrote "The tree is hazardous as the lower branches prevent me from standing



upright making it unusable and off limits. My garden is now severely reduced. How can that be right? This is now having a major impact on my mental health having to deal with this."

It was heard at the meeting that the owner of the tree was an arboriculturalist and a tree officer at a local authority. The owner argued that the tree "significantly" contributed to the amenity of the close and wanted to preserve its character.

He said the tree was a gift in recognition for his work for the City of Cambridge with trees, and it had become a "cherished part of our home".

The council's tree officer did not agree with the neighbour that the tree overshadowed their garden, reduced the garden's size or was hazardous, and therefore recommended to the planning committee that the TPO was granted.

However, after some debate, councillors voted six to five in favour of going against the officer's recommendations and refusing the TPO application.

Conservative councillor Wayne Fitzgerald, who voted against granting a TPO, said: "It's remarkable that a tree officer planted a tree like that in that position. I've looked at the street scene and it is the only one like that. I think a TPO is wholly inappropriate in this circumstance."

Green Party councillor Heather Skibsted, who voted in favour of a TPO, said: "I think it is a beautiful tree and the more trees we can have the better. We shouldn't be considering them as 'in the way', it is nature. It certainly contributes to the visual amenity of this area."

TWO people who dumped a dilapidated caravan in woodland near a Herefordshire town have been ordered to pay up by a court reported Charlotte Moreau, audience and content editor for the Hereford Times.

Thomas Hanrahan, 46, and Eileen Smith, 48, both pleaded guilty to fly-tipping when they appeared before magistrates in Hereford in November after denying the offence at a previous hearing.



The dilapidated caravan was found dumped on Eunice Saunders Way, a single-track lane through woodland near Ross-on-Wye during the evening of August 30, 2024, the court heard, sparking an investigation by Herefordshire Council.

Although no evidence was found inside the caravan, officers traced the incident to a resident in Drybrook, Gloucestershire, who had advertised on Facebook for someone to remove the caravan. Hanrahan and Smith, both of Caravan Site, Pershore, responded to the advert and collected the caravan for £150 in cash.

Ring doorbell footage from the seller, CCTV from a neighbouring business, and dashcam footage from a passing motorist all helped officers to identify the couple and link their vehicle to the fly-tipping site. The caravan was

found dumped just two miles from where it was collected.

Smith, who was the registered keeper of the van, claimed she was not the woman shown in the footage, but was found guilty under Section 33(5) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, which makes vehicle owners liable for waste offences carried out using their vehicle.

Hanrahan was found to have acted with deliberate intention and was ordered to pay fines and costs totalling £1,205, while Smith, found to have acted negligently, was ordered to pay £427.

Charles Yarnold, Head of Regulatory and Technical Services at Herefordshire Council, said: "This case highlights the lengths our enforcement teams will go to investigate and prosecute fly-tipping offences. Even when waste is dumped by individuals from outside the county, we will pursue every line of enquiry to bring offenders to justice.

"Fly-tipping blights our countryside, costs taxpayers' money to clear, and will not be tolerated in Herefordshire."

Cllr Barry Durkin, Cabinet Member for Regulatory Services, Community Safety and Emergency Planning, said: "Herefordshire residents rightly expect the council to take firm action against those who dump waste illegally. This successful prosecution demonstrates our commitment to protecting our county's environment, maintaining its beauty and holding offenders to account.

"It is important to note that everyone has a duty to dispose of their waste responsibly; if you pay someone to take it away, always check they are a registered waste carrier."

The maximum penalty for fly tipping is a £50,000 fine and / or 5 years imprisonment.

THE 'vandalous' removal of a large tree near Scarborough that was cut down more than six months ago has been officially rejected reported Anttoni James Numminen for the Yorkshire Post.

A retrospective application for the removal of a 'healthy' Scots Pine tree in Newby has been blocked by councillors who described its felling as an "act of vandalism".

Dr Gaafar's proposal at 79 Cross Lane had sought to officially vary planning conditions to create a driveway and "regularise" the tree's removal, but members on the Scarborough and Whitby Area Planning Committee said approving the scheme would set a "dangerous precedent".

Officers said the tree's removal had resulted in "quite a significant change in the streetscene," leaving "quite a gap," and that enforcement action would take place.

In a report to the committee, planners said the tree's "unacceptable" removal had resulted in "significant harm to the biodiversity and natural species of the area, resulting in a harmful net loss of biodiversity".

Speaking at the meeting, Coun Rich Maw said: "I think there's a potential of setting a dangerous precedent if you allow things like this to happen without compensatory measures. So, I think granting permission would permanently reduce green infrastructure and set an unhelpful precedent."

According to the council, an original condition for the new-build housing scheme at the site stated that all trees should be maintained by the owner of the land for five years following completion of the project.

The construction of the six three-bed semi-detached dwellings was approved in December 2022.



Google Maps In 2023: The Tree At 79 Cross Lane, Newby. Google Maps

Coun Derek Bastiman stated: "When the [previous] dwelling was there, it was almost surrounded by Scots pine trees, I remember very well. I think it is nothing but developer vandalism. It formed a very important part of the streetscene. It's something I've seen for many years. We should really work on getting a mature tree reinstated there."

Officers said that following the rejection of the application, they would ask the council's enforcement team to take formal action to seek the replanting of a mature tree.

"We will take that further with the enforcement team," an officer assured the committee.

Coun Subash Sharma said: "Cross Lane is a tree-lined avenue, and it's something that should be maintained. It's really disappointing that they decided to cut it down and seek retrospective permission."

Councillors asked whether the developer or the owner of the property was responsible for the tree's removal.

Planners said they were not certain, adding that "if it was the developer, they should have been well aware of any conditions. "Given it was a recent conveyance, I would have expected any requirements to be flagged up by the purchaser's solicitor, so there's no excuse anyway."

Councillors rejected the application over "impact on the character of the streetscene, danger to users of the highway, and being prejudicial to nature and conservation".

MATTHEW CRITCHELL reported for EssexLive worried campaigners have insisted that "Irreplaceable" ancient woodland and greenbelt land, in an Essex town, must be saved from development.

"Extremely concerned" residents are fighting against plans for 90 new homes and an 80-bedroom care home, on land off Greensward Lane, Hockley.

They say they are worried about the impact of the development on the open space, community and infrastructure in the town. The developer, Pigeon, says the proposal is for a "high-quality landscape and design-led sustainable scheme" that will provide homes of a variety of different sizes, types and tenures and a care home "providing specialist accommodation to help meet the needs of the district's ageing population."

A spokesman for Save Greensward Greenbelt said: "Residents are extremely concerned about this development on our

greenbelt which will add further pressure onto our already overstretched infrastructure in Hockley. A petition by our group to oppose the scheme has hundreds of signatures already within its first week. The council's local plan won't be ready until late 2027, we need our council to have a plan to take control of the speculative development proposals already in the pipeline, to protect our green belt and communities between now and then.

"The reason we are concerned is there are sites that developers could use that are not being developed, because they are too expensive. Greenbelt land is cheaper so let's build on this. The development will have an impact on the local area, for example they want to build right next to Beckney Woods, which is an ancient woodland. Once that's gone it's gone, it's irreplaceable, they haven't really taken that into consideration at all in the plans."

A Pigeon spokesperson said: "Our emerging proposal for around 90 new homes, including affordable homes and bungalows, and a care home, alongside new public open space, place space, biodiversity net gain and contributions to local infrastructure, was shared with the general public at an exhibition held on November 6, this was supported by a website which remains accessible for feedback. All of the matters raised during this pre-application stage, both at the consultation and via the website feedback form, will be fully considered, summarised and responded to in the statement of community involvement that will accompany the planning application."

BEN CARR reported for BBC News that Network Rail will host a meeting with residents over the "horrifying" felling of trees along a railway line near Higham.

The firm said it would discuss "what went wrong" with vegetation management along the Midland Mainline, which "fell short of our standards".

Work was carried out by an external contractor earlier this year to ensure rail services would continue to be safe and reliable,

but residents said the work near Higham, Derbyshire, included the felling of healthy oak and birch trees.

Sarah McRow, 56, co-owner of Brackenfield Alpacas, described the felling as "unnecessary and an extreme overreach" and has called for Network Rail to set out a restoration plan.

"I want them to admit wrong-doing and I would like to see changes in their vegetation management procedures," she added.

Ms McRow said she believed the contractor responsible for the work was terminated by Network Rail.

Network Rail said fencing work had been delayed because of a "change of contractor" but declined to comment further.

The BBC has contacted the contractor believed to have carried out the work initially, but has not received a response.

A report completed in June by the Tree Council charity said "good work" was carried out at Duffield and north of Wingfield station/Higham Bridge. However, it added there was "much poorer work" between Wingfield and Higham.

The report said that south of Higham Bridge, contractors had felled oaks which could have been retained but left ash and other live trees that were "showing signs of ash dieback".

The report added Network Rail should "seek answers" from the contractors as to why "such different specifications had been applied to very similar stretches of line – north and south of Higham bridge".

The charity said this had "not helped Network Rail with both its vegetation management in the area and its relations with the community".

A spokesperson for Network Rail, which held the meeting at The Santos Farm Hotel on , said: "We agreed to hold this week's public meeting to discuss with the community what went wrong with the initial vegetation clearance and why, and what's been done since to rectify matters, including our replanting work with the Tree Council."



Tree Preservation Orders and Conservation Area news

Broadland Tree Preservation Orders Served, Confirmed and Revoked				
<i>TPO No</i>	<i>Address where tree(s) are located</i>	<i>Trees to be protected</i>	<i>Date served</i>	<i>Status</i>
2025 No BD0748	Front and side garden and boundary between 40 & 42 Norwich Road, Cawston	T1 oak	16/05/2025	Confirmed
2025 No BD0750	Land to the south of 10 The Street east of 8 The Street, South Walsham	T1 oak	11/06/2025	Confirmed
2025 No BD0755	Rear of Village Hall, 19 Crowes Loke, Little Plumstead	G1 oak x 2	20/06/2025	Provisional
2025 No BD0759	Rear garden of 3 Broad Lane, on boundary with Edgefield, Great Plumstead	T1 walnut	17/07/2025	Provisional
2025 No BD0760	Front garden adj to boundary wall and highway, School House, 70 Norwich Road, Horstead with Stanninghall	T1 horse-chestnut	22/07/2025	Provisional
2025 No BD0762	Rear garden of 246 Holt Road, Horsford , on boundary with number 266	T1 silver birch	31/07/2025	Provisional
2025 No BD0763	Front garden of 6 Hurn Road, Drayton	T1 magnolia	31/07/2025	Provisional
2025 No BD0765	Land adjacent to 19 Harrisons Drive, Sprowston	T1 oak	07/08/2025	Provisional
2025 No BD0766	Scylla, Dog Lane, Horsford	T1, T2, T3 & T4 oak	03/09/2025	Provisional
2025 No BD0768	Clamps Orchard, land to the north of The Green, located between 17 & 18 The Green, North Burlingham	W1 mixed woodland	11/09/2025	Provisional
2025 No BD0769	Land south of Dell Farmhouse adj to track on the south side, Dell Corner Lane, North Burlingham	T1, T2, T3, T4 & T5 oak	10/09/2025	Provisional
2025 No BD0770	Front garden of the Old Rectory in southern side of driveway, 4 Hindolveston Road, Foulsham	T1 yew	17/09/2025	Provisional
2025 No BD0771	Rear garden of 41 Roedich Drive, adj to northern boundary of 29 & 31 Saint Edmunds Road, Taverham	T1 oak	01/10/2025	Provisional
2025 No BD0773	Area of grass set back from corner of Mousehold Lane and Roundtree Way, Sprowston	T1 birch & T2 oak	09/10/2025	Provisional
	Grounds of War Memorial Cottages south of 19 War Memorial Bungalows, Mousehold Lane, Sprowston	T3 oak		
	Adjacent to boundary fence of rear garden of 19 War Memorial Bungalows, Mousehold Lane, Sprowston	T4, T5 & T6 oak		
2025 No BD0776	Land to south and adj to rear garden boundary of 1 William Bush Close and 58 Norwich Road, Cawston	T1 oak	17/10/2025	Provisional
2025 No BD0778	Land to the east of West Lane, Postwick (Witton), adjacent to highway and public rights of way.	T1 oak	24/10/2025	
2025 No BD0779	Land south of 28 Station Road and east of Howlett's Loke, Salhouse NR13 6NX	T1 cedar, T2 magnolia, T3 spruce	07/11/2025	Provisional
	Land south of 28 Station Road adj to access road leading to 26 Station Road, Salhouse NR13 6NX	T4 sycamore		
	Land south of 28 Station Road, Salhouse NR13 6NX	T5 larch & G1 4 x pine		
	Land south of 28 Station Road adjacent to access road leading to 26 Station Road, Salhouse NR13 6NU	T6 & T7 sycamore, T8, T9 & T10 oak, G2 1 x sycamore, 2 x silver birch & 1 x oak.		
	Land east of 28 Station Road on field boundary north of 26 Station Road, Salhouse NR13 6NX	T11 & T12 oak, G3 1 x oak, 2 x hawthorn & 1 x silver birch		
2025 No BD0780	Rear garden of Apple Tree House, adj to the track, 1 Lawns Loke, Reepham NR10 4QN	T1 & T2 oak	20/11/2025	20/11/2025
	Rear garden Middlemarch adj to track, Broomhill Lane, Reepham NR10 4QY	T3 sycamore & T4 oak		
	Front garden of The Old School House, Broomhill Lane, Reepham NR10 4QY	T5 horse-chestnut & T6 silver birch		
	Rear garden of the Old School House, Broomhill Lane, Reepham NR10 4QY	T7 hornbeam		

2025 No BD0783	Land east of Fairholme Road, on highway verge, opposite 59 Newton Park, Newton St Faith NR10 3LL	T1 sycamore	27/11/2025	Provisional
	Front garden of 23 Fairholme Road, adj to highway, Newton St Faith NR10 3LL	T2 oak		
	Front garden of Strata House, 30 Fairholme Road, adj to highway, Newton St Faith NR10 3LL	T3 oak		
	Rear garden of Strata House, 30 Fairholme Road, adj to highway, Newton St Faith NR10 3LL	T4 & T5 oak		
	Front of office building at Newton Park, Newton St Faith NR10 3LL	T6 walnut		

Current Works to Trees Subject to a Tree Preservation Order and Section 211 Notifications for Works to Trees Within Conservation Areas

<i>App No</i>	<i>Address where tree(s) are located</i>	<i>Cat</i>	<i>Species and requested works</i>	<i>Decision</i>
2025/2546	Water Meadows, 11 Station New Road, Brundall	TPO	T7 Douglas fir - approx 22m tall. Reduce overhanging branches by 5m. T8 Douglas fir - approx 23m tall. Reduce overhanging branches by 5m. T9 Douglas fir approx 23m tall. Reduce overhanging branches by 4m.	Approved
2025/2790	9 - 11 Drayton High Road, Drayton	TPO	T549 beech - fell.	Refused
2025/2853	90 Charles Close, Wroxham	TPO	Canadian redwood - trim roots (as per photographs).	19/11/2025
2025/2969	20 Spinney Close, Thorpe St Andrew	TPO	T1 beech - approx 25m tall and 12m wide. Reduce overhanging branch by 4m or to growth point.	20/11/2025
2025/2975	Frogmore, 46 The Avenue, Wroxham	TPO	T1 beech - ht 19m w 10.5m & T2 beech - ht 24m w 10.5m. Crown reduce both trees by approx 2.5m.	Approved
2025/2978	Racecourse Inn, Salhouse Road, Sprowston	TPO	T1 & T3 beech, T2 Scots pine, T4 unspecified species and T5 lime - fell under exception of the TPO Restrictions for dead trees.	Exempt tree works
2025/2996	Hillview Cottage, 27 Wroxham Road, Coltishall	211	Clearance required through the trees will be approximately 0.5m in diameter around the cable.	No objection
2025/3027	10 Springfield Road, Taverham	TPO	T1 oak and T2 unspecified species - overhanging by 4m. Cut back to boundary.	Approved
2025/3104	Blickling Hall, Blickling Road, Blickling	211	T136 oak - reduce crown from 26m to 20m.	No objection
2025/3116	22 Church Lane, Burgh	211	T1 oak - 10m wide. Reduce 6 branches overhanging garage by 3m. T2 sweet chestnut - 14m wide. Reduce limb by 6m & crown lift by 2m. T3 holly - 8m wide. Reduce height from 15m to 12m. T4 walnut - 13m wide. Reduce overhanging branches by 5m.	10/11/2025
2025/3128	3 Library Close, Blofield	TPO	T1 oak - crown lift to 5m and reduce house side from 8m to 6.5m. T2 oak - reduce garage 11m to 9m, remove broken branch and crown lift to 5m. T3 beech - crown lift to 5m and reduce house side from 7m to 5m. T4 sycamore - reduce house side from 7m to 5.5m. G1 sycamore x 20 & oak x 2 - crown lift to 5m and remove major deadwood. No large limbs (over 120mm in diameter) will be removed in undertaking the crown lifting. Where the larger branches are lower than 5m, a crown lift will be undertaken as high as possible.	Split decision
2025/3143	Cobblestones, 23 Woodland Drive, Thorpe End	211	T1 magnolia - approx height 9m and approx width 12m. Reduce height by up to 2m on owner's side of boundary only.	20/11/2025
2025/3160	Amenity Land at Acorn Close and Oakwood Drive, Hellesdon	TPO	T1 silver birch - crown raise to 6m and reduce house side back by 2m with a total length of 6m. T2 beech (Acorn Close) - crown raise to 6m, reduce radius house side by 2m with a total length of 6m. T3 sweet chestnut (Oakwood Drive) - reduce height by 8m by removing deadwood back to growth points. T4 oak (Timber Close) - crown raise to 4m in height to remove limbs from fence and shed.	28/10/2025
2025/3165	103 Wheelwrights Close, The Green, Freethorpe	TPO	T1 oak - reduce canopy near house by approx 2m from 12m to 10m. Crown clean and raise some adventitious shoots low down over neighbouring property.	Approved
2025/3166	Woodland adj to St Michaels Avenue, Aylsham	TPO	T16 oak - 2m crown reduction to leave 8 - 10m	Approved
2025/3172	Woodland House, Salhouse Road, Sprowston	TPO	T1 Turkey oak - crown spread N=9m, S=10m, E=9m, W=9m. 2.5m overall crown reduction. T2 English oak - crown spread N=7m, S=8m, E=8m, W=7m. 2m overall crown reduction. T3 cypress - crown raise to 6m.	Approved

2025/3177	1 Harker Way, Blofield	TPO	T1 redwood - crown lift to 4m over the road and 2.5m over pathway.	Approved
2025/3220	Parmenters, 12 Cromer Road, Aylsham	211	T1, T3 & T4 yew – remove dead & damaged branches. T5 katsura - fell. T6 Gingko - remove branch overhanging highway. T7 Davidia - approx 6m high and 4m wide. Reduce height to approx 5m and width to approx 3.5m . T8 Portuguese laurel - fell. T9 Indian chestnut – remove deadwood.	No objection
2025/3279	55 Greenacre Close, Brundall	TPO	T7 oak - height 14m, spread 15m. 15-20% crown thin and 5.2m max lift. Reduce lowest lateral branches by approx. 2.5-3m, crown clean.	16/10/2025
2025/3322	Meadow House, Blickling Road, Aylsham	211	T1 conifer - remove.	No objection
2025/3326	The Old Pump House, 2 Holman Road, Aylsham	211	T1 hawthorn – remove. T2 yew - reduce by approx 2m from 8m to 6m. T3 maple - reduce by approx 2m to previous reduction from 12m to 10m. T4 conifer - reduce by 3.5m from 10m to 6.5m. T5 Acer - reduce by 1.5m from 4.5 to 3m. T6 & T7 yew - reduce by 2.5m from 8m to 5.5m.	No objection
2025/3328	16 Hillside Road, Thorpe St Andrew	TPO	Copper beech – current height 21m, width 6.5m. Reduce by 1.5m to previous pruning cuts to prevent rodent ingress into thatched roof. To retain natural silhouette .	Approved
2025/3369	Lock Cottage, The Street, Lamas	TPO	G3 Monterey cypress - reduce two limbs by approx 4m. Low limbs need pruning back about 4m long but diameters of these limbs are 10-12cm maximum.	6/11/2025
2025/3383	20 Stanmore Road, Thorpe St Andrew	211	T1A maple - fell and replace with common holly <i>Ilex aquifolium</i> .	No objection
2025/3387	226 Plumstead Road East, Thorpe St Andrew	TPO	T1 beech - fell under an exception of the TPO Restrictions for dead trees.	Exempt tree works
2025/3389	182 Plumstead Road East, Thorpe St Andrew	TPO	T001 common beech - reduce canopy laterally by up to 2m from 10m to 8m and up to 1m in height from 19m to 18m to reduce loading on bifurcated union at 3m and provide clearance of building.	Approved
2025/3403	9 Town Lane, Aylsham	211	Bird cherry - fell due to dieback.	No objection
2025/3408	11A South Avenue, Thorpe St Andrew	211	Copper beech - currently 14m wide and 19m tall. Reduce by approx 3.5m.	17/11/2025
2025/3421	Land West of 9 Lancaster Close, Old Catton	TPO	T1 Scots pine - approx height 9m and width 7.5m. Reduce 4 overhanging branches back by 4-4.5m to suitable growth points, on south-west side over garden.	Approved
2025/3422	The Maltings, Millgate, Aylsham	211	T1 hornbeam - approx 10m high and 4m wide. Reduce by 2m. T2 beech - approx 14m high and 4m wide. Reduce by 2.5m.	19/11/2025
2025/3438	Land adj 1 Lakeland Close, Little Plumstead	TPO	T1 & T2 - common lime - remove basal epicormic growth. Crown lift to 2.5m. Prune to provide 2m clearance from adjacent buildings. Remove major deadwood.	Approved
2025/3439	39 Drayton High Road, Drayton	TPO	T1 beech - height 17m, crown spread (NESW) 7-9-6-6m. Reduce height by 2-2.5m. Proposed height 14.5-15m, proposed crown spread (NESW) 4.5/6.5/4.5/4.5m.	Approved
2025/3442	43 Garrick Green, Old Catton	TPO	T1 unspecified species - dead branch removal under an exception of the TPO restrictions for dangerous trees.	Exempt tree works
2025/3457	Glenmore House, 35 High Street, Foulsham	211	T1, T2 & T2 ash - fell.	No objection
2025/3474	Cambridge House, 9 The Boulevard, Thorpe End	TPO	T1 oak - ht 14m spread 16m. Crown reduce by 3m and deadwood. T2 oak - reduce lateral branches and upper edges of crown by around 1.5m (current radial spread 10m in each aspect) and remove significant deadwood.	04/11/2025
2025/3490	Oulton Lodge, 135 Norwich Road, Wroxham	211	T1 Nordmann fir – fell.	06/11/2025
2025/3501	210 St Faiths Road, Old Catton	211	T1 Acer - ht 7m, S 8m. Crown raise by removing the 2 lowest branches back to stem whilst reshaping remaining crown by 1-1.5m to reform shape.	07/11/2025
2025/3502	19 Manor Close, Buxton	TPO	T1 ash - ht 12m, s 10m & T2 sycamore - ht 13m, s 10m. Crown raise to 5m over the garden and reduce crown into garden by 2-2.5m.	07/11/2025
2025/3504	3 Belmore Road, Thorpe St Andrew	TPO	T1 beech - ht 23m. Crown raise to 5m by pruning back to secondary growth points. Crown clean. T2 sycamore - ht 15m. Crown raise to 4m by pruning back to secondary growth points. Crown clean. T3 mulberry - ht 6.5mm spread S = 5.5m; E = 5.2m; W= 5.1m. Reduce crown spread/area on these coordinates by up to 1m to reduce end loading.	07/11/2025
2025/3509	21 Oakfield Road, Aylsham	211	T1 horse chestnut - approx 15m tall and 15m wide. Reduce by 2	24/10/2025

			-2.5m and reshape.	
2025/3518	The Gables, 12 Station Road, Reepham	211	T1 & T2 silver birch and G1 small beech trees - crown lift east side of canopies to 3m to create clearance between canopies and neighbour's shed roof.	10/11/2025
2025/3519	Willow House, 14 Ringland Road, Taverham	TPO	T1 oak, T2 & T3 sweet chestnut and T4 ash - fell.	10/11/2025
2025/3530	6 Bulwer Road, Buxton	TPO	T1 oak - thin by 15% and deadwood.	10/11/2025
2025/3534	Kings Head House, Back Street, Horsham St Faith	211	T1 willow – fell.	11/10/2025
2025/3544	The Woodlands, 65 Hall Lane, Drayton	TPO	T1 oak - raise crown to 7m to provide clearance over shed s of 49 Carter Road. T2 Norway spruce - root failure and leaning against fence of 51 Carter Road – fell.	11/11/2025
2025/3545	Sundowner, 14 Saint Michaels Close, Aylsham	211	T1 pine - remove lowest 2 branches over neighbour's property. T2 Acer - reduce height by 3m from 7m to 4m and sides by 1.5m from 3.5 to 2m. G1 limes - reduce overhang by 3m from 6m to 3m.	11/11/2025
2025/3547	School House, 59 Norwich Road, Cawston	TPO	T1 oak - 10m x 8.3m. Reduce by approx 1m height and 2m spread. Crown lift over house removing and reducing back branches within 2m of roof. Remove large pieces of deadwood and sever ivy at ground level. T3 ash - reduce over-extended large limb growing toward west over driveway of number 59 by approx 1.2 m from 9m to 7.8m. Remove large pieces of deadwood over drive and sever ivy at ground level.	21/11/2025
2025/3579	Edgewood, 2 The Avenue, Wroxham	211	T1 Leyland cypress - fell.	14/11/2025
2025/3584	1B Hillside Avenue, Thorpe St Andrew	TPO	T1 beech - ht 16m, 14m. Crown reduce by 2m.	14/11/2025
2025/3587	55 Charles Close, Wroxham	211	T1 & T2 Betula - early stage of dying. Fell.	16/11/2025
2025/3597	82 Mill Road, Blofield	TPO	T1 Douglas fir – current crown 18m high x 12m spread. Reduce crown by 1.5m.	17/11/2025
2025/3610	46 Garrick Green, Old Catton	TPO	T1 cedar - in front garden. Crown lift to 3.5 - 4m over driveway and neighbours' pathway.	18/11/2025
2025/3613	The Maltings, Millgate, Aylsham	211	T1 oak - remove epicormic growth to 6m. T2 & T3 oak - remove epicormic growth in main union. Prune back upper canopy by 2.5m leaving approx 6-7m. T4 oak - raise canopy by 6-8m. T5 plum - fell.	07/11/2025
2025/3617	Old School House, New Street, Cawston	211	T1 conifer - fell.	19/11/2025
2025/3623	St Margarets Church, Church Street, Old Catton	211	T4 yew - reduce crown by 2.5m from 7.6m to 5.1m to reduce overhang toward church.	19/11/2025
2025/3640	Robin's Nest, The Street, Halvergate	211	T1 sycamore – fell.	18/11/2025
2025/3675	Robinswood, 4 The Avenue, Wroxham	211	T1 cotoneaster - fell under an exception of the Conservation Area restrictions for dead trees.	Exempt tree works
Note: This is not intended to be a definitive list of all the relevant details. Readers should always refer to the specific application on the Broadland District Council Planning website at https://www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk/planning-applications/find-planning-application .				

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