MAYOR OF LONDON

Connecting Londoners with Trees and Woodlands

A Tree and Woodland Framework for London

March 2005

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Trees and woodlands are an essential part of London's character and identity. They help to breathe life into the capital, providing a welcome respite from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. They tell us of the seasons, and bring us into contact with nature. They remind us that where London now stands, a vast and ancient forest once existed. They provide shade on hot days, help to relieve us from stress and help clean our polluted air. Trees and woodlands are good for Londoners, good for visitors to London, and good for business in London. The London Tree and Woodland Framework shows us why, and tells us what we should do to maximise their contribution to London's quality of life.

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Copies of a highlights document and this framework are available from **www.london.gov.uk** or by calling **020 7983 4100** (a limited number of printed copies of the full document are available at a cost of £15).

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foreword

by Ken Livingstone, Mayor of London

Londoners are fortunate to be living in one of the greenest of world cities. A long history of open space provision and protection has left us with many beautiful and internationally renowned parks. These, along with hundreds of other green spaces, and countless suburban gardens, bring the experience of the natural world to many Londoners.

London's many fine woodlands, and its five million individual trees, are a vital element of this green character. They offer Londoners places to escape the worst of the noise and pollution associated with London's size, growing population and prosperity. Londoners value this respite and the health benefits it brings. We all have a responsibility to protect and conserve these trees and woodlands and pass them on to future generations of Londoners, enhanced, rather than harmed.

This Framework has been prepared by a wide partnership, under the leadership of the Forestry Commission, who share this vision. There are many interests in our trees and woodlands and I congratulate all the organisations and individuals who have forged a London-wide Framework out of the existing initiatives and knowledge.

In my Biodiversity Strategy I am measuring success against two targets: firstly no overall loss of wildlife habitats in London and secondly, that more open spaces are improved, created and made accessible, so that all Londoners are within walking distance of a quality natural space. The success of this Tree and Woodland Framework will be a very significant contribution to meeting these targets.

This Tree and Woodland Framework is an important first step in helping to boost and coordinate the wide range of local tree and woodland projects taking place across London and in providing access to further sources of knowledge and advice to those initiatives. I invite everyone with an interest in improving London to work together to take forward the objectives set out in this document.

Ken Livingstone
Mayor of London

1 introduction

why have a London Tree and Woodland Framework?

The Mayor of London, the Greater London Authority and the Forestry Commission are firmly committed to maintaining and enhancing London's trees and woodland as a vital part of the environment of Greater London. Here we provide the strategic Framework for the many London initiatives that further this goal.

Through the England Forestry Forum the Government endorsed the concept that every region in England should prepare regional expressions of the England Forestry Strategy, officially known as 'Regional Forestry Frameworks'. Within London this will be known as the London Tree and Woodland Framework. The Framework addresses the protection, management and enhancement of London's trees and woodlands over the next 20 years, and should be reviewed after five years.

London is unique amongst the English regions in that it has its own elected Assembly and Mayor, and it is the only region that is mainly urban. The Framework addresses the unique challenges facing trees and woodland in London and ensures the benefits they bring to the economic, environmental and social well-being of London are realised.

who else has been involved in preparing the Framework?

The Framework is for all Londoners. In particular, it provides a resource for all those who are responsible for planning and managing London's future. The Framework is a partnership document steered by the London Woodland Advisory Group. The Woodland Advisory Group was set up in 2002 to provide a strategic overview on the sustainable management of London's trees and woodlands. The organisations represented in the Group are (in alphabetical order):

- Corporation of London
- Countryside Agency
- English Nature
- English Heritage
- Forestry Commission
- Government Office for London (GoL)
- Greater London Authority (GLA)
- Groundwork London
- London Development Agency (LDA)
- London Tree Officers Association
- Royal Parks
- Thames Chase Community Forest
- Trees for London
- Woodland Trust.

In addition to the Woodland Advisory Group, a wider range of stakeholders has helped to produce the Framework. A major conference, held at City Hall on 30th July 2003, brought together over 100 people and a wealth of knowledge about trees and woodlands in London. In his keynote speech, Lord Rogers, who is the Mayoral Adviser on architecture and urbanism, praised the contribution of trees and woodlands in London, and called for them to be central to our future designs and plans for the city. Those attending the conference took this call to heart, generating practical and innovative ideas that have been drawn upon in the writing of the Framework.

A consultation on the Framework was held between July and October 2004 through which all stakeholders, interested parties and members of the public were invited to comment on the draft Framework. All these comments were then used to revise the Framework to produce this final version.

how is the Framework structured?

The Framework is divided into the following chapters:

- Chapter 2 describes the current status of trees and woodlands in London
- Chapter 3 provides the national and London policy context
- Chapter 4 sets out the Framework. It puts forward key aims and objectives for trees and woodlands in London to realise their contribution to the natural, built and managed environment, people, and the economy
- Chapter 5 provides detailed proposals on how the Framework should be turned into action
- Background papers – the following appendices are available on the GLA website at:
  www.london.gov.uk/gla/publications/environment.jsp
  (or a printed copy can be provided on request):
  - ~ Topic Papers
  - ~ Appendix 1 – Sources of Information
  - ~ Appendix 2 – Legislative Context
  - ~ Appendix 3 – Glossary

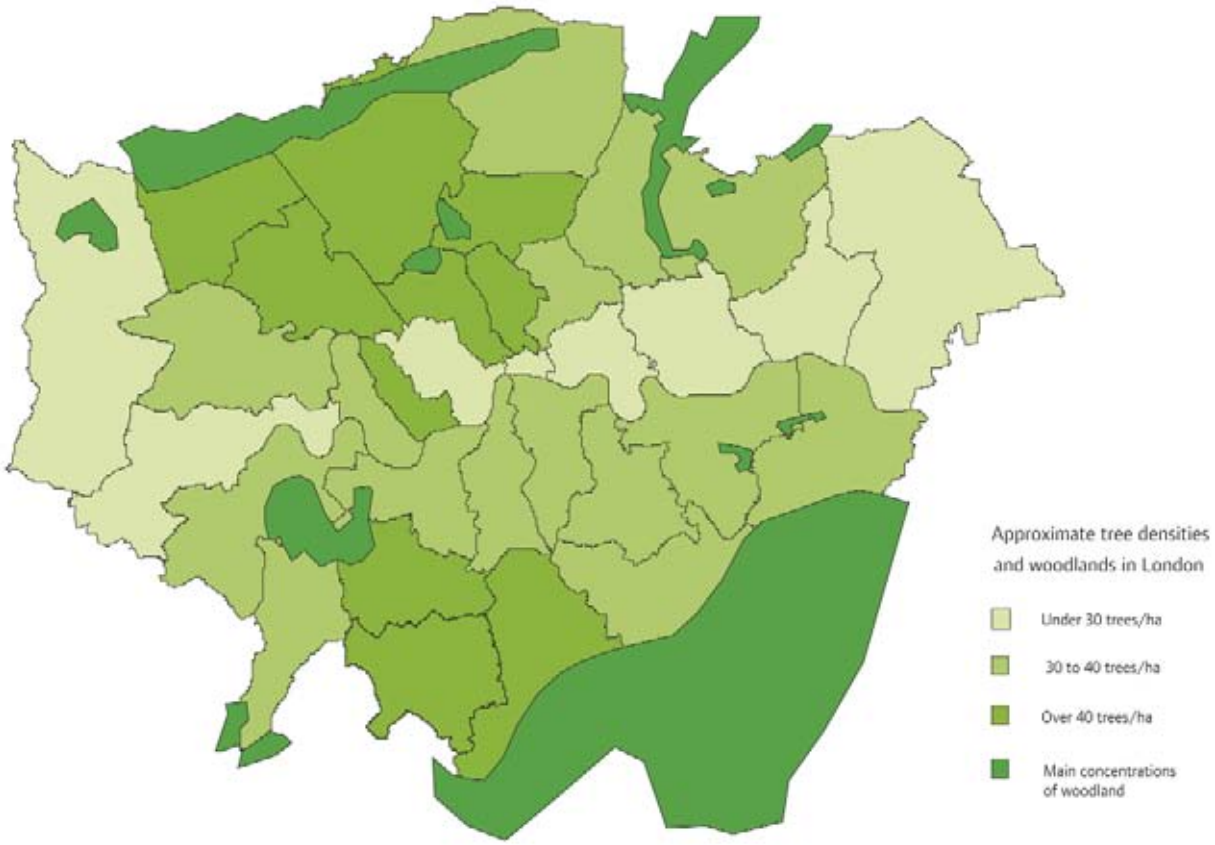
2 the existing resource

headline facts and figures[1]

- there are around seven million trees in Greater London
- a quarter of these trees are in woodlands
- woodlands occupy eight per cent of London's land area
- an estimated 20 per cent of London's land area is under the canopy of individual trees.

The map shows in schematic form the main concentrations of trees and woodlands in Greater London. There are many other areas of woodland over 2ha in area in most London Boroughs. The data on trees are from the London Tree Survey published in 1993. As these data have many uncertainties, the densities have been summarised into four broad classes of density.[2]

summary map



woodlands

Woodland is the second most extensive natural habitat in London after meadows and pastures. With 8% of London covered in woodland, the capital houses the equivalent of over 40 square miles of forest. Whilst a handful of large wooded areas do exist, a key characteristic of London's woodland resource is the numerous small stands of woodland, and linear woodlands along rail sides that provide important local assets.

Some 80% of London's woodlands have a predominantly broadleaved canopy of native species. Non-native broadleaved species (mainly sycamore) provide about 15%. Coniferous woodland is uncommon in London. Scrub is widespread, being more extensive than non-native broadleaved woodland.

Most of the woodland areas are concentrated on higher ground. Little woodland occurs in central London, or on low-lying land north of the Thames and west of the Lea Valley. Historically the low-lying land was worked for agriculture so any woodland would have been cleared as farming took over.

Three national priority woodland habitats covered by individual national Biodiversity Action Plans occur in London. These are:

- lowland beech and yew woodland
- wet woodland
- lowland wood pasture and parkland.

Ancient woodland is defined as woodland that has been in continuous existence since 1600AD or before.[3] Ancient woodland sites are irreplaceable in the sense that the interactions between plants, animals, soils, climate and people are unique and have developed over hundreds of years. These eco-systems cannot be re-created. With only 1.4% of the land area in London covered by ancient woodland we cannot afford to lose forever any more of this finite resource. Whilst the largest areas of ancient woodland are on the edge of London, often within the Green Belt, smaller more isolated areas such as Highgate Woods and Oxleas Woodlands are more centrally located. Some of the ancient woodlands in London have Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) status. Such sites also often contain 'veteran' trees.[4]

The bulk of woodland in London is classed as secondary woodland, i.e. between 25 and 300 years old. In ancient woodlands and the older secondary woods past coppice management has favoured species such as ash, field maple, hornbeam, beech, sweet chestnut and hazel over oak,

birch, elm, rowan, holly and sycamore. These older woods are valued particularly for specialist plants and animals. Many of London's more recent secondary woodlands have never had traditional management. The value of these recent secondary woodlands tends to be more as habitat for commoner species of birds and other woodland animals, and traditional management can be inappropriate for this purpose.

The most significant area of new woodland planting is in Thames Chase Community Forest where the aim is to increase the woodland area to 30% in the next 40 years. Since 1990, the work of the Community Forest has helped to increase tree cover from 8% to 13% across its area of activity (covering north-east London and parts of Essex), with particularly significant increases in Havering. In Spring 2003 the millionth tree was planted in Thames Chase, and over 400ha of existing woodland has been brought into management. This work is being extended into East London through the establishment of a new urban forestry initiative – Green Gateway – which was launched in 2002.

individual trees

The density of cover of individual trees varies considerably between Boroughs and is affected by the intensity and type of development. The central and inner London Boroughs tend to have lower densities of individual trees and a higher proportion of these in public ownership. Public open spaces in central London such as Hyde Park and distinctive London squares such as Russell Square are home to an abundance of trees such as London Planes. Such trees are of both landscape and historical importance. In addition, they provide food and nesting sites for birds, insects and other animals in otherwise hostile environments.

Trees in open spaces are often seen as components of the open space rather than as separate entities. Often such trees are managed under open space policies, although some Boroughs (and landowners, for example the Peabody Trust) produce separate Tree Strategies. Co-ordinating open space and tree policies, in whatever form the strategies take, is essential for achieving a coherent management approach.

Trees feature largely in local campaigns against losses to open space. Trees often act as flagships for wider environmental concerns.

In addition to traditional public parks, a significant number of individual trees are on other public land or semi-public sites:

- public housing estates and properties can provide more trees than parks (for example Lambeth and Islington)

- the land alongside railways often has trees or woodland, providing wildlife corridors. It is important the landowners such as Network Rail recognise and take into account this value
- many cemeteries provide a diverse collection of trees, sometimes as natural woodland habitat
- trees located within school grounds are educational assets
- uncultivated allotments and unused sites provide temporary trees and woodlands
- hedgerow trees make a valuable contribution to the tree resource, particularly as wildlife habitats
- strategic walking routes such as the Capital Ring and the London Orbital Path (LOOP) are often framed by trees and provide access to woodland at the urban fringe
- the work of Community Garden projects and City Farms help to promote tree and hedgerow planting
- street trees are a valuable contribution to London's character both in the inner-City and suburbia (see below).

street trees

Trees planted along streets help to define and frame the streetscape giving visual identity and enhancing the street scene. The character of the scene varies between different parts of London depending on the period of development, the species of trees planted, and management techniques used. More than a third of all publicly owned individual trees and one-fifth of London's stands of trees are on highways or other transport routes. The London Tree Survey showed that the variety of species in streets is remarkably limited, with less than 10 species commonly planted.[5]

One of the most topical issues with street and garden trees (see following section) is that of subsidence. Trees are increasingly the subject of litigation over claims of subsidence and damage to buildings. Although trees are often not a cause of soil shrinkage or heave, the public perception towards trees can be one of wariness. It is important to note that the perceived threat of subsidence is much greater than the actual threat. It is estimated that less than 1% of the total tree population has been proven to have caused damage. The adequacy of the building foundations for the local soil and geology is the underlying issue. However, the amount of money lost by tree and property owners due to subsidence claims is considerable, with single claims running into the tens to hundreds of

thousands of pounds. Insurance companies, mortgage lenders and the press tend to perpetuate and increase this negative perception.

The importance of street trees should not be underestimated. People in London will come into contact with street trees more often than trees planted in other locations. Often they are the only significant vegetation growing in streets. Unfortunately the visual amenity provided by street trees is often only truly appreciated when a tree is pruned heavily, or removed, and the difference is noticed. The particular benefits that street trees provide include:

- enhanced quality of life for people living and working in London through promoting a sense of well-being and so promoting health
- increased privacy in residential roads and gardens through screening
- increased local property values: a survey of any Estate Agent's window will always show more expensive properties being in "tree-lined streets"
- historical importance – many of London's street trees are from Victorian design
- linking areas of green space
- filtering airborne dust and pollution
- reducing temperature extremes at street level
- they absorb some traffic noise.

garden trees

The greatest resource of trees in the capital is that owned by Londoners. Of individual trees surveyed in the 1993 London Tree Survey, over two-thirds were on privately owned land mainly in residential areas, particularly gardens.[6] Twenty per cent of London's land cover is in private gardens, providing the single largest green space type, and the trees they contain make up a major part of the urban forest.

Individual landowners and residents have the greatest influence over the type of trees planted and the level of management they receive and the range of species and quality of these trees is considerable.

As with street trees, the fear of building subsidence is an issue. Also, converting front gardens to hard standing and built development in rear garden blocks have caused significant losses to garden space and the trees growing there. Such losses also contribute to increased run-off having a negative impact on drainage management. The London Plan promotes higher density development to maximise the potential of land. Garden trees should play a positive role within such developments.

landmark trees

The 1993 survey estimated 6,000 trees made an 'outstanding contribution' to local amenity in London. These 'landmark' trees may be significant in size, age or setting and around two thirds are estimated to be publicly owned, mainly growing in open spaces or along the highway.

Examples of landmark trees in public open spaces include the 'Tree of Heaven' (Ailanthus altissima) in Ravenscourt Park, which is one of the largest of its kind in Britain, and a sweet chestnut nearly 400 years old in Greenwich Park.

Some landmark trees are also in London's streets. Their management is of particular importance given the great impact their loss can have on the streetscape. New and replacement planting of larger species (such as London Plane) is becoming an increasingly important issue.

The Veteran Trees Initiative, launched in 1996, aims to promote the value and importance of veteran trees[4] and conserve them wherever possible. The initiative provides advice on veteran tree management and is developing a database for recording their occurrence.

The Great Trees of London campaign seeks to promote landmark and veteran trees and has recently been re-launched by Trees for London and the Forestry Commission.

footnotes

1 Figures are based on a re-assessment of a number of surveys including Action for London's Trees, investing in a leafy capital. Task Force Trees & Countryside Commission, CCP433 and its appendices of the London Tree Survey (1993) and data on woodland areas in the Habitat Action Plan for Woodland in Volume 2 of the London Biodiversity Action Plan (2000).

2 We may be reasonably confident that the boroughs in the low density class genuinely have lower densities than those in the high class. However, we are not confident that the boroughs in the mid density class differ from those classed above or below.

3 Woodland Trust definition: http://www.woodland-trust.org.uk/findoutmore/planforactionmore/ancient.htm

4 Veteran trees are those which by virtue of their age are of interest biologically, aesthetically or culturally, are in the ancient stage of their life; or trees that are old relative to others of the same species (English Nature definition: http://www.english-nature.org.uk/pubs/Handbooks/upland.asp?id=6)

5 Task Force Trees (1993) London Tree Survey

6 Cobham Resource Consultants survey in Countryside Commission (1993) Action for London's Trees

summary of issues

The table below summarises the issues that affect the different elements of London's tree and woodland resource.

The table shows that each of the elements have specific issues which need addressing, but also that some of the issues are a more universal problem. A lack of management and knowledge about trees as well as competition from other land uses are the factors with most important effects and therefore need addressing as priorities. Section 4 investigates the issues in more detail and outlines objectives to address them.

Issue	Woodlands	Open Space Trees	Street Trees	Garden Trees	Landmark/ Veteran Trees
Lack of funding (eg. for management)	XX	XX	X		
High cost of management	X	X	XX	X	X
Difficulties with management		X	XX	X	X
Lack of knowledge about the resource	X	X	X	XX	
Competition with other uses eg. utilities			XX	X	X
Pressure for development	X	X	X	X	X
Lack of public understanding/ awareness	X		XX	X	
Fear of subsidence		X	XX	XX	
Actual / perceived inconvenience to owners		X	XX	XX	
Health and safety	XX	X	X		XX
Lack of appropriate protection				X	XX
Lack of co-ordination		XX			
Fear of crime	XX	X			
Conflict of interest with traffic management			XX		
Decline in health	X	X			X
Hostile growing environment			X		
Lack of commitment/ sense of ownership	X			X	

3 policy context

There are many policies that affect trees and woodlands in London, which have been taken into account in this Framework. Some of these are specific to trees or woodland, and many more deal with wider issues in which trees and woodlands play an important part. Only a brief summary of the more important of these is provided here, please refer to the original documents for the full detail.

national policy

A Better Quality of Life - UK Sustainable Development Strategy[7]

Trees and woodlands are recognised as key features within the environmental protection chapter of the UK Sustainable Development Strategy. A dedicated section sets out the Government's strategy for forests and woodlands. The headline aims include:

- sustainable management of forests and woodlands (led by the UK Forestry Standard and supported by surveys)
- protection of ancient and semi-natural woodlands
- woodland expansion
- sustainable timber production
- benefits for urban and rural development – direct employment in forestry activities, linked employment (such as recreation and tourism) and promotion of planting on degraded and contaminated land on the fringes of towns.

England Forestry Strategy[8]

The England Forestry Strategy describes how the Government will deliver its forestry policies, priorities and programmes. The Strategy is split into four themes:

- rural development
- economic regeneration
- recreation, access and tourism
- environment and conservation.

The Regional Forestry Frameworks, of which this Framework is one, are responsible for taking forward the England Forestry Strategy in a co-ordinated and holistic way, involving a wide range of partners that reflect the topics covered by the objectives.

Sustainable Communities Plan[9]

The Sustainable Communities Plan outlines plans for growth and regeneration in England. It includes significant additional housing development in the south-east, which affects London in the Thames

Gateway and London-Stansted-Cambridge Corridor. The Plan includes the following objectives:

- creation of the Land Restoration Trust, which will seek to restore and manage brownfield land that is suitable only for use as public green space
- encouragement of the role of Community Forests at the urban fringe, citing their benefits as providing access to green spaces and woodlands on the urban doorstep, protecting and improving the countryside and boosting economic investment
- greater emphasis on the role of green networks and corridors.

In support of these objectives the ODPM has published 'Greening the Gateway' which sets out the Government's green space strategy for the Thames Gateway. This makes the case for establishing the role of greenspace, including trees and woodland, at the heart of social, environmental and economic regeneration. It strongly promotes the concept of 'functional green infrastructure'.

Working with the Grain of Nature - England Biodiversity Strategy[10]

The England Biodiversity Strategy identifies woodland as a key theme and habitat. The Strategy's vision is to ensure 'woodlands and forests are managed and created to enhance both woodland and non-woodland species and habitats, that at the same time provide sustainable goods, environmental services and recreational benefits enhancing people's quality of life'.

The Biodiversity Strategy's actions for achieving this vision include:

- protect native woodland from further damage
- enhance, extend and restore the existing native woodland resource
- manage non-native woodland to improve biodiversity in the wider landscape
- realise the broader quality of life benefits of woodland biodiversity.

The Strategy also addresses biodiversity within urban settlements. One of the key aims is to 'ensure that biodiversity conservation is integral to sustainable communities, both in the built environment, and in parks and green spaces'.

National Planning Policy[11]

Several national Planning Policy Statements and Guidance Notes relate to the protection, management and enhancement of woodlands and trees. At the time of publication the following PPSs and PPGs were of direct relevance:

- PPS7 Countryside
- PPG9 Nature Conservation
- PPG17 Open Space, Sport and Recreation.

The following policy documents are relevant in part:

- PPG2 Green Belts
- PPG3 Housing
- PPG6 Town Centres and Retail Developments
- PPG15 Planning and the Historic Environment
- PPG25 Development and Flood Risk

Other Planning Policy Statements and Guidance Notes relate to spatial planning topics which can result in less direct effects on tree management. The next chapter deals with these potential conflicts in more detail.

Hedgerow Regulations[12]

If trees are within a hedgerow and the removal of the hedgerow is proposed, permission must be sought for the removal under the Hedgerow Regulations 1997. The local planning authority can grant or refuse permission for removal of hedgerows based on examining the hedge using certain criteria. The criteria identify hedgerows of particular archeological, historical, wildlife or landscape value.

Tackling Health Inequalities Programme for Action[13]

The Programme for Action sets out priorities for reducing health inequalities and addressing the underlying determinants of health. It identifies the importance of co-ordinated national, regional and local action on a range of issues. These include:

- the need to increase levels of physical activity especially among disadvantaged groups, older people and women
- the need to improve green spaces so that they can be used for exercise and provide children's play areas
- the need for better and safer local environments so people are more able to engage in social and physical activities in public spaces close to where they live and work.

Woodlands and open spaces with trees can play an important role in providing locations for recreation.

London regional policy

The Mayor of London's Strategies[14]

The London Mayor's overarching vision for London is to develop the capital as an exemplary sustainable world city. To this end, the aims are to ensure 'strong, diverse long term economic growth; social inclusivity to give all Londoners the opportunity to share in London's future success; and fundamental improvements in London's environment and use of resources'.

The London Plan[15]

The London Plan considers trees and woodlands as integral parts of open space planning. Open spaces provide a valuable resource and focus for local communities, can have a positive effect on the image and vitality of areas and can encourage investment. They provide a respite from the built environment or an opportunity for recreation. They promote health, well-being and contribute to quality of life.

The opportunities for development proposals to enhance the natural environment and incorporate greening and planting initiatives are also addressed in the London Plan. For example the Plan suggests new opportunities for creating private space, such as in roof gardens and terraces, a strategy which the 'Building Green' guide expands upon.[16] Development proposals should maximise opportunities to naturalise and green the urban environment and tree planting is an important element in achieving this. Borough open space strategies are required for all types of open space and these should include positive management and action points to address deficiencies and enhance the many benefits to the community. Guidance for preparing Open Space Strategies is available on the Mayor's website.

Planning protection for woodlands is achieved through London's strategic open space network and the wider local network identified by the individual boroughs in their Local Development Documents. The London Plan also states that the Mayor will explore the potential for taking forward the concept of Community Forests within London and requires the protection of wildlife sites (see Biodiversity Strategy, below).

This Strategy will inform the first review of the London Plan.

London Economic Development Strategy – Sustaining Success[17]

The Economic Development Strategy acknowledges the link between economic growth and 'green' cities with a rich biodiversity. Urban regeneration is promoted by the Strategy in environmental and social as well as economic terms. This Strategy recognises that economic development and regeneration must be supported and enabled by the creation, development or enhancement of town centres, parks and open spaces as well as play, recreation and community facilities, all of which should be accessible to all. Work in partnership with organisations such as Groundwork is promoted to achieve the expected outcomes. The Strategy supports developing the social economy, and achieving greater social inclusion. In addition, the Strategy places important value on Londoners' health and the links to air quality.

The Thames Gateway is considered to be a major opportunity. The Strategy calls for development in this location to be of high quality to enhance the character and prospects of the Gateway.

In addition, the London Development Agency and partners have produced a guidance document 'Design for Biodiversity'[18] to help developments maximise opportunities for biodiversity.

Connecting with London's Nature - London Biodiversity Strategy[19]

The Biodiversity Strategy proposed a tree and woodland framework to ensure that managing London's woodlands is closely linked to the London Habitat Action Plan for woodland, to better co-ordinate the various planting initiatives currently active in London, and to focus on areas which would most benefit from tree planting. The Biodiversity Strategy:

- strongly encourages protecting and managing existing woodland Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation
- highlights the benefits of trees in enhancing local biodiversity, reducing noise transmission, helping to combat climate change (albeit on a minor scale), and improving air quality
- encourages the recognition of the economic and energy uses for woody material arising from managing woodlands and street trees
- states the framework should ensure that appropriate tree planting occurs in places that will not harm the built environment, infrastructure, or important existing wildlife habitat.

The Mayor's Energy Strategy[20]

The Energy Strategy's specific aims are to:

- reduce London's contribution to climate change by minimising emissions of carbon dioxide
- help to eradicate fuel poverty
- contribute to London's economy by increasing job opportunities and innovation in delivering sustainable energy, and improving London's housing and other building stock.

The key roles for trees and woodland in helping to achieve the Strategy's aims are in establishing combined heat and power and community heating sources fuelled with wood products and in achieving greater energy efficiency within buildings through external planting and green roofs.

Rethinking Rubbish in London – Municipal Waste Management Strategy for London[21]

The Waste Strategy acknowledges that the sustainable use of trees through wood and paper recycling is a key opportunity in London. The Strategy highlights the benefits trees afford to biodiversity, whilst encouraging the economic uses of woodlands and street trees. The Strategy also endorses the policy from the Energy Strategy in relation to the use of wood products for fuel.

other relevant documents

London Biodiversity Action Plan[22]

The London Biodiversity Action Plan aims to 'demonstrate that nature is a vital ingredient in the quality of life of city dwellers'. It addresses the importance and benefits of biodiversity and the potential for development planning to protect as well as enhance habitats. The London Action Plan includes a series of Generic, Species and Habitat Action Plans, including one for Woodlands. The aims of the Woodland Action Plan are to:

- conserve and enhance London's woodland for the benefit of biodiversity and for both current and future generations of people
- maintain, improve and promote the enjoyment and use of London's woodlands
- increase significantly the area of woodland in London, particularly in areas where there is little accessible woodland
- increase the sustainable economic use of woodland in London.

The Action Plan also highlights the need for balancing appropriate management and public enjoyment, as well as addressing the implications of climate change and other threats to trees and woodland.

Sustainable Development Framework for London[23]

The Mayor's Sustainable Development Commission published a Sustainable Development Framework in 2003. In keeping with the Mayor's vision, the Framework seeks to build on London's diversity and create a prosperous, vibrant and healthy city. The Framework is split into themes of:

- taking responsibility
- developing respect
- managing resources
- getting results.

A key aim under the 'taking responsibility' theme is to build and sustain Londoners' sense of ownership. Under 'managing resources' the Framework seeks to protect and improve the city's natural ecosystems, its biodiversity, its open spaces and its built environment whilst using resources prudently, efficiently and effectively.

London Sub-Regional Frameworks

The London Plan commits the Mayor to developing Sub-Regional Development Framework documents with strategic partners. These documents provide guidance on applying policies from the London Plan.

London Borough Policy

The Framework will contribute to strategic guidance for London borough policy documents. Of particular relevance are the boroughs' Tree Strategies, Open Space Strategies, Community Strategies and Local Development Documents. It is vital that consideration of the role of trees and woodlands in every aspect of the boroughs' economic, social and environmental development is recognised and capitalised upon. Borough policies offer important protection for trees through Tree Preservation Orders and other mechanisms (see below). The emergence of Local Development Documents alongside changes to planning and management systems offer enhanced opportunities for trees and woodlands. For example, Local authorities will have to ensure all contractors engaged in contract work sign up to specifications for contracts produced by local authority officers. These specifications could include sustainability measures such as recycling through mandatory Timber Stations, ultimately seeking to achieve a zero-waste target.

Planning Protection Policy

Tree Preservation Orders - To protect individual trees, groups of trees and woodlands that provide an amenity benefit in their locality. All trees in Conservation Areas are protected in so far as the local authority must be notified of any work proposed. If the local authority raises an objection to this work they must make a Tree Preservation Order within six weeks of the date of notification to prevent the work going ahead.

Planning Conditions - To protect trees during development from damage. For example through requiring a landscape plan to detail the protection of existing trees and to identify and schedule replacement planting. Another example, in areas of clay soils, is to require adequate foundations so planting of tall landscape trees on land around new developments is not precluded by inadequate and therefore less expensive foundation design.

Borough Policies - Local Development Documents have policies to protect wildlife sites (Sites of Importance to Nature Conservation) identified using the procedures in the Biodiversity Strategy (set out in its Appendix 1) and can also have policies to protect individual trees. The right trees in the right sites gain protection in this way. Information on wildlife sites is available from Greenspace Information for Greater London, c/o London Wildlife Trust.

Management - Supplementary Planning Documents, such as Tree Strategies, can promote the management of trees and woodlands through the development planning process.

Trees and woodlands may also be in internationally and nationally recognised sites. These include Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) such as Epping Forest, Wimbledon Common and Richmond Park; Special Protection Areas such as Walthamstow Reservoirs; National Nature Reserves such as Ruislip Woods and other Sites of Special Scientific Interest. English Nature must be consulted on the special planning requirements for these sites. All these sites are also wildlife sites (see above).

National Register of Historic Parks, Gardens and Landscapes – Sites conserved by the Register frequently encompass landscapes with woodland clumps or tree-lined avenues. This listing provides a background within which such features should be preserved.

measuring success

The richness and quality of our local biodiversity is a key measure of the state of London's environment and the quality of life of its inhabitants. The London Biodiversity Action Plan contains a comprehensive set of

specific targets for those national priorities relevant to London, and for London's local specialities. These are also reflected at borough level in borough Biodiversity Action Plans. There are three high-level indicators used in London which are relevant to trees and woodlands which seek to quantify the success of environmental projects for biodiversity (used in the Biodiversity Strategy, London Plan and State of the Environment Report):

- Bird Populations – some 20 bird species which use wooded environments are monitored, see the State of the Environment Report on the Mayor's website
- Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation – which include most of London's woodland alongside other valuable wildlife habitat. The Mayor's target is for no net loss
- Areas of deficiency in accessible wildlife sites. The Mayor's target is a decrease

This Framework suggests the following indicators should also be considered for measuring the protection and quality of the existing trees and woodlands:

- loss or gain of woodlands and trees over the years
- number of management plans produced and successfully implemented for woodland sites
- number of sites with Forest Stewardship Certification (FSC)
- Local Nature Reserve status
- number of sites with Green Flag Awards
- number of trees removed to mitigate subsidence claims
- number of street trees planted annually.

In addition to the above the Woodland Trust has illustrated the benefits trees and woodlands can have with respect to fifteen of the national Quality of Life Counts indicators.[24]

footnotes

7 DETR (1999) A Better Quality of Life: a strategy for sustainable development in the UK
8 Forestry Commission (1998) England Forestry Strategy
9 ODPM (2003) Sustainable communities: building for the future
10 DEFRA (2003) Working with the Grain of Nature: a biodiversity strategy for England
11 ODPM www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm_control/documents/contentservertemplate/odpm_index.hcst?n=2258&l=1
12 HMSO (1997) Hedgerow Regulations 1997
13 Department of Health (2003) Tackling Health Inequalities Programme for Action
14 Greater London Authority (2004) The London Plan: Spatial Strategy for Greater London www.london.gov.uk/mayor/strategies/sds/index.jsp
15 Greater London Authority (2004) The London Plan: Spatial Strategy for Greater London
16 London Ecology Unit - Building Green: A Guide to Plants on Roofs, Walls and

Pavements www.london.gov.uk/gla/publications/environment.jsp

17 London Development Agency (2004) Sustaining Success: The Mayor's Economic Development Strategy

18 London Development Agency and partners (2004) Design for Biodiversity: A Guidance Document for Development in London

19 Greater London Authority (2002) Connecting with London's Nature: The Mayor's Biodiversity Strategy
http://www.london.gov.uk/mayor/strategies/biodiversity/index.jsp

20 Greater London Authority (2002) Green light to clean power

21 Greater London Authority (2003) Rethinking Rubbish in London: The Mayor's Municipal Waste Management Strategy

22 London Biodiversity Partnership London Biodiversity Action Plan
http://www.lbp.org.uk/action/actionplans.htm

23 London Sustainable Development Commission (2003) Sustainable Development Framework for London

24 The Woodland Trust (2004) Making Woodland Count – www.woodland-trust.org.uk/campaigns/images/qol2.pdf

4 key aims and objectives

The London Plan sets out the capital's strategy for accommodating future growth. A population increase of 800,000 from 2001 to 2016 is anticipated, and net numbers employed in London are estimated to increase over the same time period by 636,000. The London Plan aims to accommodate this growth in a way that addresses issues of social and economic exclusion, whilst also maintaining and enhancing the quality of the environment.

In the drive for change, it is often easy to forget the essential ingredients that make London special for those living and working in the capital or visiting it. As has been shown in the preceding sections, trees and woodlands play a major role in shaping the London environment and people's appreciation of it.

The overall goal of the Framework is to provide a strategic approach to trees and woodlands that delivers the Mayor's vision for London and the relevant Mayoral Strategies within the context of the England Forestry Strategy. In doing so, the Framework seeks to ensure that:

- the existing stock of trees and woodlands is managed and maintained to safeguard its value to London both now and in the future
- there is an increased awareness of the value of trees and woodlands to the health and well being of all Londoners
- the contribution of trees and woodlands to London's sustainability and quality of life is maximised
- natural regeneration and new planting in appropriate locations is encouraged to further enhance the contribution of trees and woodlands to London life.

To achieve the Framework's general goals, four key aims have been identified that will act as a focus for the future:

key aims for trees and woodlands in London

A. To ensure trees and woodlands contribute to a high quality natural environment.
B. To help shape the built environment and new development in a way that strengthens the positive character and diversity of London.
C. Through people's contact with trees and woodlands to help foster community and individual people's well-being and social inclusion.
D. To support the capital's economy.

Many of the issues surrounding trees and woodlands are cross-cutting, which means that there are very strong links between the aims and with other initiatives in urban design and open space use. It is important that progress is made towards fulfilling all the aims in order to deliver the full range of benefits to London that trees and woodlands can provide.

The existing and potential contribution of trees and woodlands towards each aim is described below, together with a summary of the key issues to be taken into account. A number of objectives is set out for each aim to guide future action. A more detailed explanation of the issues taken into account when determining the aims and objectives is provided in supporting Topic Papers.

Appendix 1 lists some sources of detailed information, such as planting and management techniques.

Aim A
to ensure trees and woodlands contribute to a high quality natural environment

Although London is predominantly urban and suburban, it contains a rich and diverse natural environment. Amongst the buildings and infrastructure there are significant areas of open and green space. Some of the most important sites for biodiversity in London are woodland habitats, especially ancient woodlands, and these bring nature close to people. Trees and woodlands play a vital role in defining London as a 'green capital'. London is well known for its Royal Parks, such as Richmond and Hyde Parks, and its extensive informal open spaces, such as Wimbledon Common. Many of these contain important trees and woodlands. Several Sites of Special Scientific Interest and many of the sites identified by the Mayor as of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation contain vital trees and woodland.

London is permeated by trees and woodlands at a smaller scale, and these can be of major significance at a local level. Examples are the urban parks and gardens within the built environment. Even small areas of naturally regenerated woodland, or a single tree in a small park, contribute significantly to London's landscape and wildlife habitat. The priority in London is therefore to protect and appropriately manage the existing resource.

Relevant Topics (Cross-reference to Topic Papers)

Biodiversity, Soils, Water, Pests and Diseases, Adapting to Climate Change, Energy, Green Space, Transport Corridors, Derelict Land.

Objective A1 Safeguard, and improve the management of, London's existing tree and woodland resource, particularly its ancient woodlands and veteran trees

The over-riding priority with respect to London's trees and woodlands is to safeguard the existing resource and to address any lack of appropriate management. The decline in continuing management has reduced the variety in age structure and composition of woodlands. The result is that London's older woodlands are beginning to be dominated by mature trees, with little natural regeneration, reducing their biodiversity interest.

Whilst there are legislative measures to protect trees and woodlands, such as Tree Preservation Orders, protection within Conservation Area designations, and Felling Licenses (see Policy Context section), they can often be quite blunt tools and need to be reinforced with consistent and strongly framed policies. Apart from neglect, threats to existing trees and woodlands come from many sources, including human pressure,

development, pollution, diseases, pests and invasive species, and, in the longer term, from climate change.

There is an urgent need to improve our understanding of the condition of London's trees and woodlands. We need to know what management takes place and whether it is appropriate, particularly in ancient woodlands, which are often rich in wildlife but sensitive to neglect. A much more proactive approach to management needs to be encouraged, such as coppicing, the maintenance and improvement of glades, the use of species native to London, the creation of uneven aged stands, pollarding or heavy pruning in place of felling, and the retention, where safe, of dead wood. Management principles for individual trees, groups of trees and woodlands need to be agreed and disseminated. In the case of Ancient and Native Woodlands, existing Forestry Commission guidance should be used to safeguard their long-term management. In addition, landowners should build the reversion to native condition of Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS) into management plans. Natural regeneration and, where necessary and appropriate, managed replacement of tree stock, need to be promoted. This needs to be backed up by sufficient funding, in order to safeguard the future of the resource.

Individual trees, whether in streets, gardens, operational land, or public open space, require care and protection, so that losses are replaced and the quality of the resource maintained. The management of street trees, in particular, needs to be well planned to maintain their amenity value and to ensure renewal and long term survival.

Project
Sydenham Hill Wood

When
Since 1982

Who
London Wildlife Trust, London Borough of Southwark

Description
Once part of the historic Great North Wood, Sydenham Hill is part of the largest ancient woodland block in central south London, a Site of Metropolitan Importance. It was threatened with repeated development proposals from 1983. Through four subsequent Public Inquiries, London Wildlife Trust worked with others to successfully secure the long-term protection of the Wood by 1993. It was declared a Local Nature Reserve in 1990, and received the UK Man & the Biosphere Urban Forum's Award for Excellence in 1996.

What was achieved
The Trust secured a site manager from 1983, largely funded by Southwark Council, which has enabled the Wood to be managed to a high level of biodiversity conservation interest, and to balance the ever-increasing numbers of people visiting the site. Most of this work is undertaken by volunteers, and advised by a local committee. In addition the Wood has served as a focus for a range of educational and community-based initiatives to promote the local woodland resource.

In 1997 Cox's Walk, an ancient oak-lined avenue leading from the Wood, was brought into the Trust's management. In 2000, the Wood was awarded a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, and work to replace the boundary fencing is expected to be completed by 2006. The Wood is currently the focus of a proposal to extend the South East London Green Chain Walk from Crystal Palace to Nunhead.

Further information
www.wildlondon.org.uk

Project
Lesnes Abbey Woods

When
Since 1995

Who
Lesnes Abbey Conservation Volunteers and Bexley Council

Description
Long term project to conserve the wild flower enclosures in Lesnes Abbey Woods, which include the finest display of wild daffodils in south-east England.

What was achieved
The LACV have actively worked on woodland management over the last ten years, including pond restoration, path repair, surveys, coppicing, hedge laying, heath management, step building, woodland crafts, tree planting, and fence maintenance and replacement. Particularly noteworthy are the heathland restoration, the heather now occupying a substantial area, and the maintenance of the wildflower enclosures.

These three enclosures largely date from the Second World War and consist of wooden paling fencing some hundreds of metres long in total. They protect a substantial area of wild flowers, the show of wild daffodils being followed by swathes of wood anemones then bluebells. A grant has been obtained from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister towards materials, and the Volunteers have also brought in help from BTCV and the Bromley Field Studies Centre, as well as working on the fencing themselves.

Further information
http://www.bexley.gov.uk/service/parks/lesnesabbey.html

Objective A2 Enhance our knowledge and understanding of London's existing tree and woodland resource

A long history of information gathering precedes much of the tree, woodland and open space management in London. However, there is a need to join up information to ensure it is used to its full potential. Whilst there is a range of different sets of data which provide some measure of tree and woodland cover or tree numbers (e.g. National Inventory of Woods and Trees and Metropolitan Public Gardens Association Archive), none is complete, with information gathered for different reasons and hence emphasis placed on different factors. Not only is the resource itself not well understood, but there is limited knowledge of specific threats and opportunities, of trends over time, and of current management. More detailed information is required on:

- the composition, condition and rate of loss of London's woodlands
- the distribution, type, condition and ownership of street trees, garden trees and park trees
- the specific threats and pressures to London's trees and woodlands
- present and future recreational pressures on London's woodlands and their potential long-term effects
- markets for woodland products
- tree resources outside woodlands which are under threat, e.g. trees in larger residential properties at risk from infill development.

Existing data sets need to be compiled and compared (e.g. The Mayor's rolling programme of Open Space and Habitat Survey, Borough Open Space Strategies, Borough Tree Strategies, satellite imagery, aerial photography, Lidar data, etc.) and gaps in information identified, particularly with respect to the resource on private land. Ultimately, a London wide data set needs to be established within the Greenspace Information for Greater London database for use as a common starting point for planning and managing London's trees and woodlands.

The availability of GIS data that can be analysed will assist policy development and inform planning and management decisions at national, regional and local levels. Information can be used to:

- provide facts and figures to aid in decision making to help in the efficient and co-ordinated planning for trees and woodlands
- ensure that those people planting and managing trees and woodlands take into consideration all the factors which can influence the success of their scheme (e.g. impacts of climate change, standards and guidelines).

Project
Ancient Tree Hunt

When
April 2004

Who
Woodland Trust and Ancient Tree Forum

Description
The Woodland Trust and Ancient Tree Forum launched their call for action to secure a future for ancient trees. Ancient trees are trees which are old by comparison with other trees of the same species. They are remarkable living organisms, sometimes living for more than a millennium and yet are very vulnerable because of lack of recognition of their value, neglect or development pressures.

What was achieved
A living map of these trees would help us raise awareness of their importance, monitor threats and losses and plan how to prioritise their conservation effectively. To record a tree or to find out where some of our most important ancient trees are located log on to www.ancient-tree-hunt.org.uk. The Trust and the Forum would like to see loopholes in the legislation closed so that these important trees can be safeguarded. We need to develop the skills and experience necessary to manage ancient trees with great care to enable them to live their lives to the full.

Further information
http://www.ancient-tree-hunt.org.uk

Objective A3 Plan for the impacts of climate change in managing and increasing London's tree and woodland resource

One of the biggest challenges facing London is climate change.[25] Some experts believe that the impacts of climate change are already beginning to be felt, with hotter, drier summers, and warmer wetter winters. Flood events and water shortages are likely to become more common. Soil moisture is likely to reduce in the summer, and storm events could happen on a more regular basis. This has significant implications for how London manages its trees and woodlands.

Trees in the right place, like other vegetation, intercept rainwater and reduce the rate and scale of eventual run-off. As a consequence, this reduces the risk of localised storm water flooding. The sponginess of leaf litter beneath broadleaved woodland can also improve water retention and infiltration. Conversely, inappropriate trees alongside rivers and watercourses can hinder river and stream flows and so cause flooding (although identified wet woodland habitats should be managed and conserved). The role of trees in soil shrinkage and subsidence, and the adequacy or otherwise of building foundations, needs to be understood and addressed, particularly given the shrinkable nature of London Clay soils. Climate change may also lead to increased damage to trees from pests and diseases.

Trees can help to offset warmer conditions, for example by shading soils, river banks, park grassland, living spaces and streets. Consideration needs to be given to the composition of tree, shrub and understorey species to ensure that they are suitable for the expected climatic changes. Planting and management techniques may need to be adapted, for example with respect to watering or moisture retention techniques as well to the choice of species and size of planted stock. Ongoing research undertaken with respect to reducing water uptake should inform such techniques.

Objective A4 Investigate and implement new tree and woodland planting opportunities in appropriate places

Maintaining and enhancing the existing resource must be the priority for trees and woodlands in London. But opportunities should also be pursued to increase the size and scale of the resource as an essential component of London's urban fabric, in line with the Right Place Right Tree principles set out below. The planting of new trees and woodlands can enhance not only existing open space, but also new development. In addition, tree planting can help to create 'green links' in London's network of green and open spaces.

London is fortunate in having a number of initiatives that seek to improve and enhance its natural environment. They all offer the opportunity to increase tree and woodland cover in London as part of a wider mosaic of green space and habitats. However, each has its own agenda, and efforts should be made to ensure that these separate initiatives are co-ordinated and complementary.

Developers have a valuable role as the key players in the majority of the land use changes in the London area. They need to respect existing trees and, where appropriate, also incorporate tree planting within their new developments.

The lessons learnt and good practice techniques developed need to be rolled out across London as a whole. The importance of new planting throughout the capital, and not just in those areas covered by specific initiatives, is recognised in the 'Million Trees for London' campaign being promoted by Trees for London. Target areas are likely to include: (1) appropriate sites in deprived areas, (2) key transport corridors and gateways, (3) large areas of open space with little existing natural value, (4) derelict sites and (5) public realm within new developments.

Most of the existing individual trees are found in private gardens and many others in suburban streets. There is great potential for further planting in these areas. Schemes promoting tree planting in private gardens and streets will help to improve the environment of London's suburbia, and this should be guided by the London Biodiversity Partnership's Gardens Habitat Action Plan.

The constraints of the urban environment can make enlargement of woodland or other semi-natural habitats impractical. However, sympathetic management and planning for both open space and gardens that border woodland can create effective buffering and extensions to

these important habitats as well as delivering a wide range of other benefits to society. It is also important to ensure that the right species of tree is planted. Significant benefits can be achieved through working with nature and encouraging natural colonisation, and such approaches should be prioritised where appropriate. Planting or colonisation should also be followed by management to ensure the ongoing health of the planted stock. Greater consideration of future growth habits for street tree planting is needed. For example, new trees adjacent to low-rise buildings could be smaller species, as this could decrease the likelihood of nuisance claims.

right place - right tree

Alongside objectives to protect and enhance London's tree and woodland resource, recognition needs to be made of other key habitats and land uses. London's limited resource of space means that sites need to be used appropriately and to greatest sustainable benefit. This Framework advocates a 'Right Place Right Tree' approach, which seeks to ensure new planting/colonisation are appropriately located and designed and that woodland expansion is not to the detriment of protecting and restoring existing priority native woodlands and other habitats.

In some environments, trees can cause problems. Trees which have been planted or allowed to colonise in inappropriate habitats should be considered for removal. In many cases, woodlands and trees are encroaching and reducing the wildlife value of these habitats. An ecological assessment should be undertaken to identify the suitability or otherwise of a site for new planting. A landscape assessment may also be appropriate to ascertain any potential disruption to important views or vistas. New planting should be considered within the context of an overall landscape plan and as part of a functioning ecological landscape, and should not occur randomly.

Once a site has been deemed appropriate for tree planting or colonisation, the type of tree should then be chosen to fit the environment.

The following checklist highlights the principles and issues which need to be considered to achieve sustainable enhancement of London's tree and woodland resource, and provides the context for the objectives which follow.

right place - right tree checklist	
appropriate locations	• What is the existing value of the space, and would the impact of trees be positive?
	• **Existing habitat and landscape value:** establish the habitat and landscape type of the site - shade cast by trees, and their demands on soil, water and nutrients, mean that they can kill or damage valuable wildlife habitats such as wetlands, heathlands, flower rich grasslands and brownfields so check for existing value before committing to planting.
	• **Tree cover history:** check historical records to see if the site is in an area where there have been trees in the past, to establish whether the creation of new woodland or tree cover would be appropriate.
appropriate species and design	• **Development design:** trees should not be located where they will experience inappropriate growing conditions e.g. in the shadow of tall buildings.
	• **Local character:** check if there is a history in the area for the use of particular species that could be a reflected in the planned planting.
	• **Work with nature:** in natural areas, employ stock of locally native origin. Best of all, work with natural colonisation.
	• **Great trees of the future:** where the setting allows, take opportunities to plant large species of trees with a long lifespan.
	• **Accessibility:** new trees and woodlands are most needed where they can provide people with access to nature and natural landscape in areas presently lacking in such access.
	• **Infrastructure:** consider existing and future infrastructure requirements – do not plant too close to over/underground infrastructure. Replace removed trees in the same pit if appropriate.
	• **Highways:** meet the statutory safety requirements to maintain a clear route along roads (consider heights of buses, HGVs, cars, cycles and horses).
	• **Space:** check available space against the final height and spread of the proposed species with a view to minimising frequency and amount of pruning required.
	• **Soil condition:** the soil in hard landscaped areas is often poor. Soil compaction needs to be limited in the tree pit and adequate nutrients supplied. Use species known to be robust to these limitations.

Aim B
to help shape the built environment and new development

London comprises 600 square miles (1590 km^2) of an urban and suburban mix of city, town, district centres, suburban neighbourhoods, open spaces, roads, railways, reservoirs, offices, industry, business parks, homes, gardens, farmland, hospitals, etc. Its character is incredibly diverse, from the dense built-up areas of the City of London, to the suburban sprawl and Green Belt of much of the outer Boroughs. As London has grown, it has embraced smaller towns and villages, but many areas of open space survive, albeit now often surrounded by built development.

Trees and woodlands offer a sense of permanence in a rapidly changing city. In many instances, they are indicators of an area's past, particularly the ancient woodlands and veteran trees. In other areas where trees and woodlands have been lost, their memory lives on in the names of the suburbs that have replaced them (e.g. Wood Green, Collier's Wood, Forest Hill, Norwood). Trees and woodlands therefore play an important role in helping to define the 'sense of place' of different parts of London. They have a contribution to make towards the London Plan's emphasis on protecting and enhancing the quality of the townscape, and achieving the highest quality of urban design.

Relevant Topics (Cross-reference to Topic Papers)
History and Sense of Place, Urban Design, Development

Objective B1 Raise awareness and understanding of the role that trees and woodlands play in London's townscapes, and defining 'sense of place'

Local distinctiveness of any area is a combination of a number of factors, reflecting the built, natural, and historic environment, and social and economic conditions. The contribution of trees and woodlands should be considered in terms of how they relate to the: (1) history of the location, (2) form and scale of the built environment, and (3) economic, social and environmental needs and functions of the area. Tree-lined streets and classical squares form important features in London's townscape with open spaces functioning as green havens throughout London, with the trees they contain contributing an important quality to their appearance.

Understanding these factors should help to guide both the approach taken towards the existing resource (especially the retention, protection

and sensitive management of historic trees and old woodlands), as well as new planting.

Other than the promotion of landmark trees and public campaigns to save valuable woodlands, the contribution of trees and woodlands to defining the character of neighbourhoods goes relatively unnoticed. Further information is required about the nature of the resource, and awareness needs to be improved about the importance of trees and woodlands as an essential ingredient in maintaining and improving the quality of the urban environment. Landscape evaluation studies can contribute such information, and also inform the preservation of vistas and viewpoints, some of which have been lost as a result of ill-considered planting or scrub regeneration.

Accommodating the predicted growth in London's population and economy opens up significant opportunities for a strategic approach to tree and woodland planting. The scale of development that will need to take place over the coming decades will facilitate significant funding for the creation of attractive, and green, business and residential environments, which should draw upon townscape character assessment.

Objective B2 Ensure the needs and impacts of trees and woodlands are properly addressed in an ever more compact city, especially with respect to subsidence

Trees and woodlands can cause problems though their need for light, nutrients and space above and below ground. They provide shade, but shed leaves, fruit and pollen and, more seriously, branches. Street and garden trees can cause or exacerbate problems such as: (1) subsidence, (2) unwelcome reduction in light levels, (3) interference with utilities' infrastructure, and (4) disruption of sightlines along roads and paths, if not located and managed appropriately. These factors influence management of existing trees, such as pruning. Fear of subsidence claims is possibly the single greatest threat to street trees in London and must be tackled as a priority. In addressing the problem of subsidence, there is a need to encourage better standards of foundations through the building industry to optimise opportunities for trees within developments.

In recent years there has been a tendency to plant small, easily-managed trees out of scale with the grandeur of their built surroundings. Conflicts between tree protection and management and other strategic objectives are particularly apparent when considering transport routes. Trees on major roads (also known as 'red routes') are managed by Transport for London who work to balance the ease of movement of vehicles, pedestrians and

cyclists and the need to accommodate and manage street trees. Trees in woodlands can sometimes present the above problems and can cause damage and, in rare cases, injury from fallen branches and/or trees.

Overall, the sites and species for new or replacement planting need to be considered with care to ensure problems are minimised yet ensuring the trees will make a positive contribution to the landscape. Existing street and garden trees should be retained wherever possible through management, with removal considered only as a last resort followed immediately by replacement with appropriate species in an appropriate location.

Objective B3 Promote the important contribution of trees and woodlands to London's sustainable development and regeneration

Regional policy documents see London and nearby counties as driving much of the regeneration in the south east of England. The named Growth Areas of significance are the Thames Gateway and the London-Stansted-Cambridge corridor, and they provide the foci for much of the regeneration effort, but there are also many places elsewhere in London, particularly the inner boroughs, where the London Plan seeks to 'sustain renewal by prioritising them for action and investment'.

The planned major investment in housing, community facilities and infrastructure brings with it opportunities for innovative and strategically planned tree and woodland enhancement. It is essential that trees and woodlands are recognised as an essential part of the overall design and fabric of the project. Innovative solutions can be found in guidance documents such as 'Building Green' and 'Design for Biodiversity'.

Trees and woodlands need to be mainstreamed into decision-making processes to ensure they are components of regeneration initiatives from the outset. The 'Right Place, Right Tree' approach should be adopted by all involved to maximise the benefits of trees in these circumstances. Use should also be made of planning conditions and Section 106 Agreements (of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990) to ensure that funds are identified for management. The conditions and obligations imposed should follow the priorities set out in the Framework, and should require that long term management plans are produced, with an indication of the committed source and level of resources for that management.

Much of the greatest potential for creating larger areas of new community woodland is on the periphery of London, in areas such as Thames Chase. The Forestry Commission is supportive of measures to enhance the environmental requirements of the Government's Growth Areas and is

already actively involved in the creation of woodlands of enormous social and environmental potential at the urban fringe. In addition, opportunities exist for advanced planting of trees on derelict development sites so that the trees are well established when building work starts. It is vital that lessons from all initiatives are disseminated as widely as possible to encourage other locations to follow suit, particularly in areas earmarked for regeneration.

Aim C
through people's contact with trees and woodland to help foster community and individual people's well-being and social inclusion

There is a growing recognition that trees and woodlands can bring considerable benefits to people's health, for example by reducing stress levels, fostering community involvement and encouraging outdoor recreation. Trees and woodlands often have strong cultural associations, and in London they provide contact with nature in a predominantly built environment. They also offer an educational resource for all generations.

London contains one of the most diverse populations in the world, reflected in its variety of social, cultural and ethnic backgrounds. It is important that all sectors of London's communities have the opportunity to enjoy the benefits that trees and woodlands have to offer.

Relevant Topics (Cross-reference to Topic Papers)
Community Identity and Involvement, Ethnic Minorities, Recreation and Access, Access for People with Disabilities, Crime and Safety, Education, Health and Air Quality

Objective C1 Enable Londoners to take greater ownership of their local trees and woodlands, including in deprived areas and more excluded communities and localities

Community involvement can be fostered by involving local people in the care and use of trees and woodlands. This can be achieved through, for example, supporting 'Friends of' groups and educational use by schools, with the continuing support of the woodland manager. Organisations such as the London boroughs, Trees for London, housing associations, BTCV, Groundwork and the London Wildlife Trust have a wealth of experience in community engagement and this can be built upon by others. The Tree Council's Tree Warden Scheme has been active for some time in London and should be supported (see Objective D.2).

Some of the most challenging areas for community involvement are those sectors of London's communities where deprivation levels are high, where there is a lack of access to trees and woodlands, or where sectors of the community are relatively isolated in terms of decision-making and integration into the wider community. In such situations, a good approach may be through existing community organisations, such as religious institutions, city farms, community gardens, and initiatives such as the Black Environment Network. Small groups of trees offer important opportunities for encouraging psychological ownership and appreciation of trees on a smaller, and therefore often more individual and accessible level.

Project
One Tree Hill

When
2005 is the centenary of One Tree Hill, Honor Oak, being saved in perpetuity for the public.

Description
With London rapidly expanding from the 1840s, the pressure to develop land led to campaigns to protect locally valued landmarks; one of the most notable was around One Tree Hill (or Oak of Honour Wood). Once part of the Great North Wood, it provided a natural boundary between the parishes of Camberwell and Lewisham, and a boundary tree - the Oak of Honour - stood at its summit. Demonstrations to protest against its enclosure by a golf club in 1895 became increasingly agitated until a major riot on 17th October 1897 required several hundred police to quell 15,000 campaigners. Through a concerted political campaign which followed, with much support from local health board councillors, One Tree Hill was eventually acquired by the Borough of Camberwell, and opened as a public park in August 1905.

What was achieved
The Hill is just one example of a number of green spaces in London saved by notable public campaigns (others include Croham Hurst (Croydon), Sydenham Hill Wood (Southwark), Gunnersbury Triangle (Ealing), and Oxleas Wood (Greenwich)). One Tree Hill differs in most by reverting to woodland subsequent to its acquisition; it is now a curious mix of planted London plane and poplar, and the natural generation of oak, ash, cherry, sycamore, and hawthorn. This returned the Hill to woodland by the 1960s after a relatively tree-less character for about 150 years. The Friends of One Tree Hill was formed in the 1990s and is working with Southwark Council, London Wildlife Trust, and others to improve its management.

Objective C2 Improve the accessibility of London's woodlands for all

Access to London's existing woodlands can be promoted in a number of ways. Access to nature is one of the Mayor of London's objectives for biodiversity in London and is being measured through his rolling programme of open space and wildlife habitat survey. Documents such as the London Biodiversity Strategy give advice about access to natural open spaces, highlighting the need for a scattering of accessible woodlands across the capital. Encouraging access to woodlands includes:

- enhancing awareness of woodlands, how to get there and how to enjoy them
- improving public transport to woodlands, and cycling and walking routes
- improving transport and access for people with disabilities
- making the woodland attractive to different sectors of the community
- providing appropriate facilities which are suitable for the woodland
- making the woodland feel a safe environment to be in.

Access needs to be managed carefully to ensure that damage from visitors is minimised. For example, substantially increasing visitor use of a small wood with a good number of wildflowers may not be appropriate. Inappropriate access can result in trampling, erosion and disturbance which can have considerable resource implications and should therefore be guarded against. Prevention of damage can entail supervision in the form of wardening which has been in decline over recent years. Adding value to a woodland, or increasing its attractiveness, can involve the use of the site as a venue for events (e.g. the annual Asian 'mela' festivals held in Gunnersbury Park and Epping Forest), so long as the woodland can accommodate such activities without damage. The needs of people with disabilities need to be catered for. This includes both getting to the woodland and enjoying it once there (see also Objective C4).

Providing the right facilities also depends on the size and nature of the site.[26] Information boards and easy to negotiate paths can help to attract people and lead them through a woodland and appreciate it without damage, and discourage them from visiting areas which might be more sensitive to human pressure. Interpretation boards also present opportunities to improve understanding of the wildlife that woodlands support.

Encouraging accessibility needs to be placed in the context of emerging health and safety legislation, which is likely to place greater responsibility and onus on woodland managers to ensure that woodlands are safe places

to visit. Many of the risks associated with woodlands can be reduced through appropriate woodland and visitor management. Guidance and advice on the risks and reasonable approaches to take is required.

Project
Peabody Hill Woodland, Tulse Hill

When
Since July 2004

Who
Peabody Trust, Trees for Cities, Forestry Commission

Description
A small woodland (which nevertheless forms about 25% of the total in Lambeth) standing between two of the Peabody Trust's housing estates acts as a buffer between the two communities, and was in need of management and greater local engagement. With grant aid from the Forestry Commission, a research project was undertaken to ascertain residents' views of the woodland. This has helped to underpin the work of the Capital Woodlands bid, of which Peabody Hill is one of the six project sites. Trees for Cities has worked with the Trust staff and residents to develop a programme of activities to improve the woodland.

What was achieved
A greater understanding of residents' concerns and needs, as well as how the woodland is actually used. It has helped focus the Trust to develop a management plan, and prepare its element of the Capital Woodlands bid. Major improvements to the woodland are planned for 2006-07.

Further information
www.treesforcities.org

Objective C3 Raise awareness and understanding of London's tree and woodland resource

An important strand of this Framework is raising the expectations of all those who live, work and visit London. Trees and woodlands can enhance their own experience, and, as a result, foster a greater sense of ownership and promote their sense of well-being. Current misunderstandings with respect to woodland management and tree retention has resulted in some problems and confusion, and needs to be addressed through awareness raising programmes for the general public and education initiatives for children in schools. A greater public appreciation of management requirements needs to be achieved to avoid misunderstandings. Trees can cause problems (such as light reduction) and land owners need to be

made aware of appropriate management approaches which can avoid the loss of existing trees. Public use of woodlands and open spaces with trees can be limited by a lack of awareness or a fear of crime associated with wooded locations.

Environmental studies are already part of the Citizenship element of the National Curriculum. The profile of trees and woodlands within Citizenship could be raised, such as provision of teaching materials, planting in school grounds, and study visits. Woodlands can be excellent outdoor classrooms.

There are numerous environmental education initiatives throughout London, but woodland related schemes are a small proportion of these. London has one Forestry Education Initiative cluster (administered by the Forestry Commission) in London (utilising Epping Forest), but it has yet to have any Forest Schools. Forest Schools encourage an appreciation of the natural world, building self-esteem and confidence through regular visits to woodland sites. They are particularly useful in supporting extra-curricular learning for children.

Information is critical to awareness raising and can be used to make people aware of trees and woodlands, and help involve them in safeguarding their future (e.g. Trees for London's 'Sponsor a Tree' campaign). The information needs to be accurate, readily available, relevant, and understandable by the audience it is aimed at, taking into account technical knowledge and requirements, community cultural and ethnic make-up, and special needs such as catering for people with disabilities.

Objective C4 Promote the benefits of trees and woodlands to Londoners' physical and spiritual health and wellbeing

Trees and woodlands play an important role in creating pleasant and healthy environments for people to live in. This can bring both mental and physical benefits for Londoners.

The most obvious contribution of trees and woodlands to health is by providing attractive and enjoyable environments for people to exercise in.[27] Trees and woodlands, as components of green space and as links between open spaces, can also encourage people to walk or cycle rather than use a car. The areas around playing fields offer particular opportunities for tree retention and enhancement. Some people regard trees and vegetation as a threat to security and personal safety. Improved staffing, management and design generally increases popularity and public use and this, in turn, reduces any level of perceived risk. A degree

of compromise is necessary, with removal of trees or shrubs considered as a last resort.

An outlook onto trees and woodlands can help those suffering from ill-health, whether mental or physical. Recovery rates from illness tend to be enhanced where trees are present compared to where they are absent. Trees and woodlands, and contact with nature in general, can have a calming effect, helping to reduce stress.

Trees can also have a small direct impact on the 'cleanliness' of the environment. They absorb air pollutants, filtering out a small amount of some particulates and noxious gases. Since much of London's pollution is now generated by traffic, street trees can play a small role in helping to reduce the effects of vehicle emissions.

Project
Green Gym, Waltham Forest

When
Since October 2003

Who
BTCV

Description
Sessions are held once a week at a variety of sites including White House Woods and Ainslie Wood. Tasks vary from coppicing, hedge-laying, improving access and looking after newly planted trees.

What was achieved
Improved health and fitness through tasks which give people a good physical workout and the combination of being out in the fresh air, meeting new people, learning new skills and helping the local environment.

Further information
http://www.btcv.org/greengym/

Aim D
to support the capital's economy

While London's woodlands were once used to supply timber, smallwood, charcoal and other products, they are now managed primarily for biodiversity and amenity. Although these are sometimes seen as 'products' that cost money, the indirect benefits in terms of producing attractive environments for business and tourism, and a healthy workforce, tend to be under appreciated. Studies show that people put a high monetary value on the quality of their local green environment (see for example the Greater London Authority Economics publication 'Valuing Greenness').

Trees and woodlands, on their own and as part of the 'green capital', therefore have a vital role in supporting London's economy. Tree products can be used for economic benefit and the opportunities for this differ between inner and outer London boroughs. In turn, the monetary returns that trees and woodlands produce can be used to directly fund their protection and management.

Relevant Topics (Cross-reference to Topic Papers)

Attractive Business Environments, Wider Economic Value of Trees, Woodland Products and Employment, Renewable Energy, Supporting Tourism

Objective D1 Source the financial resources needed to realise the full range of benefits of London's trees and woodlands

There are a number of grants available for different aspects of tree and woodland planting and management. The Forestry Commission's Woodland Grants Scheme is but one example. Some aspects that could be improved to help implement the Framework are:

- rationalising grant sources, or establishing awareness of all grant sources and the availability and nature of funding for a variety of woodland and tree work
- many grants concentrate on initial planting and development. Grants should also be made available for maintenance, management and access to existing woodlands and trees, including approved work to maintain trees and woodlands on private land, but protected by TPOs or other policies. Grant funding for new planting schemes should include both a requirement for a long-term management plan, and grants to fund that management.

The Forestry Commission has recognised the need to reform grant aid so that it reflects the needs and priorities of trees and woodlands within urban environments, driven by social and environmental outcomes. The introduction of this 'block grant' approach could require a scoring system which would direct money to areas of greatest need.

Clearer information is needed on the variety of other sources of funding, especially with respect to trees and woodland management and enhancement on private as well as public land. Such funding sources include landscape conservation and restoration funding as well as forestry funding.

Trees and woodlands are part of the essential environmental infrastructure of London. The scale of growth in London over the next few decades suggests that a proportion of regeneration and other development funds should be invested in maintaining, improving and expanding the existing tree and woodland resource to meet the needs of those living, working, visiting or studying within the city.

Project
Green Gateway Block Grant - Pilot

When
2004 – 2007

Who
Green Gateway

Description
A strategic approach to regionalised grant aid that reflects the needs and priorities of trees and woodlands within urban environments. This will be driven by social and environmental outcomes, such as health, better quality of life, education and landscape. The development of a 'block grant' to deliver the Forestry Commission grant aid is being piloted for a three year period within the Thames Gateway area and it is proposed that, if successful, this will be extended to cover the whole of London. Considerable discussion and consultation will be necessary during the pilot period to ensure that this new system of delivery meets the needs of all partners. Groundwork London are the delivery agent for this funding during the pilot period.

Funding
Forestry Commission and SRB funding delivered by Groundwork in partnership with landowners and the GLA.

continued over

What will be achieved?
A simplified grant delivery system will be achieved which meets the statutory needs of the Forestry Commission whilst ensuring that partners are agreed that the new delivery meets their requirements. This system should provide improvements in measurable outcomes that reflect the particular social and environmental conditions of London and meets the aims and objectives of the London Tree and Woodland Framework. In addition the new system should encourage greater involvement in tree and woodland issues and result in an enhancement and greater understanding of the benefits which can result.

Objective D2 Ensure the human resources needed to realise the full range of benefits of London's trees and woodlands are sufficient and appropriately trained

The planning, planting and management of trees and woodlands in itself provides work, and hence a contribution to the local economy. Demands for, and availability of, necessary skills need to be monitored and appropriate training provided through, for example, colleges such as Capel Manor. It will be important to ensure that training is appropriate to needs but is also linked to subsequent career development, under-pinned by a stable industry fuelled by a steady and adequately funded workload.

A case needs to be made to organisations with an interest in the wide variety of benefits that trees and woodlands bring to health, the economy, and individual businesses. Bodies with such interests should be encouraged to become more directly engaged in assisting with tree and woodland planting and management, and to help develop the skills necessary to take this involvement forward.

Tree or woodland management skills are not held by every organisation, and their proliferation into different interests - arboriculture, forestry, leisure management, biodiversity conservation - makes it difficult for those not in the know to access them. Smaller organisations without in-house expertise may be dependent on the advice of contractors, which may not always be objective. The same also applies to the creation of landscapes within new development. The widespread use of volunteers in London needs to be supported to ensure the viability of woodland and tree management. A number of admirable Tree Warden schemes and similar activities have lapsed when local workers and volunteers have become disillusioned by the way in which carefully nurtured new street trees and parkland trees have been damaged by ill-supervised street work contractors and park maintenance or utility service contractors. Greater

attention needs to be given by local authorities to the proper enforcement of contractual standards to avoid such situations occurring.

Objective D3 Recognise and promote the contribution of trees and woodlands in providing attractive environments for business, leisure and tourism

Whilst access to markets and labour are driving factors in determining where a business wishes to locate, the quality of the environment can also be an influencing factor. Businesses tend to value image highly and wish to be associated with successful locations. Healthy environments are more likely to support healthy workforces, improving productivity and reducing absenteeism. Businesses are often involved in local environmental initiatives as an effective way of linking with the local community.

It is particularly important that those locations earmarked for major development are targeted for investment in the natural environment as well as more traditional infrastructure. The need for such 'green infrastructure' is being promoted by initiatives such as the East London Green Grid and Green Gateway. Trees and woodlands play a significant role in 'greening' such locations.

The existing tree and woodland resource is an important ingredient in London's attractiveness not only for business, but also to its workforce and visitors. The leafy parks, squares and gardens are internationally renowned, providing one of London's most enduring images. The benefits that trees and woodlands bring to the economy need to continue. This means management of the existing resource and replacement and new planting where appropriate. Attractive environments also help to retain Londoners and their recreational spend within the city, minimising unsustainable travel to more remote places.

Objective D4 Support the use of local tree and woodland products as part of sustainable management of the resource

The forestry sector in London is very small. However there are still significant numbers of people working for local authorities, voluntary organisations, landscape contractors and gardeners. The main contribution trees and woodlands make is to the provision and retention of jobs, linked to attractive business environments. This is widely acknowledged, if difficult to prove. However, with the need for financing

ongoing management, there is an impetus to make the capital's trees give a return, whether through timber or associated products.

Products from woodlands are numerous, and include timber for construction, wood for the craft industry, fencing and furniture, grazing, wood and charcoal for fuel, and foods such as fungi and berries. But very few of the woodlands in London are now managed on a commercial basis.

Energy production offers one of the most significant areas of potential. The London Bioenergy Report[28] found that arboricultural operations carried out in London by contractors working for local authorities generate much material suitable for processing into a biomass fuel per year. If used to generate heat, this could result in a significant reduction in London's net CO_2 emissions.

There is potential for forest certification to be pursued at a London-wide or sub-regional scale. The London Borough of Croydon was the first local authority worldwide to gain certification from the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) for the management of all the woodlands and trees for which it is responsible, and we should be looking to repeat the good practice lessons learned.

Timber or Tree Stations are sites (either urban or rural) to which local woodland and tree managers can bring woody waste. They can produce a wide range of products including fuel for heat and power, compost, charcoal and sawn timber for sale into local markets. Such initiatives, when linked to recycling and avoidance of landfill, can open up real opportunities for using woodland products in the future. There is already one tree station in Croydon. However, further research is required to examine the true potential of woodland products, and how these could be supported and marketed, such as the use of 'certification' schemes, which guarantee sustainable management, and offer verification of quality and source.

It is also worth noting that certification was helped by Croydon's Forestry Manager and principal tree officer being Forestry Commission trained as opposed to having an arboricultural background. This made the issues surrounding woodland management easier to resolve.

Running the FSC certificate has largely been a matter of good management rather than an onerous burden. On the negative side costs are significant and although certification allows wood product access into markets that would otherwise be closed a higher price is not obtainable. However, overall the experience of being certified has proved worthwhile and it is a status the borough would seek to maintain in the long term.

Project
Certification of Trees and Woodlands in the London Borough of Croydon

When
1999

Who
London Borough of Croydon (LBC)

Description
LBC is situated on the southern outskirts of Greater London and has one of the highest densities of trees per hectare of any of the London boroughs. The tree resource managed by LBC largely comprises some 37,000 street trees, woodlands, which cover eight per cent of the borough and the trees in 120 parks and open spaces. Since 1999 trees managed by LBC have been Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified, the first time internationally that street trees have been included within the scope of an FSC certificate.

Funding
LBC. Certification is not cheap, the initial cost was some £2,000 with an annual fee of £1,000 in subsequent years.

What has been achieved
The original goals for LBC getting certified were obtaining a meaningful standard of sustainable wood and tree management and getting goods into the market place. These goals were achieved via the certification process and, in addition, Croydon found that the FSC audit was a significant help in improving the management of its tree resource. The actual experience of being audited was also not as tough as feared. The auditors were helpful and constructive and were able to discuss and resolve any contentious issues.

Project
The creation of a Tree Station within the London Borough of Croydon

When
1996 onwards

Who
Bioregional Development Group (BDG) and the London Borough of Croydon (LBC)

Description
A Tree Station is useful where there are woods and trees that are not being managed properly, and is especially valuable where many owners each have responsibility for a relatively small number of woods and trees. Tree Stations act as a catalyst for sustainable forest management through the development of new wood using industries, which match the available woodland products. A Tree Station is a site where local woodland and tree managers and owners can bring their woody waste to, rather than sending it to landfill. The station will then convert the wood into useful projects. Tree Stations can help make best use of wood products that result from managing trees and woodlands in rural and urban areas.

Funding
Bioregional Development Group and London Borough of Croydon.

What has been achieved
The TreeStation in Croydon has been established primarily to use the wood produced by arboriculture within the borough. Wood is diverted away from the waste stream and used to make a variety of products. Charcoal was made for 4 years and the small proportion of high quality logs were sawn for timber using the TreeStation's mobile sawmill. The focus is now on producing woodchip for fuel with an initial market for 1,000 tonnes a year at the BedZED combined heat and power plant (CHP). In an urban setting a Tree Station helps waste become a resource which contributes to local sustainable development.

The work of BDG and LBC at the Croydon Tree Station is setting an example by:

- improving the value of the environment for local people by bringing woodland into management
- demonstrating good management of trees in Croydon through certification under the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) scheme
- involving local people in woodland management and ecological monitoring
- reducing the amount of waste wood going into landfill
- developing new markets for timber in products such as charcoal and woodchip for fuel.

footnotes

25 See London Climate Change Partnership (2002) London's Warming – the Impacts of Climate Change on London

26 See guidance documents on making woodlands more accessible such as Countryside Agency (2000) Sense and Accessibility and Countryside Commission (1995) Growing in Confidence.

27 RSPB (2004) Natural Fit – Can green space and biodiversity increase levels of physical activity?

28 London Tree Officers' Association (1991) London Bioenergy Report

5 proposals

implementing the Framework

The purpose of the Framework is to provide a co-ordinated approach to trees and woodlands in London to ensure that:

- the existing stock of trees and woodlands is managed and maintained to safeguard its value to London both now and in the future
- there is an increased awareness of the value of trees and woodlands to the health and well being of all Londoners
- the contribution of trees and woodlands to London's sustainability and quality of life is maximised
- natural regeneration and new planting is encouraged in appropriate locations to further enhance the contribution of trees and woodlands to London life.

The following tables put forward proposed actions which build on past successes and current initiatives, and which respond to particular challenges and opportunities. Recommendations are given on how to implement each proposal, identifying the relevant mechanisms and timescales. An Implementation Plan will be produced as a result of this Framework which will identify key partners and allocate tasks.

A key issue with respect to implementing the Framework will be resources. One of the recommended actions is to carry out a detailed analysis of existing and potential funding sources, to cover European, central Government, Government agency, local authority, lottery, private and voluntary funding sources. This research should examine the sources and success of funding of other environmental initiatives (e.g. watercourse enhancement projects), and the potential for new forms of funding such as block grants. It will also need to consider what restrictions exist over the use of funding (e.g. in terms of criteria to be met). The availability of funding will help to determine which actions should be prioritised.

A final series of proposals address the management, monitoring and review of the Framework. It is recommended that a Framework Manager should act as the focal point for ensuring that the proposals are carried out and monitored.

To ensure the success of the Framework, responsibility for each of the proposed actions will need to be allocated to relevant and willing organisations. It is therefore essential that all partners consider the role their organisation could play in achieving the objectives.

Aim A
to ensure trees and woodlands contribute to a high quality natural environment

Proposals	Priority	Mechanism	Time scale
objective A1 **safeguard and improve the management of London's existing tree and woodland resource**			
Resources for woodland protection and management should be prioritised towards the following: • ancient woodlands • heavily used woodlands • accessible woodlands with important biodiversity interest • veteran trees.	High	Borough Tree Strategies Capital Woodlands Programme	Ongoing
Resources for tree protection and management should be prioritised towards street trees.	High	Borough Tree Strategies	Ongoing
Actively support the role of local borough tree officers and woodland managers, by increasing the political profile of trees and proactively encouraging adequate budget provision for tree maintenance.	High	Policy Liaison with Borough Chief Executives and Members	Ongoing
Establish common management principles to be followed across London. Develop a London Tree (Management) Strategy which provides principles and proposals for street tree, park tree and garden tree management.	Medium	Guidance and management strategy	Medium term
Support the Countryside Agency and Trees for London in their Great Trees for London campaign with a view to raising awareness of the importance of older trees (and promote the existence of ancient woodlands in London alongside this).	Low	Campaign support Input data into Greenspace Information for Greater London	Ongoing

Proposals	Priority	Mechanism	Time scale
objective A2 **enhance our knowledge and understanding of London's tree and woodland resource**			
Compile, assess and map existing information on the nature, extent, condition and ownership of woodland in London, and identify gaps in data to be addressed.	High	Research and survey Collaboration with Greenspace Information for Greater London	Short term (within 2 years) Mayor's ten year rolling survey and assessment programme
Compile, assess and map existing information on the nature, extent, condition and ownership of trees in London, and identify gaps in data to be addressed.	High	Research and survey Collaboration with Greenspace Information for Greater London and London Tree Officers' Association	Ongoing
Make woodland survey information widely available in order to promote co-ordinated strategies.	Medium	Publicity and dissemination Collaboration with Greenspace Information for Greater London	Ongoing

Proposals	Priority	Mechanism	Time scale
objective A3 plan for the impacts of climate change in managing the tree and woodland resource			
Investigate and disseminate latest research and predictions for climate change and the impacts on trees and woodlands, and look to develop guidance on methods for accommodating climate change in urban environments, e.g. species to be planted, changes in planting and management techniques, to be piloted in London and disseminated to other UK cities.	High	Dissemination of research information and literature Preparation of guidance	Ongoing Medium term (within 2 to 5 years)
Improve knowledge of the potential role of trees and woodlands in flood control, improving air and water quality, soil stability and climate control including information on flood risk areas and the opportunities and constraints for planting.	Medium	Desk study Consultation Further research	Medium term (within 2 to 5 years)
objective A4 establish new tree and woodland planting in appropriate places			
Actively promote the 'Right Place Right Tree' principles and disseminate guidance to all stakeholders.	High	Promotion of the Framework and its guidance	Short term (within 1 year)
Actively support the existing cross-boundary strategic and local initiatives to link London with its adjacent countryside (e.g. Colne Valley Regional Park, Lee Valley Regional Park and Green Arc) and promote the role of trees and woodlands in creating strategic linkages between them across government boundaries (e.g. East London Green Grid, Green Gateway).	Medium	Individual initiatives Sustainable Communities Plan London Plan	Ongoing

Proposals	Priority	Mechanism	Time scale
Establish priority locations for new tree planting (in line with the Right Place Right Tree principles), taking into account such factors as levels of social deprivation, transport corridors and gateways, derelict land, biodiversity objectives, areas of regeneration and community forests.	Medium	Local Development Frameworks (Area Action Plans) Open space and tree strategies Wider 'greening' and 'regeneration' initiatives London Indicator - areas of deficiency in accessible wildlife sites	Ongoing
Establish priority locations for 'other' individual plantings, taking into account such factors as levels of social deprivation, derelict land, biodiversity objectives and areas of regeneration, as well as identifying habitats inappropriately planted for tree removal.	Medium	Local Development Frameworks (Area Action Plans) Open space and tree strategies Wider 'greening' and 'regeneration' initiatives London Indicator - areas of deficiency in accessible wildlife sites	Short term (within 2 years)
Draw on lessons from existing planting initiatives and disseminate good practice. Seek to review, revise, monitor and evaluate these lessons as appropriate.	Low	Million Trees for London campaign	Ongoing

Aim B
to help shape the built environment and new development in a way that strengthens the positive character and diversity of London

Proposals	Priority	Mechanism	Time scale
Objective B1 **raise awareness and understanding of the role that trees and woodlands play in London's townscapes, and defining 'sense of place'**			
Analyse and map the character of the urban landscape, drawing out the factors which make each distinct, including the built environment and the role trees and woodlands play in defining different types of urban environment.	Medium	Regional Urban Landscape Character Assessment of London for regional trends Borough Urban Landscape Assessment for local trends Reference work by Countryside Agency, English Heritage, Royal Parks Agency, GLA, etc	Medium term (within 2 to 5 years)
Produce strategies and design guidelines showing how trees and woodlands can (and should) enhance that distinctiveness.	Medium	Borough Open Space and Tree Strategies Development Briefs and Urban Design Guides (e.g. supplementary Planning Documents) Transport for London Streetscape Guidance	Medium term (within 2 to 5 years), following Urban Landscape Character Assessment

Proposals	Priority	Mechanism	Time scale
objective B2 **ensure the needs and impacts of trees and woodlands are properly addressed in an ever more compact city, especially with respect to subsidence**			
Provide and distribute documentation to help reduce the number of and repudiate actual insurance claims with respect to subsidence.	High	London-wide policy/guidance Review existing documentation Collaboration with insurance industry	Medium term (within 2 to 5 years)
Provide and distribute documentation and publications to the general public to counter negative perception of trees in relation to subsidence, giving the facts and allaying the fears.	High	Production of information leaflets Dissemination of literature	Medium term (within 2 to 5 years) then ongoing
objective B3 **promote the contribution of existing and new trees and woodlands to London's sustainable economy through urban development and regeneration**			
Promote the role of trees and woodlands in creating an environment which attracts people to live, work and visit, and as an essential element of environmental infrastructure.	Medium	Awareness and information campaign targeted at stakeholder organisations and then public in general London Plan	Short term (within 2 years)
Ensure any development, regeneration strategy or design for new development proposals give proper attention to the needs of trees and woodlands and maximises the benefits that existing or proposed trees and woodlands can make to the overall scheme.	High	Sustainable Communities Plan Local Development Frameworks Development Planning London Economic Development Strategy	On going
Regularly monitor the health of the tree and woodland resource, and identify issues arising and take action as required.	Medium	Open Space and Tree Strategies Borough management teams	Ongoing

Aim C
through people's contact with trees and woodland to help foster community and individual well-being and social inclusion

Proposals	Priority	Mechanism	Time scale
objective C1 **enable Londoners to take greater ownership of their local trees and woodlands, especially in deprived areas and more excluded communities and localities**			
Identify those communities where there is a combination of social deprivation, poor availability of existing trees, and the opportunity to improve access to trees and woodlands.	Medium	Research Consultation Develop Tree Warden Scheme	Ongoing
Prioritise 'socially and tree/woodland deprived' communities for engagement, and define and organise projects to involve the community in tree and woodland planning and management.	Low	Consultation meetings and events Dissemination of information Existing networks and organisations (e.g. religious institutions, community groups, etc.) Tree Warden Schemes	Medium term (within 2 to 5 years) then ongoing
Engage with Local Strategic Partnerships to raise the profile of trees and woodlands, London-wide, and disseminate good practice.	Medium	Community Strategies Local Development Frameworks	Medium term (within 2 to 5 years)

Proposals	Priority	Mechanism	Time scale
objective C2 improve the accessibility of London's woodlands			
Encourage greater use of woodlands and commons through outreach work, infrastructural change and 'welcoming' events.	Medium	Existing programmes Capital Woodlands	Medium term (within 2 to 5 years)
Promote to Londoners and visitors to London the wider resource of trees and woodlands in the capital (e.g. Epping Forest) and improve on site educational information where appropriate.	Medium	Tourism strategies London media Publicity in partnership with transport providers	Ongoing
Improve signage and linkages from transport nodes and address access obstacles for all users (e.g. through way-marking and planting to emphasise link routes).	Medium	Orientation aids Capital Woodlands Programme Landscape planning	Medium term (within 2 to 5 years)

Proposals	Priority	Mechanism	Time scale
objective C3 raise awareness and understanding of London's tree and woodland resource			
Support and enhance existing environmental educational programmes linked to tree environments.	High	Learning through Landscapes, London Environmental Education Forum, London Wildlife Trust, BTCV programmes	Ongoing
Undertake a marketing campaign to assist in the identification of sound arboricultural practices and techniques that will help reduce the number of badly managed and/or damaged trees and ensure planting on private residential land is in accordance with the Gardens Habitat Action Plan.	Medium	Gardens Habitat Action Plan	Medium term (within 2 to 5 years)
Survey residents and visitors to assess how they value trees and woodlands.	Medium	Borough tree strategies Borough open space studies (user surveys)	
Promote the use of woodlands as outdoor classrooms, as part of the Citizenship component of the National Curriculum suited to the London context, ensuring that work packs and information are available, accessible and cater for the diverse cultural and ethnic nature of the London population.	Medium	Compilation Dissemination Publicity	Medium term (within 2 to 5 years)
Establish the feasibility and implement in an appropriate location London's first Forest Education Initiative related Forest School in partnership with other London-wide environmental education initiatives.	Medium	Forest Education Initiative	Short term for feasibility study (within 2 years) Medium term for setting up first Forest School (within 2 to 5 years)

Proposals	Priority	Mechanism	Time scale
objective C4 promote the benefits of trees and woodlands to Londoners' physical and spiritual health and well-being			
Collate and disseminate authoritative information on the links between health and trees and woodlands.	Low	Research Data compilation	Short term (within 2 years)
Support and enhance the use of woodlands and open spaces with trees for sport and recreation.	Medium	BTCV, Green Gym	Ongoing
Encourage health establishments to plant trees and woodlands, and their patients to use them.	Medium	Open Space Strategies Adoption by health establishments NHS capital development programme	Ongoing
Enable people to walk and exercise in woodlands for the benefit of their health.	Medium	Health strategies Transport and access strategies	Short term (within 2 years)

Aim D
to support the capital's economy

Proposals	Priority	Mechanism	Time scale
objective D1 **source the financial resources needed to realise the full range of benefits of London's trees and woodlands**			
Review funding mechanisms in consultation with other partners, including potential of new mechanisms (e.g. Forestry Commission Strategic Regional Grant Aid). Develop a funding strategy, based on priority actions of the Framework, London's priorities and availability of resources.	High	Research into existing funding sources Funding strategy	Short term (within 2 years)
Review success of Green Gateway Block Grant pilot and assess need for changes (e.g. scoring system) before appling across London.	Medium	Review against environmental, social and economic objectives	At end of 3 year pilot
objective D2 **ensure the human resources needed to realise the full range of benefits of London's trees and woodlands are sufficient and appropriately trained**			
Assess the range and need for skills to safeguard and enhance London's tree and woodland resource and available training.	Medium	Research Survey Training schedule	Short term for research (within 2 to 5 years) Medium term to implement findings and recommendations (within 2 to 5 years)
Ensure that a structured framework of continual professional development is available to enable highly skilled staff at all levels to continue to develop their skills and enable them to meet the needs of local communities.	Medium	Training schedule	Medium term (within 2 to 5 years)
Promote arboricultural careers in London's schools and education establishments and offer retraining and career changing opportunities, through co-ordinated approach (i.e. alongside all countryside-related careers).	Medium	Co-ordinated environmental education programmes London Learning and Skills Councils	Ongoing

Proposals	Priority	Mechanism	Time scale
objective D3 recognise and promote the contribution of trees and woodlands in providing attractive environments for business, leisure and tourism			
Establish and evaluate the relationship between trees and woodlands and providing attractive environments to support economic and social objectives, particularly in areas in need of regeneration.	Medium	Primary research	Short term (within 2 years)

Proposals	Priority	Mechanism	Time scale
objective D4 **support the use of local tree and woodland products as part of sustainable management of the resource**			
Review existing information on the use of woodlands and their products, including potential of 'timber stations' and 'certification' schemes, and identify appropriate mechanisms to promote use of woodland products dependent upon findings.	Medium	Compilation e.g. existing work by English Nature Research – e.g. review supply chain London Economic Development Strategy Promotion of literature	Medium term (within 2 to 5 years) Long term for implementation of findings (within 10 years)
Encourage greater use of sustainable woodland products, particularly timber, in construction.	Medium	Sustainable design guidance Planning Policy	Ongoing
Undertake a feasibility study to examine the specific potential for use of woodland products as sources of energy in London, focussing on the urban fringe.	High	Review London Tree Officers' Association work on aboricultural arisings Investigate potential for district heating systems feasibility study London Energy Strategy and co-ordination with Greater London Authority Energy Team	Medium term (within 2 to 5 years)

managing, monitoring and reviewing the Framework

Proposals	Priority	Mechanism	Time scale
ensure regular and effective monitoring and review of the Framework			
Produce Implementation Plan	High	London Woodland Advisory Group	By June 2005
Produce a brief for the role, remit, funding and responsibilities of a 'Framework Manager' and consider candidate organisations for hosting this role. Ideally this Framework Manager should: • be accepted and respected at all levels from Central Government to the general public, and therefore already active in the sector • have the resources to function as the main overseer of the Framework throughout its implementation and then through review.	High	Production of 'job description'	By June 2005
Appoint a Framework Manager who will co-ordinate, promote and monitor the Framework.	High	London Woodland Advisory Group	By January 2006
Review the Framework.	Medium	Review of progress towards objectives	Every 3 years
Monitor the enforcement of landscaping conditions and review effectiveness.	High	Local Authority Enforcement	Ongoing

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Forestry Commission

National Urban Forestry Unit

Trees for London

London Tree Officers Association

The Royal Parks

Corporation of London

English Heritage

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The Countryside Agency

English Nature

London Development Agency

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Hindi

यदि आप इस दस्तावेज की प्रति अपनी भाषा में चाहते हैं, तो कृपया निम्नलिखित नंबर पर फोन करें अथवा नीचे दिये गये पते पर संपर्क करें

Vietnamese

Nếu bạn muốn có văn bản tài liệu này bằng ngôn ngữ của mình, hãy liên hệ theo số điện thoại hoặc địa chỉ dưới đây.

Bengali

আপনি যদি আপনার ভাষায় এই দলিলের প্রতিলিপি (কপি) চান, তা হলে নীচের ফোন্ নম্বরে বা ঠিকানায় অনুগ্রহ করে যোগাযোগ করুন।

Greek

Αν θέλετε να αποκτήσετε αντίγραφο του παρόντος εγγράφου στη δική σας γλώσσα, παρακαλείστε να επικοινωνήσετε τηλεφωνικά στον αριθμό αυτό ή ταχυδρομικά στην παρακάτω διεύθυνση.

Urdu

اگر آپ اِس دستاویز کی نقل اپنی زبان میں چاھتے ھیں، تو براہ کرم نیچے دئے گئے نمبر پر فون کریں یا دیئے گئے پتے پر رابطہ کریں

Turkish

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Arabic

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Punjabi

ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇਸ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਦੀ ਕਾਪੀ ਤੁਹਾਡੀ ਆਪਣੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ ਚਾਹੀਦੀ ਹੈ, ਤਾਂ ਹੇਠ ਲਿਖੇ ਨੰਬਰ 'ਤੇ ਫ਼ੋਨ ਕਰੋ ਜਾਂ ਹੇਠ ਲਿਖੇ ਪਤੇ 'ਤੇ ਰਾਬਤਾ ਕਰੋ:

Gujarati

જો તમને આ દસ્તાવેજની નકલ તમારી ભાષામાં જોઈતી હોય તો, કૃપા કરી આપેલ નંબર ઉપર ફોન કરો અથવા નીચેના સરનામે સંપર્ક સાધો.

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