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## **SCARBOROUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

### **Tree & Woodland Strategy**

**2016 - 2030**

**DOCUMENT CONTROL**

<b>Author</b>	A Tomlinson
<b>Owner</b>	P Thompson
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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Scarborough Borough Council Tree & Woodland Strategy is a key document for the borough, setting out a framework for the planning and management of the borough's trees.

### **THE NEED FOR A STRATEGY**

Scarborough Borough Council's Tree and Woodland strategy provides an approach to the management of the tree stock for which the Council is responsible. It also provides a broad strategy to inform discussions with the public/private sectors regarding trees on non-Council land.

It is intended to function as a guide for officers, councillors, and the public, as well as professionally interested parties, in order to enable informed discussion and establish a clear, consistent and structured approach to the issues affecting trees under the authority's control.

Trees are living, dynamic, self-optimising organisms which maintain their physiological functions and structural integrity through natural processes.

Conflicts with people may occur as a result of these natural processes of growth and dieback, or from the effects of storm damage, pests or diseases.

Human activities can lead to conflicts if they affect the growth or structural integrity of trees, or modify their exposure to naturally occurring or human sponsored environmental factors. Human activities can also bring people and property closer to trees and their immediate environment and any such conflicts can have serious implications for the health and welfare of the trees concerned and for the safety of people and property. The Health & Safety Executive supports a sensible approach to risk management as part of an overall tree management process.

Providing for a balanced approach to managing trees takes account of the contribution trees make to the environment, biodiversity, human health, aesthetics, safety, and quality of life. An appropriate and proportionate response to risk will take account of the human and financial costs associated with controlling or reducing those identified issues. It must also give due regard to the value of trees in the broadest sense, particularly how non-essential tree removal or poorly deployed management impoverishes the human environment.

In recent years there has been increasing awareness, both politically and publicly, of trees and the various benefits they provide. The importance of trees has been widely recognised, with many health, social, and communal benefits, as well as economic and environmental benefits associated with their presence.

This awareness has gained additional momentum through a number of Government initiatives and the publication of research reports and guidelines. A principal conclusion of this effort is the need for local authorities to examine the tree stock within their boundary, both public and private, and formulate a long-term strategy for the maintenance of existing trees, their replacement, and the provision of new planting.

It is, therefore, important to develop a Tree & Woodland Strategy as an integral element of the Council's environmental strategy and Local Bio-diversity Action Plan. A Tree & Woodland Strategy will have an important role to play in contributing to those objectives.

It will also help to achieve the aims set out in the Council's Corporate Plan which is currently out to consultation

- People – to have safe, happy, healthy population, with people who feel valued and included.
- Place – to protect and improve our environment, now and for the future.
- Prosperity – to develop a prosperous and innovative Borough, with a highly skilled and aspirational workforce.
- Council – to be an efficient and effective council, which is financially sustainable for the future.

## **BENEFITS OF TREES**

The importance of trees generally is widely recognised. They play an important, though often undervalued or even unnoticed role in our everyday lives. They are often taken for granted and their subtle benefits can be underestimated.

Trees make a major contribution to the Borough's appearance. They relieve the general conformity of large urban areas and can soften the harsh appearance of building lines. They contribute to the character and attractiveness of the entire Borough and are of great importance to key landscape designations such as the North York Moors National Park, Sites of Special Scientific Interest, the Heritage Coast and so on. They are also important to the ecological viability and biodiversity of the area. The Council therefore places a high priority on their protection, maintenance and promotion.

It should be noted that wherever possible, the Council will encourage the planting of species native to the area and appropriate to local landscape character and situation. This may have to be revised should the effects of climate change and disease require. However, native species generally have a higher ecological value than non-native species and blend well into both the rural, coastal and urban landscape.

### **Environmental benefits**

- Trees filter, absorb and reduce pollution
- Trees can be beneficial in storm water management by intercepting and storing water, stabilising soil and reducing erosion
- Their leaves improve air quality by filtering out dust and other particulates
- They produce oxygen and absorb carbon dioxide
- Trees have a cooling influence on summer temperatures and can therefore provide valuable cooling and shading effects to buildings, gardens, streets, play grounds etc
- Trees can provide an important windbreak for people and property
- Trees are effective at lowering the noise levels, especially where they shield properties from busy roads
- Energy use is reduced in buildings where trees provide a windbreak
- Trees provide habitat and food source for a variety of wildlife

### **Economic benefits**

- Heating costs are reduced within buildings where trees provide a windbreak
- Cooling costs can be reduced or eliminated in buildings where trees provide a shading effect
- Property values can be enhanced in well landscaped tree friendly areas
- Trees increase in value as they mature

### **Social benefits**

- Trees help to provide a sense of wellbeing and make life more pleasant
- They reduce stress levels and have a positive impact on mental health
- Influence recovery times for those suffering with illness
- Support a local focus within the community and strong opposition can arise when prominent trees are to be removed
- Trees are often planted as living memorials due to their association with nature, longevity, stature and strength

### **Communal benefits**

- Due to their size and stature, trees often provide benefits to the whole community and not just to the tree owner
- They can provide privacy, emphasise views and soften or hide objectionable vistas
- Trees can serve as a valuable educational resource
- Trees and woodlands are long lived and also part of the Borough's cultural heritage, with non-tangible associations and meaning.

## **COSTS OF TREES**

In order to provide the benefits associated with trees, expenditure is required to:

- Provide and plant new trees
- Maintain the existing tree stock
- Deliver aftercare for young trees to ensure establishment and longevity
- Monitor tree stock in order to proactively fulfil a duty of care
- Organise necessary works to mitigate issues relating to health & safety or social/communal problems
- Ensure all tree works are conducted according to current best practice, using suitably qualified operatives
- Work and liaise with others to ensure trees remain an asset to the landscape

## **KEY LEGISLATION AND BEST PRACTICE**

### **Statutory Responsibility of Local Authorities**

The Occupiers Liability Acts 1957 and 1984 place upon occupiers of land a common duty of care to all visitors (including trespassers). The Acts require that occupiers take reasonable care to maintain their premises in such a condition that they do not harm any person or damage property. Therefore, if a tree fails and causes injury or damage, its owner may be held responsible through neglect if they cannot demonstrate evidence that they have taken sufficient care of the tree.

Trees are a potential liability, and Scarborough Borough Council as a landowner, has a duty of care to ensure that all trees on its land are maintained in an acceptable condition and don't place persons or property at unreasonable risk.

The Health & Safety At Work Act 1974 as amended, and the Management of Health & Safety At Work Regulations 1999, also have implications for the management of trees. Failure to comply with legislation could lead to the Health & Safety Executive (HSE) taking legal action against the Council as Section 3 of the Act places a duty on the Council to take reasonable care for the health and safety of third parties. The regulations require the Council to have an adequate management system to ensure health and safety.

In addition the Council needs to ensure its tree operations comply with the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), the Countryside & Rights of Way Act 2000, the Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act 2006, Habitats Directives, and all other relevant legislation including trees on Scheduled Ancient Monument Sites. The Council also needs to carry out all works according to the latest relevant British Standards, Codes of Practice and Guidelines.

The need for local authorities to proactively manage trees has been recognised for some time. The 2008 publication by the Dept. of Communities and Local Government titled "Trees in Towns II" identified within its conclusions that a comprehensive tree policy is the starting point for a modern, planned approach to tree management.

This Tree & Woodland Strategy provides such a framework for the care and development of the public tree asset.

### **DUTY OF CARE**

The Council needs to inspect its trees periodically to ensure that, as far as reasonably practicable, its trees are not posing serious and foreseeable dangers.

### **PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT**

Trees can be covered by statutory controls under the auspices of the Town & Country Planning (Tree Preservation) (England) Regulations 2012, by use of Tree Preservation Orders (TPO's), and Conservation Areas (CA's).

A TPO is a written order made by the Council which, in general, makes it an offence to cut down, lop, uproot, wilfully damage or wilfully destroy a tree protected by that order, without the Council's permission.

Conservation Areas are areas of special architectural or historical interest with a character or appearance that is considered desirable and worthy of preservation or enhancement. Trees may often significantly contribute to the character of the area. All trees in a Conservation Area are subject to controls which enable the Council to protect the special character of the area created by trees. Any and all proposed tree works undertaken in a CA will need to demonstrate that the needs of the area have been addressed.

With all proposed tree works, assessment is required to determine their habitat value. For example, if a tree is a bat roost it is a criminal offence under the provisions of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), the Countryside & Rights of Way Act 2000, and the Habitats Regulations, to recklessly or intentionally cause damage. Indeed, ignorance is no defence. It is not uncommon for trees which are assessed as being in a dangerous condition to be attractive to bats or nesting birds because of their condition! In these circumstances mitigations measures agreed with Natural England through the European Protected Species licencing system is the only way forward.

It should be noted that all public bodies have a duty under the requirements of the Natural Environments & Rural Communities Act 2006 to preserve and enhance biodiversity in all of their undertakings.

## **RESPONSIBILITY FOR TREES**

The Council is responsible for the maintenance of trees on its own land. These fall into several categories that are detailed elsewhere within this document. It is also responsible for the administration and enforcement of Tree Preservation Orders, regulation of trees in Conservation Areas, and trees protected by Planning Conditions which may be on private land.

Other bodies responsible for trees within the borough include North York Moors National Park Authority, North Yorkshire County Council, Historic England, and the Forestry Commission.

The Council is not responsible for the maintenance of trees on private land, including gardens. Council officers can however give limited advice or assistance where possible, without accepting legal liability.

The Council will continue to work closely with other agencies to prevent and manage the spread of disease, such as Chalara Fraxineus (Ash Die Back).

## **HIGHWAY TREES**

Highway trees are the responsibility of North Yorkshire County Council.

## TREES IN COUNCIL OWNED PARKS OR OPEN SPACES

The Council owns and/or maintains a number of areas of woodland, parks and open space where trees play a dominant or significant role. These currently include:

- Raincliffe Woods
- Row Brow Woods
- Forge Valley Woods
- Larpool Woods
- Olivers Mount
- Peasholm Park
- Falsgrave Park
- Glen & Crescent Gardens
- Dean Road Cemetery
- Manor Gardens
- South Cliff Gardens
- Pannett Park
- Woodland Ravine Park
- Calla Beck
- Cinder Track

Additionally, there are smaller areas of various sizes and importance scattered around the borough where trees constitute a significant presence.

Council officers will survey and arrange maintenance of trees on behalf of the relevant Council section responsible for the management of that site. The aim is to strike a balance between safety, amenity and conservation, for the benefit of the community as a whole.

Tree safety is a matter of balancing the risk of harm from falling trees with the benefits of the trees themselves. Although often appearing counter intuitive, the condition of trees is not always the first consideration. Other factors such as land use are often more relevant in determining risk. For example, a failing tree in the middle of woodland will pose a far lower risk of harm than a tree in the same condition adjacent to a heavily used thoroughfare.

The Council will adopt a risk based approach which uses the Quantified Tree Risk Assessment (QTRA) framework to determine risk of harm to people and property, based on predetermined industry wide risk thresholds. (see [www.qtra.co.uk](http://www.qtra.co.uk)) This framework will form the basis of tree inspection, assessment of risk and prioritisation of remedial works.

Park areas situated in the Parishes of the Borough of Scarborough are generally in the ownership and responsibility of the relevant Parish Council. Parish Council's often request advice from Scarborough Borough Council in relation to trees within their responsibility/ownership. This is usually offered when the trees in question are not protected by planning legislation, ensuring the avoidance of a potential conflict of interest.

## **SCARBOROUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL** **TREE WORKS**

### **Statement**

The Council is committed to the high quality and proactive management of its tree stock and this document sets out to achieve that within the limits and constraints outlined.

#### ***1. When will the Council remove trees?***

Trees are an important part of the Borough's environment and provide enjoyment, visual attractiveness, shade, and important wildlife habitats.

The Council will not fell trees without very good reason and in any event will always encourage best practice. Each case will be considered on its merits.

Felling may be considered where a tree is:

- Dead, dying or diseased
- A danger to public or site user safety
- Causing an unreasonable obstruction to a public highway
- A major and proven contributor to serious structural damage to buildings or infrastructure
- Of a size or species clearly inappropriate to their location
- Following appropriate risk assessment using the QTRA framework
- The Borough Council is committed to the regeneration of the Borough and felling may be considered in an area designated for development and/or regeneration. Developers will be encouraged to retain the existing tree stock wherever possible.

#### ***2. When will the Council prune trees?***

Pruning can weaken the structure of a tree and should be avoided unless absolutely necessary. In some species pruning can encourage rapid shoot development and the intended outcome of the operation is thereby quickly negated. Therefore, the Council will approach each case on its merits.

Pruning may be undertaken or permitted where:

- Tree branches cause an obstruction when growing low over a highway, access to property, or gardens and open spaces to which the general public have access
- A tree is proven to be contributing to structural damage to adjacent buildings
- A tree restricts repairs and maintenance to property or infrastructure
- Trees are interfering with street lighting, public CCTV, highway signage and sightlines
- Young trees will benefit from pruning in order to shape and train them
- Dead or diseased material is removed in order to make the tree safe or to shape and balance the crown

### **3. The “right to light”?**

A common complaint received in this respect is that trees block light to properties and shade gardens. There is no legal “right to light”. The tree owner is not obliged to carry out work to the tree for the benefit of light levels.

- The Council will not fell or prune Council owned trees solely for the reason that they are reducing light levels into properties or are casting shade over gardens

### **4. What about Pollarding?**

Pollarding was first practiced as a form of woodland management. It permitted a crop cycle to be harvested on a rotation basis, whilst also allowing livestock to graze the woodland floor. It has been used at various times to manage urban trees but is problematic because of its detriment to the tree, its aesthetic appearance, and its vigorous regrowth requiring constant attention with associated costs.

- The Council will not pollard trees except to maintain old pollards where appropriate.
- The Council will not create new pollards.

### **5. Television, Radio and Satellite reception?**

In some situations trees appear to interfere with the reception of communication signals. This can appear to increase when the trees are in leaf or in windy conditions. In most cases the reception can be improved by the complainant relocating the aerial or satellite dish and by the use of “booster” apparatus.

- The Council will not prune or remove trees in order to improve or provide TV, radio, or satellite reception

### **6. Solar Panels?**

The use of solar panels to generate electricity has environmental benefits by producing low carbon energy at relatively low cost. However, it is not considered environmentally beneficial overall to require the removal or pruning of trees, which themselves provide environmental benefits (including carbon sequestration) and a broad range of other advantages for people and wildlife.

Prior to the installation of solar panels the provider’s pre-installation survey should take note of anything which may currently or potentially obstruct direct sunlight from reaching the panels surface, and advice given regarding the suitability or otherwise of the installation. The Council assumes that the positioning of solar panels will have followed these procedures.

- The Council will not fell or prune trees solely for the purpose of improving solar access to panels

### **7. How does the Council decide what work is required and when?**

Council officers conduct tree inspections in order to ascertain the condition of trees. In addition, officers may be informed of circumstances where works could be required and will therefore visit the site to inspect the tree in question. Where the Council officer judges

(using the QTRA framework) that work is necessary in order to reduce risk or to remove the risk completely, they will use their knowledge and experience to determine the appropriate works required.

Any required works are identified as follows:

- **Immediate Priority** – genuine emergencies only. Works will be undertaken within 24 hours
- **High Priority** – considered essential works associated with the mitigation of danger. The Council will seek to ensure these works are carried out within 4 weeks
- **Medium Priority** – works considered desirable. Usually carried out within 12 months
- **Low Priority** – considered non-essential. No commitment to carry out works

### **8. A Council owned tree may be causing damage to property**

When trees are close to buildings it is not uncommon for people to be concerned that the roots are damaging their property. The direct action of roots will rarely cause significant damage to any heavy loaded structure, including houses.

The Council will not fell or reduce trees solely for the reason that light structures such as driveways, footways, patios, garden walls, lawns etc are being disrupted.

Structural damage to heavy loaded structures can be caused through soil moisture extraction by tree roots in some circumstances. This type of damage generally only occurs where the soil type is shrinkable and therefore prone to fluctuations in volume.

The Council will only remove or prune Council-owned trees that are proven to be responsible for causing damage to property if this is the most appropriate solution. In these circumstances the Council will require positive evidence to support any including (but not restricted to) the following information:

- Age of property
- Depth and type of foundation
- Building extension history
- Spatial arrangement and amplitude of damage
- Tree root data
- Soil tests
- Seasonal monitoring
- Level distortion survey

The responsibility for provision of such evidence lies with the claimant.

Where trees which are not the Council's responsibility are causing damage to Council property, the Council will take action in the same way, and will use the appropriate legislation to ensure the land owner carries out remedial action to rectify the problem.

### **9. The trees are a nuisance**

There are a variety of potential conflicts associated with trees. Most of these are minor or seasonal and considered to be practical issues associated with living near trees. Some consider these issues to be a nuisance, whilst others are content to accept minor or

occasional inconvenience or irritation whilst appreciating the wider overall benefits trees provide.

Some examples are:

- Falling leaves/needles, sap, fruit, nuts, or blossom
- Roosting and feeding birds and associated droppings
- Insects and honeydew
- Climbing of trees by children
- Reduction of increase of moisture to gardens
- Removal of nutrients from the soil
- Suckers or germinating seedlings in gardens
- Leaves falling into gutters, drains, or on to flat roofs
- Build-up of algae and moss on fences, paths, or other structures

Trees are living organisms which follow an annual cycle that cannot readily be altered by human intervention. Each species may have a particular tendency to create seasonal issues, but these are generally short lived. Any nuisance can be readily mitigated by basic maintenance of the householder.

- The Council will not fell or prune Council owned trees solely to alleviate problems caused by natural and/or seasonal phenomena

#### ***10. The roots from an SBC owned tree are blocking my drains***

It is very unusual for roots to break through into drains and associated pipework. However, tree roots can be opportunistic and if an old pipe with poor joints is leaking into the surrounding soil, the roots can take advantage of the available moisture and exploit the already damaged drain. When drains are investigated for repair, a proliferation of roots in the drain system can lead, inaccurately, to the assumption that the tree roots are responsible for the damage. Replacement of faulty drains with modern materials will usually eliminate leaks and prevent the problem from re-occurring.

- The Council will not undertake the pruning or felling of trees to prevent roots entering damaged pipes

#### ***11. An SBC owned tree is causing my car/garden/washing to be “sticky”***

This seasonal problem is likely to be caused by aphid infestation and the sticky material produced is known as “honeydew”. When left for some time various fungi may develop on this substance which results in a black coating, often referred to as “sooty mould”. This problem is particularly evident with certain trees species, notably lime and sycamore and is often more noticeable in hot weather.

These problems cannot be solved by pruning or applying chemicals to the tree. Honeydew is a mild sugar solution and should not adversely affect paintwork or other materials provided the surface is washed regularly with a mild detergent.

- The Council will not undertake pruning or felling works solely for the purpose of eradicating honeydew or sooty moulds

## **12. A Council owned tree(s) is obstructing my view**

The Council receive many requests to prune or remove trees because they are judged to be interfering with views. Although it is understood that over time views may become impeded as trees mature, there is no right to a view. In many cases the tree was already there when the resident moved in to the property, so there was always going to be a time limit on the view.

- The Council will not generally prune or remove trees in order to improve or restore views.
- In certain areas of the Borough the original landscaping was designed to include viewpoints in key locations. Felling or pruning of trees in these areas may be considered, in conjunction with the Council's Conservation Officer, to maintain/restore these historic viewpoints.

## **13. How does the Council handle disputes?**

The Council will not accept presumption of damage. All claims against the Council in respect of tree damage must be submitted with an appropriate independent assessment in order to ascertain whether a tree or hedge is causing significant damage.

The decision of Council officers represents the Council's decision on tree matters.

Where a member of the public considers that the decision or recommendation has not taken reasonable account of all of the factors and information they have previously provided, they may request that the matter is reviewed through the Council's existing Complaints Procedure.

# **STRATEGY FOR SCARBOROUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

## **1. Street Scene (Trees)**

The Council will encourage North Yorkshire County Council to:

- 1.1. Conduct inspections of all street trees
- 1.2. Undertake a maintenance regime for all street trees
- 1.3. Ensure a street tree population composed of mixed species and mixed age classes as part of any new development.
- 1.4. Identify and protect potential street tree planting sites.
- 1.5. Make full use of suitable locations adjacent to roads for tree planting.
- 1.6. Pursue measures to minimise damage to the health and condition of street trees, including threats from highway refurbishment, statutory undertakers, , vandalism etc.
- 1.7. Ensure that measures are taken when planting new trees to minimise possible future disruption to footpath, roads and buildings by incorporating appropriate planting methodology.

## **2. Parks and Open Spaces**

The Council will:

- 2.1. Endeavour to undertake inspection of trees and woodlands and gather information on the extent, condition, and structure of the tree population as recommended through the QTRA framework.
- 2.2. Undertake cyclical inspections of trees in parks and open spaces. In addition, the Council will respond to any health and safety issues reported, which are considered to pose a danger.
- 2.3. Ensure that the provision of trees and woodlands is fully considered and integrated within management plans for parks and open spaces.
- 2.4. Protect important tree features, including avenues and copses, as well as specimen, notable and veteran trees.
- 2.5. Plant a diverse range of species, especially within the prestige parks. Specialist conservation advice will be sought before carrying out new planting within historic designed parks and gardens.
- 2.6. Seek to increase tree planting in order to develop a network of wooded landscapes and green corridors.
- 2.7. Encourage the planting and replacement of hedgerow trees.
- 2.8. Include provisions for the protection of trees and woodlands within lease agreements between the Council and leasees.
- 2.9. Endeavour to work with community and volunteer groups where possible.
- 2.10. Wherever possible, consideration will be given to leaving felled trees in situ to encourage wider biodiversity.

### **3. Woodland Trees**

The Council will:

- 3.1. Develop management plans for Council owned woodlands. The multiple objectives of conservation, landscape, timber, recreation and education should be pursued with the priorities being determined by the character and history of the woodland, its contribution to the landscape, conservation and recreation potential. Maintenance and improvement of boundaries, footpaths, drainage systems and public information are desirable aspects of woodland management. Where appropriate woodland management and park management plans will be integrated.
- 3.2. Endeavour to improve access to woodlands for the whole community.
- 3.3. Encourage community involvement in and awareness of the Borough's woodland inventory.
- 3.4. Improve timber quality wherever possible by use of suitable species, correct management and maintenance regimes, and implementation of operations such as replacement planting, high pruning, coppicing and selective thinning. Ensure that felled timber is extracted in an environmentally friendly way.
- 3.5. Where appropriate, adopt a range of strategies to deal with non-native trees in Council owned woodlands. This could range from selective removal to phased replacement when non-native trees reach the end of their life.
- 3.6. Develop management techniques to ensure the development of multi-aged structure woodland and retain standing deadwood in woodlands and open spaces where public safety will not be compromised.
- 3.7. Identify areas suitable for the establishment of new woodland.
- 3.8. Encourage private landowners to establish and undertake active management of all woodlands in their ownership.
- 3.9. Purchase timber and wood products from sustainable managed sources and encourage the use of material cut from Council owned woodlands in parks and open spaces.
- 3.10. Inspect trees directly adjacent to or within the zone of influence of, highways, footpaths and public rights of way on a cyclical basis to ensure public safety as far as practical.
- 3.11. Work with statutory and non-statutory partners for the benefit of the woodland inventory.

## **4. Tree Planting and Regeneration**

The Council will:

- 4.1. Undertake, where appropriate, a thorough site appraisal before carrying out tree planting.
- 4.2. Maintain record systems of all trees planted on Council land, including objectives and future management requirements.
- 4.3. Monitor the success of newly planted trees.
- 4.4. Ensure that new tree planting does not reduce the value of existing landscapes or nature conservation.
- 4.5. Plant species appropriate to the conditions and character of the site.
- 4.6. Utilise a wide range of tree species and planting sizes according to the objectives of the planting.
- 4.7. Encourage natural regeneration for ancient woodlands where possible, or the planting of native stock of local provenance where available.
- 4.8. Replace ageing trees in a programmed approach, including along highways where appropriate. Notification of intention will be given to interested groups and appropriate residents where necessary prior to the commencement of operations.
- 4.9. Adopt planting techniques that reduce the potential for infrastructure detriment.
- 4.10. Appropriately maintain newly planted trees for the first five years after planting.

## **5. Trees on Private Land**

The Council will:

- 5.1. Issue Tree Preservation Orders on individual trees, individual trees that form significant groups and woodlands that are considered worthy of protection and under threat.
- 5.2. Maintain current records of all Tree Preservation Orders and monitor the replacement of trees protected by them.
- 5.3. Consider prosecuting breaches of Tree Preservation Orders and Conservation Area protection where appropriate.
- 5.4. Fully consider existing trees and woodland, on or adjacent to proposed development, so those worthy trees are successfully retained and safeguarded in accordance with appropriate guidelines.
- 5.5. Require the submission of a tree survey report as part of any planning application where trees and woodlands may be affected.
- 5.6. Apply current industry standards as a minimum standard for planning applications and seek expert advice when necessary.
- 5.7. When granting planning consent set conditions for the retention, protection, planting and maintenance of trees and other plants.
- 5.8. Use planning conditions for the protection of trees.
- 5.9. Utilise commuted sums such including Section 106 Agreements under the Town & Country Planning Act 1990, to ensure appropriate long-term maintenance of trees and woodlands on new development sites where appropriate.
- 5.10. Seek to increase the awareness of developers and planners to the value of trees, and the methods for protecting and integrating them within new developments.
- 5.11. Liaise with statutory authorities where necessary.

## **6. Community Involvement**

The Council will:

- 6.1. Encourage new tree planting and maintenance on private land.
- 6.2. Encourage positive management by example.
- 6.3. Develop programmes of guided walks, talks, open days, presentations and exhibitions, where resources permit.
- 6.4. Provide opportunities for active participation with volunteer groups, nature conservation bodies and residents.
- 6.5. Endeavour to establish and encourage a tree warden scheme.
- 6.6. Continue to increase public involvement in tree planting using the Commemorative Tree Initiative scheme. Encourage and promote where appropriate local and national tree initiatives.
- 6.7. Produce literature promoting the benefits and providing advice on tree related issues, as resources permit.

## **7. Funding and Resources**

The Council will:

- 7.1. Seek grant aid wherever possible for tree and woodland establishment and management from statutory bodies and others.
- 7.2. Improve private sponsorship and attempt to attract new forms of funding.
- 7.3. Realise and improve the value of timber, wood and by-products either for the Council's own use or to external markets.
- 7.4. Allocate finance for the management of Council owned trees and woodlands according to:
  - a) Their physical requirements.
  - b) The benefits they provide to the community.

## **8. Quality**

The Council will:

- 8.1. Support research and the dissemination of advice, especially that provided by the Arboricultural Advisory and Information Service.
- 8.2. Provide adequate and appropriate training for staff and volunteers dealing with tree and woodland issues.
- 8.3. Utilise best methods and practices by reference to relevant British Standards, Codes of Practice and Guidelines.
- 8.4. Where possible utilise relevant technology for tree and woodland management.
- 8.5. Provide staff with appropriate and relevant training in relation to arboricultural operations.

## **9. Communication and Information**

The Council will:

- 9.1. Provide information for internal use on needs and problem areas.
- 9.2. Publish and make available information relating to trees and woodlands within the Borough.
- 9.3. Provide opportunities for consultation and education.

## **10. Action Plan**

<b><u>Action</u></b>	<b><u>Responsible Officer</u></b>	<b><u>Timescale</u></b>
Implement a cyclical inspection regime prioritising trees in high risk locations	Operations, Transport and Countryside Manager	April 2017
Undertake a review of all Tree Preservation Orders.	Planning Services Manager	April 2025
Commence regular inspections of newly planted trees.	Operations, Transport and Countryside Manager	On-going
Introduce and promote a voluntary Tree Warden scheme.	Operations, Transport and Countryside Manager	April 2018
Create a guide to enable Customer First to answer basic tree related questions.	Operations, Transport and Countryside Manager	April 2017
Expand the Commemorative Tree Initiative to include non-urban sites.	Operations, Transport and Countryside Manager	April 2017
Create an accurate database for all Council owned trees or groups of trees.	Operations, Transport and Countryside Manager	On-going

## **11. Monitoring and Review**

To ensure the implementation and success of the Tree and Woodland Strategy it is essential to monitor the extent and rate of progress towards the objectives. Monitoring will consider the progress of the strategy, changes in the Borough's environment and changes in the public perception of trees. Therefore, it is proposed the relevance of the strategy be revisited on a regular basis.

There is also a need to review the objectives, policies, and any action plans that arise from the development and implementation of the strategy. New survey information on the structure of the urban forest may require new or amended policies and methodology. Therefore, it is proposed to review the strategy annually.

## **12. Useful contacts**

Scarborough Borough Council  
Town Hall  
St Nicholas Street  
Scarborough  
YO11 2HG  
Tel. 01723 232323  
[www.scarborough.gov.uk](http://www.scarborough.gov.uk)

North Yorkshire County Council  
County Hall  
Northallerton  
DL7 8AD  
Tel. 01609 534527  
[www.northyorks.gov.uk](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk)

North York Moors National Park Authority  
The Old Vicarage  
Bondgate  
Helmsley  
YO62 5BP  
Tel. 01439 770657  
[www.northyorkmoors.org.uk](http://www.northyorkmoors.org.uk)

Forestry Commission  
Room G34  
Foss House  
Kings Pool  
1-2 Peasholme Green  
York  
YO1 7PX  
Tel. 0300 067 4900  
[www.forestry.gov.uk](http://www.forestry.gov.uk)

Historic England  
37 Tanner Row  
York  
YO1 6WP  
Tel. 01904 601948  
[www.historicengland.org.uk](http://www.historicengland.org.uk)

Quantified Tree Risk Assessment  
9 Lowe Street  
Macclesfield  
Cheshire  
SK11 7NJ  
Tel. 01625 618999  
Email [admin@qtra.co.uk](mailto:admin@qtra.co.uk)  
[www.qtra.co.uk](http://www.qtra.co.uk)