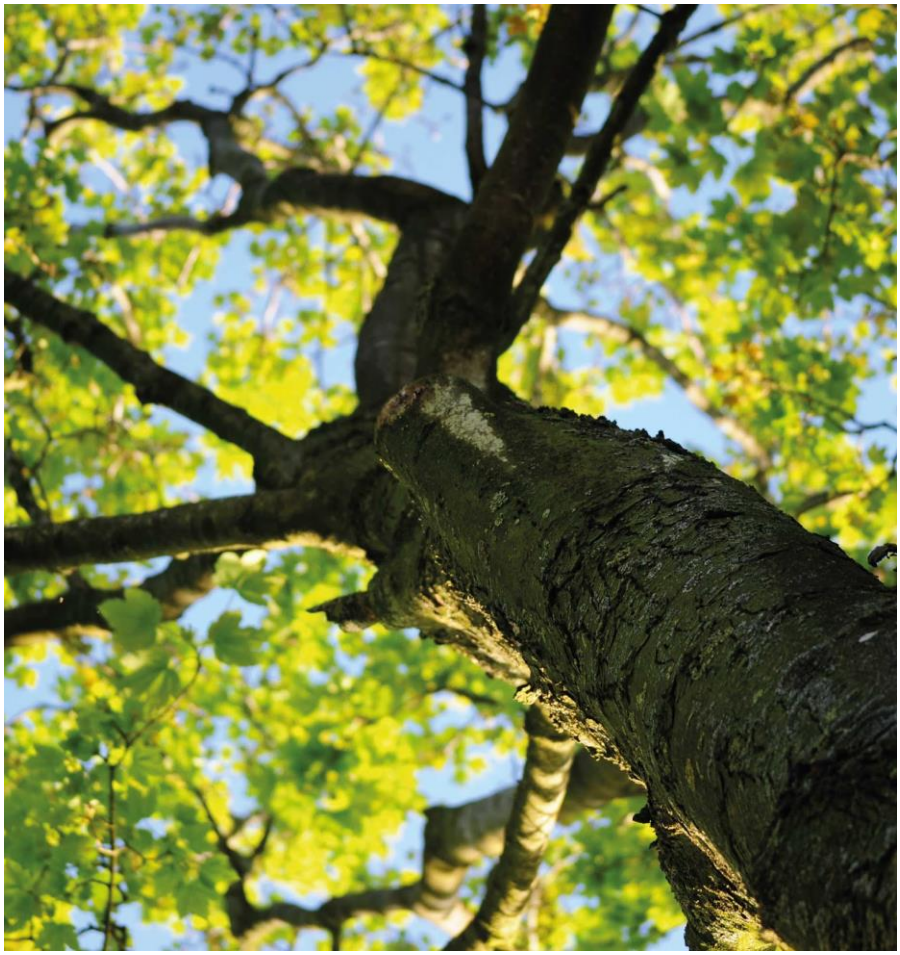
Jersey Tree Strategy

May 2022



Minister’s foreword – Jersey Tree Strategy

I am pleased to be able to introduce the first Jersey Tree Strategy, which provides a framework for the future protection, management and enjoyment of trees in our Island.

It is about realising their many benefits, their beauty, shade, birdsong, wellbeing, history, climate resilience, and much more. This strategy helps us to lay the foundations, or roots if you prefer, to ensure trees are rightly afforded robust protection for the benefit of the current and future generations.

The work was coordinated by the Government of Jersey and supported through the Climate Emergency Fund, but this is not a government strategy – it belongs instead to the community of the Island. It was, importantly, developed in collaboration with key local stakeholders, including young people, community voices, and other organisations. They came together to discuss the key issues, sharing their knowledge and ideas, which were tested through public consultation.

I want to thank all Islanders who have fed into this very important conversation, and to the stakeholders who’ve given up their time to ensure the finalised strategy takes into account valuable local insight and is appropriate for Jersey.

It is particularly apt that this is published in the year of the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee, for which all of us have been urged to plant trees in what has become widely known as the “tree-bilee”.

Deputy John Young
Minister for the Environment

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This work reflects, expresses, and builds on the input of stakeholders and survey respondents between July 2021 and March 2022. The resulting strategy is therefore indebted to all those who gave their time, took part, and contributed to the online workshops in July and September 2021. Those who responded to the online survey during August and early September 2021 played a key role in indicating and confirming broader opinions in Jersey and gave important pointers and ideas which enrichened discussions at the second workshop.

Grateful thanks go to the project team within the Government of Jersey who challenged and guided early drafts, helping the work to stay on track whilst setting it in its wider context. Key members of the project team helped to maintain the focus to create a final document which reflects the inclusivity of our approach from the outset – setting out to create a high-level strategy by people in Jersey, for Jersey.

The time and effort designing and delivering an inclusive process in the context of a pandemic by the wider Dialogue Matters Team, associates, and specialist contractors should not go without mention. Successful online workshops would not have been possible without volunteer facilitators from within the Government of Jersey who did a great job, maintained their neutrality, and captured the essence of participants' points as part of the delivery team.

Thank you goes to those stakeholders and workshop participants who gave valuable feedback to the later version of the strategy, and whilst we have not incorporated all points raised here, their ideas have been documented and will go forward for consideration as the strategy moves to its next phase. Finally, a few people shared images with us which now illustrate this final document, and we are extremely grateful to be able to use these so that the strategy can look, as well as sound like, something written by Jersey, for Jersey.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Jersey Tree Strategy reflects the priorities for trees in Jersey as identified by a wide selection of stakeholders and survey respondents from Jersey. At its core it is a collaborative piece of work. The result is a vision, strategic direction, and principles to guide activity relating to the protection, maintenance, management, restoration and enhancement of trees, hedgerows, and woodland in the Island.

This work originates from the Carbon Neutral Strategy 2019 and was commissioned by the Infrastructure, Housing, and Environment department of the Government of Jersey.

The Strategy poses many questions, and challenges, to businesses, landowners, the wider public and Government and, just as we might all of us benefit from our Island's trees, we must all bear some responsibility for their protection, maintenance and management. To address these challenges and take collective responsibility for Jersey's trees, a stakeholder 'Sounding Board' is proposed, to be given the remit of providing strategic direction and prioritising the actions that must now be taken.

THE PROCESS

The process to create this strategy was designed for people to consider and give input to two overarching aspects of trees in Jersey: the recent past and existing situation; and the direction from now onwards. The resulting outputs were processed and analysed to determine what is most important for Jersey.

The core elements of the process included identifying stakeholders with a broad selection of voices for trees and Jersey; designing, planning and running two interactive online workshops in July and September 2021; analysis of existing tree strategies in the UK to identify potential topics for discussion; capturing the essence of what stakeholders said during the workshops; testing issues and priorities from the first workshop through a wider survey and feeding a summary of those findings back into the second workshop; analysis of existing tree surveys and data in Jersey to identify areas for improvement and subsequently recommend options for a baseline tree survey; obtaining input to the draft from the Government of Jersey project team and workshop stakeholders.

FINDINGS

Section A of the strategy captures what has or is already happening in Jersey. This builds on the points that stakeholders shared at the workshops and through wider engagement. As a result, it captures the value that the people of Jersey place on trees, and the important work and activity that people and organisations are already doing for trees in Jersey, some collaboratively and others individually. It also places trees and hedgerows in their wider contexts.

Section B looks ahead. Workshop participants created a shared vision for trees in Jersey which was tested through wider engagement and refined at the second workshop. The vision captures the breadth of views in an inclusive way. Analysis of outputs from the workshops and survey identified five overarching focus areas which became the guiding principles setting the strategic direction. It additionally created a list of ideas for action which will inform more detailed activity but demand greater testing and definition.

The five guiding principles are:

- Right for Jersey: Right Tree, Right Place
- Respect and Value Trees
- Look After Existing Trees: Good Management and Tree Protection
- Establish New Trees
- Leadership and Collaboration

The guiding principles set out the direction and differentiate important topics such as tree protection, trees on development sites, special and veteran trees, management and maintenance of trees and hedgerows, pests and diseases, trees in town, and trees and hedgerows in rural parts of Jersey, as well as trees in a changing climate.

Activities resulting from the principles will require leadership and collaboration to make real and include, but are not limited to, action by and across government. This is reflective of the broad range

of stakeholder voices present at workshops, existing work and initiatives, and their willingness to make offers of information and resources to support implementation.

Next Steps

The key to successful implementation begins with continued cooperation and collaboration. The idea of setting up a ‘Sounding Board’ consisting of appropriate stakeholders was discussed at the second workshop, receiving broad support. This group would work alongside government and partners to test, define, and develop the list of potential actions proposed during the process to date. Success will come from the people of Jersey working together for trees over the long term.

Contents

A. SETTING THE SCENE

A.1 Introduction to the Strategy

A.1.1 Aim

The primary purpose of this strategy is to set out how Jersey will protect, manage, restore, and enhance our trees to ensure that future generations inherit more and healthier trees than we have now.

A.1.2 Why is a strategy needed?

Jersey needs a Tree Strategy to guide the protection and management of existing trees, the establishment of further trees, woods and hedgerows, and enhance the many benefits trees bring to people's wellbeing, biodiversity and ecosystem services, plus a contribution to carbon sequestration.

It has been created for several reasons:

1. The public are increasingly concerned about the loss of trees and there is renewed political interest and attention. During wider engagement, 93.8% of 323 respondents agreed that a Tree Strategy is needed.
2. It is widely recognised that there is a need for greater clarity and streamlined guidance and procedures for tree protection, regulation and permits and, when necessary, enforcement.
3. The Government of Jersey May 2019 declaration of a climate emergency and commitment to Jersey reaching net zero emissions by 2050.

These initiatives in Jersey are a local expression of a global agenda. In 2021 the following interlinked agreements on climate and nature made significant commitments:

1. The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change's (UNFCCC) most recent negotiations (COP26 in Glasgow) is driving urgent action at all levels to reduce carbon emissions and include adaptation measures and Nature based Solutions (NbS), to mitigate the effects of climate change and lock up carbon.
2. The UN Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) most recent negotiations focusing on the 'post 2020 Biodiversity Framework' to halt and reverse the loss of nature in part through Nature Positive Economies by 2030.

Trees and hedgerows play a crucial role in the resulting Jersey Carbon Neutral Strategy and Carbon Neutral Roadmap[1], and the Species and Habitat Protection project. This role is limited in terms of carbon sequestration in Jersey due to the different habitats, land use mix and total amount of suitable land for planting. However, the importance of trees and hedgerows in the Island extends beyond carbon capture to nature, habitats, climate resilience, peoples' connection to these and to health, well-being and other benefits identified by stakeholders and survey respondents taking part in this project.

[1] Carbon Neutral Roadmap is being debated by the States in April 2022
https://statesassembly.gov.je/assemblypropositions/2022/p.74-2022.pdf

A.1.3 How the strategy was created

The Jersey Tree Strategy is the result of a wide range of community voices and stakeholders sharing their different knowledge, perspectives and ideas, and building agreement and ownership. Key to this approach was to allow stakeholders and survey respondents to set out the priorities for Jersey by identifying what is most important in Jersey. Creating the Strategy this way has ensured priorities, principles and solutions are thought through by a wide range of interests and will deliver multiple benefits. Whilst the high-level principles for Jersey are set out, work remains to be done to define possible actions, and specify details.

The core discussions spanned two workshops in July and September 2021 and involved 44 people invited equally from: Biodiversity specialists; Business & Enterprise; Community; Development, Regulation & Legal; Environment; Farming; Heritage & Culture; Recreation, Health and Wellbeing; Tree Management; and Utility Services.

Between the workshops, 323 people responded to online and paper engagement with the wider community designed to sense check and test support for emerging ideas. Comments received numbered 1,071. This wealth of views was summarised for the second workshop to help participants work out the optimum way forward. Finally, stakeholders were able to review and comment on a draft of the contents. Some comments led directly to clarifications and revisions, and others were captured for consideration during the next steps.

This strategy is written for anyone who is interested in trees, so aims for everyday language and avoids or explains any technical language. The contents come from these main sources:

1. What stakeholders said in workshops and responses to the online survey.
2. Background information and reports from Jersey.
3. Specialist input on tree and woodland management and remote mapping.

The strategy sets out the combined vision for the future, reviews what is already happening to look after trees, and sets out principles to guide action.

A.2 The trees and woodlands in Jersey

A.2.1 The history of trees in Jersey and landscape character

Jersey's landscape character, it's combination of field patterns, hedgerows, tree cover and settlement patterns, is very distinctive and a direct result of its geological make up and political and social history.

The centre of Jersey would, in the distant past, have been covered by a mixture of oak and hazel woodland, while the exposed coastal areas would have been naturally more open. The open nature of Jersey's landscape we see today has been created by successive generations of woodland clearance and farming dating back to Neolithic times. By the 13th century, there was such a lack of appreciable woodland that gorse and bracken in the 'waste' areas were prized for fuel and thousands of tree trunks were shipped from England. This mass deforestation was reversed in the 17th century with the growth of the cider industry. The delicacy of the apple blossom called for the construction of large earthen banks topped with elm and thorn to create shelter.

The fuel shortages during Jersey's occupation during the Second World War led to the widespread felling of trees in the Island. Some small woods escaped this, mostly confined to the steep sided valleys. This loss of trees during the war means most woodlands are semi natural or artificial with most trees under 80 years of age. There are a few trees over 200 years old but no woodlands that could be classed as ancient (based on definitions used in the UK).

With the arrival of Dutch elm disease in the mid-1970s, Jersey's hedgerows became degraded with a loss of approximately 80% of hedgerow trees. The 'Great Storm' of 1987 had a damaging effect on trees in many parts of the Island. The recent history of trees in Jersey is, however, one of increasing woodland cover and hedgerow planting. The 2011 habitat survey found increasing tree cover and hedgerows in Jersey.

Jersey's landscape is closely linked to the Island's history, and preserving its character forms an important part of our heritage and sense of place.

A.2.2 Current trees and wood

Information about the current tree stock is scattered and out of date. We have gathered and reviewed several woodland and tree surveys for Jersey (see Annex 2). None of this survey data has been found to be available publicly online via any GIS (Geographic Information System) downloads or hosted interactive maps.

The Jersey Biodiversity Centre has a large database including grid references of named trees, and Jersey Trees for Life have maps and details of 'champion' trees. The last complete survey of Jersey, a habitat survey (applying an approach called Phase 1) was carried out in 2011 and is now due to be updated.

Information available from Global Forest Watch, gives an estimate that as of 2010 the extent of tree cover in Jersey was 14%[2]. Their data points to the Parishes of Trinity and St. Brelade having the highest extent of cover, and St. Helier and St. Mary the lowest. The 2011 Phase 1 Habitat Survey, however, provides a lower estimate, though it found that woodland cover had increased by around 50% to 8.4% since 1998[3] (see Figs 1-3 below for illustrations of tree and hedgerow distribution).

In recent years there has been more tree planting. Doing more in a joined up and strategic way in the future offers the potential to create ecological networks, links and connections to enhance biodiversity and the landscape.

Much woodland in Jersey is found in isolated valley's which are long and narrow (Fig 1). This results in unique woodland conditions, and few areas of dark and damp core woodland conditions. The lack of connectivity between woods also reduces the potential for diverse woodland species and healthy populations. When trees are cut down, they tend to be chipped for mulch rather than being processed into usable timber products.

Existing trees are highly valued as part of the varied and diverse nature of the Island and for the many benefits trees bring - but there is yet to be a systematic assessment of these benefits.

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[2] Based on their methodology and where one pixel is 30m^2, and >30% pixel cover. https://www.globalforestwatch.org/dashboards/country/JEY/

[3] Henney *et al* 'Habitat Survey of Jersey 2011'

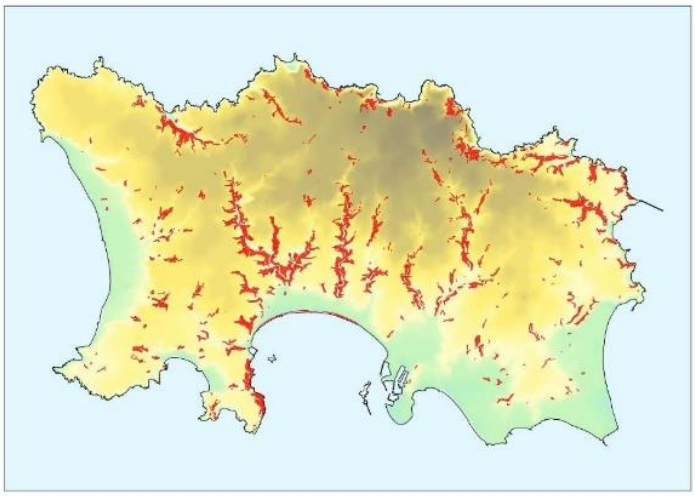

Figure 1 Distribution of woodland (Henney *et al* - Habitat Survey Jersey 2011)

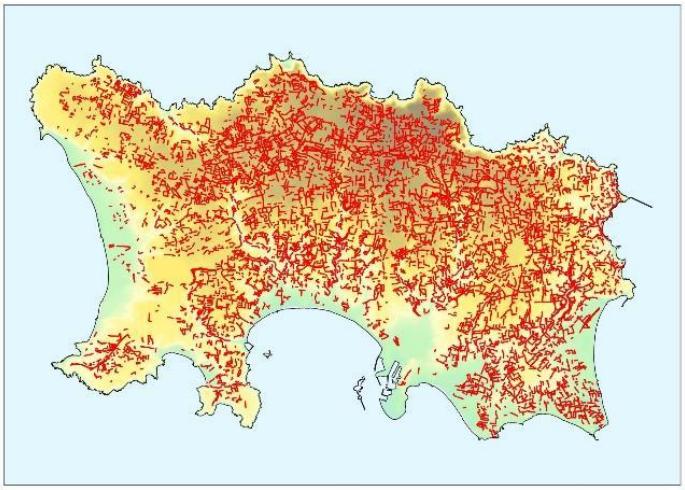

Figure 2 Distribution of tree covered earth banks (Henney *et al* - Habitat Survey Jersey 2011)

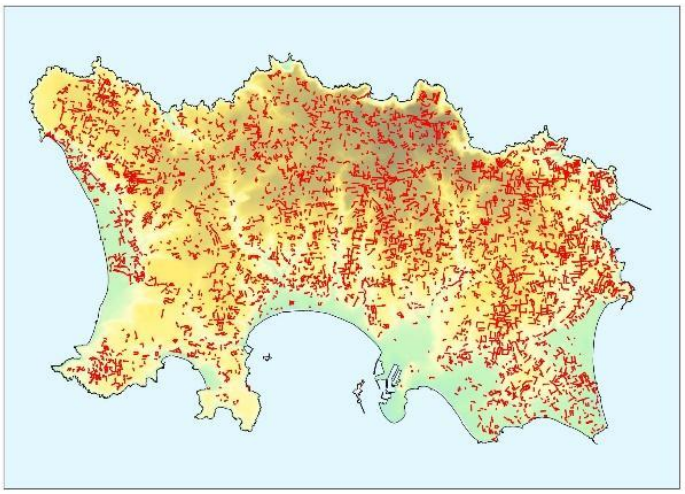

Figure 3 Distribution of species rich hedgerows (Henney *et al* - Habitat Survey Jersey 2011)

A.2.3 What do we need to know?

An assessment of current trees would enable well informed decisions about Jersey's trees, create a baseline for the future and enable the setting of specific measurable targets. Technology - satellite, aerial photography, IR (infrared), Lidar (Light Detection and Ranging), and GIS - in combination with ground-based surveys can create cost-effective results. The potential also exists for people and communities to be involved, and to use smart phone apps to validate or add further detailed information. Once complete, it will be important to share information widely with people, partners, and stakeholders, including across government departments.

For a new tree survey, using the same 'Phase 1' classification system as the Habitat Survey of 2011 and updating the existing habitat map based on air photo interpretation from the latest imagery will ensure consistency and allow accurate change statistics. This in turn will form the basis for future monitoring. The Phase 1 Habitat Map can also be translated into a 'Habitat Asset Register'. This survey should include information about age, cover, the different species, and the location of special mature trees and trees on public land. From that survey we can target further ground-based assessment which can then identify:

- Trees and woods most vulnerable to climate change
- Trees and woods most at risk of being lost to development
- The resilience of Jersey's trees to threats such as existing and new trees diseases, and climate change bringing changes in growing conditions
- The pattern of the last 10 years including the number of felled trees, planting, and of which species
- Health of trees and woods

This approach will enable the creation of a 'Living Map' of Jersey, whereby future satellite monitoring (e.g., every 3-5 years) automatically updates the habitat map. This would provide consistent methodology and classification for robust change detection and reporting. In turn a 'Living Map' of Jersey would create the opportunity to perform complete appraisals of:

- Nature Recovery – mapping of existing woodland, wetland, grassland, and coastal networks (core and steppingstones), and identification of areas with opportunities for enhancing networks for biodiversity
- Carbon – mapping of carbon storage (above and below ground), and identification of areas with opportunities for enhancing carbon storage
- Farming – the current farming, and associated land which presents the potential for solutions to benefit nature.
- Water regulation – mapping of exiting areas providing natural flood management, and identification of areas with opportunities for improvement (e.g., woodland establishment)
- Water quality – mapping of existing areas important for Jersey's supply of clean, potable water, and identification of areas with opportunities for enhanced water quality (e.g., riparian woodland creation)

Expanding on this, an 'opportunity map' would show where there is potential for new trees and woods. This would factor in soil types, landscape character, climate change and further opportunities to create ecological networks. It would enable wise decisions about locations and species for planting, and places where land could be set aside for woodlands to self-seed (a process called natural regeneration).

Adding to this information carbon and pollen records would provide information about what Jersey's tree cover used to be like and would help inform the location and choice of species for new trees and woods. It could also answer if any of Jersey's current tree species are truly native to the Island, or whether they are unique in the Island (e.g., Jersey elm *Ulmus sarniensis*). Details about the origins of recently planted trees, and where non-native species have arrived from would also be helpful.

A Jersey tree map

A new Jersey tree map will provide a comprehensive database of location, height, and canopy/crown extents for every single tree 3m and above in height. Created from high resolution national aerial photography, accurate terrain and surface data, and colour infrared imagery, this map is useful across a variety of sectors including insurance, utilities, forestry, government, planning, and environmental management.

There is potential to incorporate other existing resource including the historical environment record and the Woodland Trust's ancient tree map to identify any ancient/veteran trees. As new aerial photography becomes available through the Government of Jersey's cyclic update program, the Jersey tree map is updated regularly ensuring that it would remain the most detailed, comprehensive, and up-to-date tree map of the Island.

Tree suitability modelling

The climate context is key to the 'Living Map', and the climate models and forecasts form a key component of this. Opportunity maps identify the best places to invest time, resources, and money to achieve sustainable outcomes. Scenario modelling illustrates how differing futures would look for ecosystem services provision based on consideration of planting the right tree in the right place. The models make a biophysical assessment based on tree growth requirements and existing (or projected) land use. Assessment of long-term suitability is based on climate modelling of "present day", 2050 and 2070 with high, medium, and low GHG (greenhouse gas) emissions scenarios.

Image M Scott

A.3 Jersey's Trees

A.3.1 The value and benefit of our trees

The value and benefits of trees are increasingly well documented. The UK Forestry Commission's document 'The Case for Trees', described trees in the built environment for people and nature in terms of social, economic, environmental, and climate change values[4]. The benefits of trees within and beyond built environments as potential nature-based solutions to help restore ecosystems, capture carbon, reduce heat and flooding risks, and address human health and wellbeing challenges are increasingly understood[5].

Based on wider engagement, Jersey places the following values on trees in order of level of support:

- **For nature.** Throughout their life cycle trees, woods and hedgerows provide corridors and habitats for wildlife, plants, and insects. Fallen dead and rotting wood is also a vital habitat for fungi and some insects. Jersey's woodlands and hedgerows support many species that are in decline elsewhere, for example red squirrels (introduced in 1885[6]) and certain species of bats (e.g. the grey long eared bat (*Plecotus austriacus*). Maintaining and restoring ecological networks and functions is vital for nature in the future. Protecting native species in Jersey is globally important, as different climates support different species, and Islands evolve unique varieties of otherwise common plants and animals.
- **For resilience and climate change.** Trees, hedgerows, and woodlands are a nature-based solution to many of our pressing issues. As they grow trees lock up carbon. Whilst Jersey's tree stock can only make a limited contribution to its carbon neutral goals, they provide many other important functions crucial to adapting to and building resilience to the impacts of climate change. Trees filter air and improve air quality, stabilise soils, slow the speed water runs off hills reducing the risk of flooding, provide nectar for insects that pollinate crops, form windbreaks and shelter, and reduce the effects of heat in built areas.
- **To reduce soil erosion and increase soil quality.** Trees, woods, and hedgerows help reduce soil erosion through diffusing the energy of falling rain and wind, whilst tree roots further slow erosion through stabilising soil. Through leaf fall, decay, and the large populations of microorganisms this supports, trees add organic matter to the soil system. Their roots also improve soil structure by creating the space for increased aeration and drainage as well as cycling nutrients.
- **For mental health and well-being**. There are many positive psychological benefits to being around trees and in woods, with proven links to improved mental health and potential for social connectedness in caring for outdoor spaces and doing tree planting.
- **To add nature and beauty to built areas, roads, and other routes.** Trees soften the built environments and bring in bird song, dappled shade, and nature to the centre of our town and smaller settlements. This enhances quality of life for workers and residents. Trees and hedgerows add beauty to roads, paths, linear features and provide a backdrop to the landscape. This adds to tourist and recreational experiences.
- **Providing protection from the weather**. Trees provide shade and cooling in warmer months and are a barrier to wind and rain. In urban areas trees can reduce the need for mechanical means of cooling and warming spaces. In rural parts of the Island, trees and hedgerows provide a wind break and shelter for agriculture. Having the right trees and hedges in the right place regulates the

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[4] Forestry Commission (2010)

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/718033/eng-casefortrees.pdf

[5] RBS Kew (2021) https://www.kew.org/read-and-watch/what-are-nature-based-solutions

[6] https://www.gov.je/Environment/LandMarineWildlife/Mammals/pages/squirrels.aspx#:~:text=The%20red%20squirrel%20was%20introduced,refuge%20for%20this%20vulnerable%20species.

water cycle, and can increase flood resilience, slowing water, reducing soil erosion, stabilising embankments, with benefits for rural and urban areas.

- **For our sense of place**. Trees, woods, and hedgerows contribute to Jersey's natural beauty, character, and sense of place. They contribute to quality of life, have cultural and memorial significance, and connected to family and Island stories.

Image M Scott

- **For recreation, leisure, and learning**. Trees and woodlands provide places for outdoor enjoyment that can span generations and connect people and communities, ranging from tree climbing to shelters, bird spotting to picnics, and places for outdoor activities and adventures.
- **As part of the food system**. Trees provide fruit and fodder. Agroforestry (planting trees on farms) can give farmers healthier soil by cycling nutrients and binding soil and result in higher yields. Agroforestry can mean planting trees to provide shelter and fodder for grazing animals or with crops in-between. Orchard trees provide fruit and support pollinators. Increasing variety on farms increases resilience to climate change and food production in the Island.
- **Reducing noise pollution and improving air quality**. Trees act as noise screens muffling traffic and other noise. Trees also significantly improve air quality.
- **For shade**. Trees provide shade and protection from ultraviolet (UV) light and sunburn enabling people to enjoy being outside – tree shade will be increasingly valued with climate change.
- **Provide an opportunity for scientific development.**
- **Linking people to traditional processes, and ancestral pasts.**
- **For the economy.** By helping to create a pleasant environment to work in, trees can help attract high calibre people to work in Jersey. Managing and enhancing trees has the potential to catalyse and support employment and a green recovery. This could be through the supply chain for new trees (landscape design, impact assessment, consenting, grants/funding, tree nursery, materials), their establishment and maintenance; wood products; tourism and recreation.

A.3.2 Threats and challenges to our trees

Trees are essential for humans and nature to thrive, but we can't take them for granted. There are many things that threaten tree health. Particular threats, identified by stakeholders and through wider engagement include:

Lack of current protection for Jersey's trees. Where protection does exist, the information about specific trees can be hard to find and is out of date. Protections in Jersey are perceived as less effective for trees and hedgerows than UK measures, with less proactive protection for trees and a lack of enforcement of compliance with planning conditions designed to protect trees on development sites. Government has had insufficient resources in place to provide professional knowledge to assess the impact of development upon existing trees; advise and require the planting

of new trees associated with development proposals; and to implement and enforce the existing statutory provisions to identify and protect valuable trees

Development of sites for new building. Trees on or near development sites are vulnerable. If new developments are not designed to keep what is there, developers will fell trees and hedgerows to make way for new roads, buildings, or landscaping. Where trees remain on sites, they are at risk of crown and root damage. Root damage comes from compaction, storage of equipment or vehicles, or severing of roots during underground works. Excavation, road works, and changing soil levels all affect the amount of water in the soil and chances of the tree surviving. The crown of the tree is also at risk from damage and deliberate cutting. This impact can result from a lack of awareness of the root zone among contractors and builders.

Damage or removal by property owners. Trees can cause real or perceived hazards: obstructing highways, blocking light, or causing problems such as boundary issues or roots damaging buildings. Property owners can then take action to remove or severely alter trees to avoid legal issues. This may be necessary but can be mistaken, a misunderstanding or over management.

Climate change. Climate change is bringing hotter, drier summers, and wetter, windier winters. This is altering the growing conditions for trees and will be too much change for some trees, or species of trees, to survive. Dry conditions stress tree growth, and wet and windy conditions can cause root rot or storm damage.

Pollution. This can be local or international and arriving in rain but whatever the source, pollution affects tree's ability to grow and be healthy.

Existing and new disease and pests. Trees are increasingly under threat from new and emerging pests and diseases that can be naturally dispersed but very often are trafficked by human activity. Contemporary examples include *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus* or Chalara dieback of ash - a serious disease of ash trees caused by a fungus which causes leaf loss and crown dieback in affected trees and is usually fatal. When trees are stressed by pollution and changes in water or poor management, they are much more vulnerable to disease.

Lack of management and maintenance of aging trees. Aging trees can live much longer when they are managed sensitively with pruning and tree surgery. Without it they are much more vulnerable to disease or storm damage and potentially posing a risk to people**.**

Lack of management and maintenance of existing woodlands. In the absence of natural or active management, vigorous species are able to spread at the expense of native species, for example sycamore.

A.3.3 The problems caused by trees

When trees are in close proximity to where we live or work, they can present an array of problems. The following are the key issues raised by stakeholders and during wider engagement:

Structural damage. Tree roots can damage roads, driveways, and underground services, or lift pathways and kerbs causing trip hazards.

Overshadowing. This is sometimes because of over planting or planting too close to buildings and is when trees block natural light within or outside buildings. Trees which provide too much shade in fields, whilst potentially good for cattle, can be bad for crops where sunlight is needed, and moisture is required for good soil quality.

Risk to people of tree or branch fall or trip hazards. Certain tree species are more prone to limb drop and this poses a risk to people or property if the tree is diseased, weakened, or damaged. This risk will increase with climate change, and increased severity and frequency of storms. When trees lift pavements, it can also cause a trip hazard.

Destabilising banks. Earth banks - fosses and banques, often dating back centuries – can be destabilised by the trees and hedges growing (planted) on top of them when they get too big. These are often in private ownership.

Causing disagreements between neighbours. This can be about over shading, loss of views, risks to property, health, or the cutting back of a neighbour's overhanging trees without discussion and skilful tree surgery.

Preventing development. Valued trees, or protected species like bats living in trees, can become an issue if people want to extend or build.

Signal and power interference. Tree canopies can overgrow the route of power lines and telecoms, affect TV and other media reception. Roots can also interfere with underground services

Narrowing roads. Tree canopies can narrow the usable road width particularly for higher vehicles that drive closer to the centre of the road, and road safety issues.

Tree debris. Fallen leaves can make pavements slippery, sap on cars is an annoyance, and debris needs to be cleared up.

Cost of tree maintenance can be high and if inappropriate trees (size or species) are planted on new developments it can create future issues for owners and public bodies.

Allergies. Some people are allergic to certain tree pollens.

A.3.4 Constraints to looking after trees

Cost and Resources: The current method for funding tree planting is one-off grants at the start of the project, usually only costing the planting and initial weed control. To plant, manage and protect trees requires a different more sustained funding system.

Development needs: With limited land area for development, and constraints on design for service infrastructure and cars, it will not always be possible to keep every tree on development sites. There are principles later in this strategy about appropriate mitigation when these are given permissions.

Protected trees: Powers to protect trees are limited to only those that are of 'public amenity value'. Owing to limited professional resources, these powers tend to be used reactively, to protect trees which may be under threat, usually from development activity.

Agriculture: The Rural Strategy for the Island now places the emphasis on sustainable farming practices rather than yield.

Climate Change: Climate change will alter growing conditions in Jersey and be beyond the tolerance of some species. Planning for the full life of the tree is difficult but essential.

Protected species: Trees provide habitat for many different species including protected species under the Wildlife (Jersey) Law 2021[7]. When these species are present it may prevent tree maintenance from being carried out.

Self-seeded trees: Self-seeded trees or trees that have been planted in the 'wrong place' can cause damage to existing infrastructure and key habitats. Most tree roots spread 2-3 times the radius of the canopy in normal conditions. Therefore, the safety of underground utility services, and land and buildings of historical/archaeological interest need to be considered. Where this occurs in key habitat areas, trees and saplings may need to be managed/removed for the benefit of those habitats.

Public perception: Public perception of 'dangerous' trees may result in pressure for removal over best maintenance. The reverse is also true where trees that pose a risk may need to be removed rather than just managed.

Legislation: The high hedges and branchage laws require trees and hedges to be maintained in certain ways which may contradict with what may otherwise be seen as best management and contravene the Wildlife (Jersey) Law 2021. Land control laws also currently constrain agricultural

[7] Gov.je (2021) Wildlife (Jersey) Law 2021 (jerseylaw.je)

land use, in particular whether agricultural land is to be protected for use by agriculturalists only or can be used for other purposes including tree planting (amongst others).[8]

A.4 Trends and changes

The context for all environmental work is complex and ever changing, and the Jersey Tree Strategy is no exception. Understanding some of that changing context helps to inform priorities and ways to respond and adapt. The following list comes from the stakeholder deliberations:

A.4.1 Environmental trends and changes

Climate Change: Climate change will alter local weather systems, with the likely consequences being drier summers, more frequent and stronger storms, and related changes to soil moisture and growing conditions. This will impact existing trees, their health, and their associated benefits. It will be essential to factor climate change and future local growing conditions into choices when establishing new trees or woods. This will include: suitable resilient species, the same species but from trees growing further south and adapted to those conditions, planting in suitable locations, and whether planting or self-seeding (natural regeneration) is optimum.

Trees colonising unsuitable natural locations. Other important key habitats such as dunes and heathlands are at threat from encroaching tree species. For example, holm oak is an increasing problem in sand dune habitat and needs to be managed.

Trees self-seeding or being planted near buildings and not maintained. The wrong tree in the wrong place has the potential for negative impacts on property and infrastructure. Also, trees are not being correctly maintained and becoming a danger to people and premises.

[8] https://www.gov.je/Industry/FarmingFishing/PlantsProduce/Pages/LandControl.aspx

Fewer resources and greater cost for managing trees and tree waste. The effect of this is missing the opportunity to extend the health and life of existing trees, and their ability to lock in carbon. There is also a negative impact on biodiversity from poorly maintained trees, hedgerows, and woodlands. Likewise, the opportunity to repurpose tree products and waste are missed.

Growing interest and moves towards sustainable farming practices. Ideas around sustainability and 'regenerative farming' have gained traction in recent years. The Jersey farming sector is signed up to LEAF (Linking Environment and Farming), this includes Jersey Dairy and its farmers being compliant with the LEAF Marque – the only dairy in the UK. Compliance to LEAF rather than yield is now key to funding. In addition, extensive mapping of hedgerows is being carried out across the Island, and farmers are actively seeking solutions for biodiversity and climate. [9]

Increased urgency to establish more trees now. With enhanced citizen awareness and anxiety about climate change and nature loss, there is increased pressure to start responding immediately.

Increasing awareness of the need to treasure natural beauty. The beauty of Jersey is highly valued by the people in the Island, the natural beauty is an important aspect of life here. Increasing concern about trees and establishing more trees will also need to be sensitive to this.

A.4.2 Legal trends and changes

Changes to tree protection laws. Increased public and political concern about climate change and nature has resulted in growing concern about trees and woodland habitats. This in turn has resulted in the Government debating the optimum way to protect trees in planning law with common sense exceptions and guidance to enable maintenance.

New tools to incentivise change. Increasing numbers of people thinking that reaching the end goal is so urgent it needs 'more stick and less carrot' and acknowledgement that there are no easy solutions given differences of values and needs amongst different interests.

A.4.3 Political trends and changes

Pace of addressing climate change. The required adaptation to and mitigation of climate change, is a long term issue extending beyond political cycles. This is an issue everywhere, and the Government of Jersey needs to rapidly accelerate the pace and extent of change.[10]

Development of a range of measures to get to carbon neutrality. Across the world there is growing urgency to reach carbon neutrality. This follows the recent publication of the physical report of the International Panel on Climate Change[11] which shows how serious the situation is. In Jersey, tree planting is a vital response but there are limitations of space and opportunity in a relatively small Island, and trees cannot do the whole job. Everything needs to be considered to achieve the goals, and the Carbon Neutral Roadmap sets out a number of measures to achieve this.

A.4.4 Social and cultural trends and changes

There is a growing youth climate and nature movement. Young people in Jersey are part of a global mobilisation of young people, concerned and anxious about their climate and nature future, and agitating for rapid change. In Jersey this is evident on social media and Fridays for the Future events.

Growing public concern. Young people are not alone. There is rapidly increasing awareness and citizen concern that Jersey's trees must be protected and more established.

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[9] States of Jersey's Rural Support Scheme and LEAF (Linking Environment and Farming)

[10] Met Office (2018) https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/pub/data/weather/uk/ukcp18/science-reports/ukcp-infographic-headlinefindings.pdf

[11] IPCC (2022) https://www.ipcc.ch/report/sixth-assessment-report-cycle/

A.4.5 Technology and evidence trends and changes

There is rapid innovation and use of technology for tree survey, opportunity, and planting. Satellite images and drones are now used to survey and map the location, size, species, and health of trees, and create 'opportunity' maps. Drones can also be used for tree planting in difficult terrain. Understanding the potential of these technologies for Jersey could bring significant efficiencies in establishing new trees in the right places**.**

A.4.6 Economic changes

There is growing interest in the benefit of trees to Jersey's local economy. Increasing the number of trees and ensuring the quality of practices offers the potential to diversify or create new business. This can create opportunities throughout the related supply chain. From tree nurseries, to increased demand for management and care of trees, and the associated need for training, skills, knowledge, and equipment to build and develop capacity, advise, and guide people, businesses, and organisations. Indirectly, related business and industries could find opportunities to use timber or wood products, as well as the fruit or nuts from trees, or the space created below, between, and among trees. These could range from ecology focused, to heritage related, educational, or food based. All with a potential to enhance and strengthen Jersey's local economy.

Emerging interest on the effect of trees on business. There is the potential for more tree planting through greater understanding of how trees impact on local offices and business and the local economy. For example, trees providing shade significantly reduce the need for air conditioning and reduce urban heat island effect[12], and windbreaks block cold winds and reduce drafts and heating bills. Green views and outdoor spaces benefit staff focus, attention and wellbeing. Trees around shops and cafes draw in business, but have to be placed to avoid negatives such as unwanted mess.

Increasingly businesses want to show evidence they are offsetting their climate change emissions. Some in the business community are aware of the risks to business supply chains and financial investments from the climate crisis and nature loss. Pressure from shareholders and consumers is accelerating this concern. More want to know how to calculate which species best lock up their carbon emissions and where trees should be planted for the best outcome, and how to evidence what they are doing. Without this guidance, the result is inappropriate tree planting. For example, in the UK there are increasing examples of non-native tree planting, to offset carbon, being done on peat bogs which then dry out and release far more carbon than any trees can lock up. The research and knowledge to answer questions about which tree is right and what is the right place is growing rapidly - but not yet directly applied to Jersey.

A.5 What is already being done to look after Jersey's Trees

A.5.1 Looking after Jersey's trees

This strategy builds on and adds to what is already happening. A wide range of organisations including government, farmers and landowners, charities, business, and private property owners are already looking after Jersey's trees, hedgerows, and woods, and planting more. There are great examples of partnership and collaboration such as at Mourier Valley between the National Trust for Jersey, Jersey Trees for Life, Jersey Electricity, Jersey Water, and volunteers, which demonstrate the great value of and possible approaches to looking after and increasing Jersey's trees and hedgerows.

This section summarises several current activities based on stakeholder input.

Jersey Government The Government of Jersey has responsibility to ensure that planning law and policies can help protect and improve the Island's trees. Currently work is underway to update the definition of development to give a greater weight to works affecting trees generally, and to ensure

[12] The effect of increased temperature and worse pollution in areas densely built with heat absorbing materials such as buildings, roads, and pavements (see for example U.S. EPA (2022) https://www.epa.gov/green-infrastructure/reduce-urban-heat-island-effect)

that they are also protected in conservation areas, where they contribute to the special character of an area. The Island Plan is being reviewed which provides an opportunity to renew the planning policies that can be used to make sure that existing trees are protected, and new planting is provided as an integral part of development proposals.

Farmers and Landowners are responsible for the stewardship of their lands. For example, in Jersey, dairy farmers are responsible for 8,000 farmland vergées. The Jersey farming sector is signed up to the LEAF scheme. Linking Environment and Farming (LEAF) accreditation is an international environmental mark which can help farmers to demonstrate the efforts they are making to be more sustainable.

Private property and business are responsible for maintaining trees on their property. Some people do this well, but others need more guidance about what is appropriate in both planting and maintaining existing trees.

Local tree business (arboriculturists and landscape architects) work with their clients for planting and maintenance of trees on private land. The majority have a commitment to best practice.

Jersey Utility Companies (Jersey Electricity and Jersey Water) have combined resources to fund the £40,000, three-year restoration of the 20-acre Mourier Valley woodland.

There are also many charities and voluntary organisations who care for trees in their work. These include:

Jersey Biodiversity Centre has an online database compiling records of woodland, trees and hedgerow onto a simple online map. The data is submitted through surveys and public sightings. This information is used to understand more about Jersey's trees. For example, planning planting projects to create wildlife corridors which connect habitats across the Island.

Jersey Trees for Life encourage the planting of hedgerows and trees through a 'cheap tree' scheme and running the Jersey Hedgerow campaign since 2007. They supply trees and hedging plants in bulk at low prices to farmers and landowners. They also support the creation of woodland such as Adelina Community Woods and administer the only public Arboretum, Val De La Mare.

National Trust for Jersey preserve and safeguard sites of historic, aesthetic, and natural interest in Jersey and safeguard habitats on their land. Through their "hedge fund" project, they have helped to plant and restore around 20 miles of hedgerow over the last two years.

Jersey Heritage are responsible for the Island's major historic sites, museums, and public archives and hold information relating to Jersey's history, culture, and environment. They also provide education and activity events around trees.

GROW Jersey are building a fully functioning community small holding utilising agroforestry and permaculture principles. As part of this they have planted 150 fruit and nut trees. There will also be a research and education facility.

St Brelade's Bay Association have extensively photographed tree cover in St Brelade's Bay. This is being used to inform planning authorities of any tree removal and object to planning applications that do not seek to replace canopy cover. They inform the community of action they can take to counter tree removal under the current legal and regulatory regime. They also advise developers how to avoid objections on these grounds.

Birds on the Edge and Action for Wildlife Jersey have been working with individuals and environmental organisations to revise the branchage guidelines for the benefits of the Island's flora and fauna. Revised guidelines on best practice for hedgerow, tree and banque management have now been agreed and will be published by Natural Environment.

Pollinator Project encourages the community to take action in their gardens, allotments, window boxes and balconies to make them pollinator friendly. This aims to enhance biodiversity which will in turn support the local tree stock**.**

Jersey Tree and Hedgerow Forum is a group of local partners and individuals focussing on the protection, health, maintenance and strategic planting of woodlands, trees, and hedges in Jersey. The forum has created a species reference list to guide landowners on what is best suited to plant for their local habitats.

Image M Scott

A.5.2 Current legal context for trees

This section summarises information in everyday language: it is not and should not be taken as any kind of formal or legal explanation.

The legal powers to better control works to trees are being enhanced (Amendment No 8 of the Planning and Building (Jersey) Law 2002). If approved, this would mean that works to trees can be generally regulated under the definition of development, and in conservation areas, with some common-sense exemptions from the requirement for planning permission.

Other current legal protections affecting Jersey's trees are summarised below.

Multi-lateral Environmental Agreements and Conventions (MEA). Jersey is compliant with the international responsibilities resulting from the UK's membership of the Rio Convention on the Conservation of Biological Diversity; the Bonn Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals; the Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Habitats and Species.

Wildlife (Jersey) Law 2021 relates to the conservation of wild animals, wild birds and wild plants in Jersey, and related purposes (including a list of protected species).

Planning and Building (Jersey) Law 2002 gives protection to sites, buildings, structures, trees and places that have special importance or value to Jersey. Specific trees, or groups of trees, with public amenity value can be added to the list of protected trees. Listing a tree or trees means that permission is needed to undertake any work that might affect the amenity value of the tree(s). This law also requires the submission of a planning application for work that constitutes development. The definition of development is being amended to give greater control over works to trees.

High Hedges (Jersey) Law 2008 A law designed to deal with the problems associated with evergreen and semi-evergreen trees and shrubs. A 'high hedge' is defined as a line of two or more evergreens with a height of more than 2 metres above ground level that have become "so much of a barrier to light".

Branchage Requirements (Loi (1914) sur la Voirie). A regularly enforced law which ensures that any vegetation growth that overhangs roads and footpaths is cut back. This includes hedges, branches, trees, shrubs, grass, flowers etc. These must be trimmed to give a clearance of 12 feet over main roads and byroads and 8 feet over footpaths.

Plant Health (Jersey) Law (2003). To control and prevent the development and spread of plant pests and diseases in Jersey, and between other locations and the Island.

A.5.3 Policy context that resulted in the need for this tree strategy

Jersey's commitment to protect its diverse nature, plants, and animals is long standing and set out through the Jersey Island Plan (2011), Draft Bridging Island Plan (2021), and Coastal National Park, along with the Biodiversity Strategy for Jersey and associated Jersey Biodiversity Action Plans, Land Management Plans, and integrated Landscape and Seascape Assessment. The recent Carbon Neutral Strategy, Citizens Assembly on Climate Change and Future Jersey's 'shaping our future' consultation link nature and climate more closely together. These highlight the importance of the natural environment to increase resilience to changes and as a store for carbon.

Citizens Assembly on Climate Change (2021). Key recommendations to support the transition to a carbon neutral Island to protect and improve Jersey and its environment, and support and empower grass roots initiatives to achieve change.

Carbon Neutral Strategy (2019). To achieve carbon neutrality by 2030 this includes actions that relate to the protection of trees, extending the protection of species and habitats. It highlights the fact that trees are vital not only in supporting biodiversity, but also to assist in locking up carbon. The strategy commits to increase the capacity of Jersey's natural environment to absorb carbon (in-Island sequestration) through activities such as land use changes, and tree and hedgerow planting. Better enforcement of building permits to protect biodiversity is a factor. Two key actions in the delivery plan are to ensure ''resilience and adaptation of natural capital,'' and ''to support in-Island sequestration.''[13]

Sustainable Transport Policy (2019). Sets out a vision for a sustainable transport system noting its role in making the Island greener, and that better places to live have more open and green spaces rather than roads, particularly in urban areas. (p.16)

Rural Economy Strategy (2017-21). Sets out principles and policies to help develop Jersey's rural economy in a sustainable way whilst protecting its varied habitats and species.

Draft Bridging Island Plan (2021). Draft Bridging Island Plan (2021). Establishes planning policies to guide development until 2025. The draft plan seeks to protect and improve the Island's landscape character and its green infrastructure, including woodlands, trees and hedgerows, along with open spaces. A green infrastructure strategy is also proposed as part of the plan.

Government Plan (2021-2024). Commits a climate emergency fund for tree preservation initiatives.

Carbon Neutral Roadmap (2022). Sets out a roadmap for reaching carbon neutrality where the potential is recognised for trees to lock up carbon (sequestration), build resilience for more severe weather events, and provide social and environmental benefits, for people and nature.

[13] Appendix 4 of the Carbon Neutral Strategy

B.SETTING THE DIRECTION

B.6 Vision

Jersey has abundant woods, trees, bushes and hedgerows, and green networks criss-crossing the Island, locking up carbon, and with thriving wildlife, birds, and pollinators, seen and heard by everyone.

The centres of our town and smaller settlements are green and shady, bringing the many benefits of trees into the heart of our communities. In rural areas trees provide wood products, food, and shelter, lock up carbon, and stabilise soil and water.

We have been wise in planting and giving space for self-sown trees so have the right tree in the right place. Trees, woodlands, and hedgerows are skilfully and sensitively managed. Mature and healthy trees are protected with guidance to developers and citizens, and a protection system which is clear, easy, works, and enforced. Where it is necessary to fell a tree, more are planted, and we end up with more trees overall.

There are many skilled jobs and opportunities to grow, plant, nurture and manage trees for the future and to make the most of Jersey branded wood, fruit, and nut products.

People connect and understand the benefits of Jersey's nature, trees, woodlands and hedgerows and the need for more. People of all ages are actively involved in citizen monitoring, mapping and care and continue to influence the future of trees in Jersey.

Our well-resourced, well-supported, and integrated Jersey Tree Strategy helps us coordinate and work together to care for Jersey's trees.

B.7 Guiding Principles

B.7.1 Right for Jersey: Right Tree, Right Place

Our approach to trees in Jersey must consider Jersey's unique character, and the wider trends and changes at play. Right tree, right place means that we give due consideration to the habitats, ecology, people, and places, whilst also factoring in the effects and impacts of climate change[14]. For trees to help reduce the negative impacts of climate change they must themselves be resilient to those impacts and able to thrive.

Through wider public engagement**,** people identified places which they consider right for trees in Jersey. These included built areas (including private gardens); the spaces between residential areas; in the centres of communities to create shaded meeting places; other areas of the public realm, brownfield sites, abandoned land and abandoned greenhouses; on new development sites, and on large estates and farmland. Innovations could include planting fruit and nut trees in urban areas and on public land, and agroforestry techniques. The priorities people would like to see are:

- Where trees provide the greatest benefit for people, nature, and climate, and help form linking corridors for nature and people, connecting urban areas with rural areas (green infrastructure)
- Areas which were deforested in recent history
- Establishing a variety of different species appropriate to the soil and drainage
- Around and connecting existing woodland and important wildlife areas (provided trees are appropriate)

Those places in Jersey that people consider unsuitable for trees are where:

- Existing important, sensitive, or rare habitats would be negatively affected (such as wildflower rich grassland or wet meadows) - or dry out and release carbon stored in wetter conditions

14 See e.g. https://forestrycommission.blog.gov.uk/2020/07/17/right-tree-right-place-right-reason/

- Trees would risk damage to underground utilities or historic features
- The species in place are invasive in nature
- Treasured views and vistas would be obscured
- Trees would require ongoing management but be inaccessible (unless established through a legal agreement such as a Planning Obligation Agreement)
- The tree would be too big for the urban spaces or garden
- Trees would obscure views for traffic
- Fruit trees would overhang pavements or roads

The following principles will guide us:

- When planting and establishing new trees, climate change conditions will be factored into the selection, location and species planted as well as other conditions (existing habitats, geology, soil condition, weather exposure, space constraints, underground utilities and infrastructure, disease susceptibility, human activities, landscape character).
- Areas will be identified where trees should not grow or be grown including special habitats (meadows, marshlands, bogs, dunes) and treasured views.
- Hedgerows - Be sensitive to the landscape, so if the boundaries are traditional stone walls with grass don't replace them with hedgerows. To replace hedgerows, use saplings from local Jersey tree stock.
- Natural regeneration - Ensure we have clear definitions for what we mean by natural regeneration, invasive species, woodland, and other terms. Agree and provide guidance for landowners, farmers and nature reserve managers on where natural regeneration is preferred to planting, and when and what management is needed for success with some areas left to nature and others where a "naturally established /actively managed" approach is better.
- Follow the right tree right place principles and promote the benefits of natural woodland creation for suitable locations. Follow this approach only in areas where there is reduced risk of problem species taking hold and low biodiversity such as marginal farmland or brown field sites, not on important open habitats such as wildflower meadows, heaths, or dunes.
- Develop a target for how much land should be set aside for natural regeneration. This must recognise the limited space available, and that where natural regeneration has taken place to date, it has been dominated by a small number of prolific seed trees (e.g., sycamore, evergreen oaks). The resulting approach might need to be supported by better tree and woodland management to achieve a broader range of species.

Image M Scott

B.7.2 Respect and Value Trees

Trees are part of Jersey's wider human and ecological health and wellbeing, as well as being living organisms themselves. We will recognise the value of trees and the benefits they bring throughout and beyond their lifetime, as plants and as interlinking parts of wider green infrastructure and open spaces, in town and countryside.

The following principles will guide us:

- For existing trees, improve our evidence base through surveying, and calculate the benefits of different species of trees (for example locking up carbon, catching pollution, producing oxygen, or for nature and wellbeing). This will bring into view the real benefits of trees and the loss of benefits if a tree is felled. Include Biodiversity Net Gain and define further with regards to trees.
- On development sites, the presumption of new development proposals should be to design and plan around existing established trees above a specified height and diameter to keep them on site, and design on site green infrastructure to connect and add to what is already there. Permission should only be given to proposals that demonstrate this standard of care for existing and new trees. The effect of any proposed development on trees should include not only amenity value but carbon, wildlife and other benefits and costs.
- Biodiversity assessments and/or surveys should be part of any application to remove trees and hedgerows. This will require specific consideration of the value of and protection for hedgerows beyond that already given to boundary features.
- Special Trees – the criteria to be a special tree should include amenity and carbon, nature, role in green networks, landscape feature, as well as heritage, memorial, and ceremonial. Revisit and update the report of special and older trees and make it openly and publicly accessible.
- Listing of trees should be supported by placing the appropriate values on trees and their protection. All special trees should be managed following the Arboriculture Association guidelines[15] for old and special tree management, carried out by skilled and qualified people (validated by a tree surgeon accreditation system).
- Review agricultural policy to recognise hedgerows as an asset and look at ways to incentivise their care and expansion.

[15] The Arboricultural Association (2021) https://www.trees.org.uk/

Image M Scott

B.7.3 Look after Existing Trees

As trees are valued as an important asset in Jersey, it follows that looking after them in a correct and proper manner will help to maintain and develop their benefits for the good of people and nature. This starts with a commitment from the Government and those living and operating in Jersey to look after, and where appropriate, protect what already exists in line with principle 1.

Good Management

Good practice tree management will help to care for, protect and help trees to thrive in Jersey. We will adopt and encourage good practice so that Jersey's trees continue to benefit people and nature throughout and beyond their lifetimes.

The following principles will guide us:

- Create an approved contractors list for tree surgeons and tree workers in Jersey. Ensure tree surgeons are qualified and accredited, abiding by agreed standards and codes of work (informed by British Standard and other best practice codes[16]), and this is enforced with penalties for non-compliance. Ensure that the scheme includes standards for old and special trees, and hedgerow management and is linked to LEAF and the new Wildlife Law.

[16] BS3998:2010 Tree Work Recommendations, BS5837:2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction (recommendations)

- Planting and maintenance standards to be part of the accreditation scheme for all contractors to ensure that all work meets that standard and there is no cost incentive to use unskilled contractors that damages trees.
- Provide clear guidance for all on how work on trees should be undertaken, particularly taking into account upcoming changes to law, and in relation to the Wildlife Law. Provide private property owners with guidance on their trees including responsibilities, freedoms to manage their own trees, how to manage trees well, health and safety, right tree right place in new planting, and how to care for root systems when installing new underground gas, water or waste pipes. This must be kept up to date and promoted regularly so people are aware of it at the point they need to know about it. Provide guidance to landowners and managers about old and special trees and their care, including when action needs to be taken to make them safe and when a certified tree surgeon would need to do the job.
- Provide guidance on tree care and maintenance to the public to reduce tree stress and disease risk and communicate why invasive trees require management.
- Hold more detailed discussions with interested parties about the extent of freedoms appropriate to both protect trees and enable necessary management. Tree protection has common sense exemptions and permissions for tree and hedgerow management specifying species, size, health, and issues to which exemptions apply – including pruning, branchage and pollarding.
- Tree surgeons must meet industry standards and understand what can be treated, the minimum work necessary to restore tree health and not default to felling. This must include clear guidance around pruning trees to reduce disease vulnerability. Proof of disease should be provided before removing trees on these grounds. Care and hygiene should be encouraged in the practice of pruning, branchage and pollarding so that tree limb removal does not become an entry point for infection and increased tree mortality[17].
- Wherever possible, apply biological control methods in preference to chemical when that will work (e.g., in green houses).
- Where trees do need to be removed, for example because of disease, consider requirements to replace them with several appropriate trees so that we end up with more overall.
- Implement regular tree safety assessments on street and parkland trees and only perform work on dead or dying trees if they are a danger to people or property. Manage trees and hedgerows on roadsides to ensure safety for road users and pedestrians.
- In woodlands, manage for increased diversity of native species and ages of trees – not just tree cover. Leave deadwood habitats (the necro-sphere) within woodlands, where this is safe.
- Where it will not compromise the integrity of a woodland canopy and the effects it provides, remove non-native tree species from woodland[18]. These removed trees could in turn have economic value to Jersey[19]. Find more effective ways of using cut wood with some going to wood chip but larger timber being dried and prepared for other uses such as features in sustainable architecture, furniture, or art.

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[17] Training from qualified arborists through the Arboricultural Association - Training & Events (trees.org.uk) might help in capacity building in identifying and upholding best practice for tree limb removal.

[18] The Woodland Trust (2020)

https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/publications/2020/01/ancient-woodland-restoration-managementprinciples/ (reverting non-native coniferous plantation back to native broadleaved woodland sites).

[19] The Woodland Trust (2017)

Economic value to the Island https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/publications/2017/09/timber-products-fromancient-woodland-restoration/

- For trees as part of hedgerows, Government to incentivise good management practices from farmers, provide guidance on good practice, and recognise the capability of environmental and farming groups to do good management work and celebrate this with hedgerow management award.
- Review farmland hedgerow management, branchage, and agricultural policy and law to ensure hedgerows are managed for wildlife too. Ensure consistency between policies, include practices around the internal management of field boundaries and strengthen branchage recommendations and behaviours for non-roadsides of trees and hedges.

Image M Scott

Tree Protection

Where appropriate, protecting trees through the List of Protected Trees system enables the benefits of trees to people and nature to be safe-guarded and maintained. This needs to be done in a common-sense way with clear guidance and backed up by the ability to enforce where necessary. At present the Listing system is unclear, and often confused with Tree Preservation Orders in place in parts of the UK. Addressing this is seen as a priority by many involved in stakeholder and wider engagement.

The following principles will guide us:

- Hold more detailed discussions with interested parties about the extent of freedoms appropriate to both protect trees and enable necessary management. Tree protection has common sense exemptions and permissions for tree and hedgerow management specifying species, size, health, and issues to which exemptions apply – including pruning, branchage and pollarding.

- Ensure that protection goes beyond amenity and includes other values (e.g., locking up carbon, habitat/nature benefit, recreation benefit, ecological function in the landscape). The tree protection system is clear, easy, cost effective, works, and enforced when necessary, and distinguishes between domestic curtilage, townscape, and countryside.
- Regarding tree health, professional operators must be able to recognise significant pest and disease issues and have a responsibility to report those sightings to the competent authority.
- Trees face increasing risks to their health from current pests and pathogens combined with the stresses of climate change, but also with new biosecurity risks presented by pests and pathogens moving both naturally and being trafficked by human activity. New diseases such as sudden oak death and ash dieback have created significant impacts in Europe and a crucial tool in reducing risks and potential damage is a skilled and observant industry invested in protecting the health of trees.
- Sentinel Sites to be established under the Biosecurity Strategy to monitor for a range of pests and diseases, and provide public information/create engagement on the biosecurity risks trees face.
- Permission should be sought by arborists prior to cutting down trees and hedges of a certain size (to be defined), and to look at the feasibility that cutting down of trees and hedgerows by anyone should be authorised in advance.
- Extend hedgerow protection beyond current situation of only protecting the boundary between two landowners.
- Prior to revision and enhancement of protection laws, existing policies and protection of trees through should be fully applied and enforced.
- Trees in public parks and green spaces should be protected from development and well managed.
- Established trees to be kept on development sites should be protected and looked after to avoid root and crown damage during construction. Offsetting with new planting is last resort.
- Protect woodlands, align objectives to the Island Plan and Biodiversity Strategy, and consider State purchase of special sites.
- Ensure tree protection is compatible with other Jersey legislation and incorporates British Standards and best practice from across Europe.


Image © SP

B.7.4 Establish New Trees

In line with the principle of Right for Jersey: Right Tree, Right Place, identify opportunities to establish new trees in Jersey. This provides the chance to green our town and other settlements with a view to benefitting people and creating green links for nature. We also need to make the most of the benefits that more trees in the countryside, as part of hedgerows or woods, can bring for nature, agriculture, and people.

The following principles will guide us:

- Tree planting in urban and rural areas will be increased and encouraged, with a presumption of planting native species in the countryside and the most suitable species (not necessarily native trees) in urban areas. This could include fruit trees, particularly in areas of deprivation and away from roads and paths.
- Provide clear guidance for tree planting considering the mix of species and density of planting with appropriate spacing.[20] Wherever possible avoid the use of plastic guards and materials when tree planting. After planting, maintain well for 5 years and provide longer-term protection thereafter whilst they are safe and healthy.
- Aim to future-proof planting by factoring in climate change and the change in growing conditions. For example, sourcing clean seed stock from a range of local provenance as well as more southerly locations for the same species may help promote greater resilience and vigour in the population long term. Where species will tolerate predicted climate change, promote the benefit of using saplings grown from Jersey tree stocks. Ensure a diversity of tree species to increase resilience.
- Get specialist advice (based on best available current knowledge) on the likely resilience of Jersey tree species to climate change[21], the need for climate and species matching, and where it is thought necessary to source trees from.
- Wherever possible, grow local stock rather than import it. This reduces biosecurity risks and may harness any local disease resistance or climatic adaptation that has developed. When importing new stock all plant health regulations and local biosecurity measures are observed i.e. certified and cleaned and correctly certified plants for planting. Grow local saplings under optimal conditions for good root development. Use ‘plant passports’ for any saplings, root stock or larger trees that are imported. Grow and introduce tree species that are native but rare in Jersey.
- On development sites, look at mechanisms to incorporate green infrastructure within the development and connect with existing green infrastructure, tree lined roads and routeways.

[20] Tighter spacing can help to suppress weeds more quickly and can help reduce the need for more mowing during the establishment years. So, it can be more cost effective to plant densely (i.e. 2m spacing or less).
[21] "Association Futiae Irregulaire" may be able to offer relevant French Atlantic Woodland knowledge and expertise

Planting plans should be agreed and made accessible to the public so they can envisage what it will be like in the short, medium, and long term.

- Experts should advise on planting plans for new trees to ensure the right tree in the right place (factoring in which tree species suit local factors such as soil type, water availability, underground utilities, maintenance accessibility and potential hazards) and factor in the benefits of trees for shade, shelter, pollinators and other wildlife, and potential health and safety issues of trees on roadsides.
- Seek opportunities for trees to help make connections across the Island. Identify suitable locations for the creation of 'green corridors' for people within and between urban and rural areas, and for the creation of better hedgerow and linear woodland networks, 'wildlife corridors,' to increase habitat and nature connectivity. There should be a 200 year/life of tree commitment to management when planting trees in green spaces.
- Develop mechanisms for supporting and incentivising hedgerow creation and good management including through business sponsorship. The 2,600km of boundaries in Jersey[22] provide an opportunity for tree planting and hedgerow creation. Development of double or even triple width hedgerows incentivised through government schemes could create wildlife habitats, capture carbon, stop erosion, and provide other benefits. Connectivity between woods and with other habitats as part of wider green infrastructure created with hedgerows and new woodland.

[22] Henney et al 2011

Image D Dudley

Green our Town

In urban areas, trees improve resilience to the impacts of climate change, helping people and communities adapt. Trees have a positive impact on health and wellbeing, the ability to help filter noise and air pollution, to cool built up areas[23], and reduce risks of flooding as part of SuDS[24].

The importance of trees, both as features in our streets and as part of parks and open spaces is widely recognised. Studies into open spaces within the urban environment encompassing parts of St. Helier, St. Clement and St. Saviour (where approx. 35% of Jersey's population live) recognise the value of the different kinds of spaces[25], and the Draft Bridging Island Plan sets out the need for more and of better quality.[26] Additionally for younger people, green spaces with trees form a key focus of play with 'parks' and 'woods' being rated highly (3rd and 4th behind 'home and 'beaches') in the Report on Children's' Play Consultations [27].

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[23] Bowler et al 2010 https://www.researchgate.net/publication/236332932_Urban_greening_to_cool_towns_and_cities_A_systematic_review_of_the_empirical_evidence

[24] Forest Research (2021) and Draft Bridging Island Plan p.283-285

[25] St. Helier Open Space: Audit Summary (2018) at https://www.gov.je/SiteCollectionDocuments/Planning%20and%20building/R%20St%20Helier%20Open%20Space%20Audit%20ND.pdf

[26] States of Jersey (2008) https://www.gov.je/SiteCollectionDocuments/Government%20and%20administration/R%20OpenSpaceStudyJPC%2020080701.pdf and Draft Bridging Island Plan (2021)

[27] https://www.gov.je/Government/Pages/StatesReports.aspx?ReportID=651

The following principles will guide us:

- Ensure higher levels of planting on new development schemes and consider that 'big is better' with larger trees providing larger benefits[28]. Avoid utilities or use protective structures or ducting to help realise this and promote longevity of trees on a site.
- Planting standards to be part of the accreditation scheme for all contractors to ensure that all work meets that standard and there is not a cost incentive to use unskilled contractors that damages trees.
- Promote use of the most effective methods for tree establishment in urban areas[29]. This is more likely to be planting directly into the ground rather than planters, and planting rather than self-sown.
- Apply the right tree right place principle and factor in crown and root spread, the soil and drainage, role in green infrastructure, amenity, and character to optimise the benefits.
- The default choice should be native Jersey species, whilst recognising these are not always the best choice for street trees and urban environments. Encourage existing commercial and domestic buildings and grounds to contribute to canopy cover and green infrastructure.
- Provide or link to guidance for the public and businesses to help them select the best trees for their situation[30].
- On development sites, tree planting and green infrastructure plans are implemented, and trees are maintained until they are established. These trees and their root systems should have long-term protection. Follow up is in place by the Government Tree Officer or Government Landscape Architect to ensure that any conditions of planning approval are met and maintained.

Image M Scott

- Seek opportunities to plant trees in existing parks, gardens, and public spaces, and to include them in the creation of new open spaces.
- Plant appropriate trees along roads and where it won't compromise safety, and to help create 'green corridors' for people and nature within urban and between urban and rural areas.

B.7.5 Leadership and Collaboration

To realise this strategy and its benefits for Jersey's people and nature, Government leadership and support is a crucial factor. Part of that is providing up to date and easily accessible guidance, data

[28] Forestry Commission (2010) https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/718033/eng-casefortrees.pdf p.21

[29] Forest Research (-) https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/fthr/urban-tree-manual/

[30] Example: Hiron & Sjorman/TDAG (2019) :https://www.tdag.org.uk/uploads/4/2/8/0/4280686/tdag_treespeciesguidev1.3.pdf

and information, supported by engagement and education to ensure that key behaviours are adopted, and measures understood.

We can make an important difference to outcomes by continuing to work collaboratively and looking for new opportunities to support collaborative working with and through partners, stakeholders, communities, organisations, and businesses.

The following principles will guide us:

- Dedicated Government resources will be allocated to deal with matters relating to trees. This will enable ease of communication on tree matters, the ability to act pro-actively, and to respond swiftly to requests or reports. Of particular importance are resources connected to planning and development, and training and upskilling Customs Officers in pests and diseases.
- Create or enable a central hub of information, data, guidance, and news about Trees and Hedgerows.
- Ensure that guidance material on tree management and care, and information about approved contractors and standards are publicly and easily accessible.
- Carry out monitoring and surveying on a regular basis (3-5 years) to keep information about tree stock up to date. Share tree and woodland data with partners, stakeholders, and the public.
- Facilitate collaborative working with and between partners, communities, businesses, and organisations.
- Support and enable grassroots activities to succeed and align with the Tree Strategy Principles. Including community led and managed green spaces.
- Engage communities and business in caring for street trees, for example as tree wardens and with visual information for education (e.g. with signs, posters, QR codes or apps). Simple interactive mapping could encourage better management and protection of trees, with public engagement even including crowdsourcing woodland and tree related information using mobile data capture.
- Funding mechanisms will be investigated to support the planting, establishment, and maintenance of trees. These could include development contributions, creation of a fund for trees, compensation, private investment, donations, and off-setting. In turn the funds could be used to incentivise behaviours or provide practical support for communities and landowners around tree or hedgerow planting, natural regeneration, or woodland management.

B.8 Governance and Implementation

A Tree Strategy Sounding Board consisting of key stakeholders (Annex 3) will be set up to work alongside government and relevant partners to develop an action plan. This will review proposed actions from the stakeholder deliberations (see Annex 1) and set out how the strategy will be delivered. We aim to publish the action plan in late 2022. The Sounding Board will meet every three months to review progress and share this and updates with wider stakeholders.

The Strategy will be reviewed every 5 years in the same way it was created: inviting key stakeholders to deliberate over what is working well, what needs to be changed, done differently and any new priorities. Action plans will be treated as a live document to be reviewed yearly and updated as required to maintain momentum.

A dedicated hub for trees and related information, guidance, links, and updates is planned for the Government of Jersey's website. This will be accessible to Jersey residents and interested parties and act as a go-to point for identifying key contacts.

B.8.1 Working together for trees over the long term

To keep momentum up and to aid implementation of the Tree Strategy, it is important to identify existing initiatives, practice, and resources in the Island. Offers of support and resources link and build on that work and expertise and enable cooperation and collaboration between stakeholders.

Stakeholders at the workshops identified opportunities to share information and resources for mutual benefit. This recognised that their involvement so far demonstrated support for the process, and that all stakeholders had networks to communicate with and through to aid further development and implementation.

Resources that are or could be available for the Jersey Tree Strategy were put forward by many of the workshop participants. These have been organised into groups and summarised in Annex 4.

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Annex 1 Proposed Actions

The below tables contain ideas for actions put forward by stakeholders and survey respondents. They will be considered further during the next stage of this process.

Look After Existing Trees: Good Management, and Tree Protection	
Maintain and Manage Trees	
Standards	Set standards and provide guidance and a code of conduct for citizens, landowners and tree surgeons so everyone knows where they stand and their responsibilities. Ensure these standards draw on best practice in Britain and internationally and incur penalties for noncompliance. This scheme needs to cover sourcing, planting, maintenance, felling and use of tree materials.
	All special trees should be managed following the Arboriculture Association guidelines for old and special tree management carried out by skilled and qualified people (validated by a tree surgeon accreditation system).
Pests and diseases	Ensure the information hub includes clear advice about tree pests and diseases to avoid them entering the country and tackle those that are here.
	Professional operators trained in Pest and Disease identification and aware of their reporting responsibilities.
	Sentinel Sites in place to monitor Pests and Diseases.
	Work to make public aware of Biosecurity risks, benefits, and key organisms.
	Programmed surveys and contingency plans in place for regulated organisms.
Felling	Any trees that are consented for felling to be replaced with the number of trees based that offset lost carbon and other values.
Making use of cut wood	Support with seed funding new enterprises to make the best use of cut tree material (noting chipping and burning releases carbon) e.g. for fencing, furniture, artisanal products, features in buildings, construction, charcoal and kiln dried timber.
Woodland management	Produce an Island-wide approach to woodland management with long-term planning and funding, protection and enforcement to prevent whole woodlands from being felled for development, and an emphasis on actively managing woodlands for nature and climate change.
	Create a register of woodland ownership and then invest in greater training and information about woodland management to all woodland owners.
	Manage woodland access with information about where you can go and that you can't walk through private woodlands and with agreed areas for different recreation needs including bikers.
Hedgerows	Use best local management methods (branchage) but must be carried out in a sympathetic way to nature and landscape.

Protect Existing Trees	
Tree Protection	Implement current protection fully whilst new system comes into place.
	Protect what we've got: all trees above a certain height, width and age, hedgerows, groups of trees and woodlands and groups of trees as well as individual trees whether in urban or countryside areas
	Tree protection has common sense exemptions and permissions for tree and hedgerow management specifying species, size, health and issue to which exemptions apply – including pruning, branchage and pollarding.
	Ensure protection goes beyond amenity to include other values (locking up carbon, habitat/nature benefit, recreation benefit, ecological function in the landscape).
	Protection distinguishes between domestic curtilage, townscape and countryside.
	Where trees do need to be removed, for example as a result of disease, there should be a legal requirement to replace them with several appropriate tree (number to be agreed) so that we end up with more overall.
Special trees	Extend the list of 'special trees' that have additional protection and:
	Agree criteria to include amenity, and wildlife, community, heritage, memorial, ceremonial and functional landscape significance.
	Citizens can propose the listing of trees.
	Map these trees on a publicly accessible map (on the information hub).
	Ensure these trees have a higher standard of management.
	Ensure a reporting mechanism if parish tree champions or citizens see a risk or threat to a special tree/ clump of trees.
	Report on the status of special trees every 3 to 5 years.
Hedgerows	Hedgerow protection extended to all established farmland native hedgerows.
	Recognise hedgerows as an asset in Agricultural policy.
Green spaces	Trees in public parks and green spaces should be protected from development and well managed.
New development (above a certain scale)	Any tree removal between change in land ownership and applying for planning permission will be a specific offence and incur stiff financial penalties based on a double-digit percentage of the land/property value.
	Agree scale of development for which protection and planting measures apply.
	For new development protection should be factored into the whole process from pre application site survey, design, creation of detailed plans, planning permission, construction and after care - and used consistently across all projects above a certain scale.
	Require developers to have tree surveys carried out as part of the planning process and make the findings publicly available. Information should include the number and

	location of trees, their root zones, presence of trees of particular heritage or wildlife value.
	Established trees to be kept on development sites should be protected and looked after to avoid root and crown damage during construction. To ensure this happens developers to have a protection plan implemented during construction phase.
	Permission should only be given to proposals that demonstrate this standard of care for existing and new trees.
	Developers must implement their tree planting and green infrastructure plans and maintain trees until they are established. These trees and their root systems should have long-term protection.
	New development (above a certain size) should contribute to Jersey's trees and net zero in the following ways:
	Pay into a fund for ongoing maintenance of trees on site.
	Compensate for any permitted felling with a net increase in trees on or if necessary off site.
	An amount to go to green infrastructure. (This could be based on a calculation that would offset the carbon impacts of building materials and construction as well as any tree loss).
Establish new Trees	
Right Tree Right Place	Create clear guidance on what right tree right places means for Jersey and factor in tree resilience to future climate change in the life of the tree (given some Jersey species will not survive predicted growing conditions).
Tree planning using locally grown trees	Form a working group of government staff at Howard Davis, Trees for Life, Overdale Group, the Horticultural Training Centre and others (e.g. Jersey Royal, Jersey Dairy, and Genuine Jersey) to develop a plan to find funding and build the capacity and nurseries to grow local saplings and meet the much greater demand for new trees (needed in development, urban greening and hedge and woodland creation).
	A tree growing operation that is fully operational and has a stable business model selling trees to developers and landowners at competitive cost and working with volunteers and schools to provide trees free to charities and communities.
	Find mechanisms to support and incentivise use of locally produced trees.
	Establish a tree bank to source and certify seeds and saplings and certify they are grown to both quality and environmental standards (this could be a commercial business not government).
Green Infrastructure	Work with stakeholders to create a green infrastructure plan and agree priority locations and features (noting that not all green features haves the same benefits).
	The Government have identified priority areas and corridors, which should be enhanced to create a better-connected network of habitats and routes across Jersey. Priority given to increasing functional connections ecologically and for access.

	Promote and encourage contributions at all scales by making the maps widely available and helping people see what native trees and other species they plant in their gardens, community or recreation grounds to increase the green connections.
	Community set up and managed green spaces should be supported and incentivised.
Green spaces	Increase the number, type and quality of public spaces expanding beyond the traditional notion of parks and gardens to greener streets and micro pocket parks and meeting places, community orchards or scattered fruit trees, and play spaces with natural materials.
	Green the centre of the town and smaller settlements.
	Create more diverse woodlands (species and age) and investigate the potential and locations for creating multi species micro forests in our towns and settlements (Miyawaki Forests) to absorb more carbon than other kinds of planting.
Establishing new woods	Expand the areas of woods with natural regeneration or tree planting and on marginal land and prioritise the best locations.
	Evaluate and reform current land laws (the Agricultural Land (Controls of Sale and Leases) (Jersey) Law 1974) to allow appropriate planting.
Establishing new hedgerows	Prioritise planting hedgerows strategically (as part of green infrastructure) to increase connectivity between habitats and variety across the Island.
Establishing some woods through Natural regeneration	Once the baseline survey and opportunity map is created and analysed, map out suitable locations and set a target for how much land is set aside for natural regeneration.
	Agree and provide guidance with landowners, farmers and nature reserve managers on where natural regeneration is preferred to planting, and when and what management is needed for success with some areas left to nature and others where a “naturally established /actively managed” approach is better.
	Provide funding, support and incentives for natural regeneration (as for tree planting) and what management is needed if any (e.g if invasive tree species need to be removed).
Leadership & Collaboration	
Act	Act rapidly and with urgency.
Championing	Appoint a tree champion for Jersey supported by parish level champions.
Strategy Implementation	Establish mechanism for Government to work across departments.
	Take an integrated system approach to trees, hedges and woodlands.
	Set up a sounding board of stakeholders to work on the details and implementation of this strategy (see Annex 3).

	Bring stakeholders together to collaborate on firming up details of protection laws, policies, exemptions, scales and clear easy to use procedures and what they mean and how they work in practice.
	Engage the community and business in developing small and localised green infrastructure.
Targets	Set clear measurable and ambitious targets as soon as possible once the survey and opportunity map is created and analysed. This should set well informed and ambitious targets against which monitoring and success can be evaluated and those responsible held accountable.
	Where targets are likely to be contentious co-produce them for maximum buy in and implementation.
Real benefits understood and factored in to decision making	Improve the evidence base and calculate the benefits of different species of trees (for example locking up carbon, catching pollution, producing oxygen, or for nature and wellbeing). This will bring into view the real benefits of trees and the loss of benefits if a tree or woodland is felled.
Tree climate resilience	Get specialist advice (based on best available current knowledge) on the likely resilience of Jersey tree species to climate change, the need for climate and species matching, and where it is necessary, where to source trees from.
Right tree right place	Tree planting in urban and rural areas will be increased, with a presumption of planting native species in the countryside and the most suitable species (not necessarily native trees) in urban areas.
	Climate change conditions will be factored into the selection, location and species planted as well as other conditions (existing habitats, geology, soil condition, weather exposure, space constraints, underground utilities and infrastructure, disease susceptibility, human activities, landscape character).
	Areas will be identified where trees should not be grown including special habitats (meadows, marshlands, bogs, dunes) and treasured views.
	Resources for action.
Build capacity	Amendment No 8 will mark a significant shift in tree protection. Commensurate resources should be provided for dedicated and skilled tree officer/s to administer the current and new system when it comes into force.
	Upskill planers and landscape architects to understand a truer value of trees and what right tree in the right place means for Jersey and in practice.
	Maintain a list of experts in tree pests and diseases and skill up government officers and custom officers to recognise them.
Accredited tree surgeons	Create an approved list and accreditation scheme for tree surgeons and arboriculturists including offering training and upskilling for those who want to be able to do tree, hedgerow, and woodland planting and maintenance work in the future. Support and guidance for those trained to do work on own property. Ensure enhanced skills for work on special trees.

Funding	Increase funding for parks and outdoor spaces in light of the evidence of their role in wellbeing and places to meet and socialise during the pandemic.
	Increase funding for the enhancement of green infrastructure across the Island including urban and countryside providing functional connectivity for nature and people.
	Explore the scope and optimum mechanism for business to invest in trees, hedges, woods and green spaces through Corporate Social Responsibility /Environment Society and Governance initiatives, sponsorship, carbon credit schemes, via a centralised fund, or other ways to give back to the communities they are in and new trees to be sustained over their lifetime.
	Set up a Jersey Tree Fund for people to contribute to.
	Raise funds through development mechanism.
	Provide support to property owners who have old and special trees.
	Provide support to woodland owners.
	Information for sound decision making.
Survey/baseline and opportunity map	A thorough tree survey and opportunity map. This is essential to provide baseline data about the current situation and opportunities. For more on this see section 2.3 and Annex 2.
	The baseline should be updated and monitored using remote sensing to assess progress and spot breaches that can be identified and acted on.
Information hub	Set up a centralised information hub on gov.je for all tree, hedgerow and woodland information, current procedures, changes underway, guidance and standards,) with links through to the tree survey map, map of special trees, and opportunity map. It should include.
	Who is responsible for what (Government, property owner, landowners, developer, charity).
	The value of the benefits of trees and cost to nature, climate and people of removal.
	Guidance on tree, woodland and hedgerow management.
	Tree diseases and pests, how to avoid them entering the country and what to do if you spot them.
	Guidance about which tree species are suitable for which areas based on soils, drainage and landscape and connectivity and factoring climate change.
Realise the Benefits of Trees for People	
Access	Improve and maintain public access routes and footpaths in woodlands, including within private land.
	Make more public and government land accessible.
Education	Expand the curriculum to include environmental education for all years including sustainability and the countryside code.

	Develop a resource hub for educators, including funding for more school trips into green spaces, online classes, and self-guided walks.
	Establish opportunities and infrastructure for further study and adult education (i.e., re-forming the Island's agricultural/horticultural college).
Engagement	Create new arts and events around trees in order to: Improve public understanding and appreciation for local trees Provide year-round education Improve wellbeing Encourage community pride Encourage long-term behaviour change Involve community with planning, planting, maintenance and surveying

Annex 2 Review of Jersey's Tree Survey Data

Dialogue Matters team gathered and reviewed several woodland and tree surveys for Jersey and scored them according to:

- Currency – how up to date the data is
- Consistency – methodology (how the data was collected), classification and replicability
- Completeness – coverage across Jersey
- GIS Readiness – how easy it is to use the data within a GIS for visualisation, analysis and sharing

Survey Name	Survey Type	Currency	Consistency	Completeness	GIS Readiness
Dissertation	Woodland	1984		27 woodlands	Grid references
Habitat Survey	Woodland	1998			?
Habitat Survey	Woodland	2011	Phase 1		Esri
St. Catherine's Woodland	Woodland	2010		1 woodland	
Tree Survey Fieldworker	Trees	2019-2020	Limited species		Grid references
Tree Survey Data Export	Trees	2019			Grid references
Esri Tree Survey Map	Trees	2020-2021	Limited species		Esri
Tree Records Jersey Biodiversity	Trees	1986-2020	Inconsistent methodology		Grid references
St. Helier Town Tree Survey	Trees	?		10 trees	
Woodland Bird Survey	Woodland	1994		7 woodlands	
Conservation & Management of 3 Woodlands & Bird Fauna	Woodland	1995		3 woodlands	

This survey data was not found to be available publicly online via any GIS downloads or hosted interactive maps.

The last complete survey of Jersey – a habitat survey (applying an approach called Phase 1) carried out in 2011 – is due to be updated as per a usual 10-year update cycle.

Annex 3 Setting up a Sounding Board

Workshop participants were asked to consider the setting up of a group of stakeholders, a 'Sounding Board', to support the strategy and implementation. The group would act as a 'critical friend' advising and feeding back on implementation of the strategy and help prioritise work and achieve quick wins to build momentum. The group would also ensure that it is appropriate for Jersey and uses up-to-date local information and science from several different sources.

Ongoing collaboration, applying the knowledge, views, and available resources of the group in a joined-up way would turn the strategy into something that is objective, practical, and achievable. Where needed they can problem solve, potentially using modelling scenarios and Digital Jersey project to assist. Communication with wider groups and through the stakeholders' networks would be a key function. This would help ensure that information and issues could be brought back to the board to help with delivering of the strategy. By operating beyond established political cycles, it would provide a longer-term view of legislation and broader perspectives.

Questions of resourcing and funding could either be within the remit of the group or remain separate so as to focus on the objectives. Either way it is not expected that establishing the Sounding Board itself will need large amounts of Government funding or resource.

Make-up of the Sounding Board

Organising the group well and ensuring that it has the right balance of stakeholders and views to meet its objectives is important to maintain broad and holistic treatment of trees, woodland and hedgerows from many angles in the changing climate and nature context. The workshops brought a broad range of people with differing life views together for the benefit of this strategy. It was widely felt that maintaining this breadth of views is important in the Sounding Board.

When it comes to the make-up of the group a few existing or previous groups could be used as a model or guide on bringing the right people together with a common objective: The Jersey Tree & Hedgerow Forum; Action for Cleaner Water Group; and the Economic Council. Also, learnings from the Jersey Coastal National Park working group could inform and help ensure the effectiveness of the board. Indeed, the Jersey Tree Advisory Group/Tree & Hedgerow Group could potentially serve this function.

The proposed 12 places on the board, whilst practical in terms of resources, is potentially restrictive. To overcome the challenge of having the right number and kinds of people on the group, a suggestion is to have a circulating membership where specific issues could be addressed by bringing specific expertise and people in, covering the different specialities and professions as required. This should include consideration of the differing environments, countryside, and town.

Mechanisms need to be in place to ensure that individuals deliver, are representative of the stakeholder groups, and representative of the equality and diversity on the Island. Including different age groups is seen as important, specifically the opportunity to include fresh perspectives from the Jersey Youth Parliament for example. Guidance is needed to make sure that involving many people still delivers consensus and agreement.

Benefits

A Sounding Board to support the Jersey Tree Strategy and its implementation would help to maintain focus on trees, and the momentum and motivation to deliver. The board could extend communication networks, providing an opportunity to clearly communicate and engage with people and the third sector about the strategy and what the Government are doing. The board would recognise that trees are not just a Government issue and be able to challenge the Government and help keep the topic on the agenda.

Operating independently from Government and partnering private and public sectors would help keep the process embedded with all stakeholders working and living with trees. And taking a joined-up approach to trees and tree management enables closer collaboration, harnessing the good work done so far, and putting everyone in a stronger position going forward.

Recognising that trees are complex, interacting with many people and other living things, it is important to ensure that the board includes a range of diverse perspectives, with broad and deep expertise, similar in nature to those invited to take part in the workshops. Maintaining broad representation would enable continued holistic consideration of the topics and allow horizon scanning for wider trends and changes.

A Sounding Board offers a relatively inexpensive resource for Government policy, and the group could bring in alternative or innovative ideas for funding, including from external sources.

The group could play a key role in ensuring that the wide-ranging discussions of the workshops and wider engagement are filtered and prioritised into practical and achievable actions over short, medium, and long timescales. There is an opportunity for further public consultation or focus groups, which can also create challenges.

Challenges

Allowing sufficient resources for it to run effectively, including administrative and financial, is important and demonstrates commitment. Correct resourcing will enable the group to maintain independence and minimise the risk of it losing focus on purpose or being biased towards particular interests.

Keeping the group on track with a clear plan and in its wider context is important. Considering trees in wider climate change initiatives, and as part of the natural environment will be key to maintaining a complete picture. It will also be important to maintain a local Jersey perspective, to stay focused on the actions that can be done practically in the Island.

The challenges of having the right amount and kind of representation on the board reflecting a diverse range of views, whilst looking for consensus and agreement need to be factored in. For some stakeholder groups finding the right individual to sit on the board could be relatively simple to agree (e.g., government, or tree surgeons). Whilst for others this could prove more challenging, but not impossible to achieve (e.g., farmers, landowners). This is partly a challenge of limiting the number of members compared to wanting to include as broad a range of views as possible with limited time and resources.

The group will likely only succeed as long as the Government wants to work with it, so commitment to support it is important. Government needs to ensure that political will is gained and maintained. A political champion to move this forward and ensure it gets the right visibility could help to give the group more weight, allowing the strategy to get the right level of resources.

Resourcing also creates challenges to ensure that the group does not draw funding or time away from the limited amounts available for the strategy and wider responsibilities. Funding to support this group could be focused towards external (non-Government) members, demonstrating the value of local expertise. Whilst funds are currently available in support of climate change related initiatives, securing ongoing funding could be an issue.

Annex 4 Offers, Assets, & Resources

Government

- Government websites
- Natural Environment (Government of Jersey) offering to work in joined up way
- Linkage into funding – rural initiative scheme, CES (Countryside Enhancement Scheme)
- We already have mapping and 'Apping' for disease monitoring
- Space and facilities for tree nurseries
- We can offer connectivity into UK scientific community – Defra etc, into other UK based initiatives to engage people with trees,
- The Planning Dept is good at regulating and processing applications to change. But it may not be skilled or resourced to assess tree impacts
- To set up a local tree nursery, already considering and will look to advance
- Have already been charged with establishing an accreditation scheme for local tree surgeons
- Creating a set of guidance notes for the protection of species – this will include trees. Existing guidance may inform this.
- Help find volunteers and enthusiastic people – through the business network can engage business which could lead to suggested actions or tree planting – maybe paying for resources potential that this can help join up the private sector and the people that can do the work
- Can offer everything suggested but does not have the resources to do it – stretched too far
- We can offer biosecurity advice, import export advice – pest and disease diagnosis etc
- Assuming the minister adopts the Jersey Tree Strategy when it is completed - planning policy will uphold the Jersey Tree Strategy and maintain its objectives. We would also work with colleagues to ensure the legal protection of trees
- A land character map (developed in Government) would be helpful in identifying places for planting - has been published recently and can inform this issue (accessible from the Government Website - Landscape character appraisal here: https://www.gov.je/SiteCollectionDocuments/Government%20and%20administration/ID%20Jersey%20Integrated%20Landscape%20and%20Seascape%20Character%20Assessment%20(ILSCA).pdf.
- Land & Resource Mgmt. New Wildlife Law. Continue to engage stakeholders, provide advice / guidance on best practice
- Education and cultivate program
- Advising people where not to plant (dunes, marshes, meadows etc)

NGO & Charities

- Scope within the existing environmental volunteering groups to undertake work including data collection on current stock
- National Trust can offer non-commercial advice about management – not rafts of reports but initial site visit to advise the public on tree / meadow management
- Charities e.g., Trees for life
- Jersey biodiversity centres
- Tap into volunteer resource for bigger impact
- Grow project
- Volunteer agencies assist/contribute with monitoring
- Volunteer agencies e.g., Société Jersiaise, Jersey Biodiversity Centre
- Offers view of people who use/regularly use the countryside for recreation
- All the NGOs would offer their previous planting projects and share learnings from these exercises and support the identification of gaps

- If and when a data set is available, of the tree canopy but within particular veteran and ancient trees, we can consider adding that layer to the existing historic environment record *for consideration whether further resource or gov support will be needed to do that
- Lots of interest and activity in the voluntary sector too - not sure how they get involved with commercial projects, but they could obviously offer support to the charitable sector and environmental department tasks
- Setting up the tree nursery (Parks & Gardens & Forestry) and Biodiversity - Government departments.
- Aspiring Jersey Island geopark as we look to develop our education programme in relation to jersey's natural heritage we can look into developing resources/activates around trees
- Professional ecologist on Island that can advise
- Education process, planting in rural and urban areas [Jersey Trees for Life]
- Expertise in identifying natural history that would be involved in looking after trees - large database of experts - targeted in-depth research funded by the government [The Société Jersiaise]
- Aspiring Island geopark can tap into the global geopark network (169 in 41 countries) - to suss out what everyone else is doing around trees. Working group for worldwide and Islands that connect either designated to UNESCO global geoparks or aspiring one
- Provide a social perspective on benefits of new tree planting/biodiversity/urban planting and access to more green areas and the impact on the global psyche [MIND Jersey]
- Experience in managing unusual trees and how they do in the Island - also seed bank and native pollinating wildflowers/apple trees - experience in social aspects of opening areas to the public and how they behave, what facilities they need, how you get people together to enjoy a site
- Members represent a chunk of the Island's population with interest in natural schemes
- Used similar format to get working group going - at the outset people who stepped forward were present to defend areas of interest rather than promoting positive steps forward - change in atmosphere after a few meetings [Coastal National Park]

Farmers and landowners

- Agricultural industry
- Dairy industry farming 25% of the countryside, we are creating a wildlife plan – Jersey Milk Marketing Board
- NT has more resources available in terms of woodland itself – finding the time and resources is difficult
- The growers in the Island have made a large difference in the branchage, there's a lot of information and expertise within the growers, need more communication between groups so we can make improvements
- The Jersey Farmers' Union are happy to sit down and talk with other groups to help make a bigger difference
- Dairy industry - practical delivery of tree planting (in rural areas)

Parishes and Communities

- Community as a resource – experience of groups like St Brelade's Bay Association – can be used to inform communities on how to organise themselves better to assist with outcomes
- Parishes – can build on parish infrastructure and mailing lists to provide information and collect it
- Review of proposed regulations, Code of conducts, discussing in context of Tree Surgeons. Liaison with Jersey Statistical user group
- Might the local climate change forum have input to this? They are quite a large group and could be consulted

Professionals & Business

- Existing guidance for the management of trees and working around trees and mapping services for all underground utilities – already available and a commitment to maintain that
- Professional ecologists – often overlooked

- Happy to do any work that may be required to look after and manage [Tree Surgeon]
- Knowledge and expertise [Tree Surgeon]
- Standard / accreditation to register for people who work on trees (commercial)
- Over ten years of ariel photography of the Island
- The Association of Jersey Architects would circulate information among members and aim to protect trees, create new habitat, protect wildlife etc. A Jersey Tree Strategy would be helpful in supporting discussions with clients
- Tree surgeons; survey work, inspections
- Explore opportunities for sponsorship from financial companies
- We can assist in the development of a green network strategy

Young people

- For the Jersey Youth Parliament - young voice/fresh voice i.e., students, school children as to how this affects them and what we can do to make a difference