

Carmarthenshire County Council

Tree and Woodland Strategy 2024–2029

Carmarthenshire County Council

December 2024

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Abbreviations

ADB	Ash Dieback
AQMA	Air Quality Management Areas
BBNP	Bannau Brycheiniog National Park
CCC	Carmarthenshire County Council (also referred to as the 'Council')
GBI	Green and Blue Infrastructure
NRW	Natural Resources Wales
PPW	Planning Policy Wales
rLDP	revised Local Development Plan
WG	Welsh Government

1. Introduction

Foreword by Cllr. Aled Vaughan Owen, Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Decarbonisation and Sustainability

Carmarthenshire County Council plays an important role as we address the threats of a climate and nature emergency. As we embark on this journey, we recognize the vital role that trees and woodlands play in our environment, culture, and well-being. This strategy reflects our commitment to preserving and enhancing these precious resources for current and future generations. By fostering sustainable management practices, engaging our communities, and embracing innovation, we aim to create a greener, more resilient future for our county. Together, we can nurture thriving ecosystems, celebrate our rich natural heritage, and build a legacy of harmony between people and nature.

Sign Off

Cllr. Aled Vaughan Owen

Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Decarbonisation and Sustainability

21/08/23

Director's Foreword

The Welsh Government and Carmarthenshire County Council have declared Climate and Nature Emergencies. Emergencies require a proportionate response. The role that trees and woodland planting play in mitigating climate change and nature recovery is well documented, and as recognised in this strategy, tree and woodland planting deliver numerous other benefits. As a landowner the Council has an opportunity to contribute positively to the wider strategy and help address both these issues through the way it

manages its land, and in particular its tree and woodlands, and this strategy sets out how the Council will do this.

The strategy proposes a stepwise approach, with a long-term target of aiming to increase tree and woodland cover on Council land to 17% in line with the UK Climate Change Committee's guidance. The strategy advises that for the first 5 years, this target should be more modest, while we adopt new working practices and engage with stakeholders. The delivery of the strategy will be reviewed every 5 years to ensure it remain in line with policy, and the best available science.

Delivery of this strategy will undoubtedly mean that we will have to make changes in how we manage Council land. The planting of trees and establishment of new woodlands will raise challenges, which we must embrace. In the long-term thought must be given to how we fund and maintain our trees and woodlands.

As Director of Place and Infrastructure I endorse the actions within the strategy and provide my support to address these challenges and deliver the various actions in the strategy. Of course, all relevant service areas across the Authority will have a significant part to play in managing their respective landholdings accordingly. Delivery of the strategy will result in our land (the places where we work, live and access services) being used to support more trees, being greener and more biodiverse.

Sign Off

Ainsley Williams

Director, Place and Infrastructure 21/08/2023

1.1. Why a Tree & Woodland Strategy?

- 1.1.1. This strategy sets out how and why CCC will manage the trees and woodlands, for which it is responsible. It also sets out how and why CCC will ensure it plants more trees and more woodland in appropriate places, for the right reasons. In delivering the strategy contains CCC will play its part in mitigating both the Nature and the Climate Change Emergencies which it and Welsh Government have declared. Successful delivery of the proposed strategy will also delivering the numerous other benefits which trees and woodlands provide.
- 1.1.2. The delivery of the strategy will require commitment and involvement of many CCC officers across different departments and service areas. Services area that are responsible for the management of land – including schools, sports grounds, housing, day centres, care homes, service areas that responsible for developing land-based plans and projects and securing grants, all have a role to play as do and service areas such as Development Management which has a regulatory role. Delivery of the strategy may challenge established land management practices, but change is essential if we are to address the Nature and Climate emergencies, and if we are to enjoy the many benefits the trees and woodland can provide. This strategy, and its delivery will be integrated into CCC's developing Green and Blue Infrastructure work.
- 1.1.3. The strategy has been prepared in response to Action 23 of Carmarthenshire County Council Moving Forward in Carmarthenshire: the next 5 years (2017 – 2022): *Promote a tree strategy to improve the environment and mitigate the effects of air and noise pollution in our more populated areas.*
- 1.1.4. But it is broader in its remit than Action 23, and it reflects CCC's wider management responsibilities for trees and woodlands across its estate, and where and why it would like to plant more trees and woodland, and the steps it need to take to do this. It sets out priorities for action. For reference, maps of Carmarthenshire's three Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) are included in Appendix C.
- 1.1.5. The strategy is consistent with CCC's Cabinet Vision 2022 Statement:
Increase the biodiversity of all council owned land, and recognise the strong interrelationship between climate change, the loss of biodiversity and human wellbeing. Consider the use of CCC land for creating havens of wildflowers and

pollinators, including roadsides and verges. We cannot solve the threats of human induced climate change and loss of biodiversity in isolation. We either solve both or we solve neither.

<https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-democracy/strategies-and-plans/cabinet-vision-statement-2022-2027-july-2022/environment-and-transport/>

It also reflects CCC's Corporate Strategy 2022-27 Well Being Objective 3 – 9

“A biodiverse natural environment is good for well-being, with healthy functioning ecosystems, supporting social, economic, and ecological resilience. “

1.1.6. This strategy is restricted to CCC owned or managed land, and adjoining land where tree issue impact on CCC's responsibilities e.g., trees on private land adjacent to the highway.

1.1.7. In recognition of its wider responsibilities across the county, CCC will continue to run its free woodland management advisory service for landowners. CCC will continue to respond to consultations from NRW on its Long-term Forest Resource Plans for the WG Woodland Estate and to consultations on larger new planting schemes in Special Landscape Areas, or in areas of similar landscape quality.

1.1.8. It is advised that the strategy is reviewed in 2029.

1.2. Trees & Woodlands provide a wealth of benefits

1.2.1. Trees provide us with many benefits, they create a sense of place. Trees, and places with trees are recognised as having a positive impact on mental and physical health: they are places where people choose to relax and exercise. They are key components of Green Infrastructure initiatives.



Figure 1. Trees play a huge role in making and shaping the places and landscapes we enjoy. They provide habitats for wildlife and a host of ecosystem services, every day, for free.

1.2.2. We are regularly reminded of the environmental benefits associated with trees and woodlands; they absorb and store greenhouse gases, and sequester carbon, helping to mitigate climate change, they can help improve air quality and soundscapes, and they create a cooling effect in built up areas. Trees can help reduce flooding by increasing absorption and infiltration of surface water, and they provide a habitat for wildlife and contributing to ecological connectivity and ecosystem resilience, they enhance the landscape. In addition to the above, the trees and woodlands in our agricultural landscapes provide timber and firewood, shelter for stock, they intercept agricultural run-off (e.g., phosphates), and their establishment can improve the workings of the farm in terms of Health and Safety by reducing the number of agricultural operations on steep slopes (for instance).

1.2.3. Trees and woodlands have an economic value, they usually increase property values, and making areas more attractive to investors. They create attractive areas in town centres where people use shops and restaurants and will choose to spend time. A green environment makes for a better work environment; employees who have views of trees and access to areas with trees feel happier and perform better. Visual Amenity Value of trees in monetary terms can be calculated by the Helliwell or the Tempo

System, and we are increasingly aware of the benefits to both our physical and mental health of spending time in wooded or environments with trees.



Figure 2. At Parc Dewi Sant in Carmarthen we have used Welsh Government grant over three winters to plant over 400 trees, ensuring that in years to come there will continue to be a magnificent treescape in this part of Carmarthen. If we are planting new trees it is critical that we allocate time and resources for their long term management.

1.2.4. The strategy reflects the fact that well managed trees and woodlands provide multiple benefits.

2. Background Policy & Strategic Framework

2.1.1. The strategy focuses on delivery and is set out in tables which address CCC's different service areas. Delivery of the actions it contains will address different responsibilities and agendas:

- Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
- Carmarthenshire's Well-being Plan (PSB) and Carmarthenshire County Council's Well-being Objectives Well-being Objective 3 - Enabling our communities and environment to be healthy, safe, and prosperous.
- Environment Act (Wales) 2016
- Carmarthenshire County Council's Environment Act Forward Plan 2023-2025
- Carmarthenshire County Council Cabinet Vision Statement 2022
- Planning Policy Wales PPW12 – with reference to both Chapter 6 and to Green and Blue Infrastructure
- The declaration by the Welsh Government and CCC of both a Climate and Nature Emergency, and the role trees and woodland have in mitigating climate change and delivering opportunities for Nature Recovery.
- It is consistent with the Well Managed Highway Infrastructure – A Code of Practice 2016
- Design Commission for Wales Placemaking Charter to which CCC is a signatory.

3. Overarching Principles

3.1. Strategic Objectives

- 3.1.1. The ten guiding principles developed by Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and Botanic Gardens Conservation International provide guiding principles for managing and planting new trees and woodlands. CCC is adopting these principles in delivering its tree strategy:

Protect existing Forests and areas of existing Biodiversity Interest

- 3.1.2. We should all take measures to combat de-forestation and the loss of trees. At the same time in developing new tree and woodland planting projects we must safeguard areas of existing biodiversity interest such as species rich grasslands, and heathland plant communities.

Work Together with Local People

- 3.1.3. Tree and woodland planting works best when it provides additional benefits for local communities.



In Winter 2022/23 we planted 900 mixed native trees and shrubs with the local community in Sandy Water Park, Llanelli. These are being maintained by the community group assisted by the Outdoor recreation Service.



Figure 3. We are working across departments to identify areas on land that we own which are suitable for tree planting. At Neuadd y Gwendraeth in Drefach , we are developing plans with Education to plant more trees in locations where this will not conflict with other uses of the site. These projects may be eligible for Welsh Government’s Local Places for Nature grant.

Sustainably Design & Manage New and Existing Woodlands

- 3.1.4. This will help to maximise biodiversity recovery and meet multiple goals such as increasing biodiversity, helping the local economy, reducing carbon emissions, providing accessible Green Infrastructure.

Select Appropriate Areas for New Tree & Woodland Planting

- 3.1.5. Some areas such as peatlands, species-rich grasslands and wetlands already contribute significantly to carbon sequestration, in addition to the other ecosystem services that they provide. These areas are not suitable for tree planting as trees can displace the existing biodiversity and do more harm than good. Some of the best places to plant trees are those from which woodland has been lost. Aim to improve the overall extent and ecological connectivity provided by new trees and woodland areas, and look to connect or expand existing woodlands.

Use Natural Regeneration, wherever possible.

- 3.1.6. Let nature do the work for you. Natural regeneration is the process through which a woodland regrows after a piece of land has been abandoned, or when a woodland begins to restore itself after trees have been removed. It is often cheaper, easier and more cost effective. Carbon capture in naturally regenerated land can be 40 times higher than in a conventional plantation.



The thinning of the Corsican Pine at Pembrey Country Park is encouraging the natural regeneration of oak, hazel, and holly.

Select Species to Maximise Biodiversity Gain

- 3.1.7. Introduce a variety of native species that will thrive in the chosen location, this will help to create a new woodland habitat which will be rich in native biodiversity and will be more resilient and less prone to disease. The planting of non-native trees can be appropriate in more urban landscapes and in areas with planned or historic landscapes. Creating new woodland is not just about getting trees in the ground, it is about providing the building blocks of a new ecosystem.

Use Resilient Plant Materials

- 3.1.8. Aim for genetic diversity in the planting stock and consider how the climate of the immediate area may change and make informed choices as to seed collection.

Plan ahead for Infrastructure, Capacity and Seed Supply

- 3.1.9. Work with your local community, provide training and share skills and knowledge regarding collection, storage, and planting of seed. Employing people from the local area helps bolster local economies.

Learn by Doing

- 3.1.10. Research proposals, trial ideas and methods, monitor and adapt.

Make it Pay

- 3.1.11. Realise the economic benefits of a new or regenerating woodland – use the area as a site for local people to enjoy informally or for more formal activities. Regular access to woodlands and trees is beneficial for physical and mental well-being at many levels.

3.2. Delivery Targets

- 3.2.1. Woodland cover in the UK is currently c.13%. In Scotland it is 19%, Wales 15%, England 10% and in Northern Ireland 9% . In Carmarthenshire it is tbc (NRW new figs available). Woodland cover in the UK is one of the lowest in Europe (Spain 37%; Germany and Italy 32%; France 31%).
- 3.2.2. The Woodland Trust's Emergency Tree Plan 2021 states that 17-19% woodland cover is recommended by the UK Committee on Climate Change if the UK is to be carbon neutral by 2050. Consistent with this recommendation Welsh Government (WG) target is to plant 43,000ha of new woodland in Wales by 2030, (or c.5000ha p.a. between 2021 and 2030) which will increase the woodland cover in Wales from 15% to 17%. Scotland's Forestry Strategy 2029 to2029 sets out several goals including increasing forest cover from the current 19% to 21%by 2032. The England Tree Action Plan 2021-2024 aspire to increase woodland dover in England from the existing 10% to 12%.
- 3.2.3. The Welsh Governments future grant schemes are likely to support both woodland management and new woodland planting on farms, this being one way of achieving the target above.

Carmarthenshire County Council owns 4713 hectares of land, above the mean high water of which 12% (570 hectares) is wooded. In responding to the Climate and the Nature emergencies it has declared, Carmarthenshire County Council has initiated a Strategic Land Use Review to identify land in its ownership that is suitable for either the production of renewable energy or woodland planting. Tree and woodland planting will help to address both emergencies. The planting of 9.5ha of new woodland on CCC's estate each year for the next 25 years, would increase the percentage of woodland on CCC land to 17%, matching the Welsh Government target and reflecting the advice from the UK Committee on Climate

3.2.4. In recognition that the establish new woodland can address both the climate and the nature emergencies it has declared, CCC, via its Strategic Land Use Review, is identifying land managed by its Education, Housing and Property divisions which is suitable for woodland planting. It is seeking grant aid to establish larger areas of woodland within its rural land holdings. The establishment of new woodlands can be integrated with other uses, for example, land that is to be developed for renewable energy may include some areas of new woodland planting. This planting can also provide the net benefit for biodiversity that is a requirement of all planning permissions. At present, CCC makes use of WG planting grants and other grants cover close to 100% of the planting costs. WG grants offer some funding towards the essential annual maintenance, but they may not cover all essential costs.

3.2.5. In the winter of 2022/23, with grant aid CCC planted 4.5 ha of land on its rural estate and a further 300 trees at two other sites (Parc Dewi Sant and St Clears Wetland). A further 29ha have already been identified as part of CCC's Strategic Land Use Review as having potential for planting in 24/25. The first phase of the delivery of this strategy is from 2024 to 2029. Over this period, via its Strategic Land Use Review, CCC will continue to identify sites that are suitable for planting and will progress the WG grant applications which will fund the planting of these sites. CCC must be aware of the essential maintenance costs associated with woodland establishment which will not always be met by grant aid.

3.2.6. CCC has 570ha of woodland on its estate, this equates to 12% woodland cover. The establishment of 17% woodland cover on its land by 2050, or 801ha, in line with UK Climate Change Committee's advice, will require the planting of an additional 238ha of new woodland, or 9.5ha of woodland every year over the next 25 years. Achieving this goal will highly be dependent on the availability of Welsh Government, or other funding in terms of finance. 3.2.7.

3.2.7. The Tree and Woodland Strategy should be reviewed every 5 years. In the first 5 years of delivering the strategy it is advised that CCC will establish at least 9.5ha of new woodland each year. With the resources available and the need to provide for other established land uses, it is considered that this amount of new planting is achievable. This target and this ambition should be reviewed in 2029. To meet this

target, CCC will identify woodland creation opportunities across its land portfolio, which will be designed to deliver multiple benefits.

4. Implementation and Monitoring

- 4.1.1. The tables below set out CCC's responsibilities for trees and woodlands, how these are currently managed, and how CCC can now do more to deliver against both the Climate Change and the Nature Emergencies. The service areas that are delivering the Tree and Woodland Strategy must build these actions into their Divisional Business Plans and report on them. These actions are set out Section 6.
- 4.1.2. Elements of the strategy will be included in CCC's Environment Act Forward Plans – these plans run for 3 years e.g., Jan 2023 to Dec 2025. The actions in this plan are formally reported to Welsh Government at the end of the 3-year period.
- 4.1.3. CCC has set up an Officer Delivery Group, facilitated by its Rural Conservation Section, to steer and oversee the delivery of this strategy which meets 2 times a year to review progress and agree priorities and responsibilities.
- 4.1.4. The strategy falls within the cabinet member portfolio for Climate Change, Decarbonisation & Sustainability.

4.2. Staff Resources

- 4.2.1. Staff Resources and budgets are required for:
- 4.2.2. Compliance checking of the correct delivery of tree protection schemes and landscaping schemes approved as part of developments.
- 4.2.3. Planning, delivery, and long-term management of tree planting on CCC estate resulting from the actions in this strategy, and wider national policy. This new demand will increase as CCC's delivers new Green and Blue Infrastructure (GBI) schemes, often as part of other projects e.g., economic regeneration schemes, Highway and Transportation schemes, landscaping schemes that are apart of approved CCC developments, schemes to mitigate air pollution and improve soundscapes, and new planting to deliver nature recovery and ecosystem resilience. Understanding the need for and the resourcing of long-term maintenance of any trees we plant is critical to the

success to delivering the strategy. Successful tree establishment should not be left to chance.

4.2.4. Developing and promoting Supplementary Planning Guidance for GBI, landscape design and the integration of trees into nature based Sustainable Urban Drainage Schemes and master plans. These plans will identify how GBI will be delivered in an integrated manner on the larger sites allocated for development in the Revised Local Development Plan.

4.2.5. Further air quality monitoring, if required, to inform the targeting of tree planting at problem areas.

4.2.6. Developing and delivering a communications plan for CCC's Tree and Woodland Strategy.

5. Action Tables

5.1.1. Table 1 A -G sets out CCC's responsibilities with regards to trees and woodlands and how it approaches the management of trees and woodland on its own estate and on privately owned land. This document should be read in conjunction with the Council Tree Management Strategy 2023 and its Ash Dieback Strategy (see Appendix A and B, respectively).

5.1.2. The Table 2 H – J sets out why CCC should be planting more trees, and how this could be achieved.

5.2. Table 1 – Managing Existing Trees & Woodlands

A	Grounds Maintenance, Housing, Education, Social Care.	Concerning... All trees in the public realm managed by Grounds Maintenance for CCC e.g., street and car park trees, trees in parks, trees managed within highway limits. Trees managed on all CCC sites by Grounds Maintenance
What are CCC's responsibilities?	Under the Occupiers' Liability Act 1957 and 1984, and the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, landowners have responsibility for public safety. CCC's Grounds Maintenance teams manage trees across a variety of CCC managed land. CCC Highways and Transportation are responsible for some street and car park trees. Town and Community Councils also manage trees in some of these areas	
Where are we now?	Carmarthenshire Tree Management Strategy (Sept 2019) sets out how CCC manages trees on its properties see Appendix A. Routine tree safety surveys using the TreeAssured system are carried out at all CCC properties where there are trees, this includes all school sites and Safe Routes to School where there are tree safety issues. CCC staff e.g., Highway Inspectors are trained in Visual Tree Inspections, and refresher training sessions are regularly offered. These training sessions are run by the Arboricultural Association. CCC's Ash Dieback (ADB) plan sets out how CCC manages trees affected by ADB. See Appendix B.	
What we want to do?	Ensure all departments with a responsibility for trees understand: where they can go for guidance; that trees for which it is responsible must be regularly surveyed for safety using the TreeAssured system and that all necessary work identified in the survey must be completed within the prescribed timescale; that budgets must be in place to fund tree management work (other than Ash Dieback which is funded corporately). Ensure all trees and woodlands in the public realm and for which CCC responsible are managed as a sustainable resource, and in accordance with CCC's published Tree Safety Management Strategy, and its approach to managing Ash Dieback. Ensure trees which must be removed for safety reasons on CCC estate are replaced using the principle of the right tree in the right place. Promote best management practices of tree management, via publishing guidance and providing training. Promote the mapping and the use of management plans for all trees for which CCC is responsible. Raise awareness of the importance of existing trees and the ecosystem services they provide.	
Action Priorities (We will...)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue to improve the skill base of CCC officers with regular trees safety and tree management training for CCC staff. 2. Continue to complete regular safety surveys of all street trees for which CCC is responsible and carry out necessary work. 3. Ensure that any trees which are removed by CCC for safety reasons are replaced. 	

B	Existing Trees & Woodlands in Country Parks & Local Nature Reserves managed by Outdoor Recreation and Place and Infrastructure	Concerning... Sites such as Pembrey County Park, Llyn Llech Owain Country Park, Gorslas; Ynys Dawela, Brynaman; Morfa Berwig Local Nature Reserve, Llanelli; Pendine Attractor, Morlais Yard, Trimsaron; Pendine Outdoor Education Centre: Cwmoernant Reservoirs, Carmarthen.
What are CCC's responsibilities?	Under the Occupiers' Liability Act 1957 and 1984, and the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, landowners have responsibility for public safety. When managing trees in these areas we address: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity - Environment Act • Social Benefits - CCC amenity policies • Public safety - Occupier's Liability Acts, Health and Safety Act, CCC Tree Policy and Ash Dieback strategy Forestry legislation - Forestry Act and UK Forest Standard.	
Where are we now?	We manage H and S issues and use grant funding opportunities to carry out woodland management. Sites are routinely surveyed using the adopted TreeAssured system for tree risk management. Outdoor Recreation Staff who manage CCC's Country parks and similar sites are trained in Visual Tree Inspection	
What we want to do?	Ensure all trees and woodlands on CCC's estate are managed as a sustainable resource, and in accordance with CCC's tree safety procedures using the TreeAssured system Ensure CCC delivers the management plans it has in place for the trees and woodlands in its Country Parks, Green Spaces and Local Nature Reserves. These will deliver a range of benefits and will address nature recovery, carbon sequestration and they will make use of low impact silvicultural system such as continuous cover forestry, and they will safeguard public access	
Action Priorities (We will...)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Keep under review the management of woodlands on CCC's estate, ensuring its woodlands are subject to plans that address their sustainable management. 5. Identify funding for implementation of plans –including potential grant funding and sources of funding to cover costs over and above grant aid. Agree the implementation of costed management plans for CCC woodlands with relevant departments. 	

C	Trees and woodlands on CCC's County Farms, on its rural land holdings, and on its sites proposed for disposals.	Concerning... Check intro section re wealth of benefits.
What are CCC's responsibilities?	Under the Occupiers' Liability Act 1957 and 1984, and the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, landowners have responsibility for public safety. CCC Tree Safety Management Strategy and Ash Dieback Strategy Forestry legislation and policy - UK Forest Standard Biodiversity - Environment (Wales) Act 2016	
Where are we now?	CCC Woodlands Officer advises and oversees work when issues e.g., windblow affect woodlands on CCC farms. Tree Safety Officer can advise on tree safety issues where trees safety may impact on people or property	
What we want to do?	Ensure all trees and woodlands on CCC's estate are managed as a sustainable resource, in accordance with its tree safety procedures Work with the Strategic Land-use Review Group to identify opportunities for improving the management of the existing woodland and expanding the woodland resource on the County Farms Promote use of low impact silvicultural systems on CCC's estate such as continuous cover forestry, and aim to avoid clear felling when possible Design tree and woodland management/planting projects to deliver multiple benefits Secure the funding that will be required for woodland management over and above WG grant available Promote replacement of dead, diseased, and unsafe trees Raise awareness of the importance of existing trees and woodlands on CCC's County Farms, of the multiple benefits and ecosystem services which they provide	
Action Priorities (We will...)	6. Progress the management of the trees and woodland on CCC's County Farms as set out above.	

D	CCC Highways	Concerning... Trees and woodlands on private land adjacent to the highway which can have impacts on public safety.
What are CCC's responsibilities?	Under the Occupiers' Liability Act 1957 and 1984, and the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, landowners have responsibility for public safety. Under the Highways Act 1980, CCC as the Highway Authority has a duty to ensure highways are maintained to a safe standard. This includes trees on private land which have the potential of causing harm to highway users.	
Where are we now?	<p>Carmarthenshire Tree Management Strategy (updated 2023) sets out how CCC manages trees adjacent to the highway https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/1221301/ccc-tree-management-strategy.pdf</p> <p>In addition, in response to the spread of Ash Dieback across the county, regular tree surveys are carried out across the road network with priority given to the A & B roads and other high use Class C roads.</p> <p>Highway Inspectors are trained and complete refresher training as necessary in Visual Tree Inspection techniques, and how to recognise and understand the risks associated with Ash Dieback and other tree safety issues.</p> <p>Owners of trees adjacent to the highway that pose a risk to the public are provided with advice and guidance on how to manage this risk, and the provisions of the Highways Act 1980 are applied when necessary. See CCC's Ash Dieback pages https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-services/planning/biodiversity/ash-dieback-disease/#</p>	

<p>What we want to do?</p>	<p>Continue to raise awareness of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •landowners' responsibility to manage their trees and woodlands adjacent to the highway •safe working practices <p>Provide on-going refresher training for Highway Inspectors and keep them up to date with tree safety and tree management issues.</p> <p>Using the CCC web site continue to raise awareness of the wildlife legislation that applies to removing trees and appropriate working methods that minimise adverse impacts and provide advice and encourage appropriate replacement tree planting.</p> <p>Work with forest management companies and NRW to raise awareness of the impacts of forest management on and how these risks can, and best be reduced e.g.,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Liaise with managers of woodland adjacent to county roads, especially those where there is a steep wooded slope above the road, where clear felling combined with heavier rainfall events may result in landslides. •Encourage woodland managers to practice silvicultural systems that avoid clear felling and manage a natural shrub-rich forest edge to develop alongside the road. •Manage CCC highways with respect to trees within highway limits and adjacent to roads, in accordance with the Well Manged Highway Infrastructure Code of Practice (UK Roads Liaison Group 2017) <p>Work with CCC Communications Team who can support officers in disseminating information on tree management and tree planting</p>
<p>Action Priorities (We will...)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Continue to identify and implement tree safety work, consistent with the industry best practice, and provide regular training for CCC officers. 8. Continue to communicate and raise awareness of tree safety issues with private landowners. 9. Work with forest managers and NRW to raise awareness of tree safety issues and the impacts of forest management on highways and how these risks can be minimised.

E	Rural Conservation	Concerning... Trees subject to Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) and trees within Conservation Areas
What are CCC's responsibilities?	<p>Trees subject to Tree Preservation Orders - CCC has discretionary legal powers to designate Tree Preservation Orders, and place orders on trees that meet the necessary amenity criteria. If work to a TPO tree is required, a formal application must be made to the LPA who will determine if the works should proceed.</p> <p>Trees within Conservation Areas - If work to a tree in Conservation Area is proposed the LPA must be informed. If they oppose the work, it must place a TPO on that tree</p>	
Where are we now?	<p>Trees subject to Tree Preservation Orders - CCC determines applications to carry out works to trees covered by TPOs.</p> <p>It places TPOs on trees when the necessary criteria are satisfied and there is a threat to a tree</p> <p>Trees within Conservation Areas - CCC determines applications to carry out works to trees in Conservation Areas</p>	
What we want to do?	<p>Delivering an action plan for review of the c. 200 TPOs in Carmarthenshire, identifying the human, IT and financial resources required, and the necessary budget</p> <p>This has not been carried out for c.10 years. Some protected trees may have died e.g., due to Ash Dieback disease</p>	
Action Priorities (We will...)	<p>10. Develop and commence delivery of an action plan for the review of the Carmarthenshire TPOs.</p> <p>11. Keep under the review the need for new TPOs to protect trees that are under threat, and which meet the TPO criteria</p>	

F	Place & Sustainability	Concerning... Trees and development
<p>What are CCC's responsibilities?</p>	<p>Trees and the impact of development is addressed by local and national planning policies. Town and Country Act 1990 S.197 –</p> <p>Planning permission can include appropriate provision for the management of trees.</p> <p>Felling legislation (enforced by NRW) applies to felling of trees outside of gardens and orchards.</p> <p>Impact of development on trees and woodland is fully considered in planning process with input from Arboricultural Officer, Landscape Officer, and Planning Ecology</p> <p>New and upgraded forest accesses and tracks are also the subject of planning applications, Rural Conservation Section staff respond to consultations on these, as do Highways Planning, ensuring new entrance designs meet road safety standards, and are acceptable in the local landscape etc.</p>	

<p>Where are we now?</p>	<p>CCC's Arboricultural Officer is consulted on planning applications that impact on trees. Landscape and Ecology staff are also often consulted on such applications.</p> <p>Developers are advised that impacts on trees must be managed by avoiding and protecting trees on a site.</p> <p>If a development (inc. all underground and over ground services, assess routes and SUDs construction) can avoid direct impacts on trees this should be set out on a plan showing the necessary construction exclusion zone and where any necessary protective fencing must be installed. This must be erected prior to development to BS 5837.</p> <p>If there are impact on the existing trees these must be set out in an Arboricultural Impact Assessment to BS 5837, with mitigation identified.</p> <p>If trees are to be removed, replanting as part of an LPA approved landscaping plan is requested and delivery of this plan becomes a condition of the permission granted.</p> <p>CCC expects that all existing trees of appropriate quality and condition to be retained to the maximum extent on development sites. Any new development must demonstrate that the constraints posed by existing trees have been fully addressed in the design of the proposals.</p> <p>Specification of tree planting and maintenance as part of mitigation within planning consent is requested and provided pre-determination in most cases. This is covered by policies in LDP and PPW12.</p>
<p>What we want to do?</p>	<p>All planning applications on sites where there are trees are accompanied by the necessary information regarding any impact on the trees.</p> <p>With the necessary resources in place, initiate compliance checking of the correct delivery of tree protection schemes and landscaping schemes approved as part of developments.</p>
<p>Action Priorities (We will...)</p>	<p>12. Development Managers will ensure all planning applications for sites where there are trees are accompanied by the relevant information and that all trees which are appropriate for retention are protected during development.</p> <p>13. Develop and resource an approach to compliance checking of all application which involve works close to trees and in close proximity to woodlands as part of an approved planning permission. Applicants could report on this themselves, evidencing at least completion and possibly maintenance.</p> <p>14. Identify new mechanisms by which funds can be established to fund planting and long-term care of trees and other landscaping in the public realm.</p>

G	Rural Conservation.	Concerning... Forestry - WG Woodland Estate and new/upgraded forest accesses
What are CCC's responsibilities?	CCC is consulted on NRW's Long term Forest Resource Plans for the WG woodland estate in Carmarthenshire New and upgraded forest accesses and tracks are the subject of planning applications (see above)	
Where are we now?	<p>CCC is consulted on Glas Tir Woodland Creation schemes in the county's Special Landscape Areas, but not on felling licence applications with respect to existing woodlands</p> <p>It is consulted by NRW on the Long term Forest Natural Resource plans for WG Woodland Estate.</p> <p>In its responses to the above, CCC encourages the principles of sustainable management of natural resources to be applied to all long-term forest resources plans. In its responses it highlights the other benefits forests and new woodlands can provide – public access, landscape, water catchment management, biodiversity, and nature recovery.</p> <p>In its responses to NRW on plans for the WG Woodland Estate, it highlights the need for the WG woodland estate to be managed and for new woodlands to be established in ways that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • avoiding forest practices that rely on single species plantations and clear felling • adopt sustainable forest practices that conserve forest soils and soil carbon, that minimise clear felling, and which conserve and promote biodiversity • promote nature recovery and ecological resilience, as per CCC's and NRW's and WG's S.6 Environment Act duty • make a positive contribution to the landscape • encourage management systems that will result in creation of a high value timber resource • minimise risks to highway safety • reduce flooding by controlling run-off • avoid the spread of invasive species, <p>promote public access</p>	
What we want to do?	<p>To see an improvement in the management of Carmarthenshire's woodland resource with less reliance on clear felling and greater use of low impact silvicultural systems, which will deliver multiple benefits – e.g., nature recovery, catchment management, and management of soils and soil carbon</p> <p>Working with NRW and forest management companies to reduce the risks of forest management on highways</p>	

Action Priorities (We will...)	<p>15. Continue engagement with NRW regarding management of WG Woodland Estate, and challenge NRW To adopt more sustainable forest management practices</p> <p>16. Initiate discussions with NRW and private forestry companies regarding the risks which forests pose to highways and how these may be reduced</p>
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5.3. Table 2 – New Tree & Woodland Planting

H	CCC Property, Education, Housing, Social Care, Grounds Maintenance, Highways & Transportation, Place & Sustainability	Concerning... Tree and woodland planting on CCC land and in the public realm will address the Nature Emergency, mitigate the impacts of Ash Dieback and address Climate Change
What are CCC's responsibilities?	<p>The Welsh Government Net Zero Wales Carbon Budget 2 (2021-25) requires that all public sector organisations should use the Route Map and Reporting Guide to develop and publish plans by March 2023 to achieve a collective net zero public sector by 2030. Policy 84 supports commitments to map out local authority land holdings by April 2022 to identify types of land and their sequestration potential to develop plans to maximise carbon benefits, renewable energy and to identify potential flood management measures; it also supports carbon sequestration as a valid core purpose for use of public land and opportunities actively pursued by local authorities on their own land, including habitat restoration, tree planting etc. as appropriate.</p> <p>On 20th February 2019 Carmarthenshire County Council unanimously committed to making Carmarthenshire County Council a net zero carbon local authority by 2030. Action NZC-15 in the Council Net Zero Carbon Route plan is to explore the feasibility of tree-planting, and other such measures, on Council controlled land to contribute towards carbon offsetting.</p> <p>WG and CCC have announced a Nature Emergency. Expanding the extent of native broadleaved woodland and the number of individual trees we plant will help address this emergency. Sustainable management of CCC's existing woodland resource and new tree and woodland planting is also critical for Nature Recovery.</p> <p>PPW12 sets out the requirement for biodiversity enhancement, which can include tree planting as a planning requirement.</p> <p>CCC facilitates the Carmarthenshire Nature Partnership which is preparing the Carmarthenshire Nature Recovery Plan. This document highlights the role of woodland in Carmarthenshire in providing for Nature Recovery. See Part 2 page 33 of the following:</p> <p>https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-services/planning/biodiversity/carmarthenshire-nature-partnership/#.YbizqEX7TIU</p>	

Where are we now?	<p>CCC's Strategic Land Use Review group is reviewing its landholdings and is assessing where there are opportunities to plant trees on CCC land, and where there are opportunities for more renewable energy. Planting to sequester carbon is being addressed in conjunction with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• delivery of Green Infrastructure and opportunities for providing public access• reduction of phosphate levels in water courses,• compensation for losses of trees due to Ash Dieback• mitigating air and improving soundscapes• improvements in water management, infiltration, and reducing flooding down-stream• nature recovery and the creation of new wildlife habitats and enhanced ecological connectivity• 3 new woodland planting schemes in Ffairfach, Kidwelly and Llandybie are already being progressed with WG grant aid which deliver against the above agendas. The total area of these schemes is 4.5ha. These areas will be planted in winter 22/23.• Tree Safety Officer works with schools to identify opportunities for new tree planting, in conjunction with tree safety work.
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<p>What we want to do?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure commitment and funding across CCC for the cost of planting and long-term maintenance requirements of the trees it plants • Raise awareness of the multiple and linked benefits of tree and woodland planting, which include carbon sequestration, nature recovery, and compensating for the losses associated with Ash Dieback. Co-ordinate grant applications to deliver these projects • CCC's long term aspiration will be to increase woodland cover on CCC land from 5.34% to 17% in line with the UK target. In the medium term our aim will be to double woodland cover on County land by 2050. To achieve this medium-term target, subject to planting grants being in place, we will plant at least 13ha of new woodland each year. This target will be reviewed every five years. • Ensure all CCC projects are assessed for opportunities for tree and woodland planting – e.g., grant aided regeneration projects, highway improvements, new schools, new housing developments. Within these projects review and reduce the areas allocated for new amenity grassland replacing these with trees, woodland and shrubs as appropriate. • Review the area of amenity grassland CCC manages, and where appropriate establish woodland and trees. Use planting designs that in the long term will reduce the maintenance costs of these areas • Identify and deliver at least 6 new planting schemes p.a. on land managed by CCC – Housing, Highways, Education, Property and Regeneration, planting at least 13ha p.a.to 2029 • On tenanted CCC farms, support tenants who may wish to plant trees and woodlands. When farms come out of tenancy review tree and woodland opportunities which will deliver multiple benefits. Planting proposals on tenanted farms will be confirmed by the Cabinet Member for Resources • Take 1 in 100 car parking spaces out of CCC car parks and planting a tree instead in recognition of the link between car travel and carbon footprint • Where this does not conflict with the existing value of an area for biodiversity, and where appropriate, increase the tree and woodland cover in CCC's Country Parks and Local Nature Reserves • Engage with the local communities when developing plans for tree and woodland planting
<p>Action Priorities (We will...)</p>	<p>17. Gain commitment across CCC to deliver an increase in the number of trees and the amount of woodland cover on its estate from 5.34% to 17% by 2050 and to plant at least 13ha of new woodland each year during the first 5 years of delivering this strategy.</p>

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| | <p>18. Promote and adopt a simple, easy to follow guides for tree planting and maintenance based on advice from the Arboricultural Association, Woodland Trust and the Trees and Design Action Group¹.</p> <p>19. Develop and demonstrate an integrated approach to delivery of tree and new woodland planting across CCC projects that will deliver against several agendas: Green and Blue Infrastructure, SUDS, carbon sequestration, nature recovery, ash dieback, landscape, and amenity, reduction in phosphates, and improving air quality.</p> <p>20. Ensure all new tree planting linked to CCC projects is planted and maintained in accordance with the agreed design scheme.</p> |
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¹ See also a bilingual tree planting video made in Carmarthenshire for schools: [Tree Planting in School Grounds/ Plannu Coed mewn Tiroedd Ysgol – a YouTube](#)

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Aqe4JsWx060>

Other related materials are provided below:

- <https://www.trees.org.uk/Help-Advice/Guide-to-Young-Tree-Establishment>
- <https://www.trees.org.uk/Help-Advice/Arboricultural-Resources>
- <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/advice/>
- <https://www.tdag.org.uk/trees-in-hard-landscapes.html>

I	Public Protection & Council-led Projects.	Concerning... Planting trees and woodlands to improve air quality in our more urban areas
What are CCC's responsibilities?	<p>Air quality in many of Britain's urban areas falls below recommended standards. The Environmental Protection service is responsible for the Review and Assessment of Air Quality – a statutory function under the provisions of the Environment Act 1995. Through this regime, the main pollutant of concern for Carmarthenshire has been identified as Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) from road vehicles. We have 98 locations throughout the County where NO₂ is measured (via diffusion tubes – standard practice outlined in the relevant guidance document), and we have 3 Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) where levels have exceeded <u>annual</u> statutory limits in “hotspot” locations. There is an AQMA in Llandeilo, Llanelli and Carmarthen. The Aim of the AQMA is to improve Air Quality to the extent that no further breaches of the standards occur.</p> <p>Tree planting is one way of improving air quality, and it can also help improve soundscapes, support climate action, improve health and wellbeing, and enhance biodiversity.</p>	
Where are we now?	<p>Tree planting at Johnstown school following analysis of air quality (Public Health, Johnstown School, Woodland Trust)</p> <p>Ad hoc implementation of tree planting as funding opportunities arises e.g., tree planting at St David's Parc through WG ENRaW Green Infrastructure grant</p>	
What we want to do?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify areas of lowest air quality in Carmarthenshire and opportunities for tree planting e.g., school grounds which would improve air quality in these areas. Deliver tree planting initiatives in collaboration with Public Health and schools (EcoSchools and Healthy Schools initiatives are relevant) • Work in partnership with Town and Community Councils to raise awareness of the opportunities for planting in open areas and manage existing trees where air pollution is an issue, and where soundscapes can be improved • Ensure all CCC projects that have the capacity to deliver some tree or woodland planting that could help in addressing air quality do so. Review amenity grassland as a land use in such projects, and consider areas where grass could be replaced with tree, shrub, or woodland planting • Identify active travel routes that would avoid areas with lowest air quality, and integrate these with GBI initiatives • Put the necessary budget and staff resources in place to deliver the above 	
Action Priorities (We will...)	<p>21. With Public Health identify areas in the county where air/ noise pollution is of greatest concern and where there are also nearby opportunities for tree planting, e.g., schools</p> <p>22. Develop costed plans for viable schemes which include the staff resources required for delivery and long-term maintenance of these areas</p>	

	<p>23. Seek opportunities to put in place the staff resources and budgets required and work in partnership to deliver tree and woodland planting, and GBI initiatives in urban areas across Carmarthenshire, aimed at mitigating air pollution and improving air quality (including AQMAs – Appendix C).</p>
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J	Place & Sustainability.	Concerning... Tree and woodland planting and new development and the provision of Green Infrastructure, landscape, SUDS, Nature Recovery/ Ecological enhancement. Consultation on Glas Tir Woodland Creation schemes or equivalent. Communicating CCC's Tree and Woodland Strategy
What are CCC's responsibilities?	<p>PPW12 and local planning policy address tree issues, ecology, the provision of green and blue infrastructure and landscaping as part of planning process</p> <p>CCC's Moving Forward Document requires a strategy as follows: Action 23: Promote a tree strategy to improve the environment and mitigate the effects of air and noise pollution in our more populated areas.</p> <p>PPW12 advises that Planning authorities should adopt appropriate, locally relevant, time sensitive, minimum tree canopy cover targets for their authority area to guide the protection and where appropriate the expansion of canopy cover. For the purposes of advising developers, it will be more relevant to express this in terms of the area within a site that should be planted.</p> <p>PPW12 promotes the development of Green and Blue Infrastructure (GBI). PPW12 emphasises that GBI plays a fundamental role in shaping places and our sense of well-being, and therefore the planning system should protect and enhance GBI assets and ecological networks. In accordance with PPW12, a GBI Assessment was carried out within the county, and this is being used as a tool to inform the preparation of the Revised LDP (Land Use Consultants Feb 2022). Further work detailing GBI is contained with the Placemaking & Design SPG which will be updated as part of the Revised LDP process. Tree and woodland planting is one delivery mechanism for GBI.</p> <p>CCC (Rural Conservation Section in P and S) is consulted by woodland planners (in the private sector) and NRW on larger Glas Tir Woodland Creation schemes in the county's Special Landscape Areas</p>	

<p>Where are we now?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning permissions are often conditional upon protection of exiting trees and where trees are removed upon significant re-planting. Landscaping, which regularly involved tree planting is a requirement of many developments. • Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) are a requirement of development, and these areas can include trees, see https://www.rspb.org.uk/globalassets/downloads/documents/positions/planning/sustainable-drainage-systems.pdf • https://www.trees.org.uk/Trees.org.uk/files/d9/d94feb31-759d-40d9-8abd-48715df32f7e.pdf • Planning permissions can also require biodiversity enhancements which can include tree and woodland planting <p>CCC is (Nov 2021) developing a GBI strategy for 8 of its towns, tree planting projects will form a part of this strategy</p>
<p>What we want to do?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that as part of approved development, the right trees and woodland areas are planted in the right places and are maintained in perpetuity • Ensure that any trees lost as a result of development are appropriately compensated for with new planting • Develop targets for tree cover on development sites that are consistent with and will deliver CCC's approach to GBI and its Placemaking agenda • Ensure that tree and woodland planting are delivered in conjunction with CCC's Green and Blue Infrastructure projects • Identify areas where trees and woodlands can be planted to compensate for the loss of ash trees, due to Ash Dieback, and work in partnership to deliver and maintain these projects • Work effectively with partners and stakeholders to deliver tree and woodland planting projects in the public realm, making use of the grants available for this work such as Local Places for Nature • Put the necessary budget and staff resources in place to deliver the above
<p>Action Priorities (We will...)</p>	<p>24. Develop, publish, and adopt Supplementary Planning Guidance which sets out an integrated approach for landscaping, SUDS and the provision of GBI, managing tree issues and providing for nature recovery (ecological enhancement) on development sites. This guidance must highlight the multiple benefits that trees and woodland planting can deliver. Consistent with PPW12 guidance, the SPG should set out an approach which will ensure that developments will deliver CCC's targets for tree planting</p> <p>25. Prepare Master Plans for larger allocated sites in the LDP which will set out how GBI, SUDS, landscaping and ecological enhancement will be delivered as an integral part of new development. We will continue to comment on the landscape impact of new woodland planting proposals in SLAs and this change in land use will be addressed in CCC's forthcoming Landscape Character assessment of Carmarthenshire</p>

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| | <p>26. Secure the necessary resources to develop and deliver and maintain tree and woodland planting projects. Ensure the necessary resources are in place to implement compliance monitoring to ensure all tree planting and landscaping associated with development across Carmarthenshire is delivered and maintained</p> <p>27. We will work with CCC's Marketing and Media team to develop and deliver a communications plan for this Tree and Woodland Strategy, initially working over a three-year period</p> |
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28. Action Plan 2024 - 2029

28.1. Actions for the Management of Existing Trees & Woodlands

Action Ref	Actions	Measure	By Whom? (Responsible Officer)
TWS/1A1	Continue to improve the skill base of CCC officers with regular trees safety and tree management training for CCC staff Tree Safety Officer will provide training for new staff and regular updates for all relevant staff on tree safety and tree inspection. Officers to attend refresher courses every 2 years	Each year report on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No. of tree safety and tree inspection courses run. Percentage of officers identified by managers as requiring training who have attended courses within 2 years of monitoring date, i.e., whose tree safety training up to date 	Tree Safety Officer
TWS/1A2	Continue to complete safety surveys of all street trees for which CCC is responsible, and carry out necessary work	Each year report on percentage of sites for which surveys of street trees are up to date and all identified works have been completed	Grounds and Cleaning Manager CCC Highways
TWS/1A3	Ensure that any trees which are removed by CCC for safety reasons are replaced	Each year report on: No. of trees felled for safety reasons and no. for which replacement is organised	Tree Safety Officer
TWS/1B4	Keep under review the management of woodlands on CCC's estate, ensuring its woodlands are subject to plans that address their sustainable management	By November 2024: Identify no. of sites requiring a woodland management plan and initiate a rolling programme of review on the woodland management plans with the CCC Woodland Officer Prioritise woodlands to be managed. Each year report on no. of woodland management plans reviewed	Senior Asset Management Surveyor (Property) and CCC Woodland Officer
TWS/1B5	Identify funding for implementation of plans –including potential grant funding and sources of funding to cover costs over and above grant aid. Agree the implementation of costed management plans for CCC woodlands with relevant departments	Each year report on the no. woodlands, identified as priorities, for management, which costed management plans have been developed	CCC Woodland Officer

TWS/1C6	Progress the management of the trees and woodland on CCC's County Farms as set out in Table C	Each year report on no. CCC woodlands where management is progressing	CCC Woodland Officer
TWS1/D7 CCC Highway s	Continue to identify and implement tree safety work, consistent with the industry best practice, and provide regular training for CCC officers	Each year report on no. officers completing training, see TWS/1A1 is provided above Each year report on annual programme of tree safety surveys on A, B and heavily used C roads Each year report on number of tree work packages progressed through CCC's DPS for tree safety work	Tree Safety Officer
TWS/1D8 CCC Highway s	Continue to communicate and raise awareness of tree safety issues with private landowners	Each year report on information provided on CCC web site and to partner organisations	Tree Safety Officer
TWS/1D9 also covers G15	Work with forest managers and NRW to raise awareness of tree safety issues and the impacts of forest management on highways and how these risks can be minimised. Keep under review the need for and management of fire breaks in forest areas, e.g., Pembrey Country Park	Set up meeting in 2024/25 to discuss with all partners concerned	Rural Conservation Manager
TWS/1E1 0	Develop and commence delivery of a review of the Carmarthenshire TPOs.	Aim to review at least 20 TPOs each year and report on number of TPO reviewed each year	Arboricultural Officer
TWS/1F1 1	Development Managers will ensure all planning applications for sites where there are trees are accompanied by the relevant arboricultural information and that protection of all trees which are appropriate for retention to BS standards is set out in conditions or in approved documents	Every 3 months/ 6 months, report on percentage of planning applications received for sites with trees and where these are correctly identified and accompanied by the required arboricultural information. Aim for increase in this figure	Senior Development Managers

<p>TWS/1F1 2</p>	<p>Develop and resource an approach to compliance checking of all application which involve works close to trees and in close proximity to woodlands as part of an approved planning permission. Ideally applicants should report on this themselves, evidencing at least completion and possibly maintenance of any trees planted as part of a permission</p>	<p>Assess the extent of the problem – By November 24 - gather evidence regarding approved developments where conditions relating to trees have not been correctly discharged. identify and assess options for resolving this issue. In 24/25 pilot different approaches to resolving this issue</p>	<p>Rural Conservation Manager Arboricultural officer Landscape Officer Senior Development Managers</p>
<p>TWS/1F1 3</p>	<p>Identify new mechanisms by which funds can be established to fund planting and long-term care of trees and other landscaping in the public realm. This approach is consistent with delivering net benefit for biodiversity and Green Infrastructure and CCC's Place Making agenda</p>	<p>March 24: Report on discussions which Place and Sustainability will initiate regarding the use of S106 and other mechanisms for this purpose Annual report on mechanisms used, and fund secured, and project delivered</p>	<p>Strategic Policy and Place Making Manager</p>
<p>TWS/1G1 4</p>	<p>Continue engagement with NRW regarding management of WG Woodland Estate and with WGWC schemes for new woodlands in SLAs and ideally elsewhere in the county</p>	<p>Report each year on no. of schemes received each year for consultation and responded to within target date</p>	<p>Rural Conservation Manager</p>

28.2. Actions for New Tree & Woodland Planting

Action Ref	Actions	Measure	By Whom? (Responsible Officer)
TWS/2A1	Gain commitment across CCC to deliver an increase in the number of trees and the amount of woodland cover on its estate from 5.34% to 17% by 2050. In the first 5 years of delivering the strategy it is advised that CCC will establish at least 9.5ha of new woodland each year. With the resources available and the need to provide for other established land uses,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adoption of planting target by Cabinet in 2024 	Head of Place and Sustainability
TWS/2A2	Adopt and promote simple, easy to follow guides for tree planting and maintenance / delivered in the public realm based on advice from the Arboricultural Association, Woodland Trust and the Trees and Design Action Group. See also a bilingual tree planting video made in Carmarthenshire for schools:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 short workshop sessions for staff involved in requiring tree planting as part of project brief 	Landscape Officer/ Local Places for Nature Project Officer
TWS/2A3	Develop and demonstrate an integrated approach to delivery of tree and woodland planting across CCC projects which will deliver against several agendas: Green and Blue Infrastructure, SUDS, carbon sequestration, nature recovery, ash dieback, landscape, and amenity, reduction in phosphates, and improving air quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Every 6 months project managers (Property Education, Housing, Regen, Property Design, Active Travel, Professional Design Services, Highways etc) to report back to Rural Conservation Manager on progress in delivering GBI as part of CCCs projects 	Rural Conservation Manager
TWS/2A4	Put the necessary resources and mechanisms in place to enable CCC to demonstrate that all new tree planting, linked to CCC projects, is planted, and maintained in accordance with the agreed design scheme	Each year identify all relevant CCC projects which include tree planting and should include after care in project brief. Project officers to report on such CCC projects where after care has and has not been satisfactorily completed.	Rural Conservation Manager
TWS/2B5	With Public Health identify areas in the county where air/ noise pollution is of greatest concern and where there are also nearby opportunities for tree planting, e.g., schools. Identify funding opportunities for planting and maintenance of these trees	Report on 6 monthly meetings between Public Health and Rural Conservation regarding this action	Rural Conservation Manager/ Public Health

TWS/2B6	Develop costed plans for viable schemes, which include the staff resources required, for delivery and long-term maintenance of tree and woodland planting schemes designed to improve air quality, and improve soundscapes	Report each year on no. costed schemes developed/delivered, which will improve air quality in our more urban areas	Rural Conservation Manager
TWS/2B7	Seek opportunities to put in place the staff resources and budgets required and work in partnership to ensure an integrated approach to the delivery of tree and woodland planting, SUDs and GBI initiatives in urban areas across Carmarthenshire, which will deliver multiple benefits including mitigating air pollution and improving air quality	<p>March 2024: provide evidence of progress in securing staff resources and budgets for this work.</p> <p>March 24: Identify an officer group to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the maintenance arrangements, and transfer of land as part of the SUDS system and options for arrangements for the long term management of other Green Infrastructure (GI) on development sites discuss opportunities for nature based SUDS to be designed to deliver GI and to promote the adoption of this approach by developers <p>explore the viability of S106 contributions to facilitate tree and woodland planting and long term management, both on and off site (which may be used to satisfy both GBI and net benefits for biodiversity requirements).</p>	Rural Conservation Manager
TWS/2C8	Programme, develop, publish, and ensure the adoption of Supplementary Planning Guidance which sets out an integrated approach for landscaping, SUDS and the provision of GBI, managing tree issues and providing for nature recovery (ecological enhancement) on development sites. This guidance must highlight the multiple benefits that tree and woodland planting can deliver. Promote tree planting in accordance with the principles of place making and quality design.	SPG which will inform the delivery of tree and woodland planting as part of new development is programmed for Summer 2025. If adopted, to monitor and review.	Strategic Policy and Place Making Manager

TWS/2C9	Secure resources required to implement compliance monitoring to ensure all tree planting and landscaping associated with development across Carmarthenshire is delivered and maintained	Report on evidence of progress in securing staff resources and budgets for this work	Rural Conservation Manager
TWS/2C10	Prepare Master Plans for larger allocated sites in the LDP which will set out how GBI, SUDS, landscaping and ecological enhancement will be delivered as an integral part of new development	Report annually on progress in developing master plans for larger sites allocated for development in the new LDP	Strategic Policy and Place Making Manager
TWS/2C12	Develop and deliver communications plan for CCC's tree and Woodland Strategy 2024-2029 and then review	Report annually on the delivery of the communications plan for the Tree and Woodland Strategy	CCC media and Marketing

29. Appendices

Appendix A: CCC's Ash Dieback (ADB) Strategy (Oct 2022)

To manage the impacts of Ash Dieback the Council is adopting the following approach:

Ash die-back disease (ADB) is expected to affect at least up to 80-90% of ash trees in the county. This impacts on the Council's legal responsibilities, obligations and duty of care. To address this the Council will adopt the following strategy:

- 1. Develop a co-ordinated, risk-based strategy that will address the necessary management of ADB across the county in a consistent manner.**
- 2. Manage the corporate risk that the disease places on the Council.**
- 3. Raise awareness among the Council officers, Elected Members and private landowners of the duty of care and Health and Safety issues relating to the management of ADB.**
- 4. Manage the affected trees for which the Council is directly responsible in accordance with the Industry Code of Practice for Arboriculture. Ensure that diseased trees on land adjacent to areas for which it is responsible are managed appropriately by landowners.**
- 5. Ensure that the Council's management of ADB complies with UK and EU Wildlife legislation and delivers its Environment (Wales) Act S.6 Biodiversity Duty.**
- 6. Promote and deliver new tree and woodland planting to compensate for the expected loss of ash trees.**
- 7. Develop effective partnerships to deliver the above.**
- 8. Ensure that all works carried out in response to ADB are procured in accordance with Council procedures.**

Background

What is ADB disease?

ADB is a fungal disease that is affecting ash trees across the UK and Europe. It is considered to have arrived in the UK around 20 years ago from fungal spores carried by wind from the continent and from infected tree planting stock imported from mainland Europe. The fungus (known as Chlalara or *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*) is likely to have originated in Asia where it co-exists with native ash species. However, it has caused widespread damage across mainland Europe where up to 90% of ash trees have been killed by the disease.



Figure 1. We work with experienced local contractors to manage Ash Dieback where this impacts on road safety. On the Hendy link-road, between the M4 and Llanelli, which is the busiest road in Carmarthenshire, we do this at night to reduce the impact on road users during the day.

How frequent is it across Carmarthenshire, and elsewhere in Wales?

ADB is widespread across much of Wales. The percentage of ash trees affected by the disease in Carmarthenshire appears to be increasing each year, and it is likely that the majority of ash trees in the county will be affected by the disease, with many of these dying, or seriously declining over the next few years. Some trees may show some resistance to the disease, but it is too early to be able to quantify this. It is expected that 80-90% of our ash trees will be affected. Ash is probably the second most common tree in the county, and the loss of these trees will have a significant impact in the landscape.

What is the Council's Strategy for Managing ADB?

Consistent with several other local authorities across England and Wales, the Council is adopting the approach to managing ADB that is set out by the Tree Council in its Ash Dieback Plan. The strategy is risk based and focuses only on those trees that when dead or dying pose an unacceptable risk to the public, or to property. The Council also works consistently with advice from the Arboricultural Association and is a corporate member of the latter.

Council officers from across the organisation implement the policy and working practices necessary to deliver the proposed strategy, this includes:

- Highways and Public Rights of Way
- Housing
- Property
- Education
- Grounds Maintenance
- Leisure
- Place and Sustainability
- Regeneration
- Communications
- Health and Safety
- Procurement

Responsibility	Action
<p>A co-ordinated risk-based response:</p> <p>Develop a co-ordinated risk-based response to the management of ADB that can be delivered consistently across the Council, reflecting its responsibilities</p> <p>LEAD OFFICER – Rural Conservation Officer and Tree Safety Officer</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Officers involved in this issue have met regularly since June 2019 to progress the delivery of this strategy. They meet to set priorities and agree actions. This work links in with departmental and corporate management teams. It is facilitated by the Rural Conservation Section in the Planning Service. Funding is in place for an Ash Dieback project officer post initially for 2 years
<p>Managing trees on land for which the Council is responsible:</p> <p>Managing appropriately the ash trees on land for which the Council is directly responsible – e.g., schools, parks, car parks, public open space for which it is responsible, housing areas, some land adjacent to the highway along more recently built roads, trees on farms owned by the Council</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To comply with its duty of care responsibilities the Council regularly surveys all its properties for tree safety using the TreeAssured system, and this includes surveys of ash trees. In 2019 it trained 37 officers to recognise and understand the risks associated with ADB. All management of diseased ash trees by the Council will be carried out in accordance with the Council's published Tree Management Strategy and the Tree Safety Operational Plan set out within this strategy. See also Appendix B in the Strategy: TreeAssured Procedure -TreeWorks (West Wales) Ltd 2014 - See link below Affected trees on the Council managed properties and affected trees within highway limits will be managed in accordance with the above strategy and in accordance with the ICoP for Arboriculture and to BS 3998, the BS standard for tree work Working practices will require periodic review to ensure Council procedures and best practice are being followed and that efficiencies are adopted where possible.

<p>LEAD OFFICERS – Tree Safety Officer and Head of Property and highway Services</p>	
<p>Trees on land adjacent to land for which the Council is responsible:</p> <p>Ensuring the appropriate management of diseased trees on land adjacent to areas for which it is responsible, the public highways – roads, cycle ways safe routes to school (SRTS), and public rights of way</p> <p>LEAD OFFICERS –Tree Safety Office and Highway Services Manager</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Highway Authority is inspecting the road network and assessing the risks posed by trees affected by Ash Dieback. It is identifying affected trees within highway limits and affected trees within falling distance of the road that are on privately owned land. Carmarthenshire has the second largest highway network in Wales with some 3,500 km of highway to maintain. With such a large network the authority will inspect the roads via a risk-based approach which takes account of the strategic importance of the route and traffic volumes. It will develop and use efficient methods of informing private landowners of their duty of care responsibilities regarding trees affected by Ash Dieback • Surveys specifically for the purpose of identifying diseased ash trees are being carried out on the A and B roads and will be repeated as the disease progresses • the Council is also surveying its Safe Routes to School • The South Wales Trunk Roads Agency carried out the same surveys along the county's trunk roads.
<p>Raising awareness</p> <p>Raising awareness among the Council's officers, Elected Members and land managers of their responsibilities, under the Health and Safety and Work Act (1974) and the Owner Occupier Liability Act (1957 and 1984) for</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council's Communication team together with the Ash Dieback project are delivering a Communication Plan for ADB which will includes a web page for ADB, a set of FAQs and a leaflet for landowners • The ADB group is arranging training for officers and Elected Members on ADB and the Council's responsibilities • Officers are developing effective methods of working with landowners in relation to roadside trees in private ownership, as well as using the more formal approach set out in the Highways Act

<p>public safety e.g. management of ash trees adjacent to roads</p> <p>Raising awareness and understanding of the disease among the public</p> <p>LEAD OFFICER for Communications Plan</p> <p>Press and Communications Officer and Tree Safety Officer</p>	
<p>Health and Safety:</p> <p>Manage the affected trees for which the Council is directly responsible in accordance with the Industry Code of Practice for Arboriculture. Ensure that diseased trees on land adjacent to areas for which it is responsible are managed appropriately</p> <p>LEAD OFFICER: Lead Business Partner</p> <p>Health and Safety</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council will only procure arboricultural contractors to carry out Ash Dieback work that can demonstrate that they are working in accordance with the Industry Code of Practice for Arboriculture and BS3998:2010 • All the Council's operatives will work and will be managed in accordance with the Industry Code of Practice for Arboriculture and BS 39998:2010. All the Council's operatives that will be working on trees affected by ADB will be trained to the necessary standards and will hold NPTC certificates appropriate for this work. They will also receive training specific to managing trees affected by ADB • Keep under review all risk assessments that relate to ADB and associated work • Ensure that all traffic (and pedestrian) management systems reflect the necessary safe working circles for arboricultural work being carried out

<p>Ash Dieback and wildlife</p> <p>LEAD OFFICER – Rural Conservation Manager</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council's primary concern regarding the management of trees affected by ADB will be the risks to the public and property. Consistent with its S.6 Environment Act duty it will adopt working methods that are compliant with EU and UK wildlife legislation, and which will minimise any adverse impact on habitats and the species they support. It will provide mitigation as appropriate
<p>New tree planting:</p> <p>Raising awareness of the need for appropriate new tree planting to compensate for the loss of ash trees from Carmarthenshire's landscapes and habitats, consistent with the Council's S.6 Environment Act (Wales) Duty</p> <p>LEAD OFFICERS</p> <p>Rural Conservation Manager, Tree Safety Officer and Coed Cymru Officer</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The web page will include advice regarding replanting and the Council's Coed Cymru officer and Ash Dieback officer are able to advise landowners The Rural Conservation Section will seek opportunities to secure grant aid for new planting projects that will compensate for the loss of ash trees in Carmarthenshire, and will encourage others to do like wise The Council will identify opportunities in its projects to deliver tree planting schemes that will help to compensate for the loss of ash trees in the county as well as deliver other multiple benefits
<p>Working with partners:</p> <p>Working effectively with partners across Carmarthenshire and at a regional and national level to deliver the above</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council is working with WLGA, NFU, FUW, CLA and NRW on ADB, and will welcome opportunities to work with other interested parties, as appropriate

<p>LEAD OFFICER Rural Conservation Manager and Tree Safety Officer</p>	
<p>Corporate Risk Management</p> <p>LEAD OFFICER: Head of Property</p>	<p>The potential impacts of dead and dying trees due to Ash Dieback are accepted as posing a significant corporate risk. In developing its ADB strategy, the Council is setting out how it will manage these risks.</p> <p><u>Health and Safety:</u> The Council's approach to managing Health and Safety as set out above addresses the potential risks of death or fatal injury resulting from Ash Dieback related accidents, both to professionals working on trees and to the public, e.g., road users.</p> <p>Health and Safety issues on Council managed estate e.g., country parks, schools, and associated infrastructure e.g. safe routes to school will be managed as set out above with reference to both managing land for which the Council is directly responsible and managing land adjacent to these areas.</p> <p><u>Risk to the Environment:</u> Under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 the Council has a duty to maintain and enhance biodiversity and promote ecosystem resilience. ADB poses a threat to the county's biodiversity. The promotion of woodland management, and tree planting as part of the Council's approach to managing ADB will address this matter. Of particular importance is the</p>

delivery of the Council's own plans for new woodland planting which have the potential to address both the loss of habitat and public amenity that will be a direct impact of ADB.

Risk to the Council's reputation: The way in which the Council manages Ash Dieback will impact on its reputation. For example, in managing ADB officers will be aware of:

- the impact of road closures and closure of public open spaces on the Council's reputation
- the need to manage public concern regarding ADB
- the need to manage its relationships with landowners.

The delivery of the Council's ADB communication plan addresses these issues.

Financial risk and risk to the economy: ADB will have an economic impact on the economy of Carmarthenshire, principally this will be the direct cost of removing trees that pose a threat to public safety, and this cost will fall largely on private landowners - most ash trees in the county are in private ownership. There will also be a direct cost associated with repairing any damage to property or infrastructure resulting from falling trees.

Together these costs place a significant financial burden on public bodies such as the Council, not only in managing trees for which it is directly responsible but ensuring the trees on land adjacent to its responsibilities are managed appropriately. Similarly, ADB poses a threat to other types of infrastructure e.g., rail network and overhead lines managed by other agencies.

There is also the cost of new planting to compensate for the loss trees and woodlands to ADB.

ADB risks have been highlighted through the Property & Liability Risks Working Group and Risk Management Steering Group. A financial bid for support to scope and undertake ADB works was initially presented to the Risk Management Fund, but has instead been funded, initially from corporate budgets.

A risk-based approach has been taken to identify and remove trees with well developed symptoms of ADB along priority highway routes and in school grounds based on frequency of use and risk to persons from affected trees, or parts of trees, falling. The removal of affected ash from less frequently used areas will follow subject to the necessary funding being in place.

A risk remains that sufficient funding will be required to undertake essential works to affected trees to prevent damage, and further funding requirements will be kept under review and further funding bids made, as appropriate.

ADB will remain a standing update on the Risk Management Groups to ensure this is effectively monitored, as well as in appropriate Divisional Business Plans for those services with Ash trees in their portfolios.

To manage these risks and all other risks associated with tree safety the Council must retain the necessary capacity and expertise within its staffing structure.

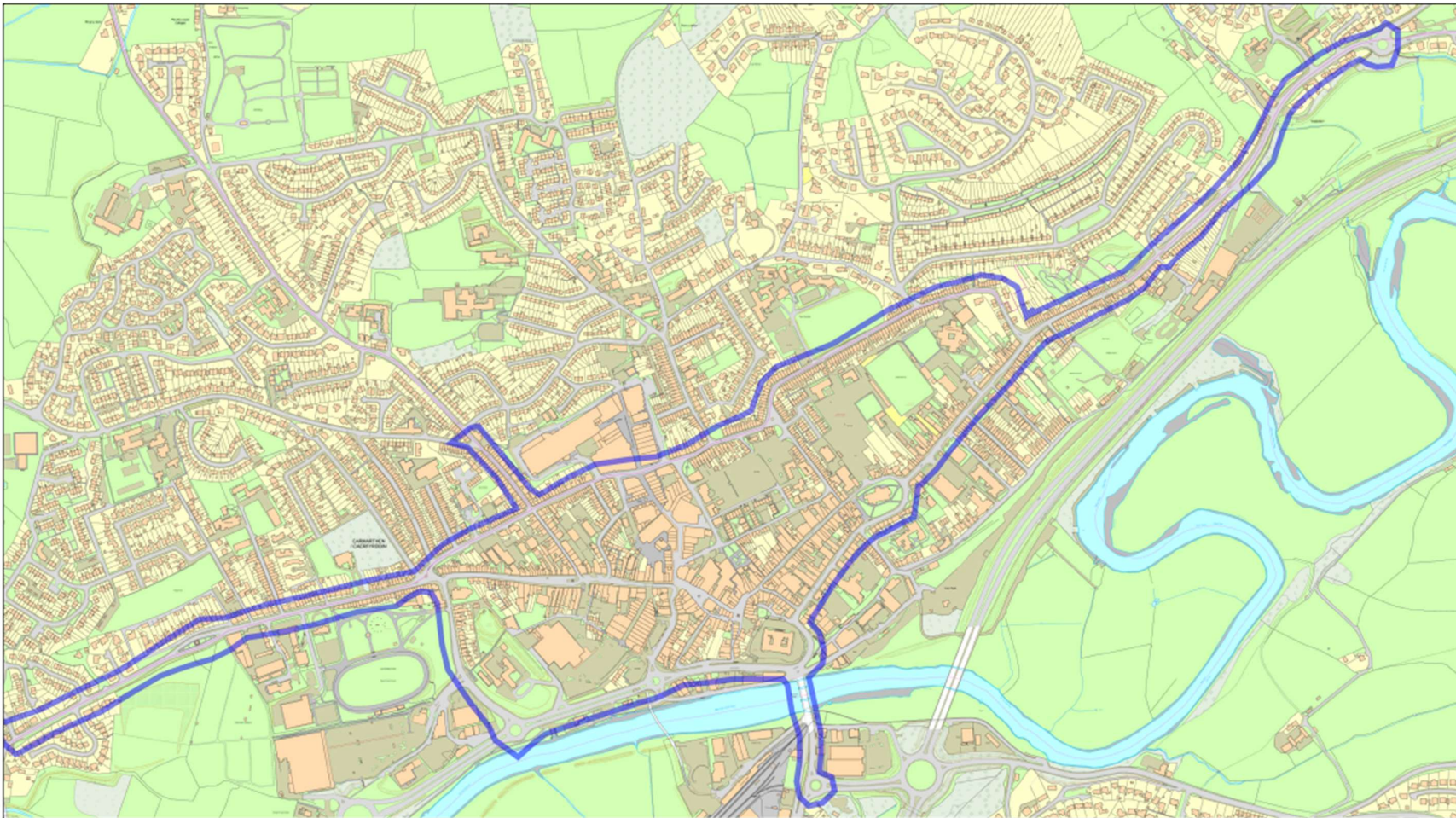
Appendix B: Tree Management Strategy (Sept 2019)

(currently being re drafted)

Appendix C: Air Quality Air Management Areas



Carmarthen AQMA Boundary Map



0 100 200 300m

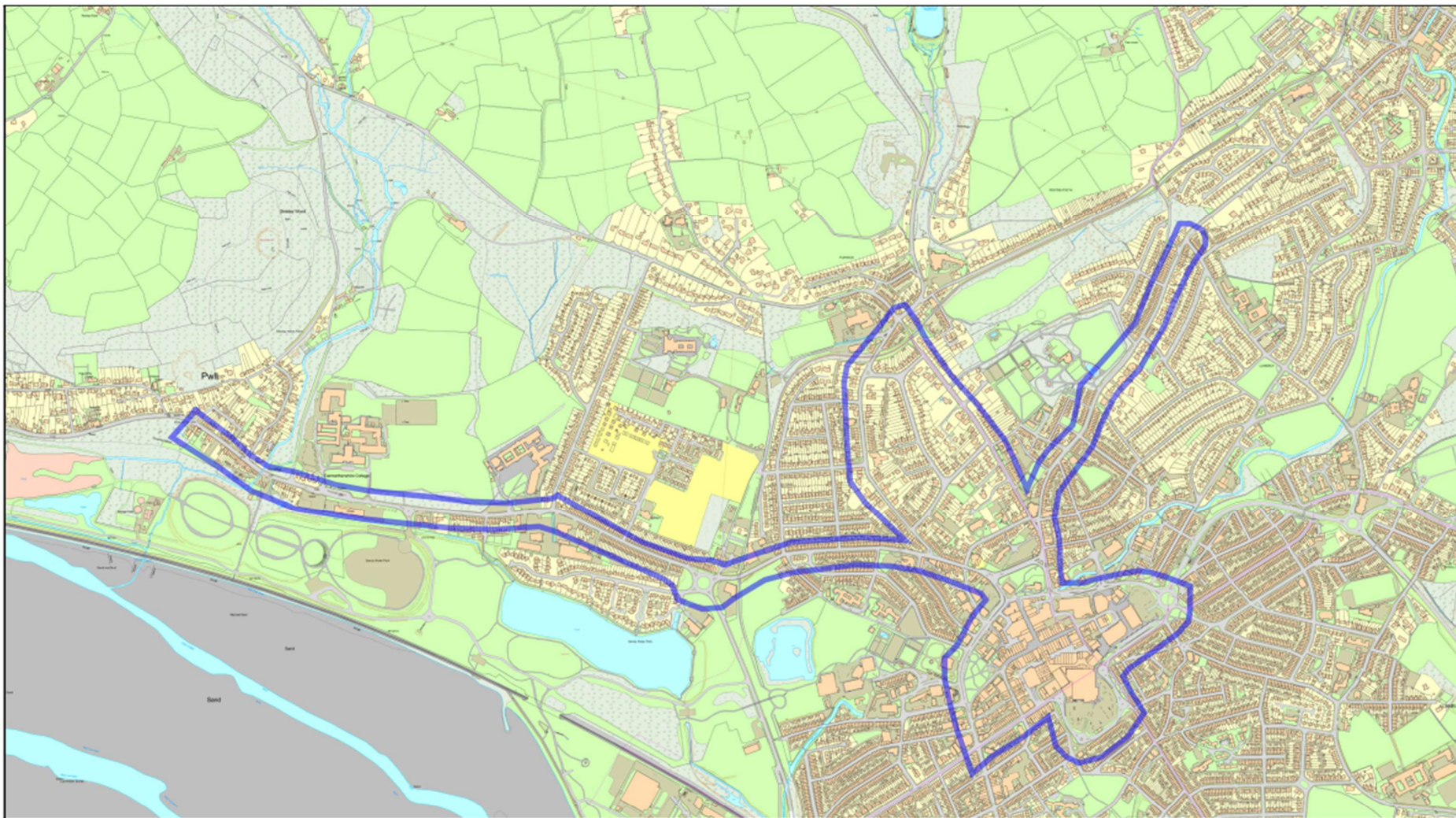
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Llanelli AQMA Boundary Map



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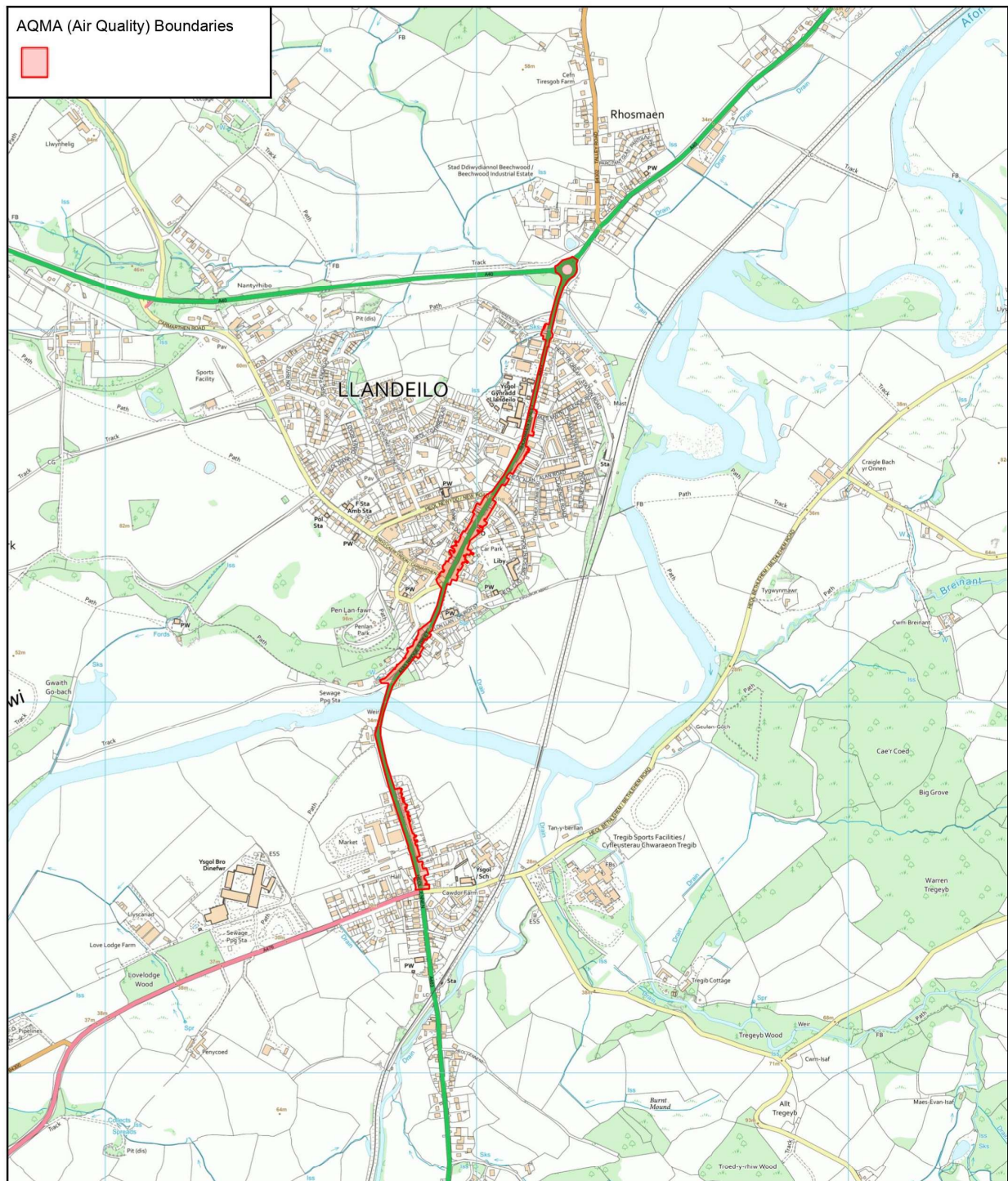
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