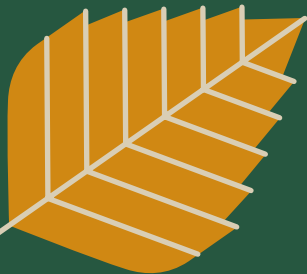
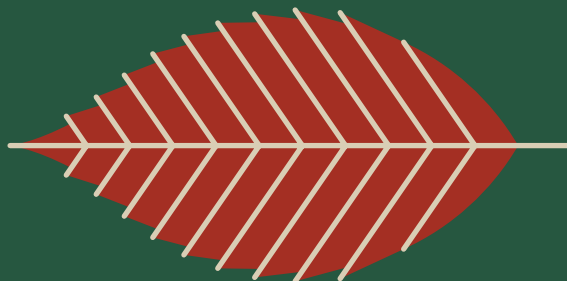
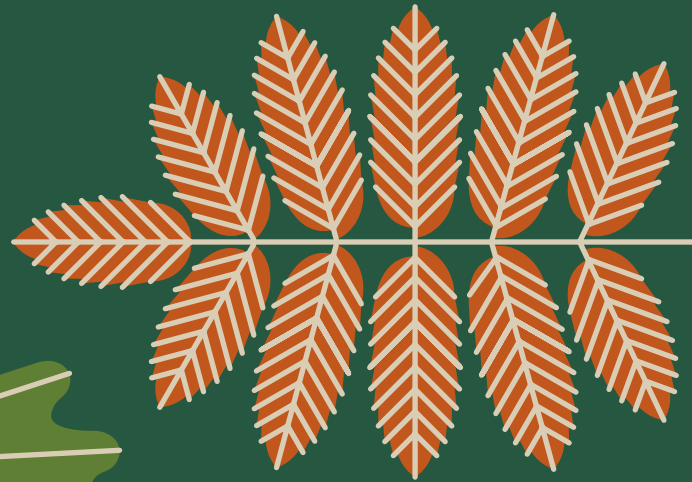




**Sheffield Street Tree  
Partnership**



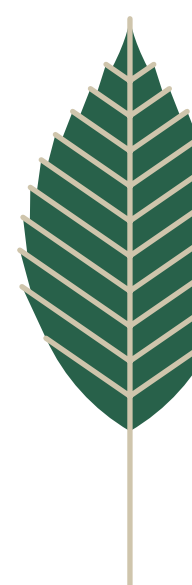
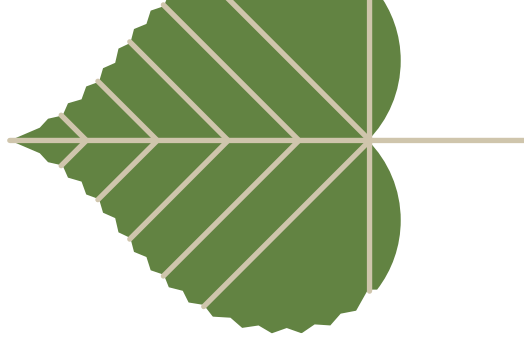
# Annual Report 2023



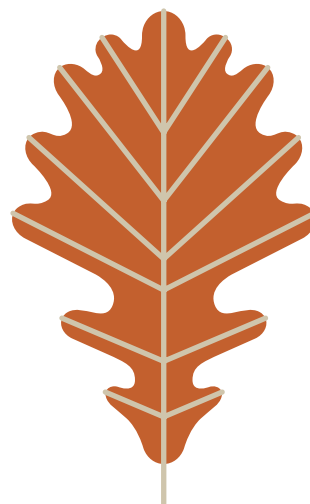
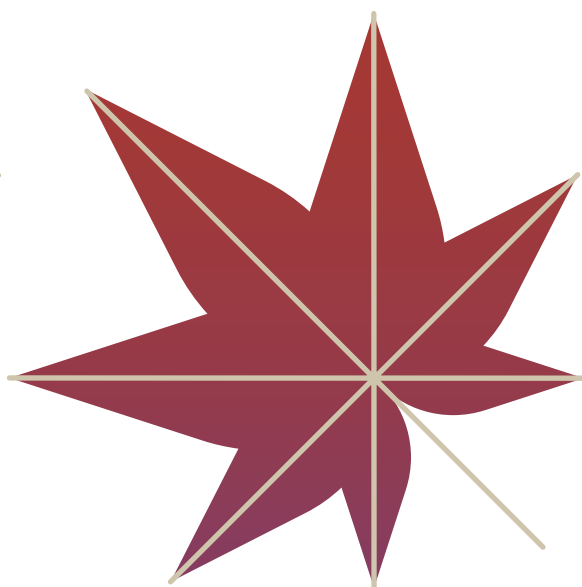
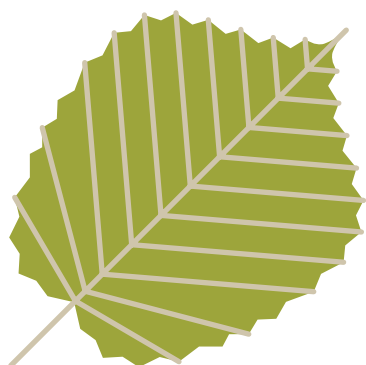
**Sheffield &  
Rotherham**  
Wildlife Trust







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# Chair's Foreword

**Over the course of the year the Sheffield Street Tree Partnership has maintained steady progress, delivering on its Strategy, building on the previous year's successes, and working hard to overcome historical issues. I am proud of what the Partnership continues to achieve, often in the face of significant change and challenge.**

Following the publication of the Sheffield Street Trees Inquiry report by Independent Chair Sir Mark Lowcock KCB, the Partnership is now recognised as a forum for collaboration and partnership working, a model which I hope the Council and other interested parties will explore and adopt for other areas of business. The Lowcock Report found that the Partnership has a "vital role to play" in ensuring that Sheffield's street trees are managed in a way that is transparent, accountable, and sustainable.

In the past year, the Partnership has made significant progress in developing its work and building its capacity. We have established four working groups to focus on key areas of the Strategy, including Community Planting, Street Tree Wardens, Public Engagement, and Data Gathering and Evaluation. We have also launched a website and promoted the Trees for Streets scheme, which enables residents and community groups and local businesses to sponsor and crowdfund street tree planting.

We have strengthened our partnerships and collaboration with Sheffield City Council and other stakeholders. We have developed a Partnership Charter to set out expectations and commitments about how partners work together, and we have worked with the Council to implement the findings of the Lowcock Report.

We have started to build an awareness and understanding of the benefits of street trees through our participation in the Horticultural Show at Arbourthorne Primary School, the annual Tree Fayre, and through presentations to city Councillors, and to the Forestry Commission. This work will continue to develop over the coming year into an engagement and outreach programme.

We recognise that we have much more to do, and we are committed to developing ways of working that enable the delivery of our Strategy at pace, responding in part to the Lowcock Report but more urgently to our need to build resilience in the face of the climate and nature emergency.





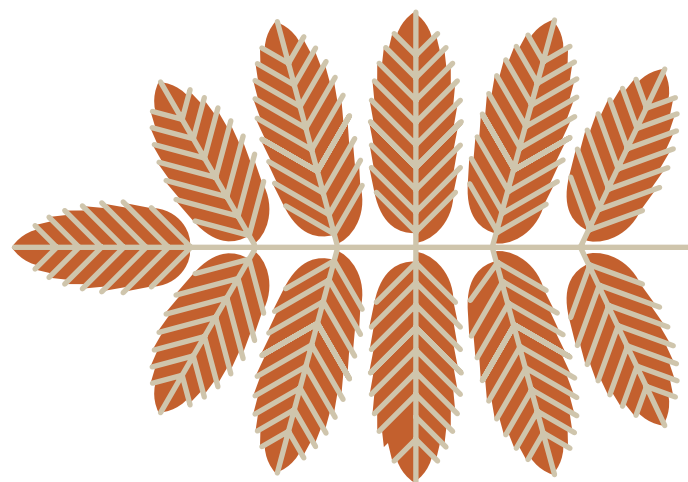
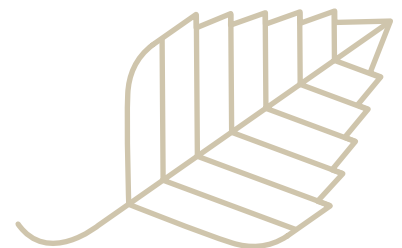
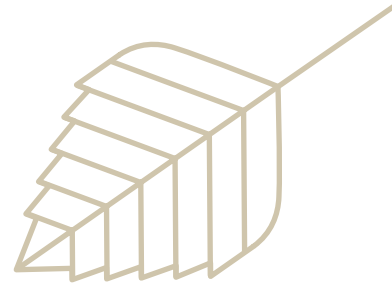
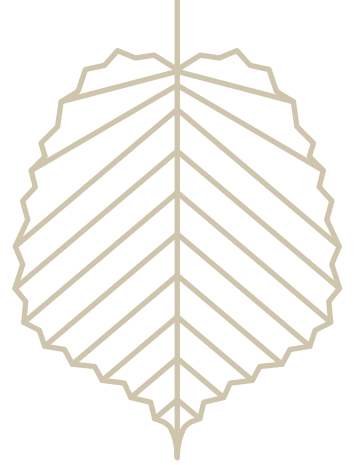
### In the coming year, we will focus on:

- Developing a Strategic Planting Palette to ensure that trees are selected for their resilience to climate change and pests and diseases, and their ability to provide a range of benefits for people and wildlife.
- Implementing the findings of the Sheffield Street Trees Inquiry report to improve the transparency and accountability of the decision-making process for managing Sheffield's street trees.
- Increasing community engagement to involve more people in the care and management of Sheffield's street trees, through new opportunities for volunteering and citizen science, including development and training for our Street Tree Warden scheme.
- Community tree planting initiatives, identifying and removing the blockers and barriers that limit capacity or opportunities for planting in areas of the city that lack canopy cover.

I am truly grateful for the hard work and support of our partners and look forward to expanding our community through the working group structure we have established. Thank you for all that you do. Together, we can deliver a better future for Sheffield's street trees.

Nathan Edwards

**Chair of Sheffield Street Tree Partnership**



Rowan  
*Sorbus aucuparia*









# Introduction

The **Sheffield Street Tree Partnership Strategy** was launched in May 2021 by Sheffield Street Tree Partnership (SSTP).

The Partnership's vision is for a network of street trees that Sheffield can be proud of: well-maintained and cared for; resistant to the threats of disease and climate change; and delivering many benefits for people and our environment.

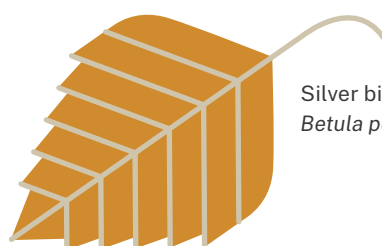
Sheffield Street Tree Partnership Strategy identifies six outcomes that explain the impact that the activity of the Partnership seeks to deliver. There is a great deal to do to realise the Partnership's ambitions and it is made clear within the Strategy that some of the actions will take many years to achieve.

Since the launch of the Strategy, the work of the Partnership has initially focussed on areas of activities that resolve outstanding issues as identified by the Partnership and those actions which are needed to underpin the forward ambitions set out in the Strategy.

The action plans in the Strategy remain live and will evolve as we identify and respond to new priorities and challenges.

This is the second of the Partnership's annual reports.

We are proud of the Partnership's achievements so far and hope that you find this document useful and informative - providing an overview of our progress, as well as transparency around the elements of the Strategy where we have more work to do.



Silver birch  
*Betula pendula*

## OUTCOME 1

# Our street trees are sustainably and carefully managed and maintained in accordance with best practice

This outcome is about ensuring that Sheffield's street trees are looked after as valuable assets for the city and the Partnership has made significant progress with the actions that contribute to this outcome area.

### Outcome 1 summary table

Action ref	Action description	Action status
1.1	Work towards an independent accreditation of street trees	Complete
1.2	Promote and have oversight of the city's approach to street tree management	Complete
1.3	Review, refine and publish the decision-making process for managing Sheffield's street trees	Complete
1.4	Update contract methods statements and management documents	Complete
1.5	Consider ways to influence planning and development e.g. through a Supplementary Planning Document	Ongoing
1.6	Explore ways to promote existing standards for working in the vicinity of street trees and encourage adherence by all contractors	In progress
1.7	Develop an online, user friendly, interactive and live tree map to aid tree management and community reporting	In progress
1.8	Identify important existing and future 'Treescapes' in the city to inform tree officers' management and planting decisions	In progress
1.9	Submit application for Tree Cities of the World recognition	Complete





# Further information

## Independent accreditation of street trees

The Strategy identifies independent accreditation as a major step forward in ensuring transparency, best practice and quality of street tree management and monitoring. Working toward this independent accreditation was a key action, which the Partnership successfully undertook in 2021, with Sheffield being awarded the first ever certificate for a city in Europe for sustainably managing its street trees - the PEFC Trees Outside Forests certification. More information about this can be found in the Partnership's Annual Report 2022.



## Street Tree Guidelines

The action to promote and have oversight of the city's approach to street tree management was addressed via the publication of **Street Tree Guidelines** which help answer some of the most common questions about street trees that people ask the Council. More information about this can be found in the Partnership's **Annual Report 2022**.

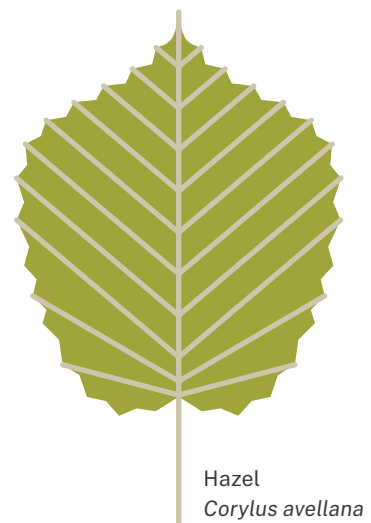
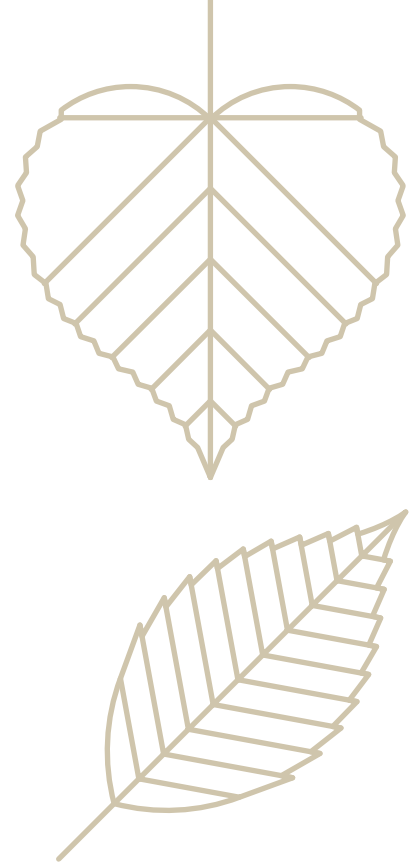
## Decision making process for managing Sheffield's street trees

The action to review, refine and publish the decision-making process for managing Sheffield's street trees has been successfully achieved. More information about this can be found in the Partnership's **Annual Report 2022**.

## Update contract methods statements and management documents

In January 2023, Sheffield City Council gave approval to update the Streets Ahead Highways Maintenance Contract to reflect the Sheffield Street Tree Strategy.

This removes the requirement for a five year tree management strategy and replaces it with a requirement to co-operate with the Street Tree Partnership; adds a new requirement to provide health and safety training and equipment for the Street Tree Wardens;



removes the quantities of 200 trees per year and 17,500 trees by the end of the term from Performance Requirement 6.38 of Schedule 2 Part 6 (Service Standard 6); aligns the selection of replacement street trees to species as detailed in the Sheffield Street Tree Strategy; and makes any necessary consequential amendments to give effect to these changes.

### **Consider ways to influence planning and development**

The Partnership recognised the important opportunity of responding to the draft Sheffield Local Plan consultation in February 2023 as the policies that will be adopted will influence planning and development across the city until 2039. The Partnership submitted a number of comments to strengthen policy wording around street trees and to ensure that developers are signposted to both the Partnership and industry best practice guidance. We were really pleased to see that nine of our suggestions have been put forward as recommended amendments to the Planning Inspector for consideration.

Over the coming year we will be consulted on the Transforming Cities Fund and Connecting Sheffield projects and we will seek further opportunities to promote street trees in planning and development.

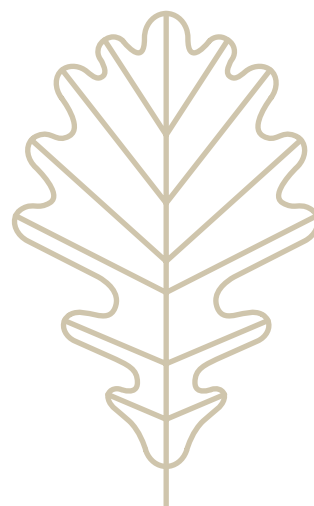
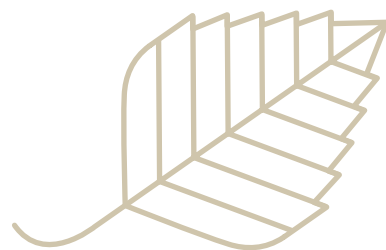
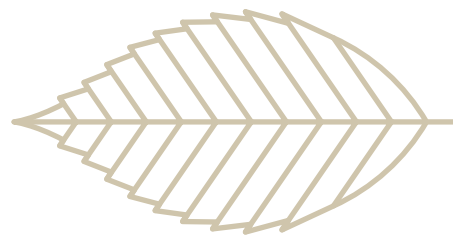
### **Explore ways to promote existing standards for working in the vicinity of street trees and encourage adherence by all contractors**

The Highways Maintenance Division is now working directly with utility companies via the Highways Authority Utility Committee to promote best practice when working near trees, in line with the Partnership's Strategy.

There have been several instances this year where compensatory planting has been sought and secured when contractors have damaged street trees whilst carrying out works.

Sheffield City Council have been working with Amey to provide better utility plans to aid in identification of appropriate tree locations for Community Planting. This should reduce the potential for conflict between underground utilities and trees in the future.

Over the coming year the Partnership will seek to develop further dialogue with utility companies around strategic planting initiatives.



## **Develop an online, user friendly, interactive and live tree map to aid tree management and community reporting**

The Partnership has had early discussions around developing publicly accessible tree maps, and recognises that more research and wider conversations about what systems are available and how they might be funded is required. The Partnership has tasked a sub-group to drive progress on this over the coming year.

## **Identify important existing and future ‘Treescapes’ in the city to inform tree officers’ management and planting decisions**

This ambition will be delivered through the development of our new Strategic Planting Palette - a priority project for the Partnership. The intention is to create a palette to aid spatial species selection, that reflects heritage, nature and other characteristics of an area, so that planting across the city builds diversity and resilience whilst being fit for place.

Discussions have been taking place between partners, including the University of Sheffield, to develop a brief for the work, which we expect to be structured around 5 key areas: replacement and successional planting; arrival to the city and arterial routes through it; opportunities for bridging sites of importance for nature; historic and / or culturally significant streets; planting for diversity and resilience.

A task and finish group has been established to develop this work, and we hope to be able to report significant progress in next year’s annual report.





## Tree Cities of the World

An important ambition within this outcome area was for Sheffield to apply to become part of the '**Tree Cities of the World**' community. The Partnership is delighted that Sheffield has been named as a Tree City of the World in 2021 and 2022.

Cities are recognised for demonstrating leadership in management of their urban trees and have to meet **5 core standards of urban forest management** in order to earn recognition.

By joining a network of internationally recognised frontrunners in urban tree management, the Partnership can connect with other cities, share ideas and examples of best practice, celebrate progress made in terms of improving tree stock management practices, and help to create a positive narrative to reinforce Sheffield's 'green city status'.

The Partnership will continue its work to maintain this status; our application to be recognised as a Tree City of the World in 2023 is due to be submitted in early 2024.



Benjamin Elliott, Unsplash







## OUTCOME 2

# Our street trees are more resilient through the type and age of trees we plant and how we manage the current street tree stock

This outcome focusses on the Partnership's ambition to ensure that Sheffield's street trees are more resilient to climate change and threats from pests and diseases.

### Outcome 2 summary table

Action ref	Action description	Action status
2.1	Annual review of these measures	Ongoing
2.2	Cyclical tree inspection of at least once every 3-5 years	Ongoing
2.3	Review the current age profile and consider approaches to increase resilience	In progress
2.4	Develop a thorough species selection process for replacements and replanting, with reference to best practice	Complete
2.5	Monitor and report the planting of cultivars on the network with the aim of optimising their use	Ongoing
2.6	Support the establishment of a network of local provenance tree nurseries	Not started



English Oak  
*Quercus robur*





## Further information

### Annual review of these measures

This is the second of the Partnership's annual reports. We will continue to share publicly an annual review of these measures. The following is based on a project network of 35,667 trees, as at August 2022.

Comparing 2022 with 2021, the number of tree families has increased by three, the number of genera by six and the number of 'species' by eight, so the overall picture is of increasing diversity. Note that 'species' will in some cases include hybrids and botanical names where it simply isn't possible to define them as such. There are currently 217 different botanical names on the network, which again is an increase from earlier years.

89.6% of the network's trees are classified as Fair or Good; most of these are classed as Fair. It's difficult for a street tree to become or remain Good, as it's a relatively harsh environment with the possibility of vehicle damage. Full details can be found in [appendix 1](#).

### Cyclical tree inspection of at least once every 3-5 years

The contract stipulates that trees are monitored at least every five years. Trees with particular issues, such as disease are monitored more frequently. For example, Ash trees are monitored on an annual basis due to threat to tree health caused by *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus* (Ash Dieback). Trees infected with *Phytophthora* are also monitored on an annual basis as per Forestry Commission advice.

### Review the current age profile and consider approaches to increase resilience

The bigger the tree, the bigger the benefits, and large mature trees provide most of all - the challenge is to have the right balance of mature and new trees to provide both stability and succession against the background of a changing climate. This is an area with no obvious answer as to the age profile which optimises benefits and succession, so we are considering how to approach this.

With regard to the current age profile, 62% of trees are maturing, of which around a third are early-mature. 38% of trees are classed as fully mature. These values don't include community tree plantings though the volumes aren't currently high enough to change the values at this level of precision.



### **Develop a thorough species selection process for replacements and replanting, with reference to best practice**

This is complete, although challenges like the changing climate and increasing knowledge about habitats means that best practice changes over time, so it should never be static. The proposed Strategic Planting Palette (see outcome 1) will provide a framework to take this forward.

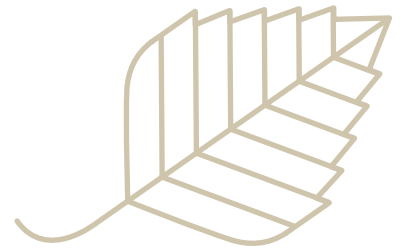
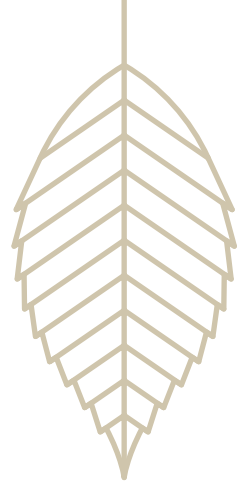
### **Monitor and report the planting of cultivars on the network with the aim of optimising their use**

Cultivars have a place; they are created to reproduce striking features or provide resilience in the face of disease or difficult habitats. It's not a good idea however, to plant many of the same type together as they are clones so if one is vulnerable to a disease, all are. Diverse planting is better, but putting cultivars into the mix where they create an advantage.

Deciding whether or not to plant a named 'cultivar' however is complex, and we need to consider further what we are trying to achieve through this action, in order to decide whether or not this is the best measure. In terms of numbers, at the reference point there were 6903 named cultivars, four higher than in 2021, the increase being driven by an increase in disease-resistant elms.

### **Support the establishment of a network of local provenance tree nurseries**

Street trees are 8-12 years old at planting, so creating a nursery is a very long-term ambition which even if commenced now couldn't be used within the timeframe and procurement constraints of the current Highways Maintenance Contract. As an aim it is more suited to supporting the aspirations of others, who would be planting off-street, so the Partnership will consider whether this Strategy is the right place for this ambition, or whether we're just guarding it for a future host.





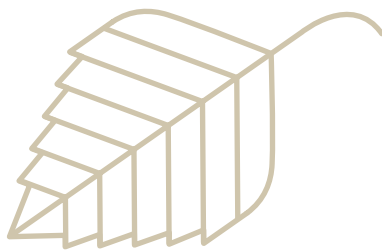
## OUTCOME 3

# Increase the value and benefits that flow from our street trees

Sheffield's urban trees provide many important benefits, including:

- Enhancing Sheffield's 'green city' reputation and contributing to a sense of place
- Improving our physical and mental health and wellbeing
- Cleaning the air that we breathe
- Contributing to offsetting our carbon emissions
- Helping combat the effects of climate change such as flash floods and rising temperatures
- Providing a connection for people to the natural environment on their doorsteps
- Bringing communities together, fostering a sense of belonging, and being part of the heritage and history of an area
- Making the city more attractive to encourage students, visitors and businesses to come to Sheffield and help boost the local economy
- Supporting and protecting the city's biodiversity and wildlife
- Providing local environmental benefits like shade, natural traffic calming and reducing verge and pavement parking

This outcome is about increasing these benefits.



Sweet gum  
*Liquidambar styraciflua*



### Outcome 3 summary table

Action ref	Action description	Action status
3.1	I-Tree Eco recalculated in spring every year and reported as a five-year moving average	Ongoing
3.2	Undertake equivalent planting in advance of felling mature trees as part of planned schemes where possible	Not started
3.3	Identify suitable locations on the network and under plant with hedges	Not started
3.4	Training Street Tree Wardens to monitor biodiversity supported by street trees	Not started



## Further information

### **I-Tree Eco recalculated in spring every year and reported as a five-year moving average**

As it takes five years to survey the network, there is limited value in spending resources on an annual recalculation.

That said, the number of street trees in Sheffield has increased by 392 (1%) since 2019 (the data from 2019 was used as a baseline for drafting the strategy). We also know that trees that are removed on condition grounds are providing limited and declining benefits. These two facts give indicative evidence that we would expect the value of Sheffield's street trees to be increasing, but it will be interesting to see how this is reflected more formally in the upcoming analysis, which we expect to undertake in 2024.

### **Undertake equivalent planting in advance of felling mature trees as part of planned schemes where possible**

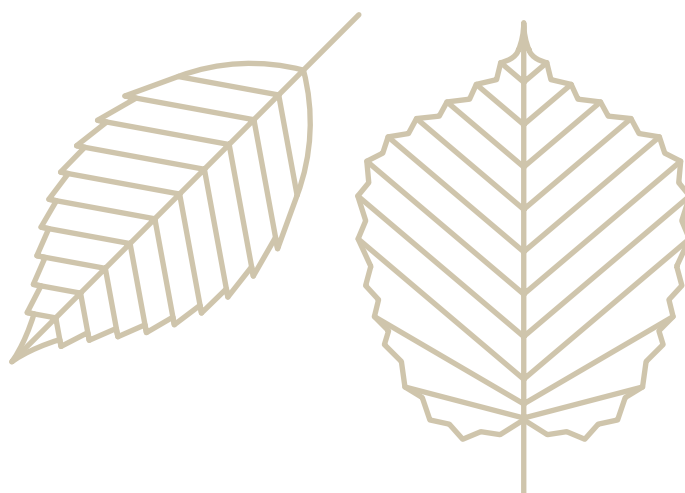
This isn't currently covered by the Highways Maintenance contract, so would require careful thought as to how and where it's appropriate to implement. This remains a future consideration for the Partnership with no defined start date.

### **Identify suitable locations on the network and under plant with hedges**

The Partnership has no current plans to implement this action but will keep under review and ensure that any future plans are in line with Amey's Local Biodiversity Action Plan, which we expect to be published this year.

### **Training Street Tree Wardens to monitor biodiversity supported by street trees**

This activity has not yet started, but it remains an ambition of the Partnership. The Street Tree Warden Task and Finish Group will be looking at how we can progress this over the coming year.



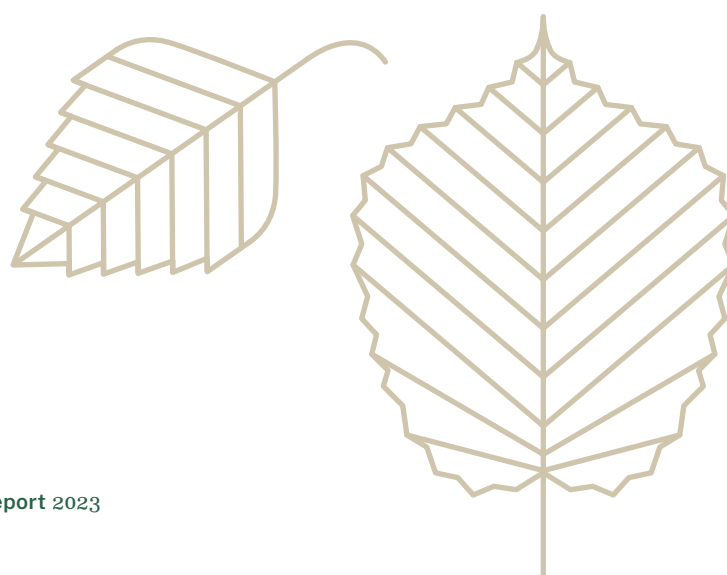
## OUTCOME 4

# Contribute to a more equal distribution of urban forest across the city

There is growing evidence to support the health and wellbeing benefits of being in close proximity to trees including reducing stress and improving the physical, mental and spiritual wellbeing of individuals and communities. This outcome is about supporting increased tree planting in areas of lower canopy cover across the city that also have poorer air quality and lower indices of living environment and/or health deprivation (Indices of Multiple Deprivation) rankings.

### Outcome 4 summary table

Action ref	Action description	Action status
4.1	Analyse the distribution of all trees across the city in relation to air quality, living environment and health deprivation indices	Ongoing
4.2	Use mapping analysis to target additional planting, including through community funded planting	Ongoing
4.3	Develop measures that will lead to a more even distribution of trees across the city e.g. through redistribution, community funded planting	Ongoing
4.4	Influence others to consider additional planting in local centres, district centres, and the city centre	Ongoing





## Further information

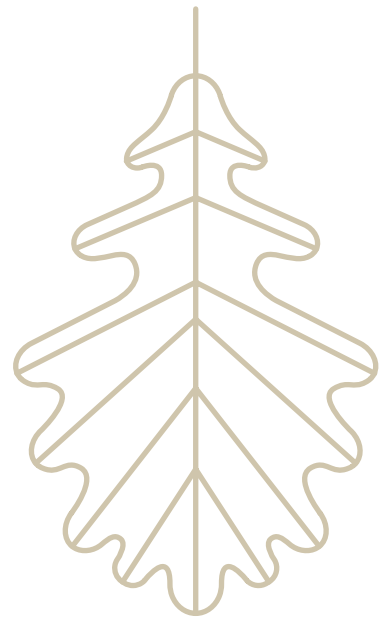
### Analyse the distribution of all trees across the city in relation to air quality, living environment and health deprivation indices

Within Sheffield there's a clear east/west divide in relation to deprivation, with much lower levels of deprivation in the west side of the city and correspondingly higher life expectancies. Apart from the densely treed suburbs of Southey, Firth Park and Shiregreen, street tree cover follows a similar though less marked pattern, with a tendency for more trees in the west and trees in the east concentrated on the main roads. (See [Sheffield Street Tree Strategy p.36 and Appendix 8](#))

Unsurprisingly, air quality is worst in the city centre and near the M1, both areas with relatively few trees in the urban and industrial areas (see [Sheffield Street Tree Strategy Appendix 8](#)). Although additional trees will intercept particulate pollution, the wider challenge is to reduce air pollution, and Sheffield City Council continues to consider and implement ways to achieve this.

Analysis of the distribution of trees in relation to air quality, living environment and health deprivation indices will continue, to enable the Partnership to target the planting of additional trees to the areas of the city where they will have the biggest impact in relation to these measures.

When looking at the contribution street trees make to an area, the areas with the highest percentage of canopy due to street trees are in the north east of the city, and the lowest volumes tend to be in the south east. When deprivation scores are added in, the picture changes to a more generalised need in both north and south, but all on the eastern side of the city. Note that these figures relate to trees maintained by Streets Ahead, so could be changed by street trees on council housing land. The data can only show areas of interest, but further investigation is always required.



Common lime  
*Tilia x europaea*









## **Use analysis to target additional planting in areas of low canopy cover so as to provide the most benefits & develop measures that will lead to a more even distribution of trees across the city**

The launch of the Trees for Streets scheme in Sheffield this year (see outcome 6), a scheme that enables residents, communities and businesses to sponsor street trees is a notable step forwards for this ambition. The scheme provides crowdfunding opportunities which can be used to target additional trees to the areas of most need - both through community funded planting, and / or altruistic funding from elsewhere.

### **There have been some noteworthy successes this year;**

- The Partnership worked with the University of Sheffield's Landscape Architecture Department on a project which asked students to look at where green infrastructure, particularly street trees, could be implemented in the S20 area of Sheffield. The Partnership then funded a number of student schemes, resulting in 9 additional trees being planted in an area of low canopy cover.
- Community Planting schemes have been hugely successful in some areas of the city. In Nether Edge, Sharrow, Sharrow Vale and Carter Knowle, £79,000 of funding was co-ordinated to plant 135 additional street trees in winters 21/22 and 22/23. Funding for a further 66 trees has been raised to plant in winter 23/24 - 50% funded by residents and 50% funded by Nether Edge and Sharrow Sustainable Transformation (NESST) - which is represented on the Partnership by Paul Selby. Over 80% of these new trees are on roads that did not have street trees previously.
- NESST successfully bid for Grant funding to plant more street trees in the economically deprived and canopy deprived areas of Highfield and Lowfield. This was provided by the Aviva Wild Isles Community Fund, which 2:1 match funded donations to NESST, and will result in the planting of between 23 and 70 trees in winter 23/24.

The Partnership's Community Planting Working Group (see outcome 6) will look at how we can make similar progress in areas of low canopy cover across the city, and how we can make community planting schemes more affordable and accessible for all.

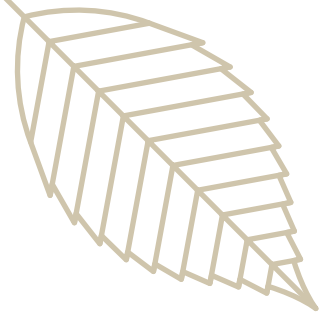




## **Influence others to consider additional planting**

The Partnership has engaged with Council led development schemes affecting trees, including Connecting Sheffield and Transforming Cities Fund projects, to discuss compensatory planting schemes.

We will continue to develop this workstream, engaging with development schemes, as well as community planting and strategic planting projects.







## OUTCOME 5

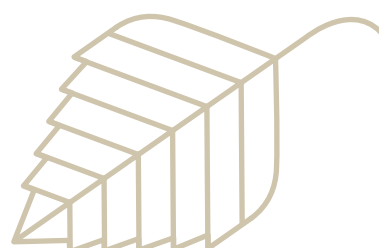
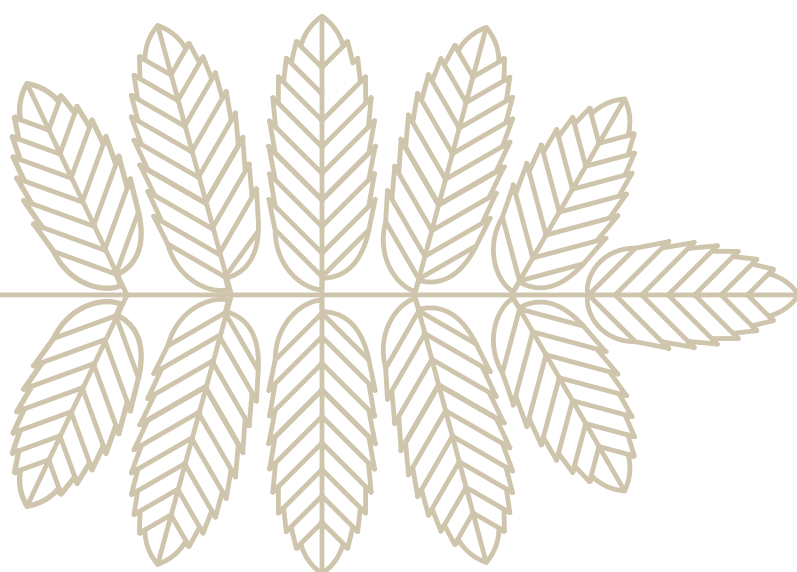
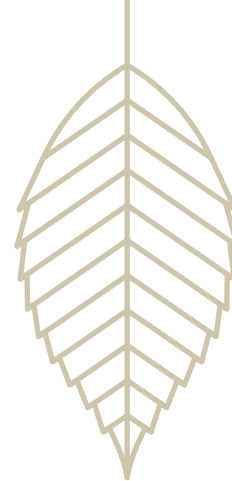
### Increase street tree canopy cover

Street trees form a small but important part of the whole tree canopy that covers the city. Canopy cover is an indication of whether the whole biomass of our street trees is increasing over time. More tree biomass generally equates to more benefits and value flowing from our street trees. In particular this should benefit biodiversity, providing more habitats for bats, birds, insects and other wildlife.

If the Partnership is successful in achieving this outcome there will be an increasing trend in average canopy cover over a 5-yearly rolling period using the i-Tree canopy calculations.

#### Outcome 5 summary table

Action ref	Action description	Action status
5.1	Calculate canopy cover annually in spring/early summer	Ongoing
5.2	Explore ways to monitor biodiversity across our street trees	Not started
5.3	Explore ways to enhance biodiversity and bio abundance across our street trees	In progress





## Further information

### Calculate canopy cover annually in spring/early summer

According to the [Sheffield Trees and Woodlands Strategy 2018-2033](#), the total tree cover of Sheffield is 18.4% and 21.6% in the urban area of the city.

Street trees are only part of the total tree cover in the city; trees in public parks and private gardens, housing land and natural woodlands are by far the greater part of the city's trees. Nevertheless, street trees, by definition, deliver benefits where people are and also form valuable wildlife corridors, so their contribution is important.

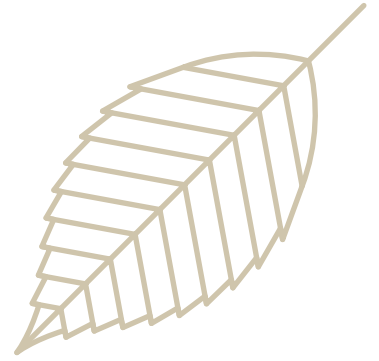
Overall, street tree canopy is increasing across the city; this is due to the fact that Streets Ahead are contracted to hand back a network of 36,000 trees, but they started out with approximately 35,000. Canopy (calculated from crown width adjusted for dead trees) is around 139 hectares. This doesn't currently include the canopy gain due to community planted trees, as at the 2022 reference point used for this report, none had yet been accrued to the network.

### Explore ways to monitor biodiversity across our street trees

The Partnership has ambitions to train Street Tree Wardens to monitor biodiversity across our street trees, but this activity has not yet started.

### Explore ways to enhance biodiversity and bio abundance across our street trees

This will be considered through the development of the Strategic Planting Palette (see outcome 1). This project is in its early stages, and we will report progress in next year's annual report.











## OUTCOME 6

# The wider community of all ages is involved in caring for and valuing street trees

This outcome is about raising awareness of the benefits of street trees and improving our shared understanding of the management of street trees. It is also about increasing the resources (funds and time) available to care for Sheffield's street trees by involving more people. Better communication should help to ensure that we work together across the city to improve Sheffield's street trees and not repeat the mistakes of the past.

### Outcome 6 summary table

Action ref	Action description	Action status
6.1	Continue to develop the Sheffield Street Tree Partnership to take forward this Strategy	Ongoing
6.2	Promote the new process that allows residents and community groups to fund additional street tree planting	Ongoing
6.3	Support the Street Tree Warden scheme (or similar) for Sheffield	Ongoing
6.4	Develop an engagement and outreach programme to encourage children, young people, families, and adults to learn about and value their local trees	In progress
6.5	Arrange an annual celebration to raise awareness and acknowledge volunteers	Complete



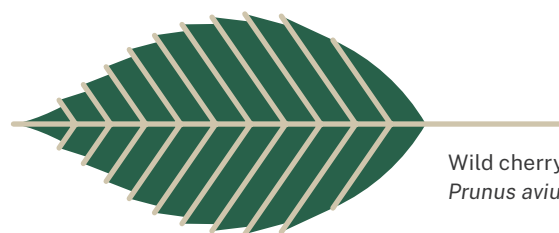
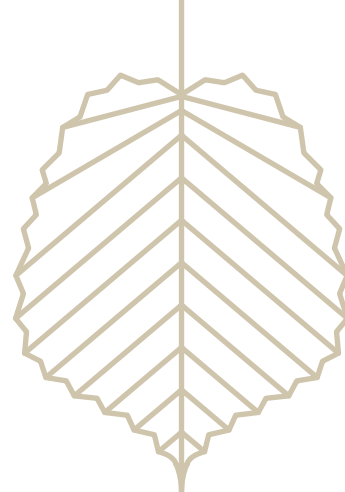
## Further information

### Continue to develop the Sheffield Street Tree Partnership to take forward this Strategy

This year has seen a number of important developments for the Partnership:

- To bring additional capacity to the Partnership, in September we established four working groups focussed on our priority areas of Community Planting, Street Tree Wardens, Public Engagement, and Data Gathering and Evaluation. We will recruit people to these groups with the necessary skills and experience to help accelerate delivery of the Strategy.
- Away-days, held twice a year, have given partners the time and space to focus on developing the Partnership and delivering the Strategy.
- Partners worked together to develop a Partnership Charter, signed by all, that sets out expectations and commitments about how we work together.
- The launch of the Sheffield Street Tree Partnership website earlier this year has enabled us to promote the work of the Partnership, improve transparency around what we do, and make our resources available to a wider audience.
- Developing information sharing agreements has enabled partners to bring in and consider external expertise in relation to subsidence claims.

This year saw the publication of the Lowcock Report, following the independent inquiry into the Street Tree dispute. The Partnership welcomed the report, and the Council's response to it - which committed to strengthening engagement with the Partnership, additional staff resource, and support for the Partnership in considering a more formal status. The Partnership looks forward to building on this and continuing to be a vehicle for positive change.



Wild cherry  
*Prunus avium*

## **Promote the new process that allows residents and community groups to fund additional street tree planting**

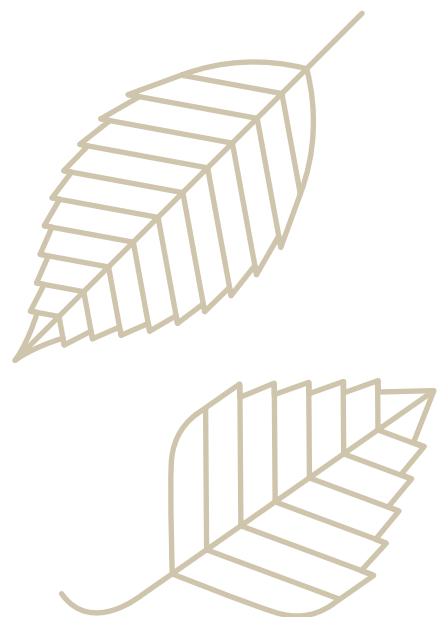
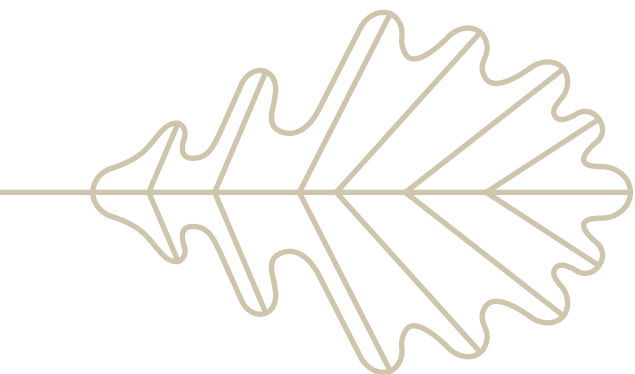
This year saw the launch of the Trees for Streets scheme in Sheffield, which enables residents, community groups and businesses to sponsor and crowdfund street tree planting (see outcome 4). We have promoted the scheme through the Partnership's website, as well as at events we have attended. The Partnership will continue to seek further opportunities to promote the scheme through our engagement activity this year.

We intend to plant 156 trees through this scheme this planting season. The Partnership is keen to make this scheme accessible and affordable for as many people as possible and will continue to explore ways of bringing down the cost.

## **Support the Tree Warden scheme**

The Strategy states that the Partnership will support the Street Tree Warden scheme to provide a structured approach to engage local people in looking after street trees. There are currently around 30 volunteer Street Tree Wardens helping to care for their local street trees, and acting as the eyes, ears and voice for the trees on their streets and beyond.

The new structure of the Partnership includes a working group dedicated to the Street Tree Warden Scheme. This will enable us to bring in additional resources and create momentum, so that we can recruit, support and train Street Tree Wardens and engage them in delivering the wider ambitions of the strategy. This year saw Street Tree Wardens playing an important role in our engagement activity, representing the Partnership at the Tree Fayre.



## Develop an engagement and outreach programme

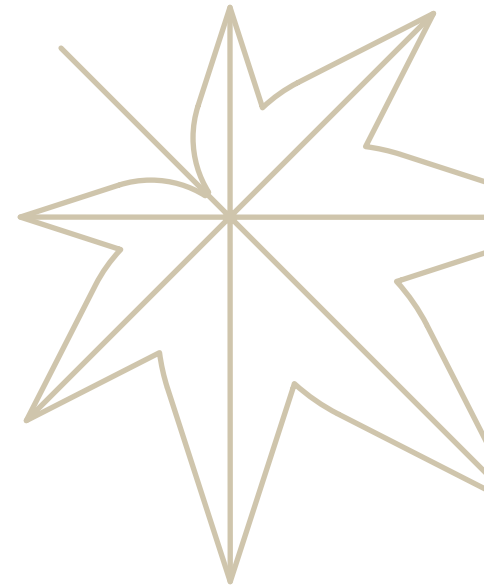
As a first step in developing an engagement and outreach programme, the Partnership took part in a Horticultural Show at Arbourthorne Primary School, adapting some of our resources for a younger audience.

The Partnership has ambitions to develop this further, through school assemblies, downloadable resources, events etc and will explore these options through the Public Engagement working group.

## Annual celebration event

The Partnership took part in the 2023 Sheffield Tree Fayre, held in the Botanical Gardens in May 2023 (delayed from September 2022 due to the death of Her Majesty the Queen).

The event was a success, giving us an opportunity to promote the benefits of street trees and talk to people about the work of the Partnership. The Partnership is keen to be involved in future Tree Fayre events, building on the learning from this first event.





## Final comments

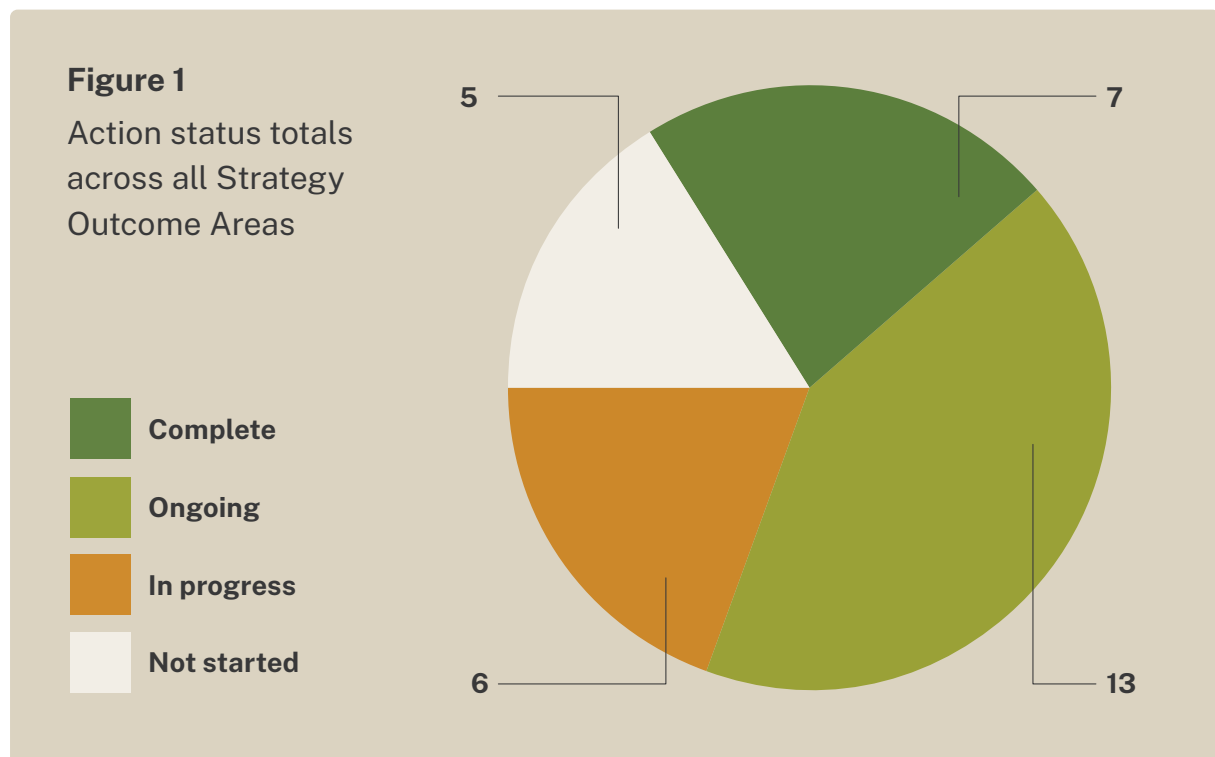
The work of the Partnership would not be possible without the time, energy, commitment and enthusiasm of our partners and volunteers. To all of those who have been involved in the work of the Partnership and delivering the Strategy this year - a big Thank You.

We are pleased with the progress the Partnership has made so far but recognise that we are still in the very early days of delivering our vision for a network of street trees that Sheffield can be proud of. There is much more to do, and we look forward to working with partners, volunteers and the wider community to deliver the benefits that street trees can bring, both for the environment, and the people of Sheffield.

Figure 1, below, shows status totals for the actions across all six outcome areas of the Strategy, demonstrating the significant progress that the Partnership continues to make.

'In progress' denotes activity that has started but is not yet complete. 'Ongoing' means that activity has started and become 'business as usual' with no completion date.

Further updates on the work of the Sheffield Street Tree Partnership will be available in future annual progress reports.









# Appendix 1

## Measures Summary comparing 2022 with 2021

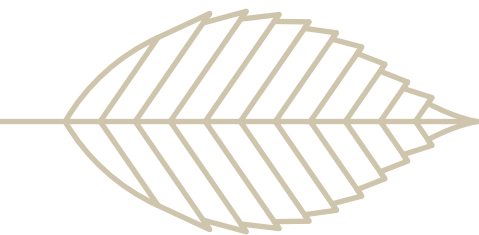
Figures were taken in August 2022, with a tree count of 35,667. This count does not include community planted trees, though it will when they are accrued to the Streets Ahead maintained project network, which happens three years after planting. Neither does it include trees close to the highway which are on land managed by SCC's Housing department.

### Species Diversity: Family, Genus and Species breakdowns

The recommended proportions are: no more than 30% of any one family, no more than 20% of any single genus, no more than 10% of a single species. Changes year-on-year will always be slight, as trees are only removed on the basis of need. Replacements per annum account for around 1% of the total street tree stock, and it would be very unlikely for all these to be in the family/genus/species that we might want to reduce. Note however, that some trees may have cultural value, which could be viewed as more valuable on small scales.



Blackthorn blossom, Jack Blueberry, Unsplash

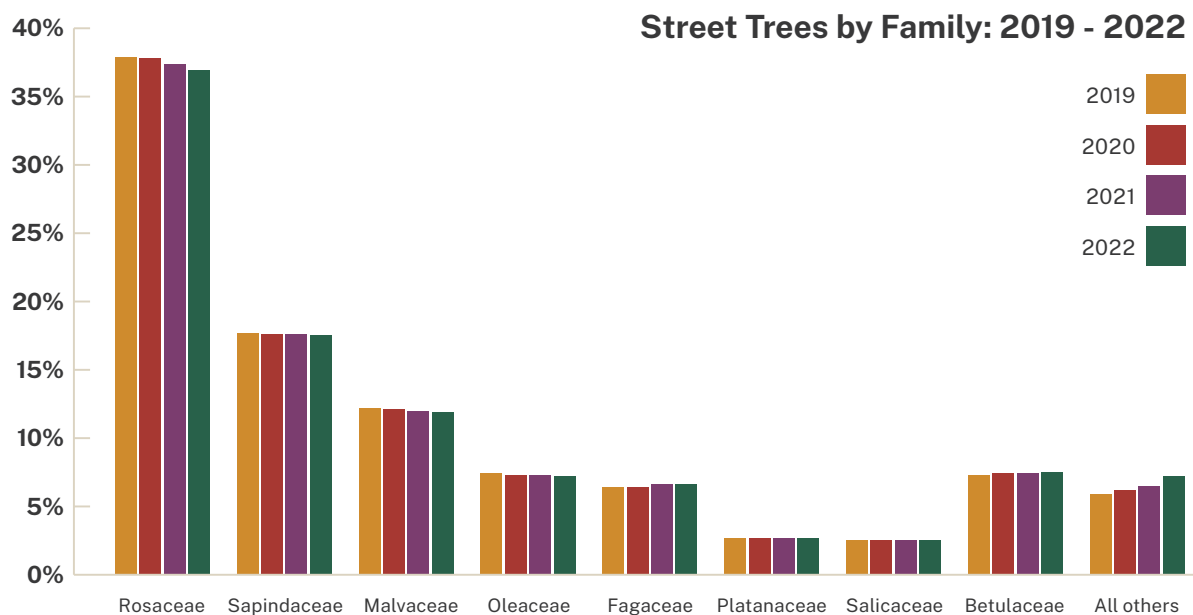




## Family

The number of families has increased by two to 31. The percentage of trees in the Rosaceae family is slightly higher than ideal but has reduced further to 36.9%. The percentage of the 23 families comprising “All others” has increased to 7.2%, causing the percentage of the top eight families to fall to 92.6%. This is a more than 50% increase in the number of tree families on the network since the Street Ahead contract started and is a significant increase in diversity.

Tree family	2012	2019	2020	2021	2022	↑ ↓
<b>Rosaceae</b>	39.7%	37.9%	37.8%	37.4%	36.9%	↓ ↓
<b>Sapindaceae</b>	20.4%	17.7%	17.6%	17.6%	17.5%	↓
<b>Malvaceae</b>	11.9%	12.2%	12.1%	12.0%	11.9%	↓
<b>Oleaceae</b>	10.1%	7.4%	7.3%	7.3%	7.2%	↓
<b>Fagaceae</b>	7.2%	6.4%	6.4%	6.6%	6.6%	—
<b>Platanaceae</b>	3.4%	2.7%	2.7%	2.7%	2.7%	—
<b>Salicaceae</b>	2.7%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	—
<b>Betulaceae</b>	1.8%	7.3%	7.4%	7.4%	7.5%	↑
<b>All others</b>	2.7%	5.9%	6.2%	6.5%	7.2%	↑ ↑



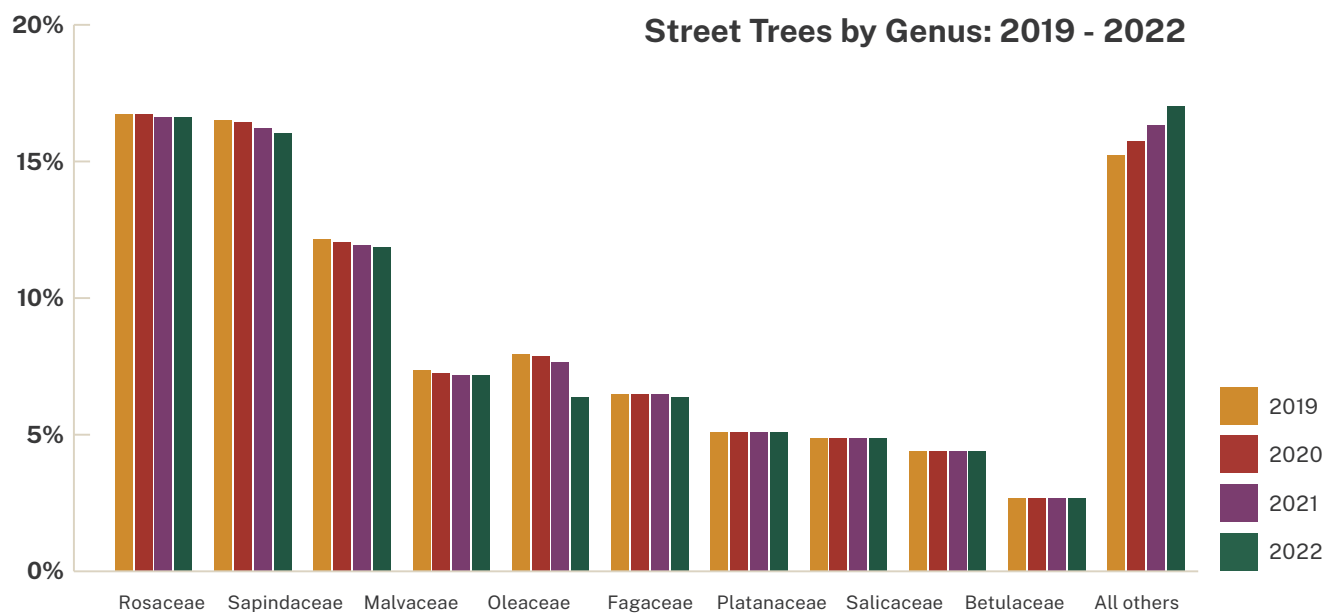
## Genus

Between 2021 and 2022 the number of genera increased by three to 66. Acer (maple) still has the highest percentage by genus at 16.7%, slightly ahead of Prunus (cherry, plum) at 16.1%. Looking at genera in the Rosaceae family, the percentages of both Prunus, Sorbus (rowan, whitebeam) and Malus (apple) have fallen slightly, and Crataegus (hawthorn) is unchanged.

The proportion of Fraxinus (ash) hasn't changed, but is expected to fall due to the impact of Ash Dieback disease. In general, the disease isn't progressing as fast in Sheffield's street trees as it is in the river valleys.

The top eight genera make up 82.9% of the total, down from 83.6%. The remaining 17.1% are in 62 different genera, six more than in 2021 which again increases the diversity and hence resilience of our tree network.

	2012	2019	2020	2021	2022	↑ ↓
<b>Acer</b>	19.1%	16.8%	16.8%	16.7%	16.7%	—
<b>Prunus</b>	20.6%	16.6%	16.5%	16.3%	16.1%	↓
<b>Tilia</b>	11.9%	12.2%	12.1%	12.0%	11.9%	—
<b>Fraxinus</b>	10.0%	7.4%	7.3%	7.2%	7.2%	—
<b>Sorbus</b>	9.7%	8.0%	7.9%	7.7%	6.4%	↓
<b>Malus</b>	5.2%	6.5%	6.5%	6.5%	6.4%	↓
<b>Quercus</b>	3.8%	5.1%	5.1%	5.1%	5.1%	—
<b>Crataegus</b>	3.0%	4.9%	4.9%	4.9%	4.9%	—
<b>Betula</b>	2.4%	4.4%	4.4%	4.4%	4.4%	—
<b>Platanus</b>	3.4%	2.7%	2.7%	2.7%	2.7%	—
<b>All others</b>	2.9%	15.3%	15.8%	16.4%	17.1%	↑ ↑

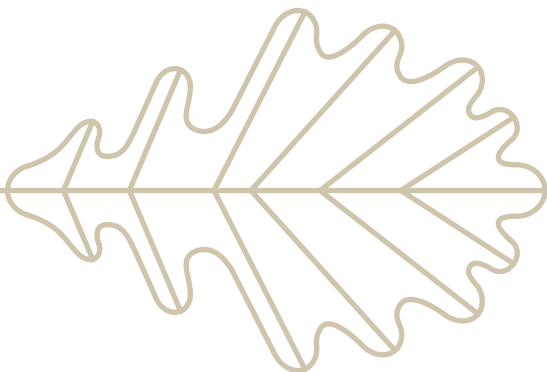


## Species

‘Species’ count has increased, though this is in some respects a somewhat arbitrary concept, as in many cases tree varieties can’t be classed as species. For example, hybrids such as European Lime are a cross of different species, and many ornamental cherries such as the Kanzan cherry are sterile. For this analysis, trees are collated into species if it is possible to do so, and by botanical name if it isn’t. Pre-contract data isn’t available, as trees weren’t defined precisely enough in that survey.

3.7% of trees are now only identified to genus level, which is a good improvement from 8.6% in 2021. The number of ‘species’ has increased to 183 from 175, though the proportions of the ten most numerous haven’t changed much.

Genus	Species	2019	2020	2021	2022	↑ ↓
<b>Acer</b>	<i>pseudoplatanus</i>	10.83%	10.78%	10.68%	10.68%	—
<b>Tilia</b>	<i>x europaea</i>	8.71%	8.69%	8.60%	8.57%	↓
<b>Prunus</b>	<i>serrulata</i>	8.29%	8.29%	8.25%	8.18%	↓
<b>Fraxinus</b>	<i>excelsior</i>	7.03%	6.97%	6.92%	6.87%	↓
<b>Quercus</b>	<i>robur</i>	4.36%	4.37%	4.38%	4.41%	↑
<b>Sorbus</b>	<i>aucuparia</i>	4.10%	4.05%	3.94%	3.77%	↓
<b>Acer</b>	<i>campestre</i>	2.61%	2.69%	2.68%	2.73%	↑
<b>Crataegus</b>	<i>monogyna</i>	2.78%	2.73%	2.74%	2.70%	↓
<b>Platanus</b>	<i>x hispanica</i>	2.74%	2.73%	2.70%	2.70%	—
<b>Acer</b>	<i>platanooides</i>	2.75%	2.67%	2.71%	2.69%	↓
<b>All others</b>		45.8%	46.0%	46.4%	46.7%	↑



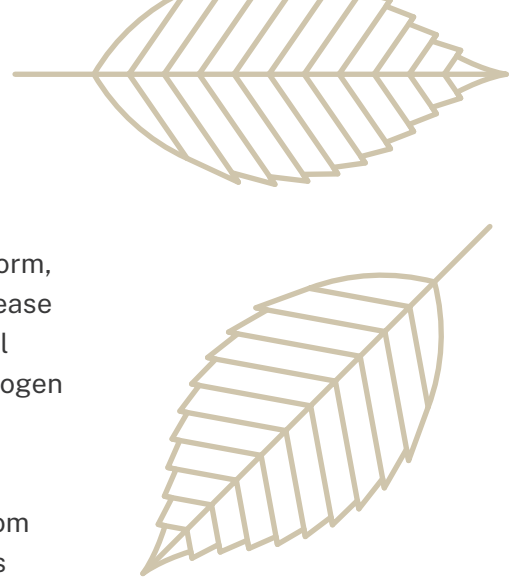


## Cultivars

Cultivars are planted for several reasons: a showy ornamental form, a tolerance to street conditions like salt, or for resistance to disease like the dutch elm disease resistant elms. However, an individual cultivar lacks genetic diversity which could be an issue if a pathogen spreads that they don't have an effective response to.

Comparing 2022 with 2021, the number of named cultivars has increased by four, but the percentage has decreased slightly from 19.39% to 19.35%. This is because the total number of trees has increased. The number of distinct botanical names has increased by four, and the number of genera has increased by two. 71.2% are Rosaceae, but this isn't surprising given that around 37% of the network's trees are in this family. This does not include known hybrids, most of which are infertile so cultivars by propagation; this would raise the proportion to almost a third of the network.

Named cultivars on the network come from 14 families, 24 genera and 64 botanical names.



Abbeydate Park Rise cherry blossom, Susan Unwin

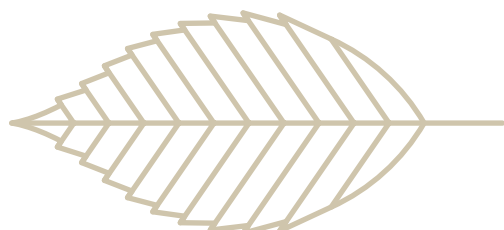
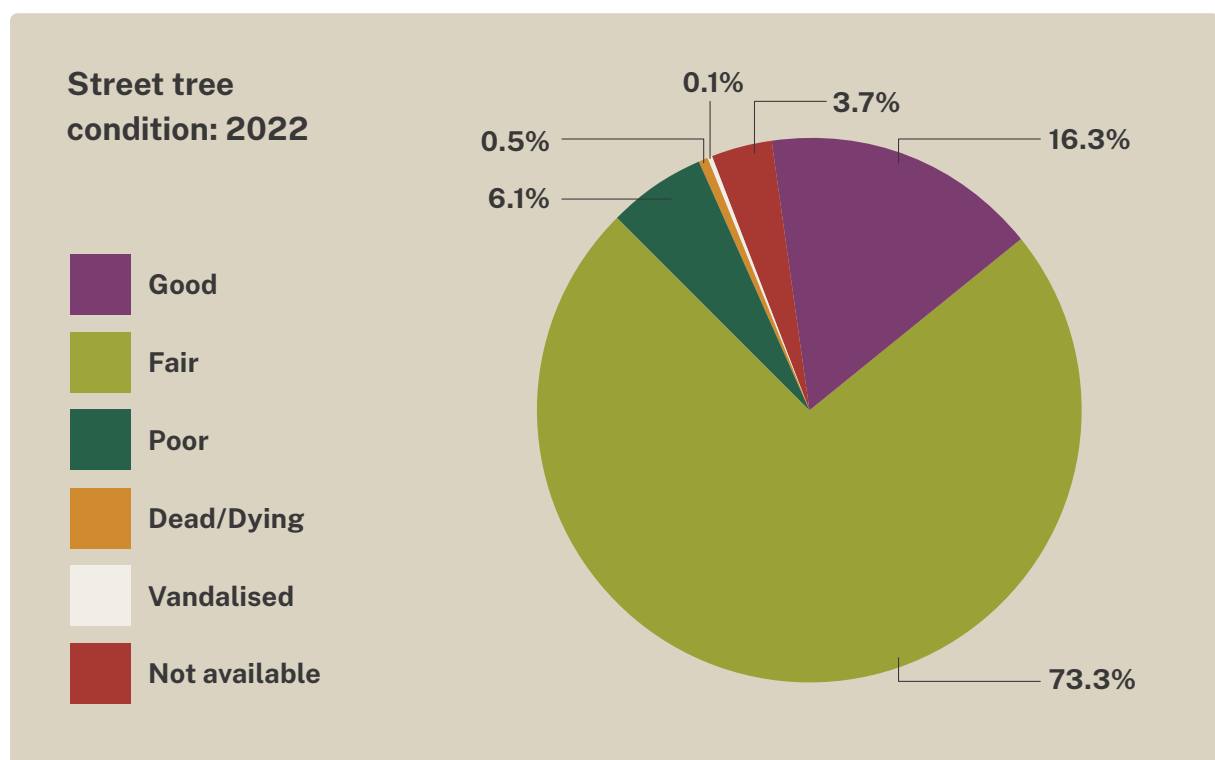
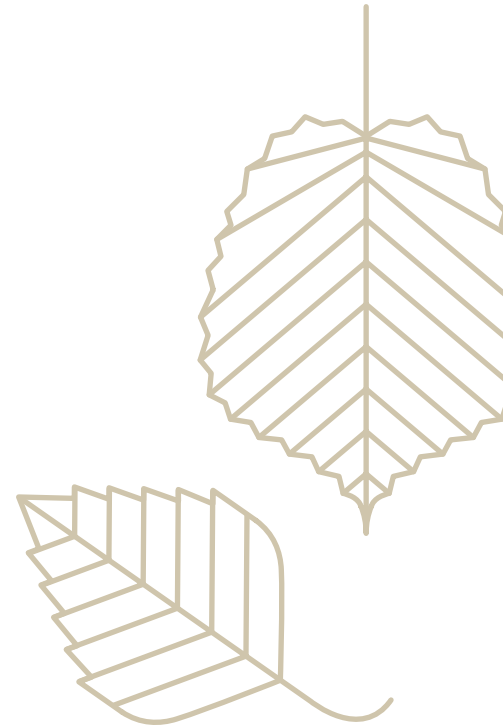
## Tree Condition / Category

### Condition

89.6% of the trees are Fair to Good, and the percentage of 'Fair' trees has increased. However, this volume is close to the amount by which the "not surveyed" value has fallen, there would need to be a more detailed analysis to determine how the condition of individual trees are changing.

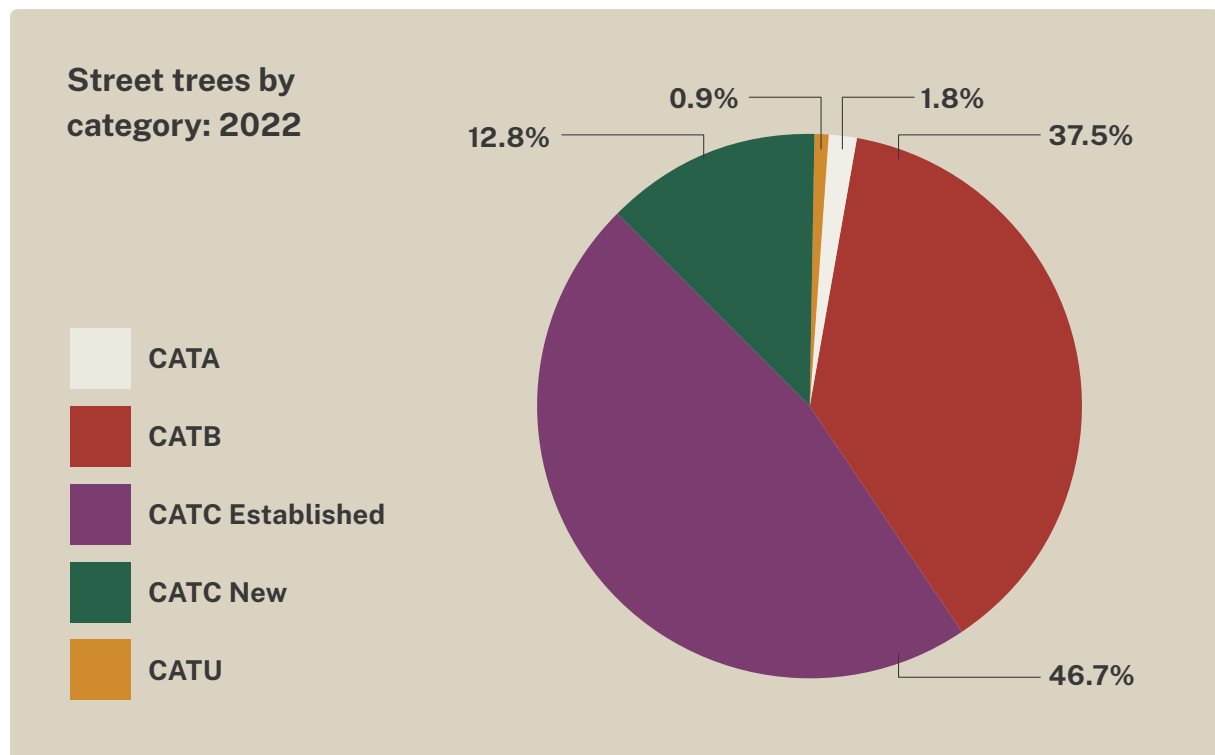
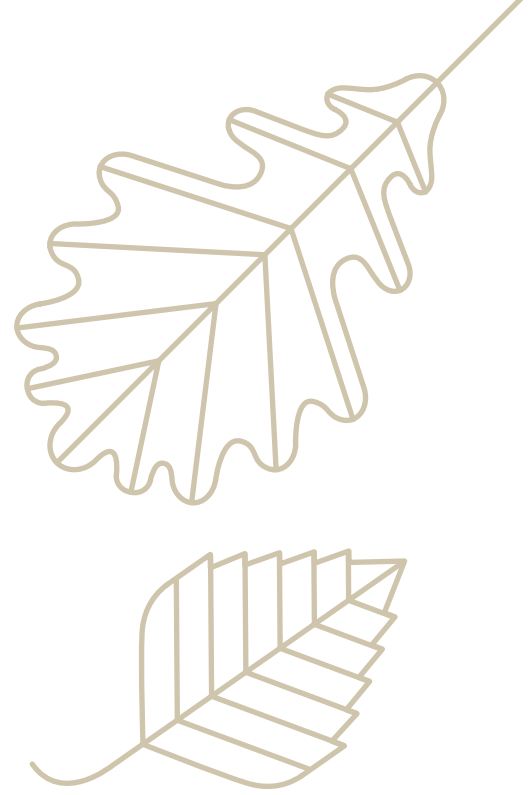
Condition is an estimate of the trees overall physiological and structural condition. There are no fixed criteria; it's a subjective assessment and based on experience. For consistency it's best if trees are surveyed by the same inspector year on year.

It's difficult to influence this measure in established trees, though tree wardens and residents will have an important role to play in looking after our younger street trees, as trees in good condition grow faster, and cope with stresses such as drought and disease better.



## Category

There are four categories in BS5837:2012, which are being used for this analysis; note that all newly planted trees and trees with a diameter of less than 150mm are classified as CatC in BS5837. In this analysis “New Planting” has been used as a proxy. 46.7% of the established (Young through to Veteran) trees are classed as CatC (Poor), with c25% of these being in the “young” age class. 39% are classed as CatA (Good) and CatB (Moderate), which is an improvement on 2021 (35%).





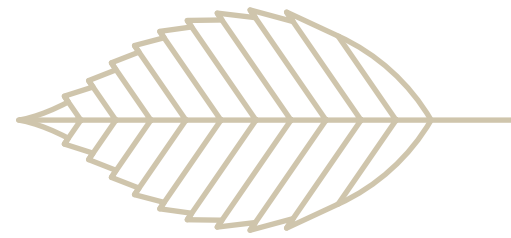
## Age Profile

As at summer 2022, 62% of the stock is maturing (new, young, semi-mature and early-mature), which is unchanged from 2021.

There are small changes in the percentages of new trees (-2%), young trees (+2%) and mature trees (+1%). Remember these figures don't include community planted trees.

A tree provides maximum benefits when it's at maturity, so a good age profile would incorporate mature trees providing benefits, older

trees retained for cultural or biodiversity value, and younger trees planted to maintain tree stocks in future. More analysis is required into the health and vitality of our street trees before we can determine whether current proportions need to be adjusted and how we would manage that transition.



**Street trees by age class: 2022**

