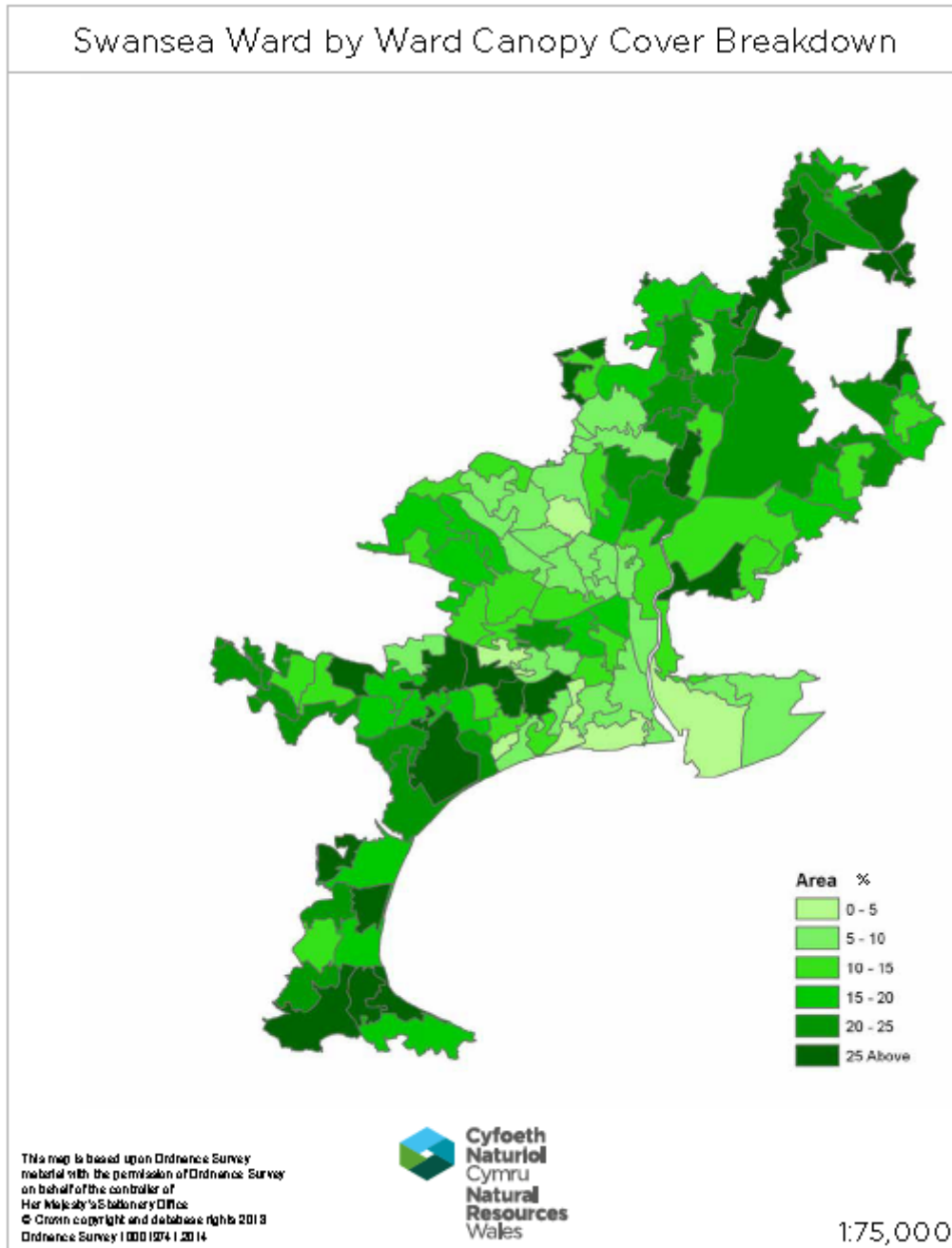


# Outline for a Council Tree Policy

1. **Introduction:** A brief summary of what is to be included in the policy with reference to 'Tree cover in wales' (references Towns and Cities Trees in Towns II -Study on Urban Trees in England) and an outline of the Authorities tree stock, link to iTree Eco Tree Survey (Urban Tree cover in Wales and specifically the Tawe catchment area).



## Swansea Ward by Ward Canopy Cover Breakdown

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## 2. **Legislation, Policies and strategies:**

**Legislation:** Town and Country Planning Act 1990; Environment (Wales) Act 2016 – Part 1; Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

### **National Policies**

#### Planning Policy Wales Edition 8

“Trees, woodlands and hedgerows are of great importance, both as wildlife habitats and in terms of their contribution to landscape character and beauty. They also play a role in tackling climate change by trapping carbon and can provide a sustainable energy source. They also intercept rain fall slowing the rate water enters rivers and drains, preventing soil erosion, whilst also taking water up through their roots. Local planning authorities should seek to protect trees, groups of trees and areas of woodland where they have natural heritage value or contribute to the character or amenity of a particular locality. Ancient and semi-natural woodlands are irreplaceable habitats of high biodiversity value which should be protected from development that would result in significant damage”

#### Woodland for Wales

The policy has four key themes. These are:

a) Responding to climate change

The effects of climate change can be eased by woodlands and trees. The strategy sets out ambitious plans to help Wales reduce its greenhouse gas emissions.

b) Woodlands for people

Wales' woodlands provide a wide range of opportunities for people from all walks of life to enjoy their woodlands as places of recreation and learning out of doors. Woodlands are excellent places to become more active and healthier. They can be ideal locations to develop community projects.

c) A competitive and integrated forest sector

The strategy sets out how we can develop innovative and skilled industries and maintain levels of timber production in line with the Welsh Governments efforts to promote and increase demand for this renewable resource.

d) Environmental quality

The development of our woodlands and trees will also help us to make a positive contribution to biodiversity, landscapes and heritage. It will assist us in reducing other environmental pressures.

# Outline for a Council Tree Policy

## Local Policies:

Emerging Local Development Plan.

Protection of Trees on Development Sites – under consultation as SPG update to UDP – likely to be adopted in emerging LDP

Swansea Local Biodiversity Action Plan.

- 3 **Benefits of trees:** A resume of the benefits of trees and potential problems/conflicts. Outline the main aims (e.g. wellbeing and greening), link to iTree Eco Tree Survey, and the general direction to take.
4. **Objectives:** How the aims will be achieved use SMART objectives, set performance indicators, training programme, review process, tree failure log, maps and green system/recycling.  
  
There are 5 stages to a successful strategy: 1. Id the problems, 2. write the strategy, 3. Adoption at executive level, 4. implementation and 5 review.
- 5 **Existing Planning Policies and trees:** Detail of TPO and Conservation Area use and processes of how trees will be protected in relation to development to adhere to Regional and Local Policies. Reference to Technical Advice Notes: 10 (TPO protocol, Preservation and Planting of Trees) and 5(Nature Conservation and Planning). Outline enforcement protocol and procedure.
- 6 **Council owned trees:** Detail on current tree maintenance requirements, assets (trees) with a breakdown of street trees, woodland, residential etc., resources, current grants (Better Woodlands for Wales) etc.
- 7 **Privately owned trees:** Detail on how the council will intervene using their discretionary powers under the Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1976 and the Highways Act 1980 to deal with imminently dangerous trees on private land. Details on how the Council will mediate in High Hedges cases and set out structure of fees.
- 8 **Trees and the environment:** Tree inventory to establish Current age structure i.e. is it sustainable? Climate change and a tie in with National Policy objectives giving a plan on what species to plant- remain native or use species suitable for climate change? Give details on green waste recycling to reduce landfill.  
  
Produce plan for dealing with long term effects of current (Hymenoscyphus fraxinea [Chalara – Ash Die back], Phytophthora) and future (Asian Long-horned beetle) pests and diseases.
- 9 **Trees, subsidence and risk:** Subsidence is not considered to be a problem in the area, but a protocol for dealing with possible insurance claims should be included.

An outline of a tree risk policy should be formulated to include: risk assessment method (QTRA/THREATS/intuitive), use of zoning(what will be included in each zone and how many

## Outline for a Council Tree Policy

zones), reporting procedure, prioritisation of work, levels of survey/inspection(drive by/walk over/detailed)and who can carry them out(and make management decisions). Include protocol for dealing with wide spread damage similar to the events of 1987.

- 10 **Council Tree Maintenance:** Detail of current and required cyclical work, management requirements in relation to BWW and any projects. Logistical requirements for general work and emergency. List work that will and won't be undertaken.
- 11 **Tree Planting:** Programme identifying areas i.e. particular Wards, available green spaces etc, and species to take into account any mono-species areas. Tie ins to Regional schemes such as Plant! (WG scheme for planting a tree for every new born child) and short, medium and long term targets. Consideration for planting in regeneration schemes. Include a memorial tree planting scheme. Replace trees on a one to one basis?
- 12 **Community involvement:** at consultation level  
  
Key objectives: consideration to forming a Tree Warden Scheme, Community participation in woodland creation within the Regional objectives. Include an action plan to turn objectives into reality. Mention possible sources of funding.
- 13 **List Authority Departments responsible for trees:** List Council stake holders and their responsibilities.
- 14 **Appendices:** Consider including Contractor list, ideal tree species to plant, glossary of arboricultural terms and types of work.