

Request 10541 - Tree provision

1. What trees do we have in South Cambs? The 'Doubling Nature' strategy was adopted in February 2021. It says (on page 14) that a tree audit will be carried out over the coming year. Can you advise what is the current status of the tree audit as the document implies it should be complete by now?

2. What targets are there for increasing the number of trees? Page 14 of 'Doubling Nature' also references the Council's 'ambitious tree planting programme' and page 11 refers to 'an increase in tree canopy cover'. Are you able to put figures onto this? Specifically (i) what is the target for tree canopy cover in South Cambs? (ii) how many trees does the Council plan to plant in each of the next three years?

3. What progress is being made to increase the number of trees? You state on your web site that 54 Parish Councils took up the offer of three free trees in 2020. Can you advise

(i) How many trees were planted as a result?

(ii) Given that recipients are required to arrange aftercare of the trees, please advise what monitoring takes place of this aftercare programme?

(iii) How many of the planted trees are still alive?

4. In total how many trees has the Council been directly responsible for planting in the past year (since Doubling Nature was adopted)?

5. Loss of trees Please give the number of trees the council has felled or removed, for whatever cause, since 2018.

Response

Thank you for your request for information above, which we have dealt with under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I hope the following will answer your query:

1. We do not hold data which comprehensively answers this question. However, various datasets are relevant and are discussed in the [Greater Cambridge Green Infrastructure Opportunity Mapping Report](#) published as part of the Greater Cambridge Local Plan Evidence Base. For example, as of 2019 there were 2,974.5 ha Deciduous woodland and 199.2 ha of traditional orchard in Greater Cambridge. This can be found in the [planning consultation](#).

Page 14 of the Doubling Nature Strategy is part of the on our own Estate section and the Tree Audit referred to is for our own estate. At the time of the most recent update of the Zero Carbon and Doubling Nature Action Plan published 15 November the first two of 4 sections were completed with a 3rd expected by 30 November 2021 and the final section expected by 31 March 2022.

We have now received the first 3 phases of our tree audit; we are expecting to receive the last phase by the end of the month (March 2022). Once all the data collected is assessed and collated, a report will be published in the new financial year.

2. We have not set specific targets for increasing the number of trees in the district or on our own estate.

3.

(i) In 2020 as part of the 3 Free Trees project, 162 trees were planted. In 2021, as part of the 6 Free Trees project, 227 trees were planted. In addition, 3202 trees have been planted through projects funded or part-funded through the first three annual rounds of the Zero Carbon Communities grant.

(ii) We do not currently undertake monitoring of the Parish Council's aftercare programme. Where trees have been planted on our own estates, we have examples where local residents and parish councils have come forward to put in place a programme of after care.

(iii) We do not collect information of whether the planted trees are still alive.

4. 25 trees planted on our own estates and 227 through the Six Free Trees for parishes scheme.

5. 2018/19 = 22, 2019/20 = 35, 2020/21 = 25, 2021/22 = 36

We aim to provide a high-quality service to you and hope that you are satisfied with this response. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.