



Draft Tree and Woodland Strategy

APPENDIX E: Guidance for Development

Guidance for development

NPF4 Policy 6D

“Development proposals on sites which include an area of existing woodland or land identified in the Forestry and Woodland Strategy as being suitable for woodland creation will only be supported where the enhancement and improvement of woodlands and the planting of new trees on the site (in accordance with the Forestry and Woodland Strategy) are integrated into the design.”

Retention and protection

Trees, woodland and hedgerows on development sites should be retained, sustainably managed, and protected in accordance with NPF4 policy 6D, policy NH8 of LDP and Policy 1 of the TWSEL. Connectivity for habitat networks including woodland should be retained and enhanced where possible in accordance with NPF Policy 3, and where it is not possible to retain the existing habitat connectivity should not be lost. Where existing mature trees or woodland is retained it should be included in public open space rather than incorporated into the garden or ground of private property where possible.

Mitigation for any loss

In accordance with [Policy 1](#) of this Strategy any loss of trees, woodland or hedgerows to allow development should be mitigated for with new planting of an area (or length, with regard to hedges) no less than that being removed. Woodland habitat connectivity should be retained. The function provided by the trees being removed must be the same as that being removed.

The developer should provide details of the locations of this compensatory planting. The mapping in Section 12 of this Strategy should be referred to for the possible locations and type of tree planting, woodland or hedgerow creation. Developers wishing to carry out this planting outwith the development site must demonstrate that planting cannot be undertaken within the site. Developers wishing to carry out this planting outwith East Lothian must demonstrate that planting cannot be undertaken within East Lothian.

As noted in Policy 1 where the carbon sequestration value of new woodland, tree or hedgerow planting does not completely equal that lost the loss of carbon storage should be compensated in other ways. The developer should demonstrate how this will be carried out. Options may include buying carbon credits.

New planting

Where a development site is located within an area identified for woodland creation on the mapping in section 12, appropriate new woodland, hedgerow and tree planting should be included within development proposals. Areas we have identified as suitable for woodland creation that should be given consideration through NPF4 Policy 6D are:

- Preferred and potential locations on the Potential for Woodland Expansion Map (figure 28),

- All woodland creation areas identified on the Native Woodland Expansion Opportunities map (figure 30)
- Inventory ancient woodland sites including those with no trees currently (mapped below).

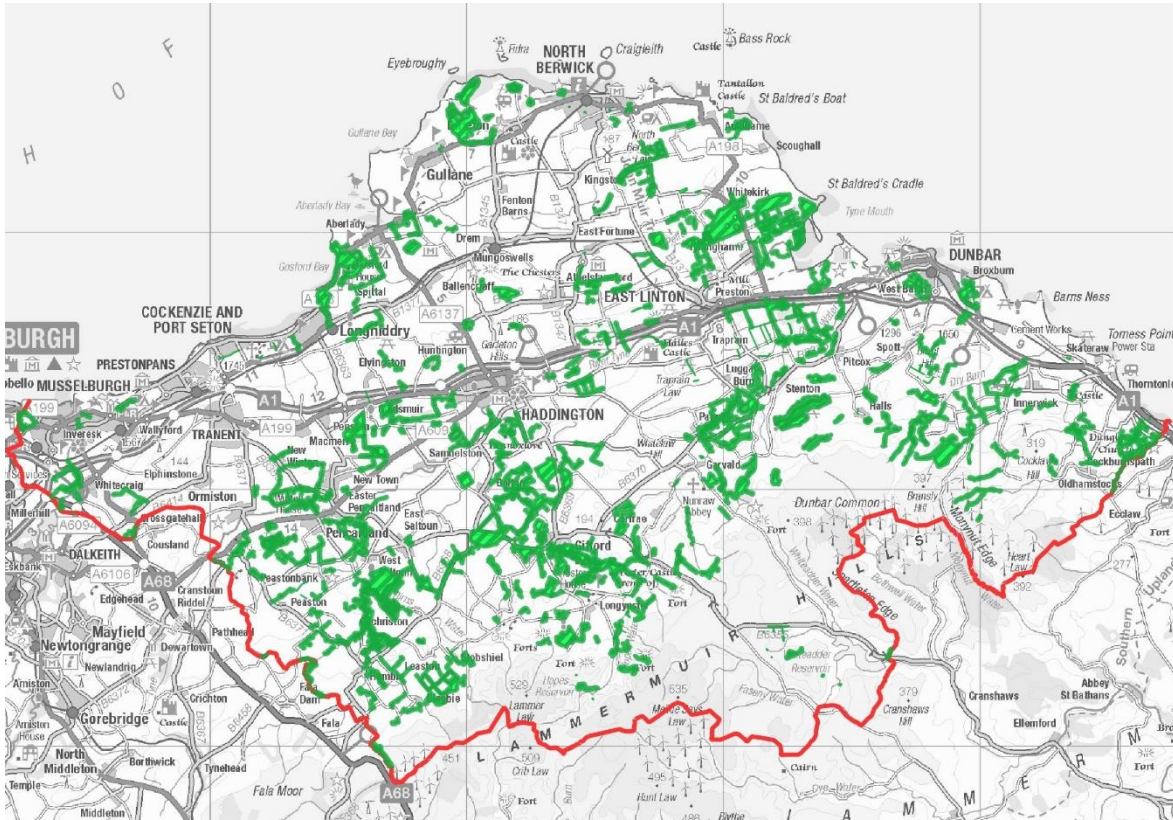


Figure E1 Ancient Woodland Map

In areas identified on the Native Woodland Expansion Opportunities map (figure 30) new woodland, hedges and trees should be East Lothian native species and of a species mix suitable for its location. In other rural areas native woodland is encouraged to provide the functions identified in the Functional Woodland Map (figure 32). Consideration should be given to planting of native species for climate migration. This could include a proportion of species native to the UK although not native to East Lothian up to a maximum of 50%. Annex F provides lists of native tree and shrub species for different woodland types.

Within urban planting schemes a wider range of species may be suitable. Consideration must be given to the townscape character and suitability for planting design and species including referring to the individual conservation area character appraisals. When planting in urban areas only native plants or those on the list of non-native exemptions may be planted to avoid spread of non-native invasive species. Less common tree species on the exempt list should be planted away from watercourses and boundaries with sensitive habitats to avoid spread into native and vulnerable habitats.

Developers should refer to the guidance of the [Trees and Design Action Group](#) (TDAG) when considering integrating trees into the urban environment. Considerations should be given to the right tree in the right place for the right function and providing the right space and infrastructure for successful tree planting. The diagram below from TDAG indicates some of the benefits and design consideration required for urban tree planting.

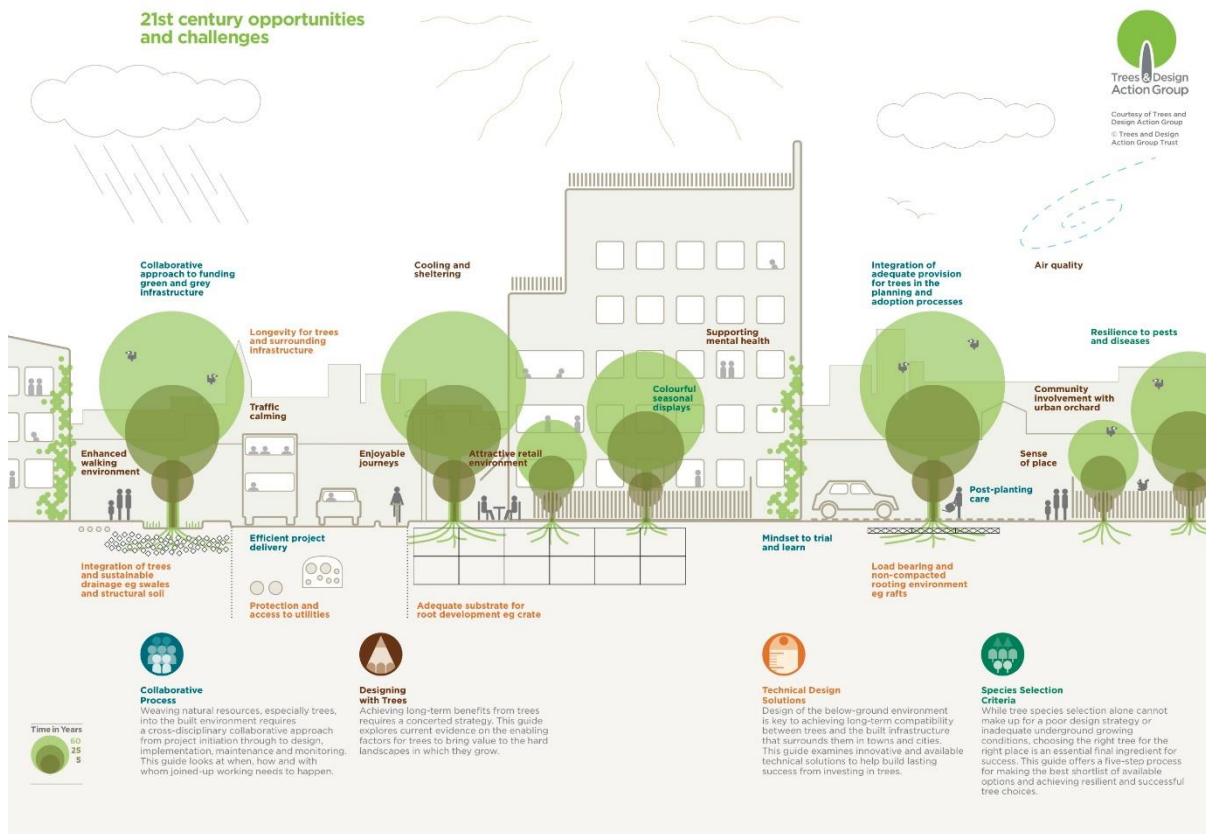


Figure E21 21st Century Opportunities and Challenges, TDAG

A woodland management plan should be prepared addressing the protection of existing trees and scrub, natural regeneration and encouraging a diverse understory, retaining open glades, management of standing and fallen deadwood and any invasive non-native species, and maintenance of other measures such as bird or bat boxes. The plan should include a protocol for ensuring any future factor or grounds manager is aware of the plan. (NatureScot’s guidance [Developing with Nature guidance | NatureScot](#))

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- To make a comment, suggestion or complaint about a council service, download a feedback form online at www.eastlothian.gov.uk or pick one up at your local office



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