

-
- The day job...
 - Ase Wilson Trees and Woodlands Officer
 - Chryse Tinsley Landscape Planner

Leicester City Council





Leicester City Council Trees and Woodlands: Key facts

There are 168,000 trees in the council's ownership

Around 16 percent of the city is covered in tree canopy

The council manages 111 hectares of woodland

There are over 530 Tree Preservation Orders in place in the city

The council spends around £2million each year on planting, protecting and managing trees

leicester.gov.uk/your-council/city-mayor-peter-soulsby/my-vision/sustainable-leicester/tree-strategy/

Number of T+W staff in-house (6 technical staff and 20 operatives)

Climate Change affecting day to day work of a Leicester City Tree Officer

Warmer temperature and periods of drought

Flooding due to intense rainstorms

Intense and violent storms at different times of year from new directions

New pathogens arriving and surviving, increased progression rate of already present pathogens.

Insurance claims

National and Local Climate Change Politics



Droughts/Floods

Higher cost for watering newly planted trees

Planting success rate – normally 98% of for heavy stock

Last year 96% success rate for heavy stock and 72% for whips (1/2 vandalism)

Changing species and progression of pathogens

Storms



Increased frequency and intensity of storms will become a major risk factor to both hard and green infrastructure.

Both the timing, direction and intensity of storms are changing – more trees are failing.

Removal of vulnerable / unsuitable spp like *Populus lombardii* - cost

This is happening at the same time as resources are cut and maintenance work becomes more and more reactive because of it – negative spiral.

Pathogens

- Western Park Sanitation programme
- Recent case of unexpected tree failure



National and Local Politics

- Trees have become a hot political issue – local and national
- has the effect of the debate becoming emotional rather than pragmatic and science led –
- too many people are pursuing short term personal agendas rather than looking at issues in a tree time perspective
- Obsession with planting new rather than maintaining mature trees– with maintenance getting more expensive due to climate change
- Recent national planning guidance heavily weighted towards development due to lack of housing.

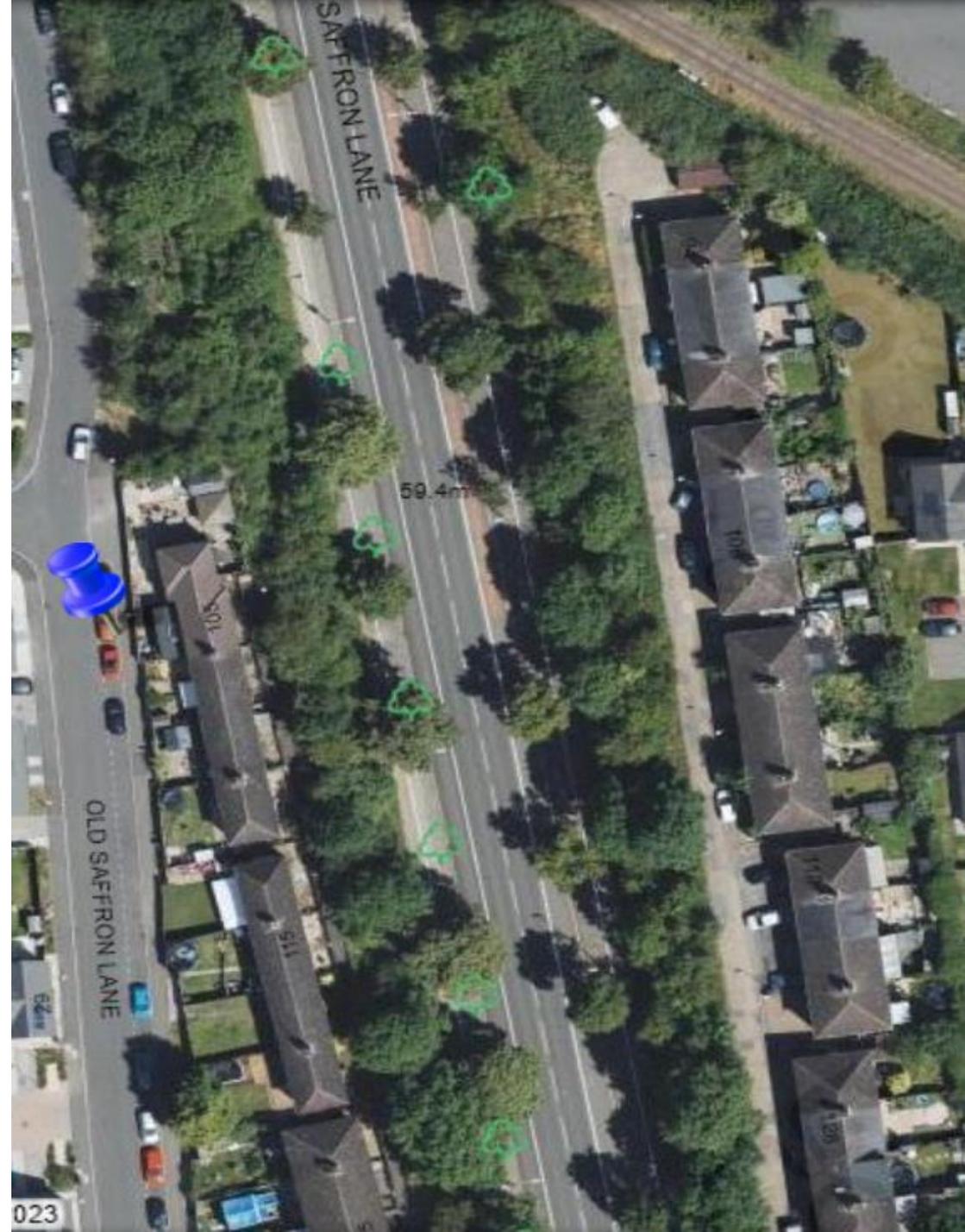


Putting theory into practice

- Challenges coincides with a lack of resources due to economic climate
- Lack of access to training programmes / competent staff.
- No lack of policies – silo working
- Research starting to be available



Saffron Lane Cycle Lane





Alnus cordata



Pyrus calleryana 'Chanticleer'

Street trees in the city
just when you think it can get no harder....



Tilia cordata Rancho

"The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The next best time is now"
Chinese proverb

In 2007 Leicester City Council pledged to plant 10,000 new trees across the city.

This tree represents the completion of that pledge.

It was presented to the city by
Councillor Sarah Russell,
Leicester City Council
Cabinet Lead for Environment
on December 11th, 2010



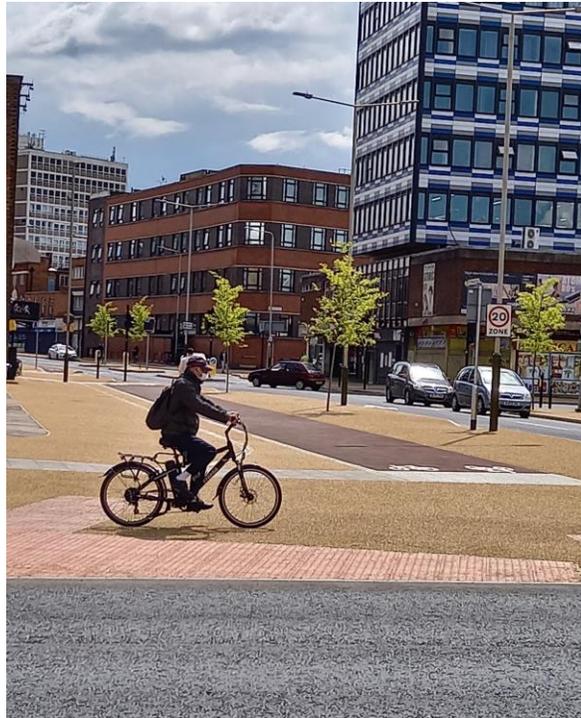
April 2011

The state we were in



Tilia cordata Greenspire
planted 2021

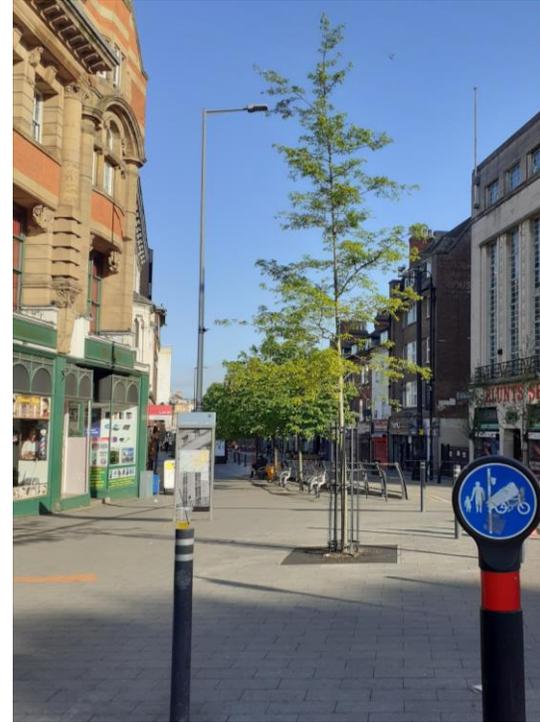
doing things differently



Gleditsia triacanthos



Ginkgo biloba



Quercus palustris



Alnus cordata

Summer 2022

Leicester floods after torrential rain - as it happened

A lot of roads had to close due to significant flooding in the area

By [Tom Mack](#) Senior Reporter & [Corey Bedford](#)

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Leicester Tree strategy 2018-2023

Leicester Climate Emergency Strategy

NPPF2021 131

Biodiversity Net Gain; push for street trees

Probable;
excessive heat but also excessive rain



Quercus robur fastigiata



Alnus cordata *Betula nigra* *Taxodium distichum*

Trees and suds



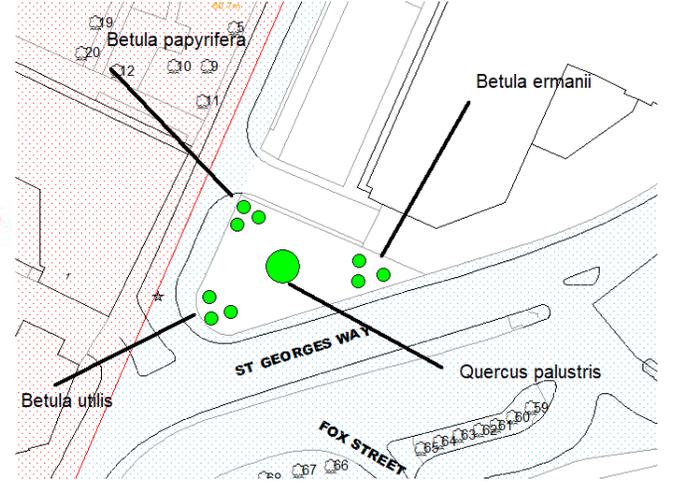
Arbutus unedo



Valuing the mature



Covid recovery programme; no trees in boxes please!



Aims get watered down St Georges Street



Pyrus calleryana 'Chanticleer'



Betula utilis *jaquemontii*

street trees in new residential areas



-
- Think about trees in advance
 - Work with trees and woodlands; and others
 - Extend the range of what we plant
 - And plant them better