

# EMERGENCY TREE PLAN for Chorley

2020 – 2030

*An Action Plan to increase tree cover and address the nature and climate emergency through the sustainable management, protection and enhancement of Chorley Boroughs tree population.*

**A PARTNERSHIP APPROACH.**

Sept 2020



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Mapping showing ecological networks for woodland in Chorley -LWT

**The following documents were referred to when writing this plan and provide additional useful information: -**

- Emergency Tree Plan for the UK. How to increase tree cover and address the nature and climate emergency. January 2020. Woodland Trust
- Responding to the Climate Emergency: New Trees and Woodlands – Guidance for Local Authorities towards achieving net zero emissions. Jan 2020. Forestry Commission.
- Woodland creation for carbon capture and biodiversity – Woodland Trust.
- Local Authority Tree Strategies. July 2016 – Woodland Trust.

## 1. Introduction

**1.1** Chorley Council declared a Climate Emergency on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2019 as we recognise the scale and urgency of the global challenge from climate change. In Chorley planting more trees is at the heart of our ambition to protect the environment for future generations. We are very fortunate in Chorley to have large areas of woodland within two Country Parks, Lever Park and Astley Park which are freely accessible to walk in and enjoy. According to data from the Friends of the Earth, Chorley has 8% woodland cover. Chorley has also got the greatest proportion of Ancient Woodland by area of any other Lancashire authority.

With changes to our climate, increases in urban temperatures and increasing risks of flooding, trees have an important role in helping protect our communities and in helping us adapt to the potential dramatic effects of climate change. Increasing tree cover in the Borough will contribute to achieving net zero emissions and increase the potential for carbon capture along with enhanced wildlife habitat. We all need to plant more trees in and around Chorley and we need to plant the right trees in the right places. Through good management of trees and appropriate protection, along with the support of the people and residents that live near them, the trees of Chorley stand a better chance of not only surviving but thriving into the future.

In the 2019 General Election every major political party backed the necessary increase in trees and woods in response to the climate and nature crisis. The Government's climate change advisers have set a target of 17-19% woodland cover as a key part of the UK's actions to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2050. This document puts forward a long-term plan to help deliver Chorley's contribution to this ambition.

Our Emergency Tree Plan identifies land for tree planting, sets annual expansion targets, whilst protecting existing native woodland and trees making Chorley a greener place to live and thrive.

### 1.2 Chorley Council's pledge

- To co-ordinate and support the planting of trees in identified locations through a partnership approach to expand woodland and tree cover across the Borough to reach 15% by 2050.
- To plant 116,000 trees by 2025 – one for every resident in the Borough.
- To protect, manage, restore and enhance our existing and newly created woodlands.
- To ensure a tree and woodland policy is included within the Council's Local Plan for Central Lancashire 2021 - 2036
- To follow the current [tree policy](#) and Local Plan Policies.
- To appoint a Councillor as Council Champion for Environment and Green Space.

### 1.3 Why plant more trees?

Put simply by the Woodland Trust – **“Woods and Trees are essential. For People. For Wildlife. For Life”. The Big Climate Fightback.**

Threats to woodland, wildlife and the wider environment are growing.

Our trees and woods face a challenging combination of pressures, including:

- climate change
- inappropriate development
- pollution

- a growing population in a predominantly urban environment
- attack from deadly tree diseases and pests
- Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS)
- Browsing by livestock and deer

Ancient woods and trees are some of our most valuable natural assets. They are irreplaceable and home to many vulnerable and threatened species. Trees bring nature to the heart of our communities in the form of food and habitat for wildlife, help clean and cool the air, capture and soak up carbon, provide timber products, reduce flooding, and improve people’s physical and mental health. Urban trees play a pivotal role in creating healthy and economically successful communities and places for people and wildlife to live.

The Environment Bill was published by the Government in October 2019. This policy statement puts the environment at the center of policy making. It brings about urgent and meaningful action to deal with the environmental and climate crisis we are facing. It sets an ambitious framework to help deliver on the government’s commitment to be the first generation to leave our environment in a better state. See Appendix A for more information about Government and Local Policies.

#### **1.4 Purpose of the action plan**

The purpose of this action plan is to deliver the Council’s pledge, aims and objectives for trees and woodlands in the Borough by:

- Providing a mechanism to expand and improve the provision and care of trees in the Borough;
- Ensuring that decisions and activities undertaken in relation to trees are made in a structured and consistent way; and
- Monitoring the action plan and policies for the care, management, expansion and enhancement of the Borough’s tree population.

#### **1.5. Plan timescales**

A ten-year action plan is appropriate for the long-term planning for a sustainable and healthy tree population in the Borough. This timeframe enables short and medium term financial and organisational planning, whilst maintaining an established overall strategic direction that will remain unchanged and thus enable the plan’s aims to be met.

The ten-year action plan will be supported by delivery of site management plans, backed up by annual work programmes.

#### **1.6. Aims – What are we going to do?**

- To adopt and deliver a Tree Planting and Woodland Action Plan. 2020 – 2030 to increase tree cover of the Borough to 15%, address climate change and nature emergency.**

This will support and integrate with the Local Plan 2021-2036, Climate Response Plan, biodiversity commitments and other strategies as outlined in Appendix A. This equates to an extra 828ha of tree cover in the Borough.

- To protect trees in the Borough of Chorley in line with the Council Tree Policy.** i.e. trees will only be removed if there is an overriding arboricultural or health and safety need.
- To raise awareness of the value of trees as part of our green infrastructure through consultation, education and participation.**

### **1.7 Objectives – How are we going to do it?**

- To assess the current tree canopy cover of the Borough taking account of tree size, age, species diversity, sustainability and resilience using a Tree mapping tool.
- To increase the percentage of tree canopy cover across the Borough relative to planting space to 15% by 2050.
- Work with landowners and partners in Chorley to identify and facilitate new locations for tree planting projects.
- To ensure the Borough's tree population is healthy, varied in age and diverse in species.
- Work with landowners and partners in Chorley to identify and facilitate locations of existing woodland, hedgerow and shelterbelt that can be enhanced and protected, particularly focusing on ancient woodland.
- Carry out tree planting with landowners, volunteers, schools, organizations, community groups etc.
- Set up a method of recording numbers of trees planted into a central database which will also monitor maintenance and success rates.
- To promote the value of trees and actively involve the community in the management, protection and enhancement of the Borough's tree population.
- Achieve Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) accreditation for all authority woods and trees and encourage this amongst other landowners.
- Allocate Council funding and apply for external funding to create new woodlands and associated infrastructure to allow public access.
- Ensure that Chorley Council have enough qualified staff, contract or partner resources to implement our targets.
- Commit to planting with UK sourced and grown trees. Look to allocate land in Chorley as a community tree nursery and/or advocate schools to create tree nurseries in their grounds.
- Manage the risks to people, property and infrastructure from trees ensuring that they are low as reasonably practicable, taking account best practice and legal obligations.
- To sustainability manage, protect and enhance the Borough's tree population to maximize ecological, social and economic benefits.
- To commit to procuring UK sourced timber from FSC (sustainable) sources and encourage use of hardwood timber sourced from existing and new woodland in the area.
- To implement planning policies to secure delivery of 30% tree canopy cover and retention of existing trees on all new developments where possible.
- To TPO all our veteran and ancient trees in the Borough and ensure that any TPO trees are replaced if felling is required.
- Chorley Council is committed to supporting the community to have healthy lifestyles by improving and creating open space when new woodlands are created with access for recreation, exercise, community engagement and wellbeing.

### **1.8 Delivery of the Action Plan in a partnership approach.**

Chorley Council is in the process of delivering the above objectives and an Action Plan monitors progress of this. The key to success of this strategy is working in a partnership approach. We are busy engaging with key partners to collaboratively identify and manage future larger scale tree planting projects to assist delivery of the 10-year strategy for the Borough: –

We are collaboratively working with primary and secondary schools, individual households and community groups to promote the planting of more trees across the Borough through various projects as outlined in the action plan.

### What is in the pipeline?

<b>Partner Organization</b>	<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Scale of project</b>	<b>Timescales</b>	<b>Chorley Council Support or enable</b>
Chorley Council	<p>“Tree Giveaway” Campaign</p> <p>To enable the residents of the Brough to plant a good quality small tree in domestic gardens and care for it long term.</p>	<p>Organized tree giveaway days publicised through social media.</p> <p>The following species were planted; Cherry, Rowan, Crab Apple, Silver Birch, Holly and Field Maple.</p>	<p>Twice a year 2021 – 2025</p> <p>Future events proposed linked to demand.</p>	Enabled by Chorley Council
Chorley Council	<p>Create a Tree Nursery.</p> <p>“Grow a Tree” campaign</p> <p>Locate appropriate piece of land for a tree nursery</p> <p>Fund the creation of the infrastructure required -raised beds etc.</p> <p>Allocate council land for community woodland planting projects</p>	<p>Explore the setting up of tree nurseries across the Borough to grow trees from seeds with native provenance.</p> <p>These saplings will then be planted back into local woodlands.</p> <p>Identify sites for new woodland creation</p>	<p>Identify land 2020.</p> <p>Start to set up late summer for seed collection autumn 2021</p>	<p>Chorley Council enable with support from the wider community and EpIC</p> <p>Chorley Council</p>
<b>Primary and Secondary Schools</b>	<p>Increase the number of trees and wildlife areas within school grounds.</p> <p>Join in the “Grow a Tree” campaign</p>	<p>Many schools have taken the opportunity of applying for Woodland Trust tree packs to create a small woodland edge to their playing fields.</p>	<p>From Autumn 2020 - 2030</p>	Supported by Chorley Council

<b>United Utilities</b>	UU has pledged to plant 1 million trees planted over c. 550Ha for carbon sequestration and restore 1000 hectares of peatland. Improve the natural environment and to support our goal to be carbon neutral by 2030.	identified several potential areas for tree planting to achieve these targets at a local level. The landholdings within the West Pennie Moors are currently being assessed to understand the requirements of the land and formulate a catchment tree planting plan	2020-2030	Publicity and volunteers. Chorley Council support.
<b>Parish Councils</b>	Commitment by PC's to plant more trees on land in the Parish	Various projects across the parishes	2020 - 2030	Chorley Council support through land allocation, assistance and advice
<b>FCC Waste</b>	FCC committed as part of the new Chorley waste contract to <i>plant 500 tree saplings per year at schools and community projects within Chorley and local area.</i>	500 native trees planted each year	2020 - 2030	Chorley Council are working with FCC to formulate a 10-year planting plan.
<b>Chorley Council</b>	All departments to work together for the shared long-term goals. Planning Policy, Development Management, Streetscene, Community Development. Developments of a certain size <a href="#">now have to include a % of net gain for biodiversity</a> , this brings an opportunity for tree planting on developments in Chorley.	A new local plan for Central Lancashire is due to be adopted 2022-2036. Part of this plan focuses on the environment and climate change. Policies are being developed to support biodiversity, the carbon neutral agenda and tree planting.	Ongoing strategy and policy	Chorley Council to enable.  Also support community and volunteers to engage in partnership

<b>Douglas Catchment Partnership</b>	Working across the river catchment to improve water quality and raise awareness of the importance of the rivers	INNS, tree planting, weir removal, green engineering, NFM, Love My River, Citizen Science.	2014 - 2030	Key stakeholder on the partnership. Project delivery on Council land
<b>Environment Agency</b>	Slow the flow, NFM objectives.	Yarrow Meadows project EA funded. Croston Flood Alleviation Project. Carr Brook and River Lostock Enhancement	2017 - 2021	Council land asset planted. Volunteer involvement to project delivery and success.
<b>Cuerden Valley Trust</b>	An emerging vision to address environmental [climate change], education and a mass tree planting project involving the community.	identified two areas of land that were tenanted grazing land to be enhanced for recreation by connecting to existing path networks.	2020-2025	opportunity for woodland creation and partnership working.
<b>Lancashire County Council</b>	Highway green estate makes a very significant contribution to Lancashire's landscape character, providing both visual amenity and helping to mitigate the environmental impacts of the highway'	to support parish and district councils who wish to implement initiatives that will enhance the visual, amenity or biodiversity of their local estate' and, 'to create a high-quality green estate that makes space for trees and maximizes the opportunities to enhance biodiversity by incorporating the planting of appropriate varieties of trees.	Ongoing	Plant and maintain trees on highway verge where possible with appropriate agreements in place. Maintain existing tree stock.
<b>Lancashire Wildlife Trust - My Place Project</b>	Support young people aged 18 –25.	Tree planting, site maintenance, etc.	2020 - 2025	Provide land asset to work on. Support staff and provide trees.

<b>EPiC (Environmental Projects in Chorley)</b>	Local Chorley based charity group aimed at environmental enhancement. Volunteers.	Tree nursery, tree planting, seeds for bees	2020 – 2030	Support, land assets, match funding, advice
<b>Highways Agency</b>	Tree planting alongside motorways and enhancement of storm water outfalls	To be determined		Advocate best practice
<b>Farmers and landowners - Natural England, National Farmers Union</b>	call out for suggestions from farmers to plant new and enhance existing hedgerows and plant specimen trees in the fields.	Farm engagement in progress. silvo-pasture and planting along field margins	2020-2030	support where possible, provide volunteers. Advice on future tree maintenance.
<b>Housing Associations and Housing Developers</b>	Environmental enhancement of the residential areas	To be determined	2020 - 2030	Advocate use of land for tree planting and retention and protection of trees within developments
<b>Chorley Natural History Society</b>	Provide expertise on habitat enhancement and where can and can't be planted with trees. Surveying and monitoring.	Support with community involvement and education. Working with schools to plant trees	2020 – 2030	Partnership working and advocating best practice
<b>Ribble Rivers Trust</b>	Lancashire Woodland Connect proposal and Connecting Communities and Natural Capital program	Support delivery of tree strategy	2020-2030	Explore partnership working

## 1.9 Challenges to overcome –

We know that creating new woodlands and managing them and existing woodlands is not without its challenges. There are various barriers to success such as: -

**Diseases** - Biosecurity of trees is becoming stricter. Dutch Elm Disease and now Ash Die Back has reinforced the lessons of biosecurity and the importance of local provenance for tree whips and seeds.

- In Chorley, Ash die back has gradually spread through young ash trees and now the majority of Ash trees are showing signs of infection. Chorley Council and Lancashire County Council have started to remove trees showing advanced stages of the disease where necessary on safety grounds and we could lose many of our ash trees in Chorley in the coming years. All stakeholders to work together to support the management of this.
- Phytophthora ramorum, an algae like organism was found to be present at Healey Nab and caused Sudden Larch Death. Larch is covered about one fifth of the site at Healey Nab and these trees have been felled via a Statutory Plant Health Notice. The reason for clearing the trees is to stop the spores of the algae spreading to other trees and infecting other woodlands – this is part of a national approach to managing the disease. It is planned to allow the site to regenerate naturally which will see a move away from conifer woodlands to a more mixed native broadleaf wood with wild heather & bilberry, of greater value to local wildlife.

**Vandalism and Failures** – Tree planting on public open space runs the risk of vandalism and trees being snapped. This has occurred on Recreation Grounds and in these cases the trees have successfully been planted back and retained.

In any large-scale tree planting scheme, not all trees will survive the first few years and some will die and require to be replaced. Trees, especially large specimens, need watering over the summer months in the first few years of planting if the weather is very dry.

**Ongoing maintenance investment** - all trees planted require a tree maintenance plan to ensure success either through community participation, volunteers or contractors.

**Biodiversity and a mosaic of habitats** - Chorley is blessed with some valued habitat, including internationally significant peatlands, meadows and wetlands. Protection for these valued, open habitats is extremely important and they must be retained as such. Trees must be planted in the right places to create new habitat and natural capital resource where appropriate rather than amending the current valued resources.

**2 Monitoring of Delivery is planned through the Tree Emergency Action Plan and delivery of the objectives.**

The Action Plan logs the tasks to be delivered, identifies the lead organization, how the task will be financed and timescale of delivery.

<b>Action</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>How Financed</b>	<b>When</b>
To assess the current tree canopy cover of the Borough taking account of tree size, age, species diversity, sustainability and resilience using a Tree mapping tool	Partnership with LWT, River Ribble Trust and Chorley Council	Existing resource	2022
To increase the percentage of tree canopy cover across the Borough relative to planting space to 15% by 2030	Partnership approach	Funding bids, existing resource, volunteers, trees from seed and Woodland Trust	2030
Work with landowners and partners in Chorley to identify and facilitate new locations for tree planting projects	Chorley Council as lead	Existing resource	2020 onwards
To ensure the Borough's tree population is healthy, varied in age and diverse in species.	Chorley Council and landowners	Existing resource and woodland grants	2020 onwards
Identify and facilitate locations of existing woodland, hedgerow and shelterbelt that can be enhanced and protected.	landowners and partners	Existing resource	2020 onwards
Carry out tree planting across the Borough in identified sites	landowners, volunteers, schools, organizations, community groups	Funding bids, existing resource, volunteers, trees from seed and Woodland Trust	2020 onwards
Set up a method of recording numbers of trees planted into a central database which will also monitor maintenance and success rates.	Chorley Council	Existing resource	2020
To promote the value of trees and actively involve the community in the management, protection and enhancement of the Boroughs tree population.	Chorley Council in partnership with ....	Existing resource and external funding	2020 onwards
Achieve Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) accreditation for all authority woods and trees and encourage this amongst other landowners.	Chorley Council	Existing resource	2022 onwards

Allocated Council funding and apply for external funding to create new woodlands and associated infrastructure to allow public access.	Chorley Council in partnership	Existing resource and external funding	2020 onwards
Ensure that Chorley Council have enough qualified staff, contract or partner resources to implement our targets.	Chorley Council Streetscene and Project Leads	Existing resource	2020 onwards
Commit to planting with UK sourced and grown trees. Look to allocate land in Chorley as a community tree nursery and/or advocate schools to create tree nurseries in their grounds.	Chorley Council as lead and schools	Existing resource and external funding	2020 onwards
Manage the risks to people, property and infrastructure from trees ensuring that they are low as reasonably practicable, taking account best practice and legal obligations.	Chorley Council Streetscene and LCC	Existing resource	2020 onwards
To sustainability manage, protect and enhance the Boroughs tree population to maximize ecological, social and economic benefits.	Chorley Council Streetscene	Existing resource	2020 onwards
To commit to procuring UK sourced timber from FSC (sustainable) sources and encourages use of hardwood timber sourced from existing and new woodland in the area.	Chorley Council All staff.	Existing resource	2020 onwards
To implement planning policies to secure delivery of 30% tree canopy cover and retention of existing trees on all new developments where possible.	Chorley Council Planning Policy and Central Lancs Local Plan Team	Existing resource	2021 onwards
To TPO all our veteran and ancient trees in the Borough and where replacement TPO trees are required ensure that this is recorded and enforced	Chorley Council	Existing resource	2020 onwards

## **Appendix A**

### **Background about Chorley**

Chorley Borough is semi-rural covering 80 square miles of land (20,700ha). In the past it was a mining and mill area and there are still remnants of that industrial heritage including chimneys, mill buildings, capped mine shafts and open quarries. Much of the valleys of the River Yarrow, Black Brook and River Chor remain wooded along with other tributaries that flow into the River Lostock and River Douglas. Indeed Chorley Borough retains the greatest proportion of ancient woodland by area of any Lancashire authority. These valleys are thankfully largely protected from built development and clearance for agriculture by their steep topography. In the 1970s through to the 1990s much of Chorley Borough went under urban development as part of the New Town Commission Project. As those new housing estates and roads were built, much of the associated land was planted with shelterbelts. Chorley Council is very honored to be the custodian of much of this land in the guise of Yarrow Valley Country Park, Astley Park, Clayton-le-Woods, Eaves Green and Astley Village to name just a few areas. Cuerden Valley Park was set aside as public open space managed by a specially created charitable trust. The ancient woodlands, shelterbelts and hedgerows in Chorley need to be protected and enhanced with new planting or natural generation being encouraged in the appropriate locations to create a better, bigger and more joined up woodland network.

### **Government and Local Policy**

The Environment Bill was published by the Government in October 2019. This policy statement puts the environment at the centre of policy making. It brings about urgent and meaningful action to deal with the environmental and climate crisis we are facing. It sets an ambitious framework to help deliver on the government's commitment to be the first generation to leave our environment in a better state.

The Environment Bill is expected to engage and empower citizens, local government and businesses to deliver environmental outcomes and create a positive legacy for future generations.

In recent years the UK government has strengthened protections for ancient woodlands, veteran trees and other irreplaceable habitats in the revised National Planning Policy Framework and provided almost £6 million to the new Northern Forest. In the 25 Year Environment Plan; Government pledged to plant 11 million new trees and one million urban trees. The Environment Bill is expected to introduce 'Duty to Consult' which will give the public the opportunity to understand why a street tree is being felled and to express any concerns regarding this. The Bill is also expected to introduce Forestry Enforcement Measures which strengthens the Forestry Commission's power to clamp down on illegal tree felling across England, ensuring the Commission has the powers to continue to protect and maintain our woods and forests.

### **Chorley's Climate Change Strategy - to follow**

**Chorley Local Plan 2012 – 2026 – Policy BNE10 -Trees and Policy and BNE9 – Biodiversity and Nature Conservation.**

<https://chorley.gov.uk/Documents/Planning/Examination%20news/Adopted%20Chorley%20Local%20Plan%20July%202015.pdf>

### **Chorley Council Tree Policy**

Chorley Council support and encourage tree planting in the right locations with the appropriate permissions and future maintenance plan in place. Please see the Councils Tree Policy

<https://chorley.gov.uk/Documents/Streets/Tree%20policy%202018.pdf>

### **TPO Tree felling request**

The aim is to protect TPO trees and their replacements:

"The TPO applicant to inform where the replacement tree(s) will be sited and what type and size they will be - This is so Chorley Council can map this new tree which will carry on the TPO status (as specified in the Town and Country Act 1990 section 206(4))" Ref: see item (4)

at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/8/section/206>

The TPO applicant to confirm they will be planting in accordance with Chorley Council Local Plan - Planning Guidelines for Trees and Landscaping and Chorley Council to log and monitor the presence of the 'newly' planted TPO tree on the TPO mapping system.

Chorley Council Local Plan – Planning Guidelines for Trees and Landscaping "To ensure that new planting becomes well established, it should be carried out in accordance with current BS standards. In particular, British Standard Code of Practice for General Landscape Operations (excluding hard surfaces) (BS4428:1989)." Ref: " Ref:

<https://chorley.gov.uk/Documents/Planning/Planning%20Policy/trees%20and%20development%20updated%20V1.pdf>

### **LCC Highways Tree Policy**

The County Council's approach and advice to managing trees on or near the highway can be found in the Highway Management Plan (which can be found at:

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/council/strategies-policies-plans/roads-parking-and-travel/highway-asset-management-in-lancashire/strategies/highway-management-plan/> ) and

in the tree safety and tree related guidance ( which can be found at:

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/council/strategies-policies-plans/roads-parking-and-travel/highway-asset-management-in-lancashire/codes-of-practice/tree-safety/> ).

Any proposed planting of trees in the highway should be done in accordance with the guidance and requirements set out in the documents mentioned above and will require a consent licence; including agreement on appropriate species, installation of root barriers and maintenance of the tree until it is established (minimum 5 years). Chorley Council and LCC to work closely to discuss the ongoing maintenance of the trees. The County Council would welcome community consultation be undertaken by Chorley Council to ensure resident and other interested parties are involved in the development of the green street scene. Where highway schemes are proposed in the future appropriate tree planting will be considered.

‘wherever possible, the county council will manage its green estate so that there is no net loss of habitat or ecological value, and subject to available resources, seek opportunities to enhance biodiversity’.

The Management Plan also states that objectives for maintaining the green estate include:

- ‘to support parish and district councils who wish to implement initiatives that will enhance the visual, amenity or biodiversity of their local estate’ and,

- ‘to create a high-quality green estate that makes space for trees and maximizes the opportunities to enhance biodiversity by incorporating the planting of appropriate varieties of trees’.

The county council will not replace any trees they have been felled for whatever reason. The authority will however allow a district council to fund a *replacement tree* of a suitable species *and will adopt and maintain such trees*.

### **Where should more trees be planted?**

The location of tree planting needs to be carefully considered. For example; the soil type and hydrology dictate what tree species can be planted. Some areas do not lend themselves to tree planting owing to overhead power lines, ecological constraints owing to important wildflower meadow, wetland or upland habitat that needs to be protected, visibility for vehicles, commercial value of the land, steep slopes for safe working, shading of ponds which need light etc. Other habitats, such as blanket bog and permeant grassland are just as, or more important at locking in carbon as trees and they need to be restored and protected from damage and loss. The wrong trees in the wrong place can cause more damage than good!

Examples of suitable locations are:- planting suitable species along the banks of a river which is invaded by Himalayan Balsam - the trees help to shade and weaken the balsam; planting back native trees grown from local seed into ancient woodlands to maintain succession where natural generation has failed, planting suitable trees in the corners of school grounds to create nature areas, planting into old quarries, industrial or landfill sites (subject to H&S checks) to create natural habitat; planting hedgerows around fenced fields and planting new orchards. The areas around Eccleston was historically important for apple orchards.

The key is to strategically plan long term tree planting locations. The map at Appendix C is a map of the Chorley Borough showing ecological and natural regeneration networks for woodland. This map can be used to indicate areas for woodland conservation, management, expansion and re-creation. Similarly, there is also a map showing ecological networks for grassland for which tree planting should be avoided. Where there is an overlap, a habitat mosaic of species-rich grassland scrub and woodland would be the most appropriate.

The Central Lancashire [Sustainability Appraisal](#) (pages 116-117) further expands on the cohesive habitat theory, where green networks are identified to link existing pockets of isolated trees and scrub through urban roads and paths. This theory can provide a basis for identifying which routes, roads or sites are most beneficial for new planting schemes.

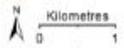
It should also be remembered that woodlands, especially ancient woodlands have the benefit of natural regeneration. Our native trees are capable of seeding and planting themselves and these are often much better for wildlife and more self-sustaining than anything planted by humans.

**When should trees be planted?** Trees are best planted between October and March when they are dormant and when the ground is damp and cold.

### Lancashire Ecological Network Woodland Network

#### Chorley

- District & Unitary Authorities
- Woodland Ecological Network v1a
  - Core Area
  - Stepping Stone
  - Stepping Stone Habitat
  - 0 to 250 m Corridor
  - 250 m to 3 km Corridor
  - Core Area isolated at 3 km
  - > 3 km Corridor



This is one of a series of maps which collectively comprise the Lancashire Ecological Network.

Core Areas may only support limited areas of woodland and may support other habitats within their boundary.

Features in the Study Area beyond the Lancashire boundary are shown for context only.

