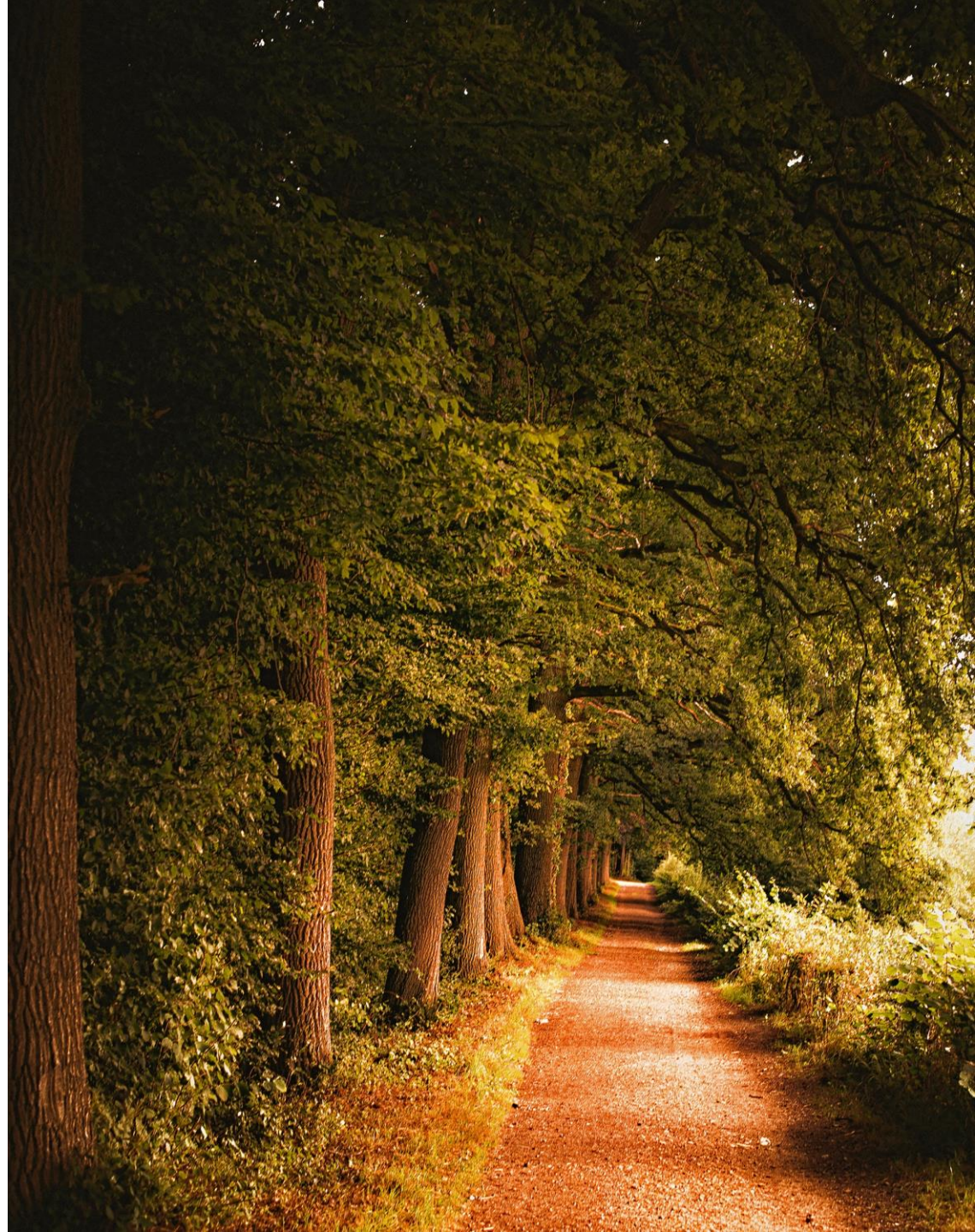


# Tree and Woodland Strategies, Research and Learning

Jackie Shallcross  
Project lead, Shared Outcomes Fund, Trees Outside Woodland  
APSE Parks And Greenspaces Advisory Group 20.09.2023

# Trees and Woodland Strategies update

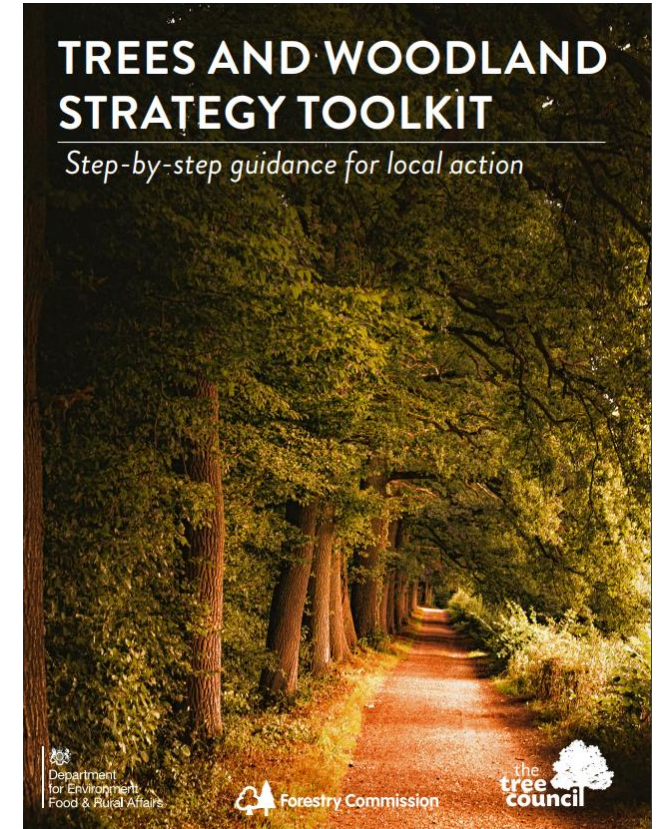


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# Trees and Woodland Strategies toolkit

- Trees and Woodland Strategy (TAWS) toolkit was launched early in 2023.
- Aims to help local authorities develop and deliver TAWS that are collaborative and set a vision for the local treescape.
- Funded by Defra.
- Created through co-design process, presents useful evidence, info and case studies.
- Has received great support and interest from local authorities, and sector organisations, agencies, and central gov departments.



<https://treecouncil.org.uk/what-we-do/science-and-research/tree-strategies/>



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# Launch workshops

- Held four regional workshops in Spring 2023.
- Attended by 130 people (97% from local authorities).
- Sparked ideas and lots of advice shared.
- An attendee from a city council said:

*“I came back with a good list of actions and fired-up to push forward on our strategy review”.*



# Tracking change

- Funding until 2023-2025 to monitor impact of toolkit and support.
- Workshops included evidence gathering, plus we conducted a survey over the summer to gain more insights.
- Appears to be plenty of activity and development of strategies, but some face hurdles getting started.

Proportion of local authorities at each TAWS stage  
(those in 'TAWS tracker' as of July 2023)

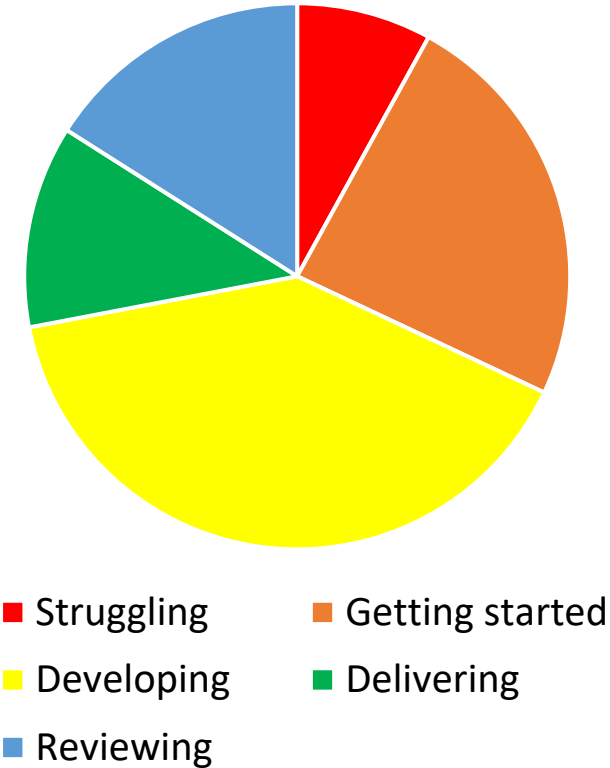


Fig 1: Summary of TAWS tracker survey, based on evidence gathered at workshops and survey for a sample of 25 local authorities.



# Working across departments and disciplines

- TAWS often involve individuals from different departments.
- Trees are often providing value beyond the 'tree team', e.g. health and wellbeing.
- Workshops had a range (as shown, right).
- Engaging effectively with internal and external stakeholders is a key common challenge and an opportunity.

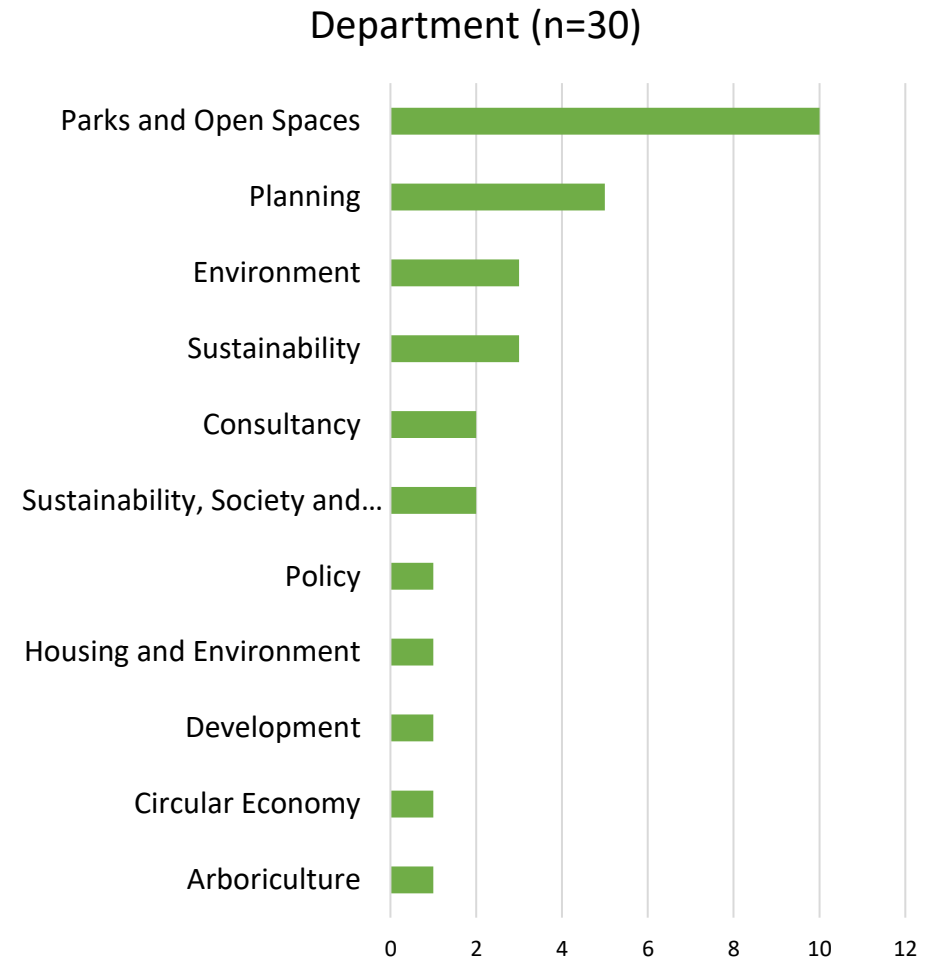


Fig 2: Local authority departments represented at workshops (based on sample).



# Workshops for local authorities – Autumn 2023

- Holding four online workshops **open to all local authorities in England**.
- Aim to provide support and better understand how to make progress on tree strategies.
- Opportunity to identify gaps in support and resources.
- We will circulate an Eventbrite link to sign up.
- Key challenges have shaped the workshops:

Workshop 1: Resources (17<sup>th</sup> Oct)

Workshop 2: Engagement (19<sup>th</sup> Oct)

Workshop 3: Evidence gaps (31<sup>st</sup> Oct)

Workshop 4: Planting opportunities (2<sup>nd</sup> Nov)



# Tree survival rates and drivers

## Research overview



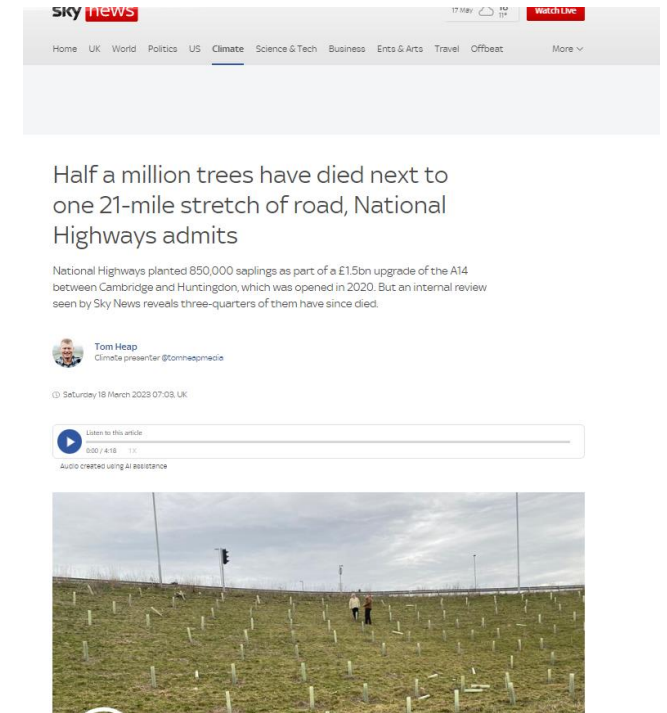
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# Why is this project needed?

- Ambitious tree establishment targets at national and local level.
- Increased spending on tree planting – value for money important.
- High profile failures in media = increased scrutiny.
- Poor outcomes could lead to disengagement of key stakeholders.
- Little centralised evidence on survival rates and causes of young tree losses – reliance on anecdotes.
- We know local authorities and others want to engage with this.
- Better evidence will help us learn from experience and demonstrate impact.



The screenshot shows a Sky News article. The header includes the Sky News logo, navigation links (Home, UK, World, Politics, US, Climate, Science & Tech, Business, Ents & Arts, Travel, Offbeat, More), and a 'Watch Live' button. The main headline reads: 'Half a million trees have died next to one 21-mile stretch of road, National Highways admits'. Below the headline is a sub-headline: 'National Highways planted 850,000 saplings as part of a £1.5bn upgrade of the A14 between Cambridge and Huntingdon, which was opened in 2020. But an internal review seen by Sky News reveals three-quarters of them have since died.' The author is identified as Tom Heap, a climate presenter. The article is dated Saturday 18 March 2023 at 07:08 UK. There is an audio player for the article, showing it is 0:00 / 4:18 long. Below the audio player is a photograph of a grassy field with many small, young trees planted in rows, with a road and traffic lights visible in the background.



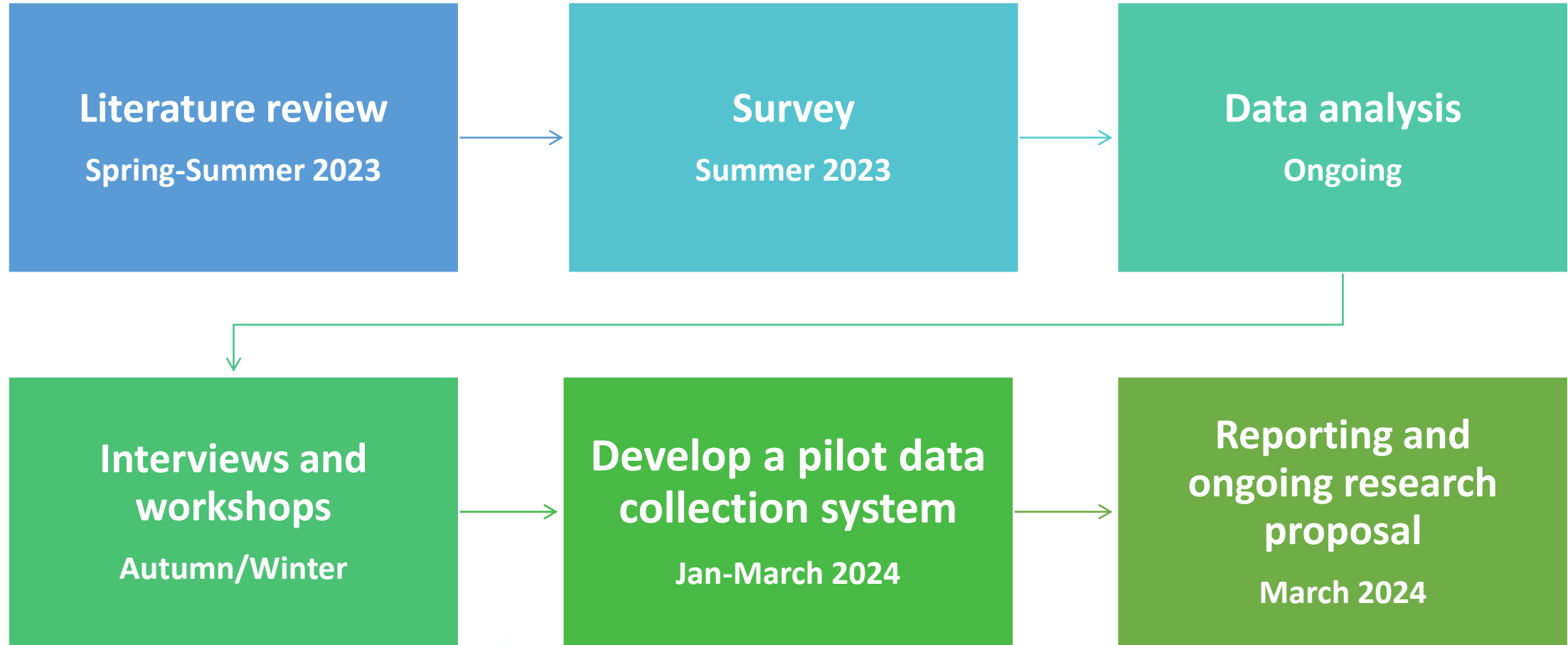
# Research approach



- Partnership research project with Fera, Forest Research, and TTC. Funding from Defra.
- Seeking to understand:
  - Who collects data on survival rates and causes of mortality?
  - What current systems of sharing data and knowledge exist?
  - How variable is data gathering across the sector?
  - Who is interested in being involved in efforts to improve evidence?
  - What are the primary causes of mortality?
  - What are key factors in successful establishment?
- Year 1 is a scoping study, leading to proposal for ongoing research.



# Methods and timescales



# Key questions

- Do you monitor survival rates for planting schemes?
- If there are losses, how are these recorded and reported?
- Do you record the causes of mortality? e.g. drought, vandalism, etc.
- What do you think would be useful for you and the sector?
- Would you be interested in being involved?

**If you'd like to be involved, get in touch:**

Jon Stokes, Director of Trees,  
Science and Research

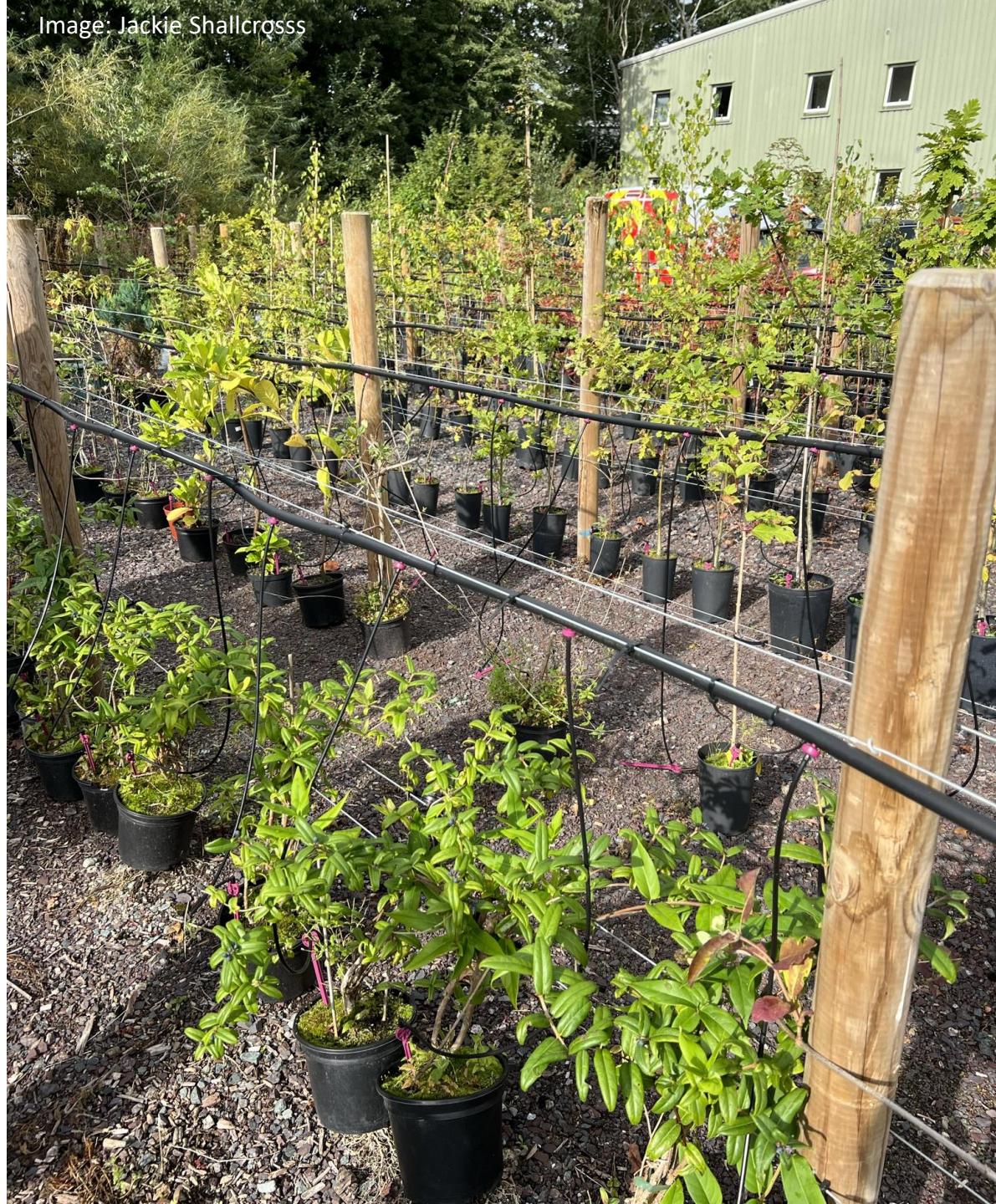
[jon.stokes@treecouncil.org.uk](mailto:jon.stokes@treecouncil.org.uk)

Jess Allan, Science & Research  
Projects Manager

[jessica.allan@treecouncil.org.uk](mailto:jessica.allan@treecouncil.org.uk)



# Shared Outcomes Fund, Trees Outside Woodland



# Shared Outcomes Fund – Trees Outside Woodland (SOF TOW)



## Purposes:

- To identify innovative ways to reduce the cost of establishing TOWs.
- To improve local supply of cost effective and biosecure planting stock

Phase 1  
2020-2023



Phase 2  
2023-2025

## In partnership with:

- Defra
- Natural England
- The Tree Council
- Five Local Authorities:
  - Kent County Council
  - Shropshire Council
  - Cornwall Council
  - Norfolk County Council
  - Chichester District Council
- Fera science



# Phase 1 – learning so far



Pilot	Knowledge sharing
Urban Tree Establishment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Trees and Utilities research report</li><li>• Miyawaki guide and video</li></ul>
Free and subsidised tree schemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 'How to' guide coming soon</li></ul>
Agroforestry and Orchards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Systems guide</li></ul>
Trees in a Farmed Landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Feasibility and learning</li></ul>
Boosting Community Tree Nurseries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tree Growers Guide</li><li>• National Survey</li><li>• Plant Healthy and Biosecurity grants</li><li>• Demonstration hub</li></ul>

- Tree establishment costs
- Coronation Living Heritage Fund – APPLICATIONS CLOSE 26<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER, 10am
  - Coronation Micro Woods
  - Coronation Community Orchards



# Learning for resilience

## Methods of Tree Establishment

- Cost reductions
- Maximising success in a changing climate
- Understanding what doesn't work so well

## Healthier treescapes

- Effective tree establishment
- Local production of biosecure trees

## Ways of working

- Flexibility and dedicated resource in Local Authorities
- Scope and scale
- Reaching a variety of landholders
- Peer to peer collaboration for sustainability





# Phase 2 – development

Continued monitoring of phase 1 pilots – real establishment

- Rapid Urban Tree Establishment
- Trees on Farms
- Targeted Tree Schemes
- Community Tree Nurseries



Image: Sophie Hamnett



Image: Nick Rowles

**Trees**  
 **Outside**  
**Woodland**

# Contact us

Jon Stokes, Director of Trees, Science  
and Research

[jon.stokes@treecouncil.org.uk](mailto:jon.stokes@treecouncil.org.uk)

- Tree and Woodland Strategies
- Tree Survival Rates and Drivers
  
- Shared Outcomes Fund, Trees Outside  
Woodland

Jess Allan, Science & Research  
Projects Manager

[jessica.allan@treecouncil.org.uk](mailto:jessica.allan@treecouncil.org.uk)

Jackie Shallcross, Shared Outcomes  
Fund, Project Lead

[jackie.shallcross@treecouncil.org.uk](mailto:jackie.shallcross@treecouncil.org.uk)

