

Wider application

Inclusion of urban forestry in supplementary planning guidance is possible in most of our towns and cities. It requires a clear understanding of the benefits of trees and woodland, a defined set of objectives and a strategy for achieving these. Most of all it requires the political will to put these aspirations into practice.

Further information

National Urban Forestry Unit

This leaflet is one of a series produced by the National Urban Forestry Unit. NUFU provides a national focus for the exchange of information and good practice in urban forestry.

If you would like further information on other case studies or their application, or if you have examples of good practice to share with others, please contact:

National Urban Forestry Unit	Tel :	01902 828600
The Science Park	Fax :	01902 828700
Stafford Road	E-mail :	info@nufu.org.uk
Wolverhampton WV10 9RT	Web site :	www.nufu.org.uk
United Kingdom		

The National Forest Company

The National Forest Company is responsible for creating The National Forest across 500 km² of the English Midlands. It has produced a guide for developers and planners which provides practical advice on the planting of woodlands as a part of new developments.

The National Forest Company	Tel :	01283 551211
Enterprise Glade	Fax :	01283 552844
Bath Lane	Email :	enquiries@nationalforest.org
Moira	Website :	www.nationalforest.org
SWADLINCOTE		
DE12 6BD		

Further reading

National Forest Company (1999)

A guide for developers and planners National Forest Company, Swadlincote

East Staffordshire Borough Council (1999)

East Staffordshire Local Plan East Staffordshire Borough Council, Burton upon Trent

National Urban Forestry Unit (1999)

Trees and Woods in Towns and Cities - How to develop local strategies for urban forestry

National Urban Forestry Unit, Wolverhampton

Photographs: The National Forest Company

PRODUCED BY

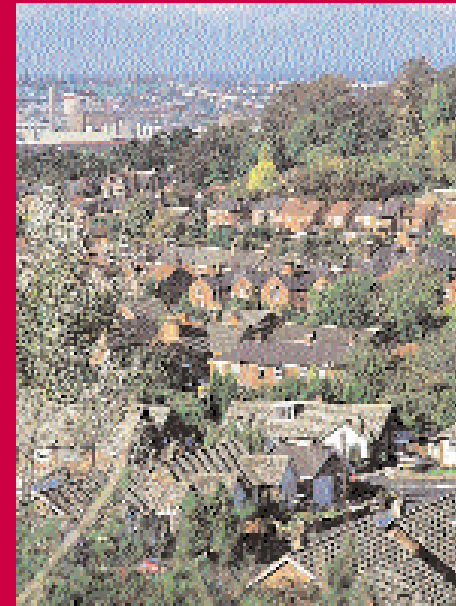


IN ASSOCIATION WITH



Urban Forestry in Practice

Using supplementary planning guidance



CASE STUDY 23

Using supplementary planning guidance

Introduction

Urban greening initiatives are made easier to achieve and much more secure in the longer term when they are integrated into local government planning guidance.

Where an urban forestry strategy is adopted as Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) it can be regarded as a material consideration when determining a planning application. This encourages developers to incorporate urban forestry principles into their development plans before they are first submitted.

Specific example

Project name and location

**URBAN FORESTRY STRATEGY,
BURTON UPON TRENT,**
Staffordshire, UK
Grid reference SK 250 230

Project partners

- East Staffordshire Borough Council
- National Forest Company
- National Urban Forestry Unit

Project objectives

- To enhance Burton's image and help to attract inward investment
- To provide improved environmental quality, principally through the planting of new trees and woodland
- To create wider public interest in The National Forest and provide a demonstration of excellence in urban forestry
- To provide a framework for community involvement
- **T**o integrate urban forestry into the planning policy framework

Context

Burton upon Trent is the largest town in The National Forest (a Government sponsored initiative that aims to create a new forest for the nation across 500km² of the East Midlands). The town already has substantial tree and woodland cover, but there was believed to be considerable scope for further expansion of the urban forest.

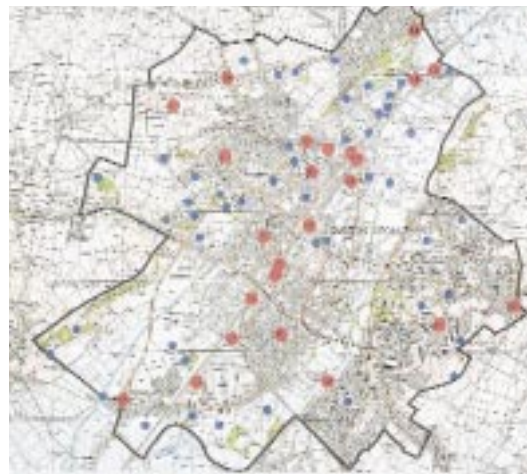
The Borough Council recognised that if the full potential of its urban forest was to be realised, a planned framework for the action of all agencies would be essential. This would help to integrate opportunities and resources through the land use planning process.

This approach was supported by the Local Plan for East Staffordshire, which included a chapter dealing solely with The National Forest.

Land awaiting development can be made more attractive with boundary planting and as each new development matures, it can add to the overall extent of the urban forest



A strategic overview reveals a surprising variety of opportunities to enhance the urban forest



Implementation

In 1995, the National Urban Forestry Unit was commissioned jointly by the Council and The National Forest Company to develop an urban forestry strategy for Burton.

The draft strategy was publicised through a public launch and direct consultation with all interested organisations and the general public. Many very positive responses were received.

Results

The urban forestry strategy for Burton identified opportunities to plant some 250 000 trees in and around the town within the space of five years. Five themes were selected for flagship projects:

- new woodlands beside the railway
- gateway schemes on main routes into town
- planting in pub gardens, linked to the town's brewing heritage
- new recreational woodlands, particularly on publicly owned land
- local community projects

In 1996, after extensive further public consultation, the Council adopted the Burton upon Trent Urban Forestry Strategy as Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG). This was endorsed by the Government Office for the West Midlands, the Countryside Commission and Staffordshire County Council. SPG status has helped the Council to negotiate extra National Forest-related support from developers.

Section 106 agreements are the formal mechanism by which landscape investment can be achieved as an additional output linked to new development. The Council has used them to bring forward planting schemes elsewhere in the town in partnership with developers.



Natural regeneration along railways forms part of the emergent urban forest. Highlighting the strategic importance of greening major transport routes helps to make the case for their positive management