



Wrexham's Urban Trees

urban areas. In 2013, Wrexham County Borough piloted the first i-Tree Eco study in Wales to value their worth.

- an amazing resource benefiting us all

Wales

Trees are essential to life. In urban areas they also provide important services: they help to alleviate flooding, they provide health benefits by absorbing pollutants, and they support wildlife. We want to see more trees in

Not only do trees make Wrexham's towns more attractive, they also:

Reduce flood risk

278 million litres of rainfall intercepted per year.

Equivalent to:

11 Olympic size swimming pools orWrexham Waterworld's main pool being filled

556 times

This stops the rain from entering the drainage system, saving £460,000 in sewerage charges.

Clean the air we breathe



60 tonnes of air pollution removed

per year



£700.000

(by reducing asthma and heart disease)

Help challenge climate change



of carbon removed from the atmosphere per year – worth £24,000

65,773 tonnes

of carbon stored over the life of Wrexham's trees - worth £14 million

The ecosystem services provided by Wrexham's trees are collectively valued at

£1.2 million

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Sustaining and growing Wrexham's urban tree population



42% of Wrexham's trees feature only 3 species

with only 10 species forming 70% of the total population. We need greater species diversity to counter the threat of pests and disease.

Large and leafy trees such as OAK, LIME and PINE offer the best ecosystem benefits to society



It would cost £900 million to replace all Wrexham's trees should they be lost

The I-Tree Eco study highlights the real value of Wrexham's trees to society. As with any asset, urban tree populations require suitable resourcing to enable sustainable management, protection and enhancement.







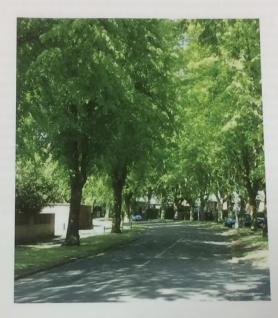
Research by Natural Resources Wales – Tree Cover in Wales Towns & Cities 2014



Urban Area	Canopy Cover 2009 %
Brymbo	21.5%
Cefn Mawr	24.0%
Chirk	13.2%
Coedpoeth	6.6%
Gresford	23.5%
Gwersyllt	18.3%
Llay	24.7%
Rhosllanerchrugog / Penycae	15.7%
Rossett	17.1%
Ruabon	15.8%
Wrexham	13.3%

The urban tree canopy cover of the County Borough as a whole is average when compared to other Welsh towns. Some of the individual urban areas within the County Borough are well below the average of 17%.

WREXHAM TREE & Woodland Strategy 2016-2026



A Strategy for the Sustainable Management, Protection and Enhancement of Wrexham County Borough's Tree Population



www.wrexham.gov.uk/www.wrecsam.gov.uk





Highlights of the strategy

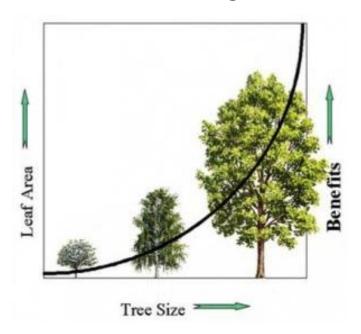
- increase in tree canopy cover in urban areas to 20% by 2026
- Target areas of lowest tree cover for increase in tree planting.
- Review and improve tree protection process (TPO's)
- Integrate tree strategy goals into new Local Development Plan.
- Encourage greater community engagement in the care of trees and improve their understanding of value of trees



Planting -The case for large trees



Large trees store proportionally more carbon than smaller trees, highlighting the importance that large trees have on mitigating against climate change by converting and storing carbon dioxide, the primary greenhouse gas responsible for climate change, as carbon.



Tree population resilience and diversity



- 42% of the tree population in urban areas is made up of 3 Species (Sycamore, Common Hawthorn & Silver Birch).
- Risk that large proportion of tree stock could be lost due to pests, diseases and climate change.
- Authority needs to plant a wide range of tree species including non – native trees to future proof against risk by providing a diverse and resilient tree population.
- Planning system used to ensure planting on new developments is consistent with this aim.



Trees & air quality

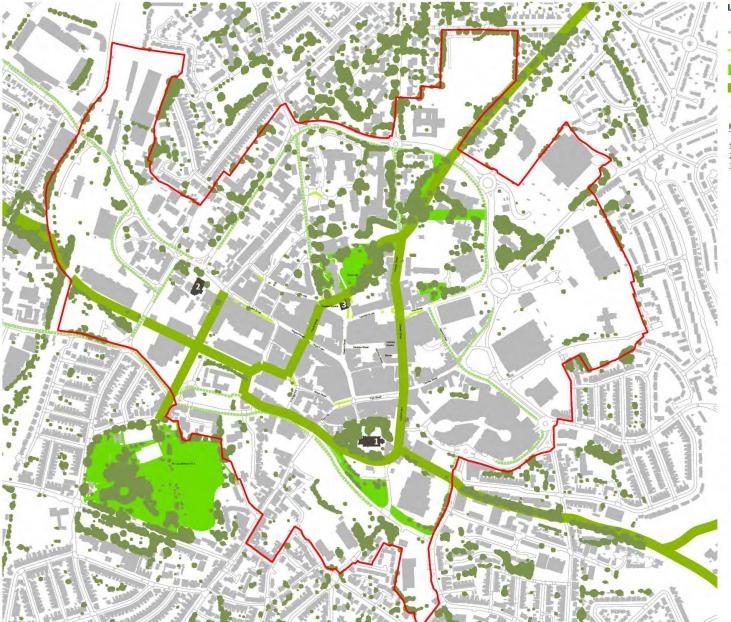
 The centre of Wrexham has some of the highest deaths caused by respiratory problems in Wales, with 111 respiratory related deaths for every 100 0006 people (www.healthmapswales.wales.nhs.uk, 2010). This puts Wrexham in the top 20% of Welsh areas for respiratory related deaths.





Wrexham Public Realm Strategy Green Infrastructure (Long Term)





Legend

Green Infrastructure

Green Acupuncture

Enhanced Green Space

Long Term Strategic Green Infrastructure

Existing Tree & Vegetation

Key Buildings as an Orientation Point

1. St. Giles Church

2. St. Marys Cathederal

3. The Old Library

There is an opportunity in the next fifteen to twenty years to look at large scale green infrastructure connections that would link pedestrian routes through the town with destinations on Wrexham's periphery. Enhancing existing greeen infrastructure along pedestrian routes, along major roads and along the River Gwenfro would create sustainable links between the hospital, the university, existing residential areas and new residential developments. This would encourage more people to walk, jog and cycle, both as work commute and leisure activity. Along with known health benefits associated with these activities, this would relieve pressure on traffic infrastructure, help restrict urban spread and provide a cleaner, more compact structure to the town. Further utilisation of transport infrastructure on obsolescence would increase provision of sustainable pedestrian linkages and green recreation corridors, further enhancing Wrexham's attractiveness as liveable town and visitor destination.

Wrexham Town Centre



Site as existing



Site as proposed





Next steps & future challenges wiecsam

- Monitor progress against action plans
- Adapt





Links & useful info

www.wrexham.gov.uk/trees

elton.watson@wrexham.gov.uk

www.forestry.gov.uk/forestresearch