

An aerial photograph of a rural landscape in Herefordshire, England. The image shows a patchwork of green and golden-brown fields, interspersed with clusters of trees and a central town with a prominent church spire. The terrain is hilly, with rolling hills visible in the background under a clear sky.

Herefordshire Tree, Hedgerow and Woodland Strategy (h-THAWS)

Summary document



**Thank you to all the residents, groups,
organisations and other stakeholders in
Herefordshire for their time and support in
developing this Strategy.**

Facilitated by:

Herefordshire.gov.uk

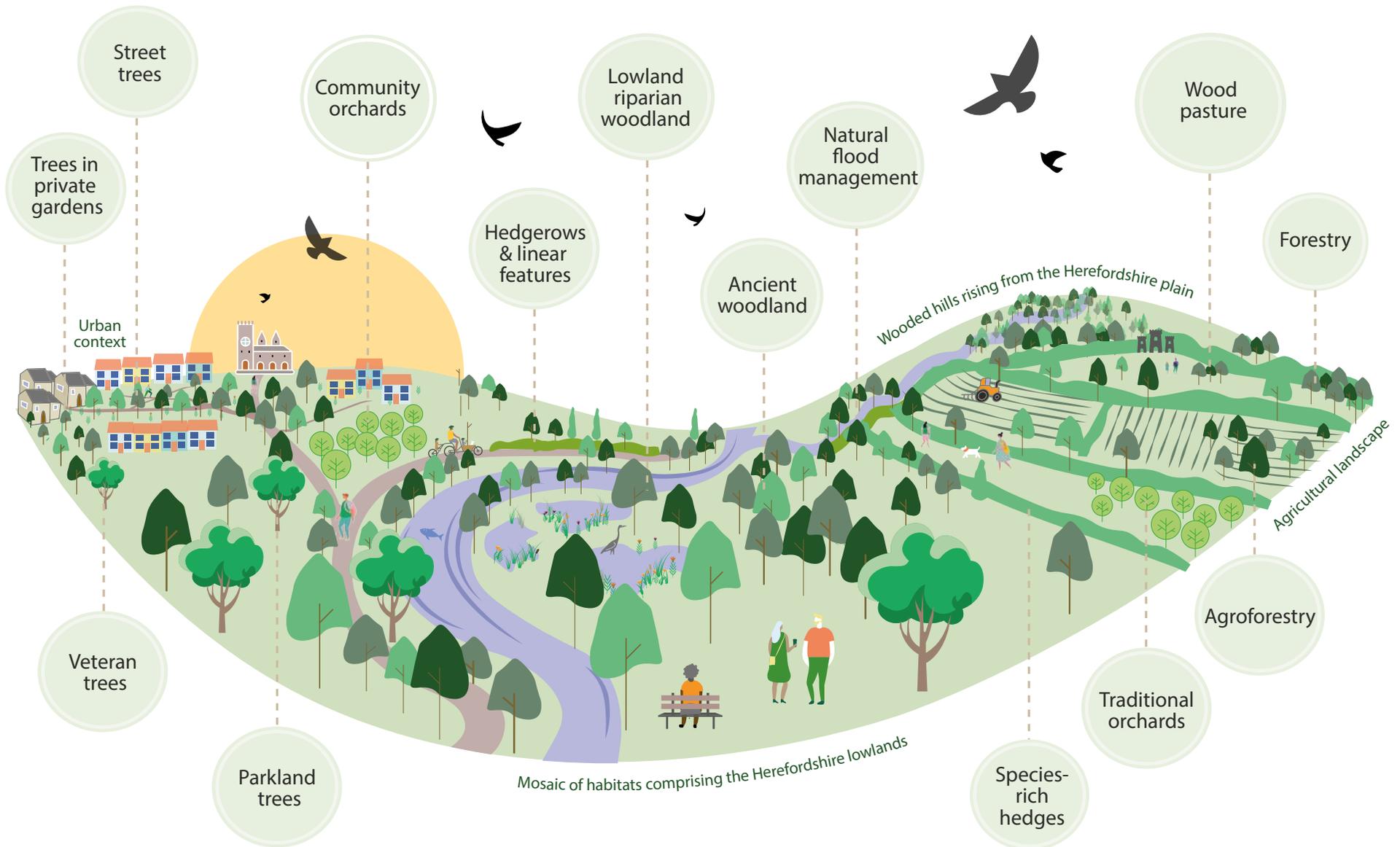
In partnership with:



The purpose of this Strategy is to set out an aspirational, yet achievable, shared future vision for Herefordshire's treescape.

The shared vision is for **everyone** within Herefordshire, with the aim of accelerating bold and collaborative action. We all have a role to play to ensure the shared vision is achieved.





The shared vision for Herefordshire's treescape



The shared vision for Herefordshire's treescape

*To create and sustainably manage a thriving network of trees, woodland, traditional orchards, riparian vegetation, wood pasture & parkland, species-rich hedges and hedgerow trees across the county. The treescape will connect across the urban and rural landscapes of Herefordshire, delivering **multiple benefits for people, place and nature** – now and into the future.*

Benefits of the treescape to Herefordshire

The mosaic of trees, hedgerows and woodlands in Herefordshire offer multiple benefits within both rural and urban contexts and will be vital in addressing the climate and ecological emergency (declared by Herefordshire Council in December 2019).



Health and well-being improvements



Social interactions & community cohesion



Improving air quality and noise regulation



People focussed benefits



Aesthetic value and reinforcing sense of place



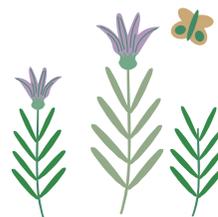
Increased attractiveness for inward investment



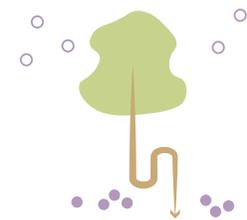
Cooling and shading



Place focussed benefits



Biodiversity and improved ecological resilience



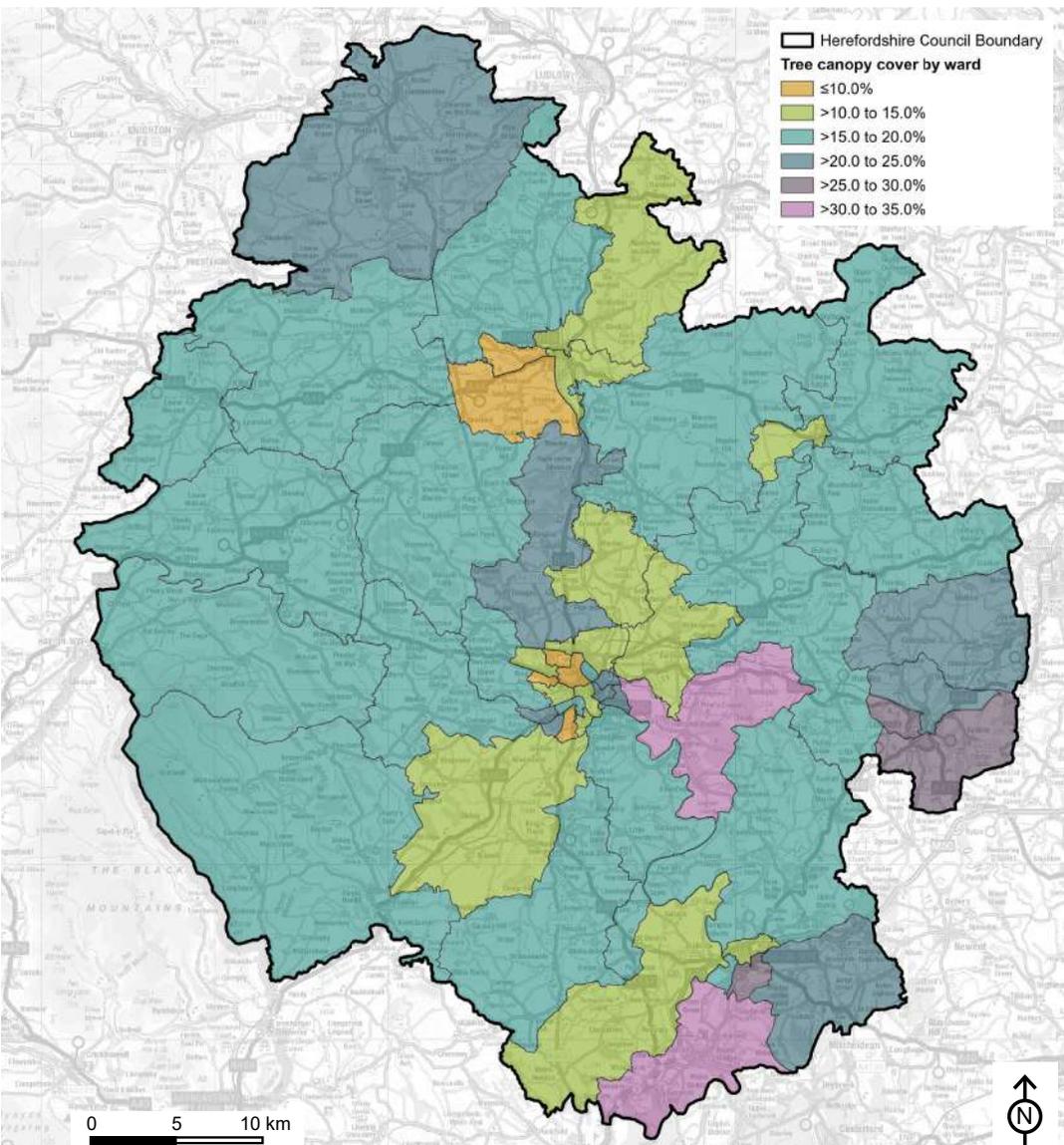
Carbon sequestration and climate change mitigation



Play, education and interaction with nature



Nature focussed benefits



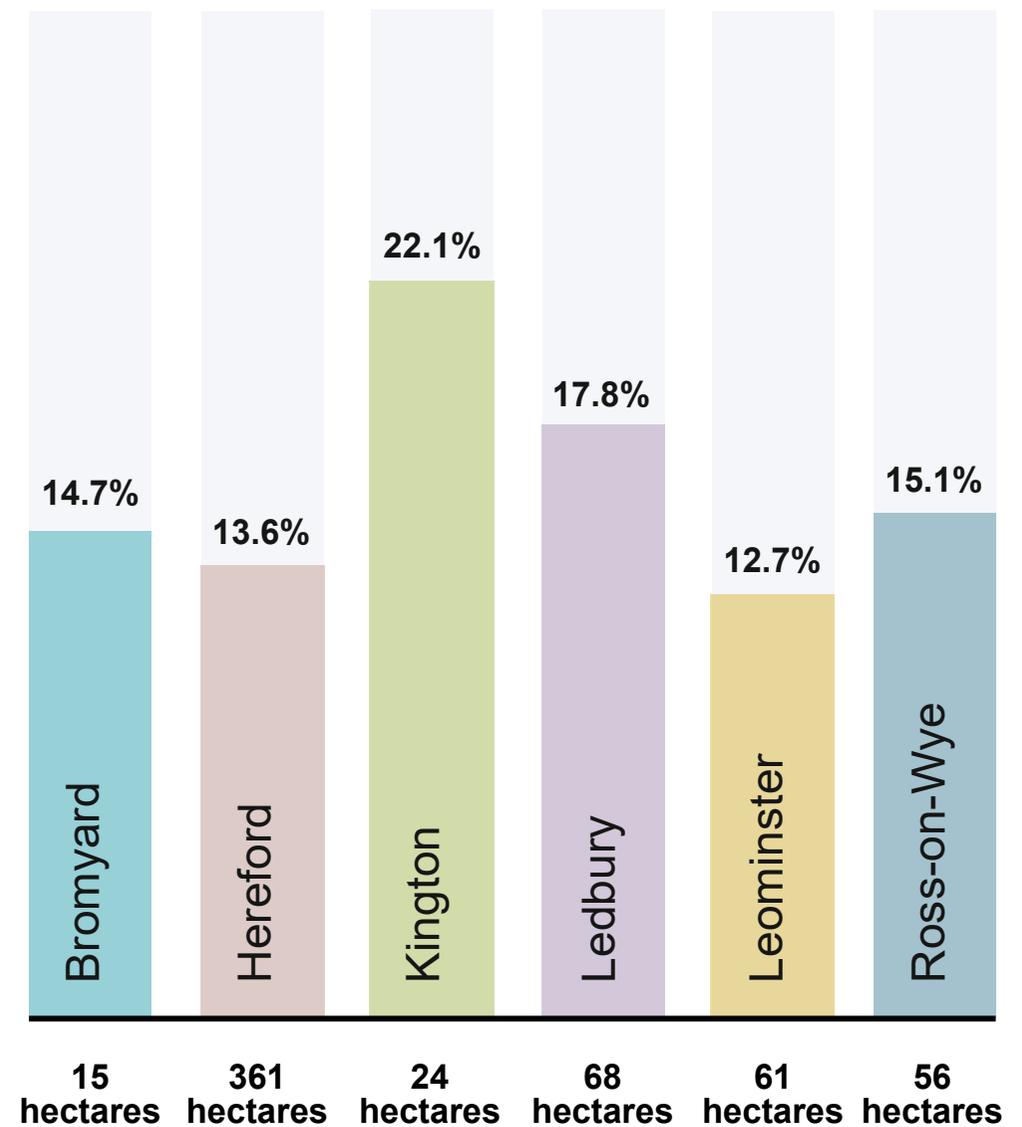
The pattern of existing tree cover within Herefordshire

National Tree Map data of Herefordshire includes approximately 743,000 individual trees, woodlands, and groups of trees, resulting in an average % tree canopy coverage of 19.3%. However, this percentage masks a considerable variation in tree canopy coverage across the county, reflecting the range of urban and rural contexts across Herefordshire.

◀ Percentage tree canopy cover by ward

Existing canopy cover by settlement

Variations also exist in the pattern of percentage canopy cover within settlements in the county. These percentages compare against an average urban tree canopy cover in England of 15.8%. Within Herefordshire, only the existing tree canopy cover within Ledbury and Kington exceeds this percentage. The lowest average tree canopy cover is found within Leominster (12.7%) and Hereford (13.6%).



National Tree Map (2019)

► Percentage tree canopy cover by settlement

Strategic objectives to support the shared vision

The shared vision is supported by a series of strategic objectives which will help guide the delivery of the Strategy and form the basis for monitoring its future success.



Establish priorities for future tree planting

Establish measurable tree establishment targets within both urban and rural contexts within the county.



Deliver the right tree in the right place

Carefully select appropriate species which respond to local character and distinctiveness, support biodiversity, consider heritage constraints and embed resilience to future challenges.



Ensure effective establishment and aftercare

Commit to maintenance and management to ensure the successful establishment, active management and ongoing monitoring of the treescape.



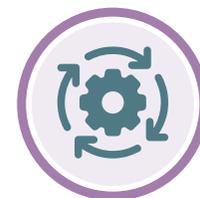
Support partnership working

Work collaboratively at all levels, and across boundaries, to share knowledge and align with other supporting initiatives.



Promote the value of the treescape

Lead by example by promoting the benefits of the urban forest and the rural treescape, including contributions to national and local policy relating to climate change and nature recovery.



Coordinate action and future monitoring

Identify and secure ongoing funding opportunities for woodland creation, establishment and long term management.

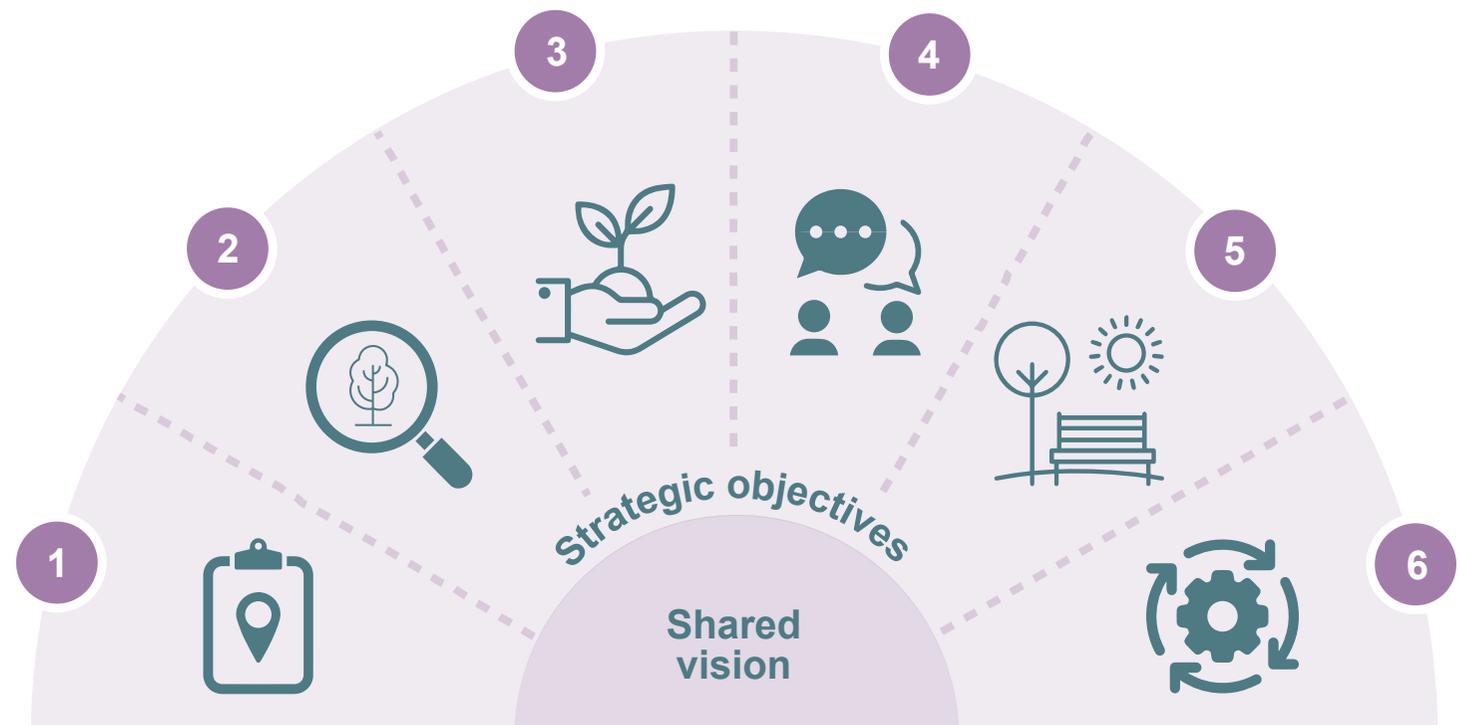


Proposed targets and outcomes

The Strategy defines effective targets and outcomes, set within the framework of the six strategic objectives of the shared vision. The outcomes are also framed in the context of local and national ambitions for the treescape within Herefordshire.

▼ Strategic objectives to support the shared vision

- 1 Establish priorities for future tree planting
- 2 Deliver the right tree in the right place
- 3 Ensure effective establishment and aftercare
- 4 Support partnership working
- 5 Promote the value of the treescape
- 6 Coordinate action and future monitoring





Establish priorities for future tree planting

- Increase the average canopy coverage in the county to 20% by 2041, with a 30% 'stretch' target for urban areas.
- Deliver planting in areas of greatest need.
- Adopt an urban tree canopy cover standard for development proposals.
- Implement a process for identification of new tree planting locations across Herefordshire.



Deliver the right tree in the right place

- Consider a range of factors when determining species selection and siting.
- Deliver a climate resilient and diverse canopy cover to future-proof the county's tree stock.
- Contribute to the development and delivery of Herefordshire's Nature Recovery Network.



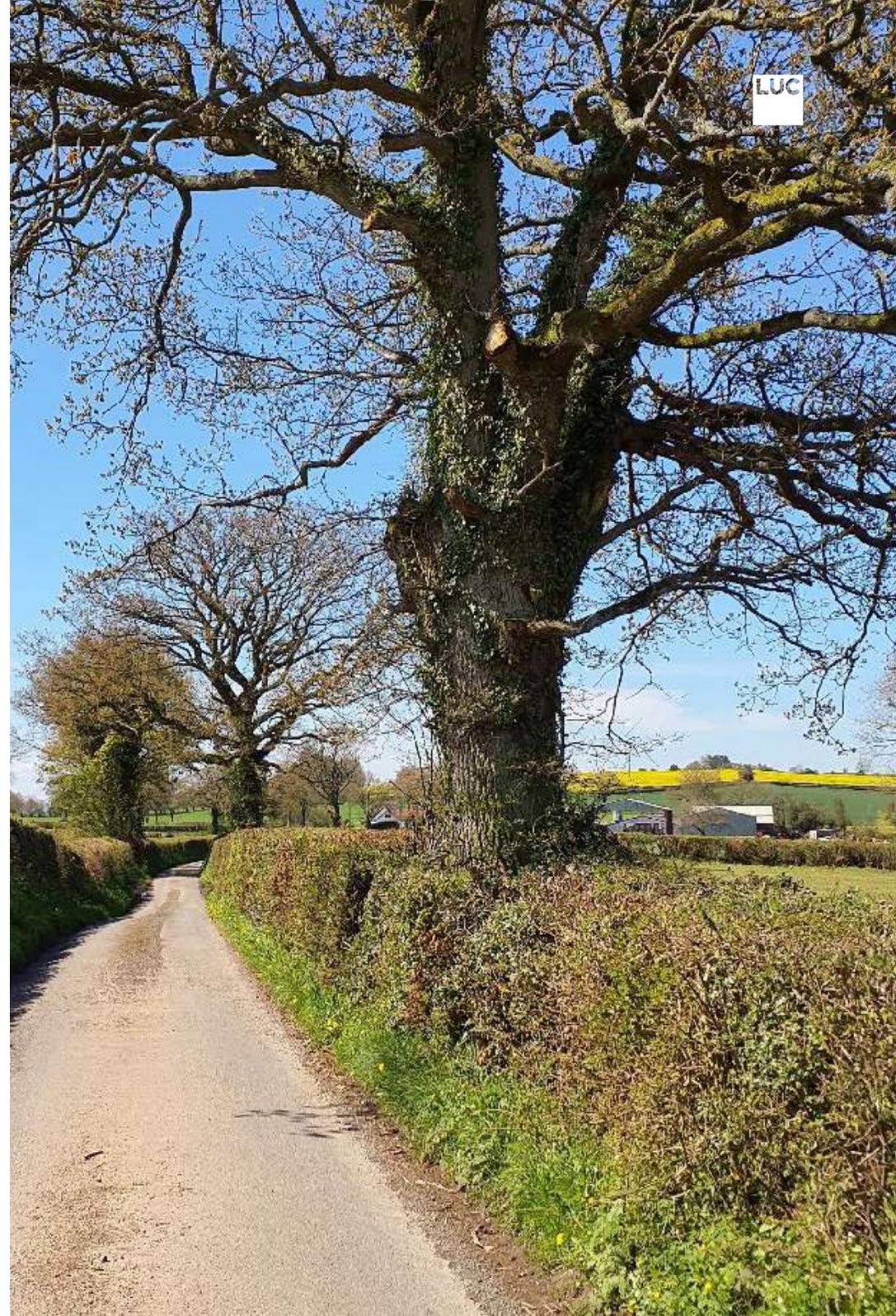
Ensure effective establishment

- Ensure the protection and sustainable management of the county's existing treescape.
- Promote the use of best practice standards for the establishment of new tree and hedgerow planting.
- Ensure all woodland SSSIs are in favourable condition by 2041.



Support partnership working

- Develop a Herefordshire Treescape Task Group.
- Establishing strong working partnerships and support community involvement.





Promote the value of the treescape

- Raise awareness, increase understanding and highlight the benefits of trees to Herefordshire's residents
- Recognise the significance of traditional orchards and hedgerows within Herefordshire.



Coordinate delivery and monitoring

- Coordinate achievable actions to help deliver the shared vision for Herefordshire's treescape.
- Establish robust mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation.



Herefordshire's Tree Hedgerow & Woodland Strategy

Refer to the full Strategy for
further information.

Facilitated by:

Herefordshire.gov.uk

In partnership with:

LUC

