

Faversham Town Tree Strategy

2024 - 2029

The Faversham Tree Strategy is a 5 year plan to protect and enhance trees, hedgerows and woodlands in the town and surrounding district.

Faversham Town Council declared a Climate Emergency in February 2021 including proposals for seeking locations and to implement native species tree planting on both Council and private land within Faversham. A further proposal passed was to encouraging hedge planting for increased biodiversity.

Faversham Town Council has a key role to play in realising the long term benefits of tree planting and tree maintenance. This Strategy builds on the existing Tree Policy. Trees are also assets of Community value.

Forestry Research UK ¹ suggests that if a minimum standard is set locally for tree canopy cover, that there is evidence that 20% tree canopy cover (or 15% for coastal areas) is an appropriate level.

Currently 3 out of the 4 Wards in Faversham fall below 20% Canopy Cover.

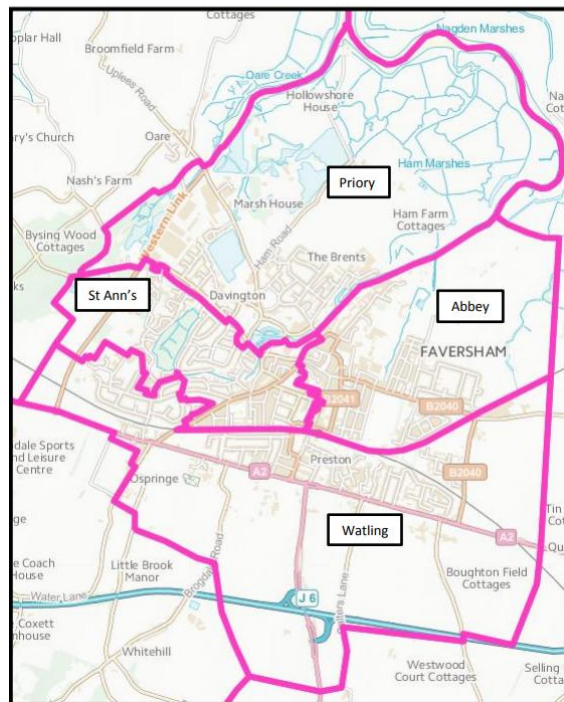
Percent Canopy Cover of Faversham Wards (2023)

Data extracted from Forestry Maps ²

Ward	% Canopy Cover
Abbey	10.0
Priory	6.8
St Ann's *	26.5
Watling	14.7

**Much of this cover is due to the wet woodland canopy of the Knole ME13 7QG*

Faversham Town Council Wards



Purpose and Aims of a Tree Strategy for Faversham Town.

A Tree Strategy can help to meet statutory biodiversity and climate action obligations.

A Tree Strategy outlines the monitoring and management of tree, hedgerow and woodland assets in the Wards of Faversham Town

A priority aim is to increase the percentage tree cover in accordance with recommendations of the Woodland Trust / Forestry Research UK's Tree Canopy Cover ¹. This is in line with the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan to plant 11 million trees ⁶.

A Tree Strategy aims to encourage partnerships with local community groups, businesses and voluntary organisations to meet the aims of the strategy. Indeed, the current Government has a commitment to introduce a duty on councils to consult the public before removing trees from our streets.

A Tree Strategy can contribute to green infrastructure planning and protect Natural Capital Assets ⁷.

Benefits

Trees, hedgerows and woodlands support a range of important biological, social and economic functions;

- Supporting biodiversity including pollinators with shelter, habitat and forage.
- Connecting habitats and providing wildlife corridors.
- Providing shade in expected warmer temperature extremes.
- Precipitation intercept, storage and attenuation of storm water.
- Carbon storage
- Cooling the surroundings and reducing the urban heat-island effect.
- Well being and reduction on Health Care Services including reduction in air pollution ⁸.
- Reduction in anti- social behavior.
- Increase in property values.

A Tree strategy links to Kent County Council targets including; Kent Plan Tree, Kent Biodiversity Strategy, Kent Plan Bee.

Ancient and Veteran trees in the Faversham town and District.

Records of ancient, veterans and notable trees are recorded at the Ancient Tree Inventory ⁵ (Woodland Trust) website. Currently this displays records of 8 Veteran trees and 9 Notable Trees in Faversham.

The Tree strategy proposes more comprehensive recording of tree specimens as this list is far from complete. Recording of ancient, veteran and notable trees is important as protection and ongoing management of valuable tree assets.

Actions

Actions proposed for the Faversham Tree Strategy.

- Increase tree canopy cover for each ward to a 20% minimum by means of tree planting and allowing natural regeneration. Sites to consider; local green spaces, schools, residential sites, Country Park, allotments, car parks, cemeteries and highways. This would likely be done by planting in groups rather than street trees. A possible option is planting a Tiny Forest based on a forest management methodology by Japanese botanist Dr Akira Miyawaki.³
- Ensure appropriate species of trees are planted with appropriate continuous maintenance plans put in place. Advice will be sought from partners and tree experts to place the right tree in the right place. Currently there is a mismatch of maintenance and tree health requirements. For example, tree roots are routinely covered in tarmac and other materials impervious to water and air which is retired by tree roots. See illustration below of trees in the Main Car Park, Faversham.



- Work with partners to identify sites and increase and connect hedgerows, woodlands, green corridors and networks. This includes working with Kent Tree Plan to deliver KCC targets.⁴
- Work with developers and planners to influence and encourage increased planting on new residential and business/ industrial developments. This includes monitoring aftercare and watering during dry periods.
- Enabling and informing residents on the benefits of tree planting in their own gardens as well as more widely. Events during Tree week aimed at encouraging tree planting in private gardens.
- Promoting tree and management skills. This can be done by working with partners e.g. Kent Wildlife Trust and the Kent Countryside Partnership as well as local experts.
- Work to preserve existing tree stocks. This includes recording Ancient, Veteran trees in the Faversham town and District e.g. the Oriental Plane in St Mary's Church yard. Also, attention to be given to preserving the life of mature urban trees by extending access to root infiltration on tarmac and cement - bound specimens.

Working with Partners

Faversham has a number of active groups which are involved in the promotion and preservation of trees, hedgerows and woodland. There has been a series of events in the last few years organized locally for National Tree Week.

Partnerships will be sought with;

- Trees for Farms
- Faversham Trees group

- Edible Culture
- Friends of the Faversham Rec
- Faversham Allotments
- Oare Gunpowder Works Country Park
- Abbey School
- QE Grammar School
- Brogdale Collections
- Abbey Physic Gardens
- St Mary's Church yard
- Friends of the Westbrook stream
- Faversham Society
- Kent Tree and Pond Wardens

References

1. [https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/fthr/tree-canopy-cover-leaflet/#:~:text=suggests%20that%20if%20a%20minimum,areas\)%20is%20an%20appropriate%20level](https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/tools-and-resources/fthr/tree-canopy-cover-leaflet/#:~:text=suggests%20that%20if%20a%20minimum,areas)%20is%20an%20appropriate%20level)
2. <https://forestry.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=d8c253ab17e1412586d9774d1a09fa07>
3. <https://earthwatch.org.uk/tiny-forests-planted-in-peckham-rye-park-common/>
4. <https://www.kent.gov.uk/environment-waste-and-planning/nature-and-biodiversity/trees/tree-planting-statement>
5. <https://ati.woodlandtrust.org.uk/tree-search/>

6. https://cdn.forestresearch.gov.uk/2022/02/fr_fc_treecanopydata_leaflet.pdf
7. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/enabling-a-natural-capital-approach-enca-guidance/enabling-a-natural-capital-approach-guidance>
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