

# VALUING SANDWELL'S URBAN FOREST



**Most Common Tree Species:**  
**Field Maple, English Oak, Bird Cherry**

Urban forests provide people with a range of benefits (or ecosystem services) that help make our towns and cities better places to live.

Trees filter air pollution, improve our health, store carbon and reduce flooding, whilst also providing important habitat for wildlife and a multitude of other benefits.

Black Country Consortium Ltd worked in partnership with Birmingham Tree People, Barton Hyett Associates and Treeconomics to survey the trees in Sandwell. Using a plot sample assessment in i-Tree Eco the team quantified the structure of Sandwell's urban forest and valued a range of the ecosystem services it provides to society.

The tree measured with the highest replacement cost in the Black Country is a Beech in Sandwell valued at £28,367. It stands 28m high, has a DBH of 274cm, and provides ES worth £37.80 annually!

**Number of Trees**  
**265,000**








**18.1%**  
**Tree Cover**

**108**  
**Tree Species**

**31**  
**Trees per hectare**

Sandwell's urban forest contains an estimated 265,000 trees benefiting over 328,000 people. That's 0.8 trees per person.

In addition, Sandwell's trees:

-  Cover an area equivalent to 1,550 ha with a leaf area of 7,450 ha.
-  Intercept around 130,000 m<sup>3</sup> of rain water every year, equivalent to an estimated £128,000 in avoided water treatment costs.
-  Filter an estimated 15.3 tonnes of airborne pollutants each year, worth £828,000.
-  Remove an estimated 5,550 tonnes of carbon from the atmosphere each year, worth £5 million.
-  Store an impressive 361,000 tonnes of carbon worth £328 million.
-  Are at risk from pests and diseases - Ash dieback could affect 22,300 trees in Sandwell.
-  Would cost £684 million to replace like-for-like.



Leaf area is equivalent to 24 times the area of Sandwell Valley Country Park (308 ha)!



Avoided runoff is equivalent to 52 olympic swimming pools of water!



Carbon sequestration is equivalent to the annual CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of 11,730 cars!



Carbon storage is equivalent to the weight of 29,000 new London double-decker busses (12.4 tonnes)!