Policy requirements

The policy context and planning framework is presently evolving. Nevertheless, the comprehensive list of policy requirements outlined in this table makes it plain that the role of trees in development is substantial, varied and likely to remain so:

Government policy documents	Objectives in relation to trees
• The Coalition: Our programme for government[39] • Conservative Liberal Democrat Coalition Negotiations: Agreements reached[40] • Building the big society[41] • Queen's Speech 2010, to both Houses of Parliament[42] • Budget 2010[43]	The need to plant trees, protect and enhance greenspaces and wildlife corridors and promote renewable energy (including woodfuel) is stressed. There are aims to reduce urban density to make space for trees in urban areas, whilst the resulting pressure for development in the countryside increases the important role of woods and forests as development mitigation
Forestry policy documents	
The UK Forestry Standard	This strategy and regulatory framework acknowledges the importance of urban woodland
A strategy for England's trees, woods and forests	Trees and woods in development and Green infrastructure are regarded as an important community resource that instils a sense of place
Keepers of time: A statement of policy for England's ancient and native woodland	It is important that development protects existing ancient woodland and increases native woodland cover. Accordingly development proposals and strategies must ensure trees contribute to quality of life, sustainable development, wildlife and biodiversity, plus cultural heritage and landscape
PPS:	
1. Delivering Sustainable Development	Trees alleviate the impact of climate change through carbon sequestration and local climate regulation. Trees also improve air quality
Supplement to PPS 1: Planning & Climate Change	Trees have a fundamental role in climate change resilience and for conserving biodiversity
3. Housing	The need for access to GI networks for sustainable communities is fundamental. Trees have a key role to play in this provision
4. Planning for Sustainable Economic Growth	Trees contribution to environmental, social and economic sustainability objectives is considerable and their presence on development sites can help attract inward investment and thereby increase an area's prosperity
5. Planning for the Historic Environment	Trees, woods and forests are fundamental elements of the historic environment, which contributes hugely to a sense of place
7. Sustainable Development in Rural Areas	Trees improve environmental quality and enhance public access, as well as ensuring development and Green Infrastructure is sensitive to countryside character in rural areas
9. Biodiversity & Geological Conservation	Trees contribute to habitat connectivity and retention/planting projects enhance a site's biodiversity
22. Renewable Energy	Promotes the use of renewable energy resources – woodfuel has substantial potential in this respect
23. Planning & Pollution Control	Trees serve a valuable mitigating role for polluted land and can be a significant component of land remediation projects
25. Development & Flood Risk	Trees' attenuation of water contributes to the integrity of functional floodplains and can improve the effectiveness of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS)
PPG:	
2. Green Belts	Trees and woods in the urban fringe contribute significantly to landscape, historic, biodiversity and recreational values
17. Planning for Open Space, Sport & Recreation	Woodland and urban forests provide considerable public benefit. The Forestry Commission holds valuable data to support Local Planning Authorities in the preparation of PPG17 assessments