Forest of Avon Trust

iTree Bristol Briefing Note

Forest of Avon Trust (FoAT)

The FoAT was established in 2008 to carry forward the work of the Forest of Avon Community Forest. The charity focuses on activity which realises the many benefits of trees to the life of people in Bristol and Avon. The FoAT runs diverse training, health & wellbeing and tree planting projects. It has also brought 850ha local woodland in to management and delivered the first community based iTree Eco project in the UK, (in North Somerset).

iTree Eco 6 Context

iTree Eco has been widely and successfully used in the USA and is a robust valuation model for the range of environmental services provided by trees. In Britain, it was first used in Torbay in 2011, with its application quickly widening and informing tree care budgets and investment decisions in 16 cities including Edinburgh, Glasgow and London.

iTree Eco North Somerset

In 2013, North Somerset Council commissioned the FoAT to deliver the second iTree Eco survey in Britain and the first to use volunteers for data collection. This involved a core group of 12 volunteer Tree Wardens in surveying 169 randomly generated plots across the authority. A detailed report set out a number of important findings including that North Somerset's trees remove harmful pollutants (CO, NO2, O3, PM10, PM2.5, SO2), with an annual average value of £1,703,650.

iTree Eco 6

The latest version of iTree Eco (6) generates an even wider range of data on the environmental services provided by an area's tree and also information on tree health and predicted responses to pests and climate change.

iTree Bristol Context

iTree Bristol is supported by the Forest of Avon Trust working with Bristol City Council, the Woodland Trust and Bristol Tree Forum. The results of the survey will inform the forthcoming Bristol Tree Strategy, which will set out priorities and a funding strategy for Bristol's trees in to the future.

iTree Bristol will survey a minimum of 200 randomly generated 0.04ha (11.3m radius) plots across the administrative area of the city. Through spring and summer 2018, tree, shrub and land use data will be collected for each of these, submitted to the FoAT and processed through the iTree Eco model at the end of the survey.

The Surveys

You do not need to be a tree expert, just have an interest in them and enough spare time to be able to do at least 5 surveys this spring and/ or summer. iTree surveys are also quicker when working in pairs, so if you know someone who is interested please team up with them (we will also be able to put volunteers in touch with each other if you wish). Smartphones make data collection much quicker. Most smartphones can be used provided they can access the internet on site. The training will provide further details.

The FoAT will provide training, support, equipment and materials to enable surveys to be undertaken (including a means of tree identification where you are unsure).

iTree Bristol Training

We will run one or more training events, depending on interest. The first will be for up to 30 people between 10:00 and 12:30 on Sunday 13th May, in the Hayloft (above the café) at Ashton Court Estate Office and then outside in the grounds.

The main focus of the training will be to set out the requirements of the study, the survey techniques to be used and the support which will be provided. Training will be run by Jon Clark and Anna Brunton of the FoAT; Anna will be co-ordinating the study.

Structure of the Training: 13/05/18

Times	Detail
09:50-10:00	Registration, tea and coffee
10:00-10:05	Introduction and outline of the training event
10:05-10:15	What is iTree, how and where has it been used?
10:15-10:20	iTree Bristol and the Bristol Tree Strategy
10:20-10:30	Survey process and support from FoAT
10:30-11:00	iTree PowerPoint presentations: • Equipment • Understanding the i-Tree data collection sheet • Establishing a plot centre • What to do if the plot centre is inaccessible • Recording site based information • Recording individual tree information, including species, dbh and condition • Recording details on a smartphone.
11:00-1115	Questions
11:15-1230	Site based practical: 'surveying for iTree'
1230	Close and depart

What to Bring on the Day

- Outdoor clothing and footwear
- Smartphone (if you have one) which is web-enabled and with access to Google maps and your emails. If you have time, it would be helpful if you can load these apps on to it: Multiclinometer and ClevCalc.
- Completed contact form (if possible, please email this to us in advance).

Finding the Training Location

The Hayloft is located above the café at Ashton Court (BS41 9JN). Park in the main car-park (for which there is a charge) and walk (or cycle directly) in to the cobbled courtyard) and go to the door on the right (not the café) in the building facing you. A note on the door will provide further instructions. Please ensure you arrive in good time as we have a lot to get through.

iTree Resources

There are some really good resources which set out the background, detail and national application of the iTree model:

http://www.itreetools.org/eco/index.php

http://www.itreetools.org/resources/manuals/Ecov6_ManualsGuides/Ecov6_FieldManual.pdf

http://www.itreetools.org/resources/reports.php

http://www.itreetools.org/resources/videos.php