Introduction to Tree Wardening
The Tree Council grew out of 1973’s National Tree Year, with its slogan of “Plant a Tree in ’73”.

Founded the following year with government support, the Tree Council organised its first National Tree Week in 1975 and became a registered charity in 1978.
The Tree Council works towards:

- Making trees matter to everyone
- More trees, of the right kind, in the right place
- Better care for all trees, of all ages
- Inspiring effective action for trees
The Tree Council gets the message across with a range of programmes:

- We carry out science and research that shapes the way we care for our UK treescape
- A Tree Grants Scheme for children and young people
- Campaigns with partners
- The Tree Warden Scheme

We do this by working in partnership with our member organisations.
The Tree Warden Scheme

Is a national initiative to enable people to play an active role in conserving and enhancing their local treescape.

The scheme was founded in 1990 and is supported by DCLG.
The Tree Warden Scheme

- each network co-ordinated locally
- each network set up to meet local need
- each network different
The Tree Council

The Tree Warden Scheme

- lots of different local networks
- from county wide networks with 200 Tree Wardens to city councils with 10 Tree Wardens
- covering about half of the country
Nearly 8,000 Tree Wardens nationally
1.8 million hours – time worth about 13 million
100 trees planted by each Tree Warden
£285 raised by each Tree Warden
The Tree Council

What Tree Wardens do

Provide early warning of threats – diseases and decay, vandalism, damage during development. Tree Wardens can be the 'eyes and ears' for trees in their community - reporting problems to their council and educating their neighbours.
The Tree Council

What Tree Wardens do

National Tree Week

This is the Tree Council’s festival to mark the start of the tree planting season, and is a nationwide celebration of trees and woods. Tree Wardens organise tree plantings and take part in events which can include walks, talks, songs, story-telling and tree dressing.
The Tree Council

What Tree Wardens do

The Tree Council's Tree Grants:

£45,000 given out in 2008
82 schools and 62 community groups received funds
To plant 13,000 trees.

Tree Wardens can apply for these grants - the closing date for applications is 31st May 2009.
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What Tree Wardens do

The Tree Councils Tree Care Campaign runs from March to September. It encourages Tree Wardens and anyone else who has planted trees during this winter's planting season - or in recent years to go back and check on their trees.
The Tree Council

What Tree Wardens do

This Tree Council festival starts on May Bank Holiday Weekend and continues to the end of the month to include the Spring Bank Holiday. It's a great time to get out and enjoy trees and woods throughout the UK. Tree Wardens organise and take part in walks and events to celebrate their local trees.
The Tree Council

What Tree Wardens do

The Tree Council's Seed Gathering Season starts on 23 September and finishes on 23 October. Last year the Tree Council worked with the BBC who featured seed gathering as part of the autumn watch series.

Tree Wardens organise and take part in seed gathering events and set up tree nurseries in their communities.
The Tree Council

What Tree Wardens do

The Tree Council has brought together its member organisations to campaign for:

- Safeguards for veteran trees
- Encouragement for custodians to look after them
- Support and advice on their care

Tree Wardens play an active role in the campaign by recording and surveying their local trees and taking part in initiatives like the Woodland Trust’s Ancient Tree Hunt.
The Tree Council

What Tree Wardens do

Five-year hedge trees action unveiled

An ambitious five-year action plan is being developed from The Tree Council’s landmark conference to explore the future for hedge trees in the British landscape. This plan will be used by The Tree Council to focus national effort over the next five years to increase the population of young hedge trees – a key aim of its Hedge Tree Campaign. The conference, in Birmingham last September, drew on the experience of more than 60 experts. That experience has been used to develop a plan for both immediate priorities and medium-term actions, with plenty of opportunities for Tree Wardens to continue to play their part.

IMMEDIATE PRIORITIES
- Target information at, for example, landowners, local authorities and parish councils
- Support and assist endeavours of the Hedgerow Action Plan
- Engage with regional bodies and local authorities to develop local targets for new hedge trees and to deploy officers with sufficient time to engage in the work
- Join forces with the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG) and others to promote hedge/tree management at agricultural shows and events
- Develop and promote schools’ ‘hedge tree’ projects, working with partners involved in school visits

MEDIUM-TERM ACTIONS
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Tree Wardens can contribute to hedgerow research

One of Britain’s top tree experts is offering Tree Wardens the opportunity to contribute to new national research into hedgerow trees. The work of Tree Wardens in surveying local hedgerows could be invaluable, says Dr Hugh Evans, head of the Tree Health Division of Forest Research – the research agency of the Forestry Commission, a Tree Council member.

It wants them to explore the existing data on numbers and distributions of these trees and come up with ways of addressing their decline. The six-month project is designed to support the Government’s ambitious plan to see a five-fold increase in young hedge trees by 2015. "There is an apparent decline in isolated hedgerow trees and the worry is that this will continue to decline and become less widespread. It is difficult to assess the rate of change because of the limited number of records.”

To replace them, we will be looking at putting trees along roads and trails, and looking at new planting techniques.”

The project will provide Tree Wardens with a national survey of hedgerow trees that can be used to inform management plans and help ensure that hedgerow trees are protected and managed effectively.

Handbook addition
The conference also saw the launch of a new Handbook to help Tree Wardens. The handbook is designed to help Tree Wardens get advice and carry out practical work.

Leaflets
Two new leaflets, one about hedge trees and another about planting new hedges, have been produced as part of the Natural England on behalf of The Tree Council’s Habitat Action Plan Learning Group (now known as Hedgerow Project) and the Tree Council’s Hedgerow Campaign: answers to 18 common questions and a guide to help land managers make decisions about how to plant hedgerows with good results.
The Tree Council

What Tree Wardens do

Get together with like-minded people for training and visits to places of interest.
The Tree Council

The Tree Warden Scheme

How does The Tree Council support the scheme

- **Tree Warden Handbook** – with new sections added regularly
- **Tree Warden Leaflets and posters**
- **Books to support the work** – eg: *Trees – and How to Grow Them*
- **Advice and support for Tree Warden co-ordinators**
- **Annual forums and training events**
- **Web based support** – a forum and co-ordinators tool kit.
The Tree Council

The Tree Warden Scheme

How do networks get set up

- Contact The Tree Council
- Meeting with interested people
- Work with the co-ordinator to plan training and set up the new network
The Tree Council

The Tree Warden Scheme

How can networks evolve and change

- Co-ordinated by the local council
- Co-ordinated by a Tree Warden steering group
- Co-ordinated by a partnership of organisations
- Co-ordinated by a charity set up to do Tree Wardening
Any Questions

If you require further information please go to www.treecouncil.org.uk