

## I-Tree Citizen Science Project to support Medway's Tree Strategy

Medway Council is developing its first tree strategy. This strategy is aiming to set out the case for Medway's urban and rural forest. It will set out ambitious plans for trees and woodlands across Medway and show how important they are for people, wildlife, climate change, air quality and health.

Understanding where there are trees and where there are not is an important baseline. From this, targets can be set to increase the canopy, or protect what is already there. The percentage of tree canopy cover across an area is an important measure. Medway Council does not currently know the percentage of canopy cover.

### How it Works

I-Tree Canopy can be accessed from any web browser.

<https://canopy.itreetools.org/>

You input the area you want to assess. This will be Medway wards. The boundaries will be provided for you.

The tree strategy will be hugely improved through understanding the canopy cover. Fortunately, there is a free, simple tool which will enable the canopy to be measured. It just needs an input of time.

This project is using i-Tree Canopy. I-Tree Canopy is part of a suite of state of the art software from the USDA Forest Service. It will estimate land cover in an area and will also provide data on carbon sequestration and air pollution mitigation. This will also help to shape Medway's actions on climate change.





You tell I-Tree Canopy what land cover categories you want to record. This will be provided for you. I-Tree then provides an aerial map and places a cross in the centre of the screen. You record what is under the cross (tree, building, road etc.). Then repeat. And repeat! You need to survey around 300 – 500 points per ward. This gets quicker as you get ‘your eye in’.

**i-Tree Canopy v7.0** Home Project Menu i-Tree Feedback

**Conduct your survey:** Add survey points by clicking or tapping the + button below. With each point you add, the map will shift to a new, random location where you assess the land cover at the yellow crosshairs in the center of the map. The more points you survey, the lower your standard error, and the more precise your sampling will be. More points provide a better estimation of Land Cover across your study area.

**View Results** **Report**

**Add New Point**

ID: 9

Cover Class: Tree/Shrub

Latitude: 51.3713503000658

Longitude: 0.5298457425404148

**Save** **Save & Create New**

**Save your Project**

**Save** Save often - don't lose your data!

Logos: Davey, Arbor Day Foundation, SMA, ISA, Casey Trees

Use of this tool indicates acceptance of the EULA.

When finished I-Tree produced a range of reports and datafiles which you need to save and send. A guidance booklet will be produced and there will be a tutorial session via Zoom.