



ISLINGTON

Tree Service – Drought impact

E&R Scrutiny Committee

3rd October 2022



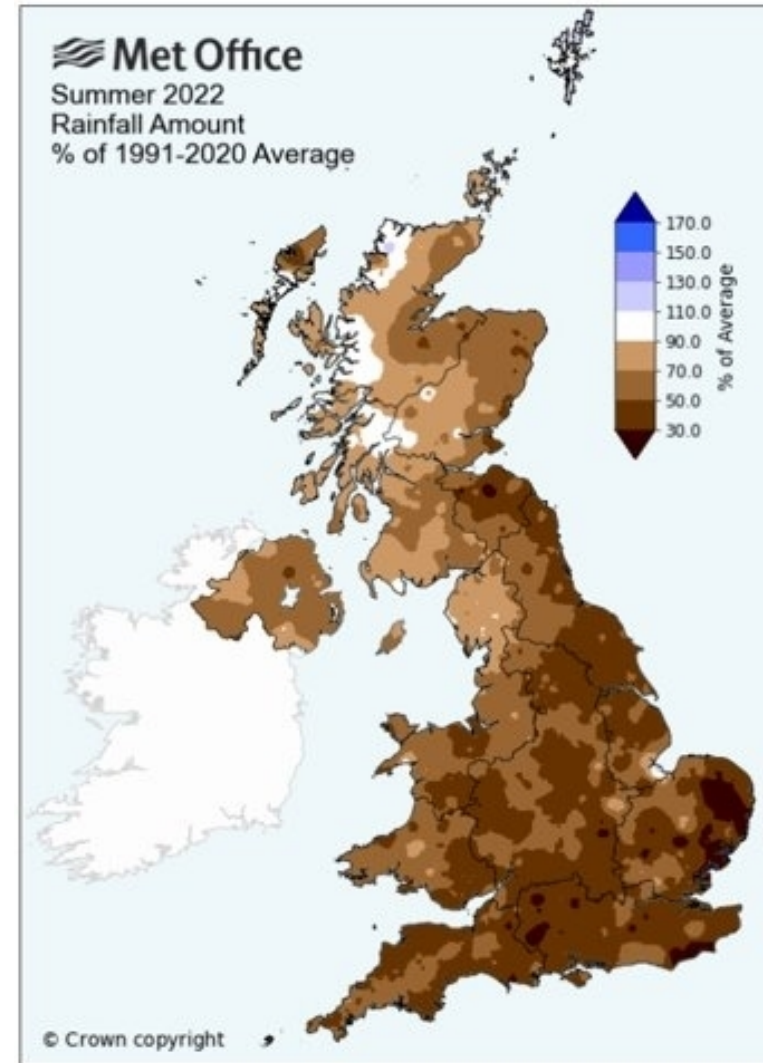
Tree Service update and respond to questions raised on the impact of the drought on Islington's trees

1. To what extent has the summer drought weakened tree roots and branches?
2. How will the trees recover from drought to withstand autumn/winter storms and high winds?
3. Is there any 'emergency' inspection of Islington's trees planned?
4. How many trees are lost each year %?
5. How many young trees have been lost due to a lack of watering?
6. There was a suggestion to bring the watering of trees "in house", is this viable? Will this improve their survival?
7. Questions on the above or about the tree service

To what extent has the summer drought weakened tree roots and branches?

All trees impacted by drought/ heat stress:

- individual species genetic drought tolerance,
 - the trees health and
 - how recently they have been transplanted.
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- Weakened by:
 - direct drought/ heat stress - not enough water to maintain evapotranspiration (water movement through the tree) and maintain photosynthesis, or
 - reducing the trees ability to maintain defences from disease.



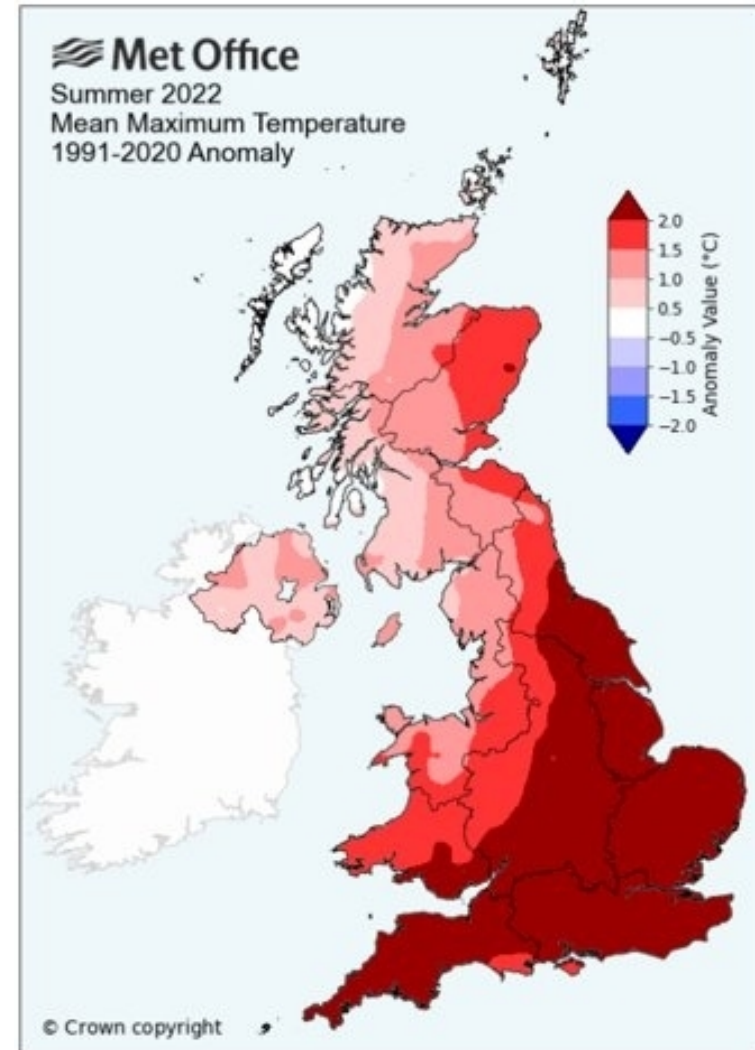
How will the trees recover from drought to withstand autumn/winter storms and high winds?

The majority will recover if we have wet Winter and Spring

Extreme weather becoming more frequent. It will affect our tree stock, resulting in the removal of the weak and unsuitable trees

We need to planting appropriate species:

- Diversification
- Species range
- Biodiversity
- Resources
- Review policy



Is there any 'emergency' inspection of Islington's trees planned?

All our trees are on a three yearly inspection cycle.

Inspections:

- Annual scheduled
- Ad hoc
- Passive
- Autumn dead tree hunt
 - 100% check on all trees planted in the last three years



How many trees are lost each year %?

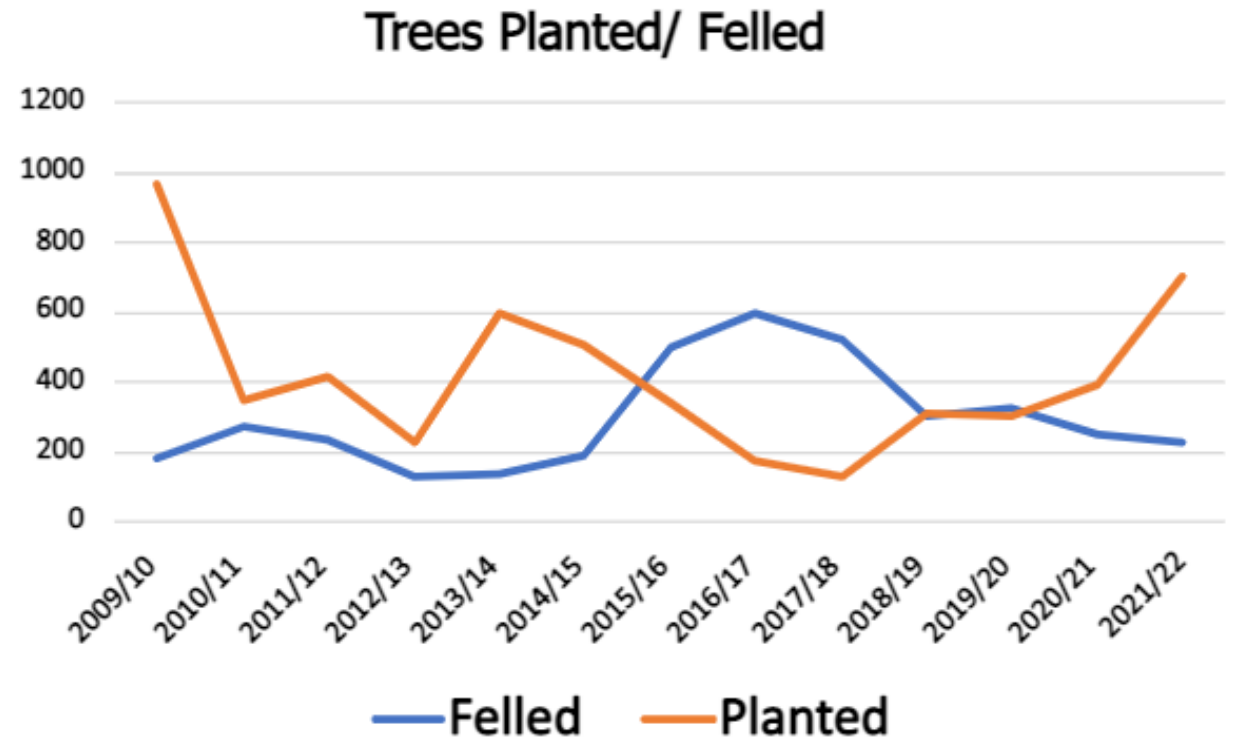
How many young trees have been lost due to a lack of watering?

Mature trees

- 39,800 trees on the database
- We lose 313 per year
- Less than 1% per year

Young trees

- Planted 372 per year
- Audit in Sept
- 3-20%
- Under Guarantee



There was a suggestion to bring the watering of trees “in house”, is this viable?

In house options are being explored with

- Highways
- Grounds Maintenance

Cost savings not established

Trial next Summer

