

Land adjacent to Oasis Pools

Land adjacent to Oasis Pools was identified as a potential planting site within a low canopy ward. Local area assessed with a patchwork of copses and spinneys and waterways. Planting carried out to link habitats together. The event was advertised through the council website and social media where residents signed up, receiving pre-planting information via email. New volunteers that have never planted a tree were welcomed and everyone provided training and a briefing.



Finance

Funding was received from Trees for Climate through our partnership with the local community forest, The Forest Of Marston Vale.

Outputs

10 local volunteers carried out the planting.

Over 700 trees planted and protected

Wet woodland extended with increase species diversity.

Top Tips

The advance sign up was brilliant for predicting number of volunteers and having premixed planting bags made up. The site had some areas of bramble, some preparation work was undertaken to remove this but more vigorous preparation should have been undertaken.

King's Oak Primary School, Bedford

King's Oak Primary School in Bedford and the Forest of Marston Vale Community Forest (FoMV) have worked together to redesign the school's playing fields for a 'story-telling' area, wood pasture and meadow areas.

The Forest of Marson Vale's team ensured that all elements of sustainable forest management were met, as set out by the UK Forestry Standards. These elements included biodiversity, climate change, landscape and the [Historic Environment](#) among others.

Bedford Borough's Woodland Creation Historic Environment Officer (WCHEO) advised the school and the FoMV throughout the project on the best way to mitigate any impact on historical features.



Finance

Trees for Climate
woodland creation
programme

Outputs

Whilst there was no known buried archaeology in the proposed tree planting areas, there was always the possibility that archaeological remains were present, particularly as extensive Iron Age and Roman archaeology had been discovered previously in the vicinity of the school, including pottery kilns.

The WCHEO recommended a geophysical magnetometer survey on the area of impact to check whether any archaeology survived. The results of the survey showed that there were no features of archaeological interest on the areas scheduled for planting.

Based on the results, the WCHEO agreed that planting on the proposed areas could be carried out without any further investigation. Planting took place at the school in January 2024. Almost every child in the school helped to plant at least one tree, aided by the FoMV tree officer and volunteers.

Top Tips

This project represents a good example of how a multidisciplinary team can work together to deliver a product that will benefit children in the future and help offset climate change.

Woodland Creation projects should always consider the impact on [Heritage Assets](#) and reach advice from the Local Authority's Historic Environment team if possible.

Bucks Tiny Forests



Via LATF funding, a series of Tiny Forests have been established across the County (7 in total with another due to Oct '24).

Those planted in 2023/24 (5) are all located in Opportunity Bucks areas – part of our county identified for special emphasis on improving quality of life. The Tiny Forests will help boost air quality and biodiversity alongside providing important greenspace tree canopy.

The Tiny Forests have all been delivered by Earthwatch, and where possible each Tiny Forest has been linked with a local school for participating in planting and with linked environmental classroom learning - both in school and onsite (each site incorporates infrastructure for outdoor classroom activity).



Outputs

- 7 Tiny Forests located in sites across Buckinghamshire
- 4,200 trees planted through this method
- Schools/community engagement
- Member/school governor quote: *"It really does show the impact it has on the youngsters – it's fabulous!"*

Finance

LATF Funding
WCAF-funded Officer time

Top Tips

- Great vehicle for community engagement: photo opportunities for key stakeholders with muddy children!
- Don't need much space (600 m²/tennis court) BUT expensive to deliver!
- LATF intensive on officer time

Wing Wood

In 2023 Buckinghamshire Council entered into a partnership with Forestry England to create a new wood near Winslow.

FE leased the site for 100 years and is responsible for all planting and maintenance.

As well as carbon capture – a key part of BC's plan to achieve Net Zero by 2050 – the woodland will enhance biodiversity, restoring and connecting habitats, and produce a sustainable source of timber. The woodland is also accessible for the local community to enjoy with forest trails and a community orchard.



Outputs

- 51 ha new woodland site with associated carbon credits
- 132,000 trees planted, including 27+ species of deciduous trees planted alongside conifers in a continuous cover approach
- Community orchard, with specially selected local heritage fruit species
- Community engagement – volunteer planting day and local stakeholder group established



Finance

FEWPPS

Top Tips

- Establish a good working relationship with your local District Forester who will be managing the site
- Work with local stakeholders (e.g. Parish Council) to coordinate and manage information flow
- Volunteer planting days drive community engagement and sense of ownership

Shelf Hall Park

The project was to plant woodland edge species on the edge of a woodland within the park.

350 trees were planted.



Finance

Northern Forest through White Rose Forest

Outputs

1. Community involvement;
2. Increase biodiversity;
3. Increase pollinator plants.

Top Tips

1. Power of group social media to produce more volunteers quickly when needed!
2. Mulch mats are probably not a good option for weed control in areas where people run their dogs off leads.

Brearley Wetland Area

Brearley Fields is a newly created wetland area by the River Calder where playing fields were prone to flooding. This part of the project was to plant mainly wet woodland species trees with hedgerow species at the top end of the slope, with a hedge on the west side separating the football field from the wetland.

1250 trees were planted in total.



Finance

The main part of the financing came from the Northern Forest via the White Rose Forest. The woodland trust also provided some trees.

Outputs

Outputs were:

1. Community Engagement;
2. Improve biodiversity of site;
3. Expand wet woodland;
4. Increase security of site (hedge);
5. Connectivity.

Top Tips

1. Definitely finalise the scheme in time to coordinate planning and raising volunteers;
2. Let locals know what's going on, involve them and create ownership.

Cool Streets and Greening – City Greening and Biodiversity

City of London Corporation

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The City Greening and Biodiversity project forms Phase 3 of the Cool Streets and Greening programme.

The project aims to introduce more trees and planting in the public realm across the City and enhance biodiversity.

Outputs

Season 2022-23 Completed, 59 trial pits, 27 trees planted.

Season 2023-24 Completed, 27 trial pits, 12 trees planted.

Season 2024-25 Site identification, ground penetrating radar surveys and trial pits underway.



Finance

Various.

Top Tips

Thorough desktop studies can identify relevant constraints (e.g. basements, services etc.) and reduce time spent on site.

Begin site investigations well in advance of planting.

Careful species selection is essential for urban trees to perform well.

Devon County Council LATF Project

Devon County Council

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DCC secured funding from the LATF project to continue the DCC tree planting programme (initiated in 2021 through the Emergency Tree Fund). The primary focus is copse planting through community engagement events. The project has engaged district councils, local councils and community groups, engaging with hundreds of volunteers, helping to connect rural communities across the county.

Outputs

- 17,000 trees over two years through LATF project
- The LATF project forms a wider programme of tree planting (40k trees since 2021 with an ambition of 70k trees by 2025).
- All LATF trees are planted by volunteers through community planting events



Finance

Project funded by Local Authority Treescapes Fund and Emergency Tree Fund. Staffing resource provided by WCAF funding.

Top Tips

Community planting projects (volunteering events) are highly effective for several reasons:

- Cost effective
- Connect people to nature and inspire a sense of community
- Reduce likelihood of vandalism
- Provide organic promotion through word of mouth

Doncaster's Free Tree Giveaway

Pilot programme of a giveaway of free tree whips, canes, and biodegradable spiral guards in compostable bags to support residents in planting trees outside of woodland and hedgerows.

Outputs

- 2,000+ trees planted
- Larger landowners planted approx. 9,900 trees
- Almost 500 residents engaged
- Fewer internal hours for higher external output



Finance

Woodland Trust

Top Tips

Lean on the experience of other colleagues, especially externally.

Never underestimate the popularity of a freebie, especially a hedgerow!

High Spen Woodland Creation

Funded by Trees for Climate, this project consisted of planting an area of grazed grassland on the edge of High Spen village. 3,900 whips were planted across two fields and a hedgerow using tubes and guards, the fencing between the site and the adjacent farm was upgraded to be stockproof, and a ditch was created alongside the fence where a spring had previously flowed into the planting area, make the northern area inaccessible.

Three community days delivered in partnership with Durham Wildlife Trust engaged, High Spen Primary School, the wider community and families, and the Gateshead conservation volunteers.



Finance

This project was funded by Trees for Climate Grant via the North East Community Forest.

Outputs

Contribution to Net Zero: 3,900 new trees will sequester increasing amounts of carbon as they establish.

Nature and Biodiversity: The new woodland will extend and connect existing fragments of broadleaf woodland, dramatically increasing the area of habitat with an additional 2.3 ha of woodland, and 0.91 areas of open space.

Public access and community engagement: Over 315 volunteers planted 800 trees: The children and families of High Spen Primary School, the wider community, and the Gateshead conservation volunteers were all engaged in the planting to develop a sense of ownership over the new woodland over 3 engagement days, supported by Durham Wildlife Trust.

Health and Wellbeing: This design creates a new walking route around the fields to extend the options for residents beyond the Public Right of Way (PROW).

Top Tips

- Scale of community planting a great success and created a really positive relationship between the town and the woodland.
- Early consultation and continued engagement alleviated any concerns local people had and built a good relationship with neighbours.
- Complete site preparation as early as possible, as the wet winter caused severe delays, leaving young trees exposed to livestock damage, etc.

City of Trees WCAF Project

GMCA commissioned City Of Trees to run the WCAF Project across Greater Manchester.

The WCAF team consists of 1 project manager and three project officers, who provide capacity to landowners to unlock land through facilitated workshops, plot assessments, training and guidance, designing planting plans and signposting to funding and delivery where appropriate.

Working to support the 10 Local Authorities in the GM area and other landowners to realise their planting potential.



Finance

WCAF Funding

Outputs

- 54.59 hectares planted in 23/24
- 3,043 standards planted in 23/24
- 2,208m of hedgerows planted in 23/24
- 169 sites surveyed in 23/24 – 137 sites planted
- Partnerships developed with NHS, Fire Service and Transport for Greater Manchester

Top Tips

- Think outside the box – who has land in your area? What support do they need to make planting an option for them? E.g. planting designs, advice on funding options

Shoots Along the Routes

An example of one of our projects enabled through the WCAF

Project launched to develop connectivity along many of Hampshire's roads and river corridors. Aim is to create over 630km of new green corridors across the county. Corridors are 2km wide and the aim is to plant trees and hedges to connect existing woodland, trees and green spaces, developing stepping stones for nature.



Hampshire County Council

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Outputs

Delivers on ecosystem services, social inclusion, local nature recovery, flood alleviation, air and water pollution and cooling.

20 projects delivered across the county.

In the first year, 8241 trees were planted in eligible locations.

In addition, 96 large Disease resistant elms were also planted in these areas.

Finance

Revenue funding for staff from WCAF.
Capital funding to pay for the trees came from the Network Rail Community Tree Planting Fund which is administered by the Tree Council.

Top Tips

Delivering the trees to landowners using staff is very time consuming and this year in round 2 we have organised hubs to enable people to collect their trees.

Promotion is very important as getting the word out is difficult, especially to farmers.

Projects like this build momentum year on year. It's important for continuity and so continuing funding for staff to run these projects is very important to enable them to develop.

Highbury Farm

A sheep farm looking to reinstate new hedgerow along a RoW and stockproof/gap up mature hedgerows across the farm.

- 155m of new hedgerow creation.
- Gapping up along 408m of mature hedgerow.
- Marking out a future 'hedgerow tree' every 10-15m via protecting a chosen whip with a 1.2m guard.



Finance

The Environmental Improvement Grant.

An internal grant offered by HCC which requires match funding by applicant.

Outputs

Grant costs:

- 3375 whips @ £1767.75
- 3320 0.6m canes and guards @ £1328
- 55 1.2m stakes and guards @ £165

Applicant match funding:

- Mulch
- Labour

Top Tips

- Site visits essential, especially when dealing with farmers.
- Facilities such as hard standing+machinery and available labour priceless when dealing with private landowners (i.e. delivery of all items straight to site/equipment to hand/farm employees to undertake work).
- Funding accessibility (i.e ease of application and minimal paperwork) crucial to securing projects.

Kent Plan Tree

Hosted by Kent County Council, delivering community tree planting projects on private and public land across Kent.

Establishment of the Kent and Medway Plan Tree Partnership (KMPTP) to steer the expansion of tree cover.

Delivery of Kent and Medway’s ambitious tree establishment targets (1.5 million by 2050) and addressing stocking issues through the re-establishment of local tree nurseries.

Outputs

Increased capacity and skills for tree planting:

Planted 2023/24: 63,127

Planned 2024/25: 65,552 +

Total: 128,679 trees

Number of sites: 121

Volunteer hours: 3,474

Finance

KCC: £154,600

WCAF: £300,000

LATF: £400,000

UTCF: £246,500

TPCG: £ 72,500

LATF4*: £300,000

Top Tips

‘Flagship species’ (e.g., elm reintroduction) give purpose to the project enabling collaboration with experts and enthusiasts.

‘Accelerate delivery’ with established community groups that can ‘champion’ the project.

‘Domino effect’ revisit existing sites and branch out to neighbouring farmers.

‘Agile delivery’ make decisions, be practical, dynamic, and adapt... ‘find a way to move forward’.

‘Resilient planting’ time of year, mulch, biodegradable guards, pit planting, and ownership



Woodland Creation Year 1

Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council

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Knowsley Council



Phase 1 of our Woodland Creation Project has seen 6 sites planted following community consultation. Local schools were engaged with an invited to help with the planting.

Outputs

- 3 Hectares of new native woodland planted alongside 64 standard trees.
- Successful in bid for full allocation of the Coronation Living Heritage Fund to create community orchards.
- Supported community groups in application to Woodland Trust and IDigTrees.

Finance

Mersey Forest –
Grow Back Greener
(Northern Forest)

Top Tips

- Community engagement to create a sense of environmental ownership.
- Consider long term woodland management prior to planting.



Tree for Every Resident

To facilitate the planting of a tree for every resident of Leicestershire

- restore Leicestershire's landscape
- link and expand existing woodlands
- plant new tree and woodland corridors
- replace lost ash in the rural landscape

Outputs

700,000 trees to be planted across the County

Engagement with tree wardens, local community groups, parish councils and district councils

Facilitation of funding towards projects (LATF)

Woodland Trust partnership to deliver 50,000 free trees per annum for projects



Finance

WCAF – project coordination

LCC internal funding, National Forest, LATF & UTCF – project delivery

Top Tips

Partnership working is key to landscape scale delivery.

Free tree schemes for landowners are well received particularly where t's & c's are light touch.

Coronation Community Orchards as part of Lincolnshire County Council's LincWoods tree planting project

Lincolnshire County Council

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The Coronation Community Orchards Project will be implemented as an onward grant scheme aimed at parish councils, schools, voluntary groups, charities and private landowners who can offer benefit to their local community. Lincolnshire County Council will be supplying fruit trees for up to 30 new community orchard sites. With Officers experienced in traditional orchard creation, applicants will be assisted at every stage of the process, if required.

Community Orchards present a great opportunity for local communities to join together to cultivate a variety of fruit trees, offering social, health and wellbeing benefits by connecting people and allowing them to interact with nature. Securing this grant will result in increased tree cover through fruit tree planting within towns and villages, connecting people to their local environment to give people a sense of ownership and encouraging volunteers to provide ongoing maintenance. Other environmental benefits will include increased biodiversity, use of traditional fruit tree varieties and carbon sequestration.



Finance

Lincolnshire County Council has been awarded funding from Defra's Coronation Living Heritage Fund for the creation of up to 30 new community orchards across the county.

Outputs

During winter 2023/2024, two pilot orchard projects were undertaken by Lincolnshire County Council:

1. Dunholme Orchard – 102 fruit trees were planted on private land in close proximity to Dunholme St Chad's C Of E Primary School. School children helped with the planting and the orchard will be used as an outdoor classroom, where children can learn about nature and participate in harvesting the fruit. The fruit will be used in the school, providing healthy snacks for pupils.
2. Lissington Orchard – 27 fruit trees were planted on private land with the help of local Girlguiding and Scouts groups. This orchard will form part of the Greater Lincolnshire Food Partnership, for fairer healthier greener food.

Top Tips

Lessons learnt/tips to consider:

- Site access – make sure you have appropriate vehicles available to get the fruit trees to the planting site.
- Local fruit tree varieties – where available, using local fruit tree varieties local people feel ownership of their local orchard, which will help ongoing maintenance.
- Consider the ongoing aims of each orchard – fruit trees require annual pruning and fruit should be harvested where it can be used. Where not all fruit can be used, this can be left for nature as food for birds, small mammals and invertebrates, contributing to increased biodiversity.

LincWoods is Lincolnshire County Council's tree planting project. We are looking to work with landowners, farmers, businesses, parish councils and communities of Lincolnshire to support the planting of new woodlands, community orchards, hedgerows and individual trees.

We offer free help and advice on tree species, protection, management, funding and grant options available on a site-specific basis. We are in partnership with Forestry Commission and the Woodland Trust, aiming to deliver as much appropriate planting as possible.

Together, we can benefit wildlife and local landscape and help to tackle climate change by planting the right trees, in the right places, for the right reasons.



Finance

- Forestry Commission's Woodland Creation Accelerator Fund
- Defra's Coronation Living Heritage Fund for the creation of up to 30 new community orchards across the county
- Partnership with the Woodland Trust

Outputs

1. Development of the LincWoods project, including building a partnership with the Woodland Trust to aid delivery of tree planting.
2. During winter 2023/2024, two pilot community orchard projects were undertaken by Lincolnshire County Council.
3. Over 36,000 trees were planted by Lincolnshire County Council during winter 2023/2024.

Top Tips

Lessons learnt/tips to consider:

- Site access – make sure appropriate vehicles are available to get trees to the planting site.
- Consider the ongoing aims of each planting scheme – all woodlands, orchards and hedgerows require maintenance.
- Project promotion is key and engaging with local landowners is essential.

1 Million Trees for Norfolk

We aim to plant **1 million trees across Norfolk**. So far, **465,820** trees and hedges have been planted.

- Hedgerow planting on county farms;
- Subsidised tree packs;
- *Tell us where you planted* online form
- Partner planting

Outputs

- Woodland – 12,754ha planted - 11,595
- Trees outside woodland - 108,948
- Hedgerows (County Farms) – 146,525
- Tell us where you planted and partners- 100,039



Finance

£1.3 million external funding to date

Top Tips

- Work with stakeholders to increase impact
- Apply for funding early
- Long term maintenance / responsibility for tree management is key
- Monitoring needs resource!

Shrivenham Street Trees

- A group of residents and parish councillors were eager to fill their village with trees to address the climate emergency.
- They approached the County Council to plant in grass verges on residential streets, coordinating with our WCAF-funded staff.
- Residents led door-to-door engagement to find locations where people wanted trees and who was keen to help water them.
- The Tree Service checked site viability, procured and planted the trees with our in-house Tree Aftercare & Planting Service (TAPS).

Outputs

- 50 standard trees planted in streets, over 2 planting seasons.
- 21 standards planted in 2024, consisting of 12 different species.
- Strong local interest to continue planting throughout the village.
- Aspiration for >90 standard trees to be planted across the parish in established, populated areas of the village.



Finance

Oxfordshire County Council Capital Funding.



Top Tips

Local support and collaboration from the outset has been key to this project’s success – community engagement and open conversation is vital to tree planting as a local authority.

Support those that want trees. Don’t waste energy trying to convince everyone to have trees. Delivering the planting has increased requests for more and has even changed some to change their minds and want trees.

Peterborough's WCAF Project

The project aimed to:

- Identify and bid for funding to deliver the Council's tree planting targets
- Ground truth planting sites already identified from Habitat Opportunity and Ecosystem Services mapping.
- Provide capacity and guidance to ensure the delivery of this planting is both sustainable and with minimal management liability.
- Through existing partnerships with Peterborough Environment City Trust work with community groups to both help deliver and maintain the asset created.



Finance

£484k received through LATF

Outputs

£484k funding secured with further bids submitted.

8619 trees planted

Audit of planting sites underway

Numerous community tree planting and maintenance events held

Top Tips

Think big but break down the project into small deliverables.

Create strong data resources, which will help with future funding bids.

Work in partnership on shared aims and objectives.

Often the barriers to tree planting are significant and usually the reason why it has not been achieved before. Accept that it will take lots of time and considerable resource to overcome these barriers.

Portsmouth i-Tree Eco Survey

We have commissioned Forest Research to run an i-Tree Eco Survey across Portsmouth. We want to understand the city's treescape and the ecosystem values it provides.

There are 253 survey plots. Most being completed by contracted surveyors and 50 being completed by volunteers.

Surveying was completed in June 2024 and the final report is due by end of 2024.



Finance

Cost of project
£70,000

Funding source;
Woodland Creation
Accelerator Fund

Outputs

The project is not complete yet, but the planned output is a survey report containing information about tree age & species diversity and canopy condition across the city. Also giving values for some of the ecosystem services provided by the city's treescape. These will be used to provide evidence/information to feed into our resilient treescape work (urban forest master plan, planting plans/priorities).

Top Tips

i-Tree Eco is an accessible survey method for volunteers – we've gained an enthusiastic and willing group of volunteers.

In the planning phase, take time to contact landowners about the survey as it makes it more likely the surveyors will easily gain access to sites.

Community Forestry

The Community Forestry project within Sheffield City Council is tasked with the planting and early years maintenance of trees on land managed by Parks and Countryside and Housing departments. Focusing its work in areas of the city with high deprivation and low canopy cover, its activities engage members of the community at every stage of the planting process. This enables people of all ages and background to participate in tree planting and maintenance within their community, giving local ownership to projects.



Finance

98k core funding
73k WCAF funding
24k TCAF funding through SYWP
H/S paid for by council projects, funded by Local Area Committees or core funding
Whips from SYMCA, core funding and Woodland Trust

Outputs

12898 whips planted
74 Heavy standards planted
26 others inc. fruit and feathers
5305 people engaged including 2170 volunteering hours
86 events delivered
13271 trees mulched
152 Heavy standards watered throughout the summer
Developing/consulting on extensive opportunity mapping for SCC land

Top Tips

- Book whip planting with school after Jan to ensure that whips will get delivered.
- Always check where soil comes from when building soil up on planting site.
- Appropriate aftercare is as important as planting the trees to improve establishment rates.

Planting our Future

Solihull Council has an ambitious target to increase woodland cover across the Borough. The aim is to create a revitalised network of open spaces in rural and urban spaces that have a positive and long, lasting effect on people's lives, the natural environment, and the challenge of man-made climate change. This is not something the council can do alone, and will need community involvement, private landowners, and other public bodies to work with us. Planting Our Future seeks to inspire everyone in the Borough to get involved and make a step change in how trees, woodlands and green infrastructure can make a difference to people and the environment. This is through education and engagement; we will raise awareness of the benefits of trees and encourage stakeholders to take part in all aspects of the campaign.



Finance

Council Budget – Place Making Fund.

HMRC - IBF mitigation

Local Authority Treescape Fund.

UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

Business donations.

Outputs

- 100k trees planted in 4 seasons.
- Over 900 volunteers engaged in tree planting events.
- Engaged with 16 schools.
- New woodland and open space at Hope Coppice.
- Partnered with 20 local businesses landowners.
- Tree City of the World status
- Winner in the West Midlands Combined Authorities, Natural Environment Award (Public Sector).

Top Tips

- Collaborate with stakeholders, encourage private landowners to allocate land tree planting and offer support with the planting.
- Foster long-term commitment to ensure the continuation of tree planting and maintenance, through policy support of elected members and by inspiring the community to take ownership of local green spaces.

TVCA Free Tree Giveaway

We approached 27 Venues across the Tees Valley, from Darlington to Redcar and beyond, and arranged a collection site for people to collect trees and register their interest in tree planting.



Finance

Sourced trees were paid for by multiple donations to the Trees on Tees Project.

Outputs

7000 trees were distributed by the Free Tree Giveaway. This included to residents, community groups, businesses, landowners and even local authorities received donations.

We are proud to have been able to assist locations such as the Norton Sports Charity, Redcar and Cleveland schools and community hubs and local business.

Top Tips

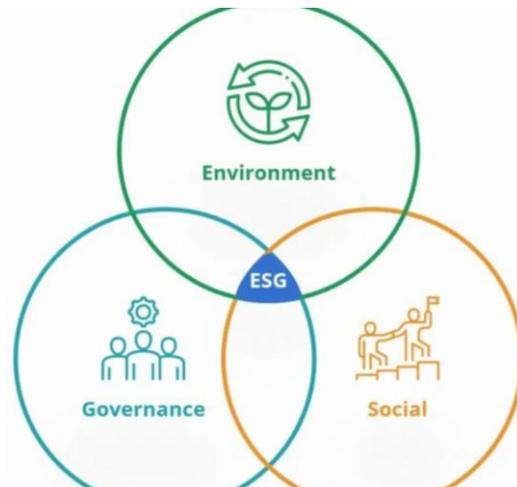
Ensuring the right species of tree was chosen was very important. The trees we chose to donate were relatively small species that would not overtly impact residents with small gardens or grow to unmanageable sizes.

LAs own ESG Fund Raising

LAs have large procurement projects – e.g. road construction.

They can use their own procurement to raise income to carry out woodland creation projects.

Asking for contractors to contribute a small percentage to woodland creation projects would create a large amount across LA spending.



Finance

From suppliers' contributions as part of LA procurement. This could potentially raise large amounts of funding for woodland creation projects.

Outputs

TVCA used its procurement to secure funding from its skills trainers.

In total £8,000 was raised by asking suppliers to provide a small percentage of the total contract back.

Top Tips

It is likely that the concept of suppliers contributing to community projects may get hijacked by other departments.

It is important to establish the importance of having environmental projects which can also have social benefits via improvements to health and wellbeing.

Partnership with Forestry Contractors

Working with local contractors we have established that Contractors will sometimes carry out work for free with schools and communities as part of their own ESG requirements.

This is because sometimes their income comes via training and they may be looking for smaller sites in their local area where they can carry out training or if they require projects to fill if larger contracts are stalled.

Occasionally contractors have contacts with community tree nurseries or have their own nurseries and can provide trees with local providence.

Outputs

Two contractors have offered either free trees or free time for projects in their local areas for next season's planting.

Top Tips

It takes quite a bit of work to match-make everyone together and to make the connections between contractors who may have potential projects in their local areas.

These relationships only really work if the contractors believe they will also be given some paid contracts as a result of their efforts.

Finance

A mixture of finance including gifts of kind contributions from contractors.



Partnership with Trees for Cities

We worked in partnership with Trees for Cities.

Our WCAF officers carried out a scoping exercise of all suitable planting sites in an area.

This was an area in Hartlepool which has very low 'Tree Equity'.

Trees for Cities are to submit a Lottery Funding application in partnership with the Woodland Trust, Trees on Tees Community Forest and the LA.

The aim is to employ an officer to work with communities to support further tree planting and woodland creation.



Finance

Trees for Cities with support from the Community Forest and business support at a national level.

Tees Valley Combined Authority

trees@teesvalley-ca.gov.uk

Outputs

Trees for Cities are about to submit a Lottery application for a post to work with communities to bring forward further tree planting and woodland creation. Traditionally residents in the area are resistant to woodland planting.

The aim is to see if over a period of time the Tree Equity Score of a particular area can be changed.

Top Tips

Scoping out all the possibilities for tree planting and woodland creation across a council estate by WCAF staff has made this project possible.

Partnership with TVCA

TCV can work as a contractor in certain areas and they can provide free trees as part of their work.

They can also provide free trees to community groups and LAs through their I DIG programme.

Outputs

Free trees for communities and LAs.

TCV can also act as a contractor.

Finance

A mixture of finance including free trees from TCV and gifts from local businesses.

Top Tips

TCV can provide up to 950 trees.

The free trees from the Tree Council, the TCV and the Woodland Trust can be amalgamed and can be matched with other funded projects to increase the value of the project. Making a portfolio of different types of funders requires a lot of work.



Partnership with Woodland Trust

Early on in our work on Trees on Tees we established a partnership with the Woodland Trust.

They spoke at our original launch event and have been a member of our advisory group. They also provided some free woodland design advice to our staff.

We have promoted their free tree packs to schools and communities and referred them to landowners where suitable projects have been encountered.



Finance

Funding is from the Woodland Trust via MOREWoods and MOREHedges.

Outputs

Additional advice and support.

Free trees for schools and communities.

Free training for WCAF staff.

A delivery mechanism for small woodlands creation and hedgerow planting projects through MOREWoods and MOREHedges.

Top Tips

The Woodland Trust doesn't provide 100% grants (70%) so you might consider if this is the best option for an owner.

Hedgerows have to connect to woodlands at both ends without a break so this discounts most of the hedgerows we have encountered.

Sometimes the free tree packs are too large for small sites so could be split across sites.

Trees on Tees Community Forest

When Trees on Tees started operating we realised that many of our projects were less than 1ha and so couldn't be funded by the England Woodland Creation Offer. Also at that stage we hadn't received much funding by the way of business support so were struggling to fund our community projects.

Applying to be a new Community Forest will enable us to fund smaller schemes. It also helps to make us more sustainable in the future.

The logo for England's Community Forests, featuring the text "England's Community Forests" in white on a black background. A white horizontal line is positioned below the text.

Finance

Finance is significant and arises from DEFRA's Trees for Climate funding.

Outputs

The creation of a new Trees on Tees Community Forest with capital and revenue funding to March 2026.

This will enable potentially the planting of 70ha in 24/25 and 160ha in 25/26.

There is a possibility that the funding will be extended to March 2030.

Top Tips

The Community Forest funding was made possible due to the WCAF being able to develop a viable pipeline of potential projects.

Also as a result of the application to the WCAF a new Woodland Creation Partnership was set up in our area. This continues and is further supported by and strengthened by having a new Woodland Partnership in existence.

Working with Local Businesses

Local businesses are able to sign up to support our project via a simple web page. This is then followed up.

We have found that this is a good way of funding those tiny projects which just can't get funding any other way.

It isn't just school and community projects either.

Some SMEs are looking for local sites where trees can be planted.



Finance

Local businesses

Outputs

We have been able to fund a few school, community and small landowner projects which could not be funded otherwise.

Top Tips

Some businesses want to fund the project directly and have a lot of requirements whilst the majority are flexible about how the funds can be spent.

It takes a lot of work to organise these bespoke options. There is quite a lot of paperwork. Ideally the best option would be if the business could just donate online and get a digital sticker and annual report.

Oak Lodge Site

Currently a clay-pigeon shooting ground, the landowner is looking to incorporate a small woodland walk/dog-walking site into its use, with a small café on site.

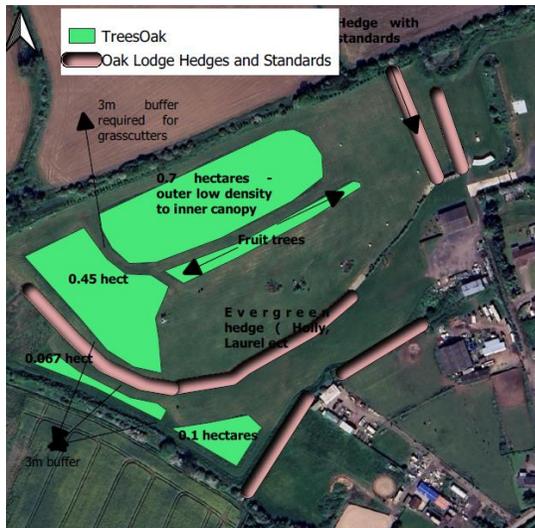
This will include sections of woodland planting, woodland pasture and evergreen hedgerows.

Outputs

1.9 Hectares of woodland planting

477m of hedges with saplings

80m of hedges with standards



Finance

Pricing undetermined yet, funds available from Tees Valley Community Forest Fund.

Top Tips

Ensure as much information is taken from applicants as to the design and thoroughly check the surrounding area. We found a hidden pond in the northeast corner of the site with priority species which had been forgotten and altered the plans to protect and enhance it.

Westbury Junior School

Wiltshire Council

GAPS@wiltshire.gov.uk

The school had a large playing field with no shade after their poplars had to be felled for safety purposes.

We planted a wide 80m corridor of low growing trees/shrubs with wildlife benefit, a sensory hedge, native and exotic standard trees and an orchard.



Finance

Trees for Climate funded both trees and tools so that the school children can be involved in the management of the trees.

Outputs

- Shade
- Wildlife Benefit
- Visual Appeal both within and outside the school grounds
- Tree planting and tree care experience for pupils
- Fresh fruit

Top Tips

- Engage the school fully in the planning process, planting and aftercare. Take time to teach adult volunteers tree planting skills in advance. Keep child groups small and manageable.
- Choose your tools yourself, don't just ask your local hardware store to supply and deliver them based on your budget!

Friendship Farm

Former arable fields lying between the river Avon and railway were purchased to enhance biodiversity and provide connectivity with the adjacent ancient woodland.

Improved soil health is another primary aim of the project as well as involving community groups in the project plus some food production.

Small areas of woodland plus new hedgerow were created.



Finance

Trees for Climate funded this project and a second phase of agroforestry is planned.

Outputs

With improved biodiversity and soil health as the primary objectives of the project the outputs are yet to be seen.

Top Tips

Engage as early as possible with Natural England so this is completed before starting the EIA.

FC woodland officers were very helpful with the EIA process.

This project took a long time to get going. Make sure you are early in the season with planting – fortunately the wet weather this year has been in our favour.

Trowbridge Green Thread

The aim of the project was to create a green corridor through Wiltshire's county town. All sizes of plot were considered in order to maximise the number of trees planted. Sites included town parks and playgrounds, a cemetery, country park and road verges. Planting included individual trees, a hedgerow, orchards and a small wooded area.



Finance

Trowbridge falls within the Great Western Community Forest and Trees for Climate funded the project. The total fund including maintenance was £140,000.

Outputs

Twenty-one sites were planted:

- Enhancing entrances to the town with flowering trees
- Enhancing existing wildlife areas of meadow and open space
- Urban greening – planting trees in streets and around play areas
- Adding trees to the cemetery to extend the tree avenue
- 100m new hedgerow at the Cemetery
- Four orchards -Fruit will be used in the Trowbridge Community Apple day

Top Tips

Work with local Councillors or community groups to help with community engagement and buy in with the project.

A lot of stakeholder engagement is required - check utilities first then land ownership. Sounds simple – but a lot of comms was involved.

Be prepared for the fact that some trees will be vandalised.

Trees for Climate Eastham, Wirral

Wirral Council worked with staff, volunteers and community groups to plant 3,000 trees on disused playing fields. The site is next to Eastham Woods which is an ancient woodland that suffered badly in Storm Arwen. It's hoped that planting this new woodland will help protect the ancient woodland in future, as well as delivering all the other benefits of large planting schemes.

Outputs

3,000 trees planted

50 volunteers engaged

Protecting and enhancing ancient woodland



Finance

Funding came from Mersey Forest and the Trees for Climate fund. This covered trees, soil preparation, and mulch mats.

Top Tips

Engage your local community– people are keen to help their local environment!

It takes longer to put the mulch mats down than it does to plant the trees!

Worcestershire's 150,000 trees

Worcestershire County Council has committed to plant 150,000 trees across the county in a 7-year period. So far this encompasses 5 sites, the 3 newest of which we used the Woodland Accelerator fund to enable the design work.

The first of the three was half planted in winter 23/24 to be completed in 24/25 season and the remaining two sites will be planted over the next two winters.



Finance

EWCO has been used as the funding mechanism for all 3 of the new sites.

Worcestershire County Council

rdatlen@worcestershire.gov.uk

Outputs

3 new sites will / are being created,

- Upton Snodsbury
- Dodderhill
- Bournheath

Collectively taking around 42,000 trees these will form new publicly accessible greenspaces woodlands.

Top Tips

Volunteers and corporate away days were used for a significant amount of the planting last winter, encompassing the social value aspect of local firms and suppliers as well as embracing the wellbeing agenda for volunteers and engaging the wider public with the environment and new woodlands in particular

York Green Streets

City of York Council is working to increase York's tree canopy cover and deliver a range of benefits like reduced flood risk, enhanced natural capital and nature recovery, improved benefits to people and adapting to climate change.

The council is a constituent member of the White Rose Forest, the country's largest community forest partnership.



Finance

WCAF - supporting core team.

Northern Forest "Grow Back Greener" Fund (via White Rose Forest) - supporting tree supply, ground preparation, planting and aftercare.

Outputs

- 4,000 new trees by 2028 – of which 3,200 will be delivered by March 2025. In 2023/24, almost 2,500 trees were delivered across thirteen locations, including ten school sites.
- Community engagement and participation.

Top Tips

Engage residents to identify potential planting sites.

Engage key stakeholders to fully understand site opportunities and constraints. A dense urban environment like York's presents lots of challenge.

Ensure trees are adequately protected against vandalism! 😞