

FREE VILLAGE TREES?

How to get your tree planting group started?



Free tree planting is fun for all, great for wellbeing, builds a trusting network, creates opportunities and is a proven catalyst for important longterm beneficial change to help protect your community.

LOWEST WOODLAND COVER IN THE UK (ALMOST)

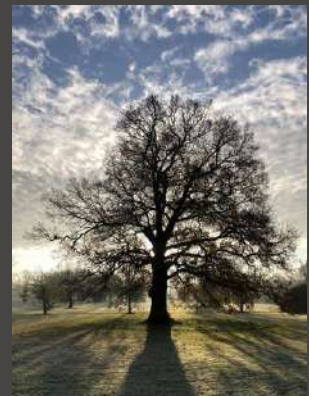
There is a hunger in your community to get on with something really worthwhile. We need positive action with well-being and obvious long-term benefits. Did your frustration start with the appalling banking crisis, loss of trust, covid family losses, elections, and economic crisis? All this while we experience first hand the growing impacts of endless climate change. Parents are frightened about their children's future. This frustration has turned to anger in areas that have been flooded. South Leicestershire has the second lowest woodland cover in the UK and its shrinking with ash dieback. Do you want to make positive change happen? How do you get started. Where do you get free trees from? How do you get permission from landowners for responsible tree planting?

This guide is sharing nearly 3 years local experience and support from lots UK groups that have been planting for decades.

- South Leicestershire and Leicestershire Vale 3 to 4%* (Leicestershire 6%)
- Cambridgeshire with the fens have the lowest woodland cover
- Farnham tree cover is 40%, Surrey 25%*
- Leicestershire's most prevalent tree species is Ash. 90% predicted to be felled in 5 to 15 years due to dieback

* Natural England and Forestry Research

- Well being benefit
- Reducing flood risk
- Mitigating & adapting to the impacts of climate change and ash dieback



WHY TREES, HEDGES AND WOODS?

Trees are an obvious visual sign of progress, non political, very long lived and most people love trees. We need mitigation to reduce global warming and adaptation to provide resilience to the climate impacts on our communities. Trees mitigate by adsorbing carbon dioxide, producing oxygen and adapt by providing a fantastic habitat for wildlife, creating shade, cooling, windbreak, reducing flooding, provide mental well-being and mental and physical health benefits. Why do you have to drive to Northamptonshire or North Leicestershire to walk in a wood?



Where to start?

1. Find two or three friends to help
2. Select a name and set up a private Facebook group with "volunteers" in the name. Interested residents have to apply to join the volunteer's Facebook group and demonstrate some serious interest. Become a Harborough Woodland sister group if that's easier.
3. Get free tree whips to create interest which will create opportunities. (eg TCV.org)
4. Created a simple constitution and arrange employers and public liability insurance. Recommend registering with RHS Britain in Bloom, It's our Community network that provides up to £10 million for about £90 pa.
5. Where to plant? Hedges are easy and the place to start. Council land is the most difficult to get approval, with vandalism and risk of being mown by the grass contractor. The top priority is your local primary school. Get help through friends of friends, PTA, Governors etc but gently as schools are going through hell. Great opportunities for hedges that soften security fencing, hide ugly buildings or containers, and small copse in unused corners as an outdoor classroom or forest school. If ambitious help the school be "Fit for 2050" by maximising shade everywhere not used for sport. We have Head teachers fall in love with the amazing motivation of their primary and secondary students planting large numbers of trees in the winter rain.
6. Farmers and large landowners? Approach through friends of friends. Find out if you can help them achieve what they want as friends, not consultants or contractors. Be patient and do not push. Most of our farms are small and the farmers are run off their feet. Can you help by gap filling the farm hedges? Start small and build trust.

One opportunity leads to positive change and exciting magic starts to happen.



1. Free trees create interest and build a network
2. Schools provide the best platform for outreach through children's enthusiasm to influence families
3. Planting free trees builds trust and a bit of magic
4. Volunteer have fun, fall in love and spread the word
5. Growing trees are a constant positive reminder
6. Very pleased landowners spread the word and look for more opportunities
7. Growing trust opens the doors to potential Natural flood management opportunities with vast numbers of trees.
8. Positive noise and fun attract business support
9. Opportunities excite the specialists and attract funding
10. Progress motivated the community, helps build a robust self help network and increase resilience.



Three VIP landowners have fallen in love with what were doing include the Head of a very large secondary school

Researching the opportunity and presenting ideas

Presenting ideas? Use DEFRA Magic map to find boundaries, measure lengths and areas. Use site photo and screen capture from Google map to explain ideas. Add ideas and features to powerpoint slide and print as pdf to reduce size for email



Whats important to the landowner?

Where are the unproductive corners?

What long views do you want?

What ugly things can we soften with hedges?

Avoid large trees near buildings

Beware grass maintenance

contractors mowing new trees.

PFI schools can pay more for maintenance if any changes are made.

Be ambitious

Helping the schools be fit for 2050 when heat waves will make class rooms unusable.



VERY IMPORTANT

1. Make suggestions not proposals
2. Work as friends not consultants or contractors
3. Landowner is decision maker and main contractor for any site work

Building trust takes time, creates opportunities and attracts funding

Trees and Water go together like strawberries and cream

The Rivers Trust

Natural flood management (NFM) enables your group to get vast numbers of trees funded and planted by specialists from the River Trust, Environment Agency and others. NFM is a proven solution that uses a vast number of trees, hedges and other techniques to reduce flood risk. We need to radically increase our woodland cover without reducing food production. UK flood risk has increased 700% in the last 20 years (Met Office) and the peak flow of our river Welland is predicted to increase by 30 to 50% (EA) as climate change continues to empower our rainfall and droughts. NFM is a well-proven and widely used way to reduce flood risk. Most of the NFM solutions use wet woodlands over large areas of unproductive land. There is evidence from flooded communities all over the UK that they have made positive change happen by motivating and empowering the under-resourced government agencies and other specialists by finding exciting opportunities which attract funding.

NATURAL FLOOD MANAGEMENT (NFM)

- NFM – a proven solution to reduce flooding by slowing the flow
- Create space for water and wildlife
- Flash flood risk has increased 7 fold in 20 years (Met Office)
- Flash flood risk is increasing with climate change
- Opportunities identified and initiated by Harborough Woodland, managed by Rivers Trust and funded by Environment Agency and other sources.



Reinstating brook straightened in 1871. Adding catchment ponds and about 800 trees

Do you love your local river? How about supporting a whole region revitalisation team and getting access to training and knowledge that helps you protect, restore and enhance your river, its essential trees and wetlands that provide one of the best habitats for wildlife, provide drinking water and control flooding while providing your community with a wonderful wellbeing experience and fun opportunity. Help can start with water sampling and river litter picking.

Training is available through your County Council Tree Warden and Flood Warden scheme and your river trust River Warden scheme. Harborough Woodland is part of the Welland Valley Partnership with all the specialists in our river catchment and we have our volunteer tree, river and flood wardens.

Let's learn from others, don't reinvent

Facebook role models and source of vast amounts of useful information

Tree Planting UK

Moor Trees

Hedge Laying and Coppicing group

Hedgelink

Tree Charter Champions

Treesponsibility

Treemendousyork

Shropshire Trees

Slowtheflow.net

Natural Flood Management UK

Harborough Woodland Community Volunteers



Tree Websites

<https://www.tcv.org.uk/communities/i-dig-trees>

<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/environment-and-planning/conservation-and-sustainability/apply-for-trees/free-replacement-trees>

<https://treecouncil.org.uk/https://www.gov.uk/guidance/tree-planting-and-woodland-creation-overview>

<https://hedgelink.org.uk/>

<https://harboroughwoodland.com/>

Land research websites

<https://magic.defra.gov.uk/home.htm>

<https://www.gov.uk/check-long-term-flood-risk>

<https://www.blueskymapshop.com/maps>



Communication and administration

Use social media extensively

Use Whatsapp group for your key team to act as a notice board

Use Whatsapp for large projects for landowners and your team

Promote large events with <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/> using free tickets so you can email all ticket holders with instructions or postpone event if the weather is awful.

Constitution <https://www.wonder.legal/uk/modele/rules-for-an-unincorporated-association?>

Free admin advise. Voluntary Action Leicestershire, [NCVO.org.uk](https://www.ncvo.org.uk)

THE END FOR NOW from Harboroughwoodland .com

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