



OVO's Planting Promise Report 2022 (2022-23 tree planting season)

OVO and The Conservation Volunteers





The Conservation Volunteers looks back with pride on a record-breaking year for our community tree planting initiative, I Dig Trees – during the 2022-23 tree planting season, we distributed and planted a further 1,000,000 trees, all contributing to OVO's Planting Promise. Since 2015, our collective efforts have resulted in more than 3,000,000 trees being planted across the UK, thanks to the involvement of over 6,500 dedicated local community groups. But our journey doesn't end here; The Conservation Volunteers has set an ambitious target to plant 5,000,000 trees by 2025 and, with the tremendous support of OVO, we are well on course to achieve it.

As well as tackling the climate and ecological emergency, I Dig Trees improves health and wellbeing through physical activity, strengthens communities by bringing people together to improve the places where they live, and equips people with valuable new skills. On behalf of everyone at The Conservation Volunteers, and the communities involved in I Dig Trees, I'd like to thank OVO for their amazing support. Here's to another successful season ahead and another huge step towards that 5,000,000 trees milestone.

Thank you.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long, sweeping tail.

Darren York
Chief Executive
The Conservation Volunteers



Thanks to OVO's customers, we have distributed and planted more than 3,000,000 trees with thousands of community groups across the UK.

These trees now bring habitats for wildlife, improved health for our communities and contribute to global efforts to tackle climate crisis. Their far-reaching benefits will continue to enrich the lives of countless individuals for generations to come.

What we have achieved since 2015



3,048,000

trees planted
across the UK



6,598

community groups
joining in



7,093

different sites were
planted



26,252,424

m² covered by newly
planted trees. An
area the size of Bath



1,158,240

tonnes of CO₂
saved



105,568

volunteers planting
trees



633,408

volunteer hours
committed



60,960

packs of mixed
variety trees



**3,048,000 trees
laid end to end
spans 1,420 miles
– that's easily
enough to reach
from London to
the famous port
city of Casablanca
in Africa.**



**105,568 volunteers
planting trees:
That's enough
volunteers to fill
Wembley stadium,
with another
15,000 left
outside without
a ticket! An
incredible visual
representation of
the tremendous
collective effort
put forth by the
phenomenal I Dig
Trees volunteers.**



**633,408 volunteer
hours committed:
If we convert
the volunteer
hours into years,
it would be
approximately
72 years of non-
stop volunteering.
That's like
dedicating an
entire lifetime
to the cause of
reforestation and
environmental
stewardship!**

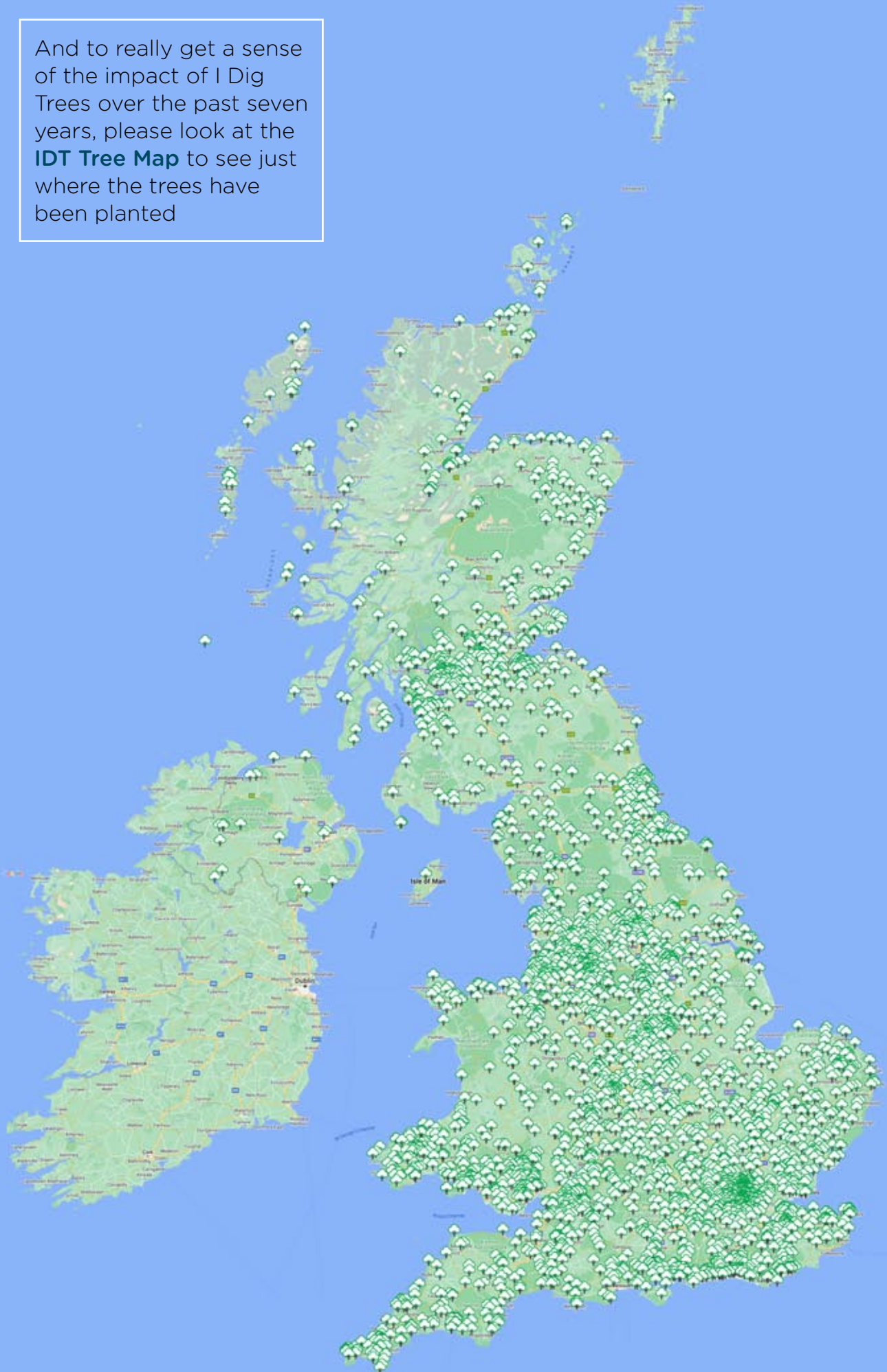


Regional stats for 2022

In 2022 we reached yet another significant milestone. Over 3 million trees planted since 2015. 1,000,000 trees, more than 1,800 community groups and 31,000 volunteers planting them in 2022 alone! That's a million trees towards OVO's planting promise, and a huge contribution towards TCV's 5 million tree target. Yet again, we've had some wonderful feedback from a range of diverse communities doing their bit for their local greenspace, neighbourhood, biodiversity and climate resilience. It's a great reflection of how engaged the I Dig Trees community is, and how involved they are in their local greenspace. In March 2023, we carried out a survey of tree pack recipients. 99% would recommend I Dig Trees to friends, neighbours and fellow communities, and more than 86% visit their planting sites to check on the trees at least once a month!

Region	Trees planted
South West	90,500
South East	121,100
London Region	34,800
East Anglia	141,800
West Midlands	43,100
East Midlands	53,000
Yorkshire	54,700
North East	36,500
North West	151,600
Scotland	158,500
Wales	114,400
Total	1,000,000

And to really get a sense of the impact of I Dig Trees over the past seven years, please look at the **IDT Tree Map** to see just where the trees have been planted



This year's feedback is a great illustration of the range of communities, locations and reasons for tree planting with I Dig Trees. For climate, wildlife, shelter, clean air, wellbeing... the enthusiasm and creativity of our committed volunteers is truly refreshing. It shows that tree planting isn't just an act of putting trees in the ground. There is a purpose we all share to bring to life the multiple benefits that trees and pocket forests bring to cherished local green spaces. Below are just a few of the comments we received and in the remainder of this report you'll find images and case studies from across the UK.

RSPB Glasgow

Working with 164 pupils from two schools, we sowed areas of native wildflowers and planted about 200 metres of hedging... We hope that this will help create habitat for wildlife, absorb pollution from nearby roads and act as a wind break for the playgrounds. A massive thank you to all the pupils who helped with planting!



The Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester & North Merseyside

Our groups have done an amazing job, planting over 140 trees with Chorley Council helping to plant up the rest. These saplings will go on to gap up and create new hedgerows and tree boundaries in Chorley for the benefit of wildlife, the climate and people for years to come.

RSPCA (Southport, Ormskirk & District)

"The Trees have been greatly received by everyone at RSPCA Southport, Ormskirk & District Animal Centre. The trees have brought in privacy and security around our dog enclosures and our site as a whole ... It has also been lovely to see that the trees bring in wildlife, from different bugs and birds. Thank you for allowing us to be part of this journey with you."



Herefordshire Wildlife Trust

"I am delighted to say that all the trees that we received from I Dig Trees seem to be thriving. Our volunteers planted two different sections of hedgerow on Tretawdy Farm nature reserve... This way we hope to increase our wildlife corridors as well as biodiversity. We are very grateful for your kind support."

East Anglia

Hunworth Common Work Group

“First of all thank you for the trees. The Friends of Hunworth Common planted 650 trees. Seven year old Rosa joined with other volunteers to plant over 650 trees on Hunworth Common as a part of the Queen’s Green Canopy initiative.”



East Midlands

Saxilby Nature Project

“The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) share our vision of planting trees on land to which the public have access, and we were delighted to take advantage of their remarkable offer of 500 free trees.

“Canes, tree guards, spades and spacing guides accompanied the saplings, along with brownies and other home baking. It was left to the wonderful local community to provide the sturdy footwear and willing hands... These trees will be coppiced to keep them manageable and to allow meadow grasses and wildflowers to meander among them in the manner of a traditional woodmeadow.”



Top England

“We received the order on time and planted it this weekend along the side of the bridleway which runs across our land. The plants were very strong, healthy and well rooted and the canes and protectors were well packed and very good quality, thank you. You have been a pleasure to deal with – efficient and helpful and the plants were labelled as requested – I would be happy to recommend you to other landowners.

“Many thanks and good luck with all your projects.”

Check out the Blog post with lots of great pictures: [We Dig Trees – Saxilby Nature Project \(wordpress.com\)](#)



London Region

Edible Landscapes London

“We have been planting in Finsbury park in partnership with the Friends of Finsbury Park – Urban Rewilding group. We are planting a hedge around the Edible Landscapes London site, an area of hazel trees for coppicing and the beginnings of a Tiny Forest using the Miyawaki method within the park.

“Many thanks to TCV and OVO for supporting this important community led initiative.”

Friends of Pimp Hall Park & Nature Reserve

“We had a very successful day, just before Christmas, planting the whips you provided. We had intended to put them rather earlier in the month but the blanket of snow prevented that from happening! We’ve used the whips to create denser vegetation on the boundary between the reserve we care for and the adjacent allotments. We hope that their flowers and berries will provide more resources for wildlife throughout the year, and also create additional habitat for birds and insects.”

Swakeleys Eco Project

“Students between years 7-13, plus members of staff had the opportunity to plant trees sourced by Ms Ellis from The Conservation Volunteers – ‘I Dig Trees’ campaign, which aims to plant carbon-busting trees for local green spaces for the OVO’s Planting Promise.

“Eco Green Goddess students which are part of the Gold DofE programme have been landscaping prior to the event. Students planted most of the 250 trees ordered which can be seen alongside the Highfield fence. Well done to all those who got involved – it was a lot of hard work and a lot of laughs were had!”



North East

Green Lane Gang

“Our tree planting mission was a success! We spent two days clearing out deadwood from the area and, in the process, created a fantastic deadhedge to border the planting area. The fifty trees were planted in just two hours the following day. Everyone who walked passed commented positively on the work we were doing.

We aim to create at least one bench for passers-by to enjoy the copse and possibly fit some bird boxes on some of the established trees as well. Thanks again for the trees!”

Killhope Museum Volunteers

“By way of an update and a Big Thank You. Our last planting day on sat 15th April, was attended by the Durham Conservation Volunteers (Ranger service) and the Framwellgate Scout troupe; with both groups working well and yet so carefully. They worked all morning to plant over 400 trees – in addition to 500 planted previously. We now have the full stocking of killhope woods – which the storms had blown down nine years ago; and so now the broadleaf plantings can grow into a woodland where only pines and spruce were previously.

The red squirrels on site will thank us for all those large, seeded trees. We thank the TCV for their support with trees and guards.”



North West

Arnside National C of E School

“Our Year 6 pupils planting the trees you kindly supplied. It was a very wet day as you can see, but with the help of volunteers from the local AONB they planted a new hedge alongside the road to a local farm. They arrived back at school very muddy and wet but smiling and ready for lunch. I think they enjoyed the challenge, and it will be good for them to see the hedge growing over the coming years. Thank you again for sending the trees!”



Golftyn CP School

Golftyn C.P. had a Big Dig, planting over 250 trees and 500 bulbs! As part of our work on Eco-Schools Wales, we noticed that we had some areas with no trees or hedges. Children in Year 5 and 6 have been working on Biodiversity and recognised this was an important area to improve.

The Eco-Committee applied to The Conservation Volunteers and were thrilled to receive 250 trees. Some were small trees including Rowan, Bird Cherry, Downy Birch, Field Maple, and Aspen and the rest were hedgerow including Hawthorn, Hazel, Blackthorn, Dogwood and Dog Rose.

With so many trees arriving, we invited parents and other family members to come and join us in planting them. We had over 60 volunteers who were able to join with the children to dig holes, plant the trees and then add in support canes and surrounds to help protect the trees as they grow.



Scotland

Dollar Community Development Trust

“We received 950 trees that were used in a combination of hedge and individual tree plantings.

“We planted the hedge over 2 days, for 6 hours / day (with several home-baking breaks!). We had approximately 20 helpers across the 2 days and all trees for that area were planted, despite some wet weather!

“Our first weekend was spent with volunteers maintaining what we have already planted. We have planted an overall 7600 trees, with many from TCV. We have space for many more, so hope that we can continue to work with TCV and start the move from 3 million to 4 million trees planted UK-wide.”



Glenbrae Children's Centre

“We had our planting day last week and were lucky enough to have support from our Community Justice Team. The team came along on the day to dig the holes and plant our trees and bushes. We hope that in the future these areas become our own mini forest and bio diversity gardens and the support from ‘I Dig Trees’ has been so valuable as we begin to develop these areas. Prior to the trees and bushes being planted we showed some of these to a group of children, discussed what they were, names, features etc. It was a really rich, valuable learning experience for all involved.”



South East

Friends of Haughurst Copse

“We are so grateful to TCV and OVO and the ‘Dig for trees’ whips we were given. They have been planted to enhance the woodland hedge we have laid down the bridleway. This has replaced the barbed wire which was so unattractive and of no use to wildlife. We aim to have a productive and beautiful hedge over the next few years and the new whips will play an important role in ensuring this happens.”



South West

Wilts and Berks Canal Trust

“I’ve attached a few photos of our work involving the trees you kindly donated to the Wilts&Berks Canal Trust. We’ve created a new hedgerow and the remainder of the trees are going out next week on our newly acquired land next to the canal at Pewsham.

“On behalf of the Trust, I want to thank you and your organisation for the trees and hope the goal of millions of trees is achieved.”



Wales

Ysgol Gynradd Gymunedol Llanilar

Year 4 children have shared about the planting and why it's important to us to plant trees.

'It's important to plant trees so that they give us oxygen.'

'They're very important to our environment and give habitat for animals.'

'I enjoyed planting the trees. We struggled to make the holes in the ground.'

'We enjoyed working together as a team to dig and plant.'

'We're looking forward to seeing them grow. We're going to measure their growth and create a graph.'



West Midlands

Severn Gorge Countryside Trust

On a sunny morning in February, a band of willing volunteers planted out the trees on a site that had been decimated by Ash Dieback. These trees will help the site to recover and will improve the environment for wildlife and people and help in the fight against climate change.

The trees included oak, birch, hawthorn and other species native to Great Britain and were supplied with canes and guards to protect them as they establish over the next few years.



Yorkshire

Arthington Village Hall

We have put them to use to begin the creation of a green hedge boundary to the back of the property ... to introduce a biodiversity rich planting island to further add to other projects we have begun to develop to renew other tired planting with pollinator friendly perennial planting, plus the 1000 spring bulbs planted in October.





Join in, **feel good**

www.tcv.org.uk