



I DIG TREES REPORT 2023-24

Climate | Wildlife | Communities



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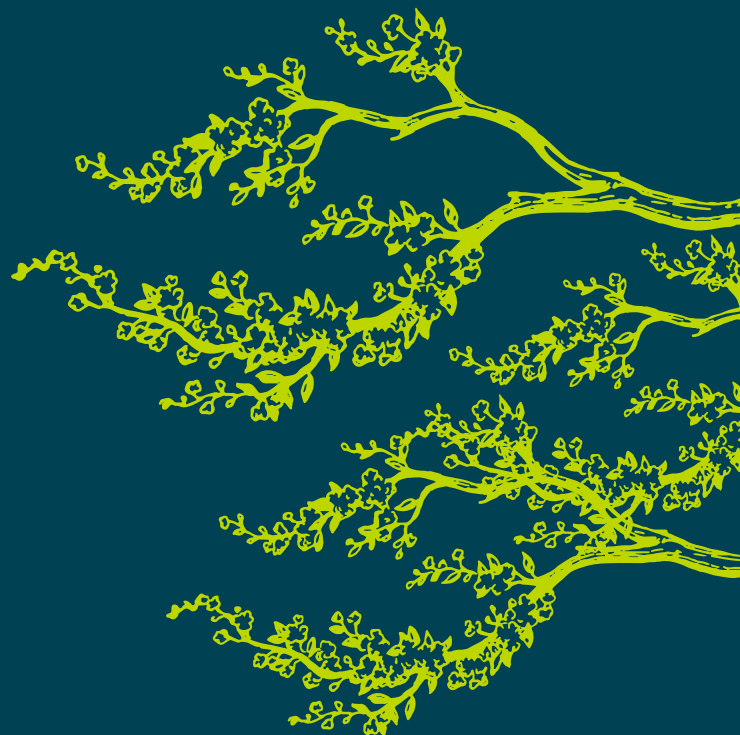
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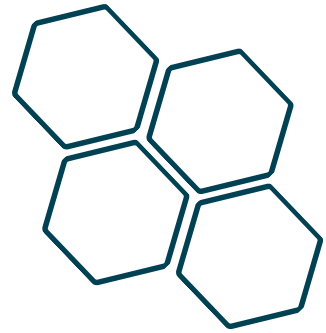
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LETTER FROM THE CEO



**REBECCA
KENNELLY**

CEO TCV

The Conservation Volunteers is thrilled to announce a landmark achievement in our community tree planting initiative, I Dig Trees. Thanks to a groundswell of support and the dedication of thousands of incredible volunteers, this year we've surpassed 3.7 million trees planted across the UK, since the programme's inception in 2015.

This remarkable feat is transforming neighbourhoods through the creation of over 3,000 pocket forests so far. These much-needed havens for wildlife and recreational spaces for people are not just great for improving local green spaces, but also contributing significantly to the fight against climate change and our ecological decline.

But we are only part way through our journey together, with the continuing wonderful support of our partners and OVO, we are endeavouring to reach our ambitious goal of 5 million trees planted between 2015 - 2025, ensuring a greener, healthier future for UK communities. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our marvellous partners and individual donors and of course every single person who has picked up a spade and headed out to plant a tree – each and every individual has made this possible through their support.

Together, we're making a real difference for climate, wildlife and communities.

**Rebecca Kennelly MBE, CEO,
The Conservation Volunteers**

3.7M

Number of trees planted

3,000+

Pocket Forests

5M

Trees planted by 2025

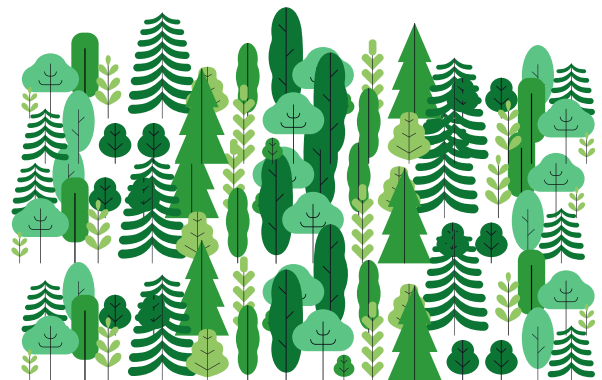


PLANTING BY NUMBERS



3,000+ POCKET FORESTS

With an outpouring of support and the commitment of thousands of volunteers, we've achieved a milestone of over **3.7 million trees planted** throughout the UK. This extraordinary accomplishment is revitalizing communities with more than **3,000 pocket forests** established.



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

The phenomenal I Dig Trees stats so far...



3,706,950
trees planted
across the UK



31,927,960
m2 covered by newly
planted trees.



8,109
different sites
planted



7,763
community groups
joining in



1,408,641
tonnes of CO2
saved



127,634
volunteers planting
trees



765,804
volunteer hours
committed



74,139
packs of mixed
variety trees



3,144
wildlife friendly
pocket forests

3,706,950 trees would stretch for an astonishing 1,726 miles if laid end to end – that's like creating a lush green corridor from the bustling streets of London all the way to the vibrant markets of Marrakech in Morocco!

765,804 volunteer hours committed is equivalent to an impressive 87 years of continuous volunteering! Picture this: dedicating nearly a century of collective effort to nurturing our planet and championing environmental conservation, a testament to the commitment of the incredible I Dig Trees volunteers.

To really get a sense of the impact of I Dig Trees look at the **Interactive Tree Map**. [Click here](#) to see where the trees have been planted!

THE MAP



2023 REGIONAL TREE PLANTING BREAKDOWN



Our impact continues to grow. In 2023, we've engaged over 22,000 volunteers from more than 1,200 community groups, resulting in the planting of 659,000 trees! That's a huge contribution towards TCV's 5 million tree target by 2025.

From urban neighbourhoods to rural villages, we've had wonderful feedback. People are rolling up their sleeves to enhance their local greenspaces, boost biodiversity, and build climate resilience.

It's inspiring to see communities coming together and making a real difference in their local areas and contributing to a phenomenal nation-wide picture of tree planting. And it's clear that they don't just plant trees but also foster a sense of community and a deeper connection to nature, both of which are intrinsic to TCV's mission of connecting people and green spaces to deliver lasting outcomes for both.

Region	Trees planted
South West	47,950
South East	84,900
London Region	68,450
East Anglia	108,950
West Midlands	26,750
East Midlands	32,400
Yorkshire	52,150
North East	27,800
North West	49,950
Scotland	98,700
Wales	60,950
Total	658,950

Community Groups
Engaged:

1,298

Target Achieved:

100%



COMMUNITY IMPACT STORIES

Each year we receive hundreds of feedback stories. Immerse yourself in just a few of these inspiring tales of transformation for climate, wildlife and our communities!



"We had a fantastic weekend! We were blown away by the number of volunteers that turned up. We estimate about 50-60 people, lots of kids and a scattering of dogs. As the sun shone the tea and coffee flowed and the wood burner was running to keep spirits up. We had a number of experienced tree planters who were more than happy to lend their knowledge as well as muscle.

The kids planted a few trees then turned their attention to jumping on hay bales and playing with dogs. The 950 trees were divided into 150m of new hedge, a woodland and an oak circle as the centrepiece. We put well rotted horse manure round the base of every tree and are in the process of applying a good layer of woodchip.

Thanks again for helping us make this happen, we really appreciate it and the effects will be felt for generations."



"We had a wonderful day last Sunday planting our trees. Our trees will create new hedging for our community garden and create a wonderful habitat for all the wildlife that is living in our space now. The trees were amazing quality and we look forward to tending them and watching them grow."

"Thank you for all your help in making our garden a richer and more diverse space to be for people and wildlife."



"Planting trees gives me great pleasure in knowing that I'm helping in the fight against climate change, helping local biodiversity and wildlife to increase by creating new habitats, and helping future generations to enjoy a healthier environment."

"Taking part improves my own physical fitness, general health and wellbeing. I'm gaining the benefits of exercise, social discourse, and opportunities to make new friends. The experience of planting trees gives me perspective, tranquillity and peace."



"The trees were planted over a few days, the children had an amazing time and did a fabulous job planting them. They were shown the video and then worked in groups to decide where to plant the tree in the orchard (with some grown up guidance) and then carefully created our new orchard! We are very excited to watch the trees grow and to be able to eat apples and pears from our very own trees! Thank you 😊"

"For years, residents just walked by and paid no attention to these gloomy patches. The promise of free trees from the TCV inspired us to get together, clear the areas and plant native species that will encourage wildlife, improve the environment and bring joy to everyone who passes. Thank you TCV for your 'I Dig Trees' initiative; it has helped strengthen our sense of community and agency in our surroundings and increased our appreciation of the importance of biodiversity. Keep up the good work!"





"We had a great session on Saturday planting the trees with our Duke of Edinburgh group. We planted a mini woodland next to our new pond to give animals shelter. We also planted a new hedge with the hawthorn whips."

"Thanks so much for the trees. The ones you gave us last year had a really high success rate and are doing great."

"Thanks for sending us the trees. Our volunteer group had a lovely sunny day so we were very lucky. Our industrious team planted all the trees in a couple of hours. We were impressed by the quality of the bare root trees and look forward to seeing them grow in Spring. They are the focal point of our community garden regeneration."



INDIVIDUAL AND COMMUNITY DONATIONS



£5,932

= total raised
by individuals

That's an extra 1,977 trees!



£2,532

= total raised by
community groups

That's an extra 844 trees!

Our wonderful network of community groups and individual donors supported the funding of over 2,800 trees this year, helping more community green spaces to benefit with the planting of more trees.

The Conservation Volunteers would like to thank the thousands of community groups and individuals who have taken part in the I Dig Trees initiative so far. We are also incredibly grateful to our generous donors and partner organisations for their support. Your enthusiasm and commitment to improving the environment are truly inspiring.

We look forward to another year of the UK's largest community tree-planting phenomenon. **Together**, we are making a real difference, taking positive action for climate, wildlife, and communities!

We are The Conservation Volunteers

Together, with the help of our fantastic partners, volunteers and individual donors we're taking positive action - planting millions of UK trees for climate, wildlife and communities!



NatWest Group

SUPPORTED BY

MAYOR OF LONDON

Find out more about I Dig Trees from TCV
and ways you can get involved by visiting

www.tcv.org.uk



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