

I DIG TREES REPORT 2025-26

Climate | Wildlife | Communities



Better Nature for All



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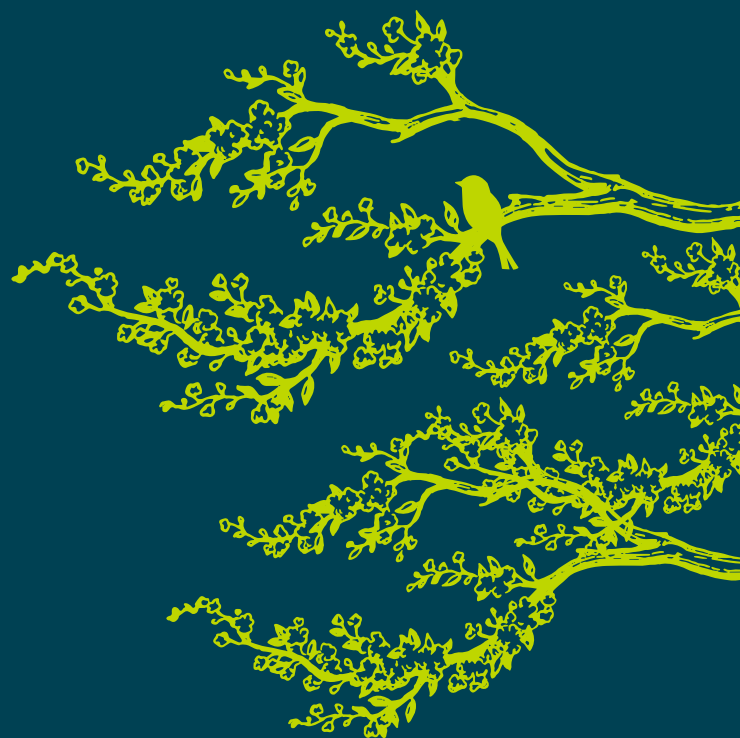
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LETTER FROM THE CEO



REBECCA KENNELLY MBE

CEO TCV

The Conservation Volunteers is proud to lead I Dig Trees, our flagship community tree-planting programme, which has enabled volunteers to plant over **4.5 million trees** since 2015 and to help create greener, healthier places for people and wildlife.

This remarkable progress has seen the establishment of more than **4,800 pocket forests**, transforming local spaces into thriving habitats and bringing lasting environmental benefits to people and communities nationwide. These trees are not only supporting biodiversity but also contributing to climate resilience and improving access to nature for thousands of people, for generations to come.

At the heart of this success are the communities who make it happen.

From community groups to schools and grassroots charities to national partners, people are coming together to take practical action through the act of planting trees in their local environment. Their commitment continues to inspire us and demonstrates the powerful role volunteers and communities play in restoring nature across the UK.

As we look ahead, we are focused on deepening this impact. Through new tools, including our developing app, we will be able to better understand how trees are growing, track their benefits for wildlife and communities, and support groups to care for them over time, ensuring they thrive into future pocket forests. This will help ensure that every tree planted delivers the greatest possible long-term value.

Together, we are creating a lasting *living* legacy for climate, wildlife and communities. We are incredibly grateful to everyone who has played a part in this journey so far and look forward to continuing to grow this movement in the years ahead.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'R. Kennelly'.

4.5M

Number of trees planted

4,800

Pocket Forests

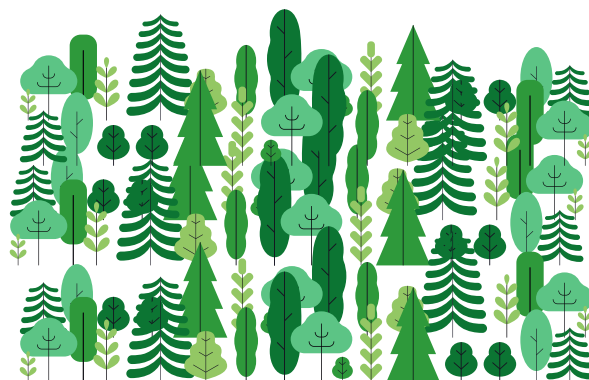
Shooting Star Children's Hospice, South East

PLANTING BY NUMBERS



4,808 POCKET FORESTS

With the support of thousands of volunteers, community groups and partners, I Dig Trees has now helped plant more than **4.5 million trees** across the UK, creating over **4,800 wildlife-friendly pocket forests**. Together, these trees are helping transform local green spaces and create lasting benefits for people and nature.



From boosting biodiversity and capturing carbon to improving access to nature and bringing communities together, every tree contributes to a greener future. As these trees continue to grow, so too does our understanding of their impact through new ways of monitoring and supporting their long-term success.

The phenomenal I Dig Trees stats, so far...



4,516,850

trees planted
across the UK



38,903,629

m² covered by newly
planted trees.



9,587

different sites
planted



9,241

community groups
joining in



1,716,403

tonnes of CO₂
sequestered



152,760

volunteers planting
trees



916,560

volunteer hours
committed



90,338

packs of mixed
variety trees



4,808

wildlife friendly
pocket forests

152,760 volunteers - That's enough people to fill Wembley Stadium well over one and a half times - united in action for nature!

916,560 volunteer hours committed - That's a staggering 104 years of continuous volunteering - well over a century of dedication from our I Dig Trees community!

38,903,629 m² of land covered - That's the equivalent of 5,448 football pitches transformed into thriving habitats for wildlife and people!



FROM PLANTING TO PROTECTING

Planting trees is just the beginning. Our app helps us understand how they grow and the difference they make over time. By tracking tree health and location, we can give funders and partners confidence in where trees are planted and how they are thriving, while building a clearer picture of the long-term impact of I Dig Trees across the UK.

The app also helps us support community groups if trees need extra care, ensuring they have the best possible chance to flourish. Volunteers become part of this process, helping us better understand how planting sites develop and the benefits they bring for climate, wildlife and communities.

APP INSIGHTS



The app helps us understand what happens after planting day, building a clearer picture of how trees establish, support biodiversity and contribute to healthier local environments.



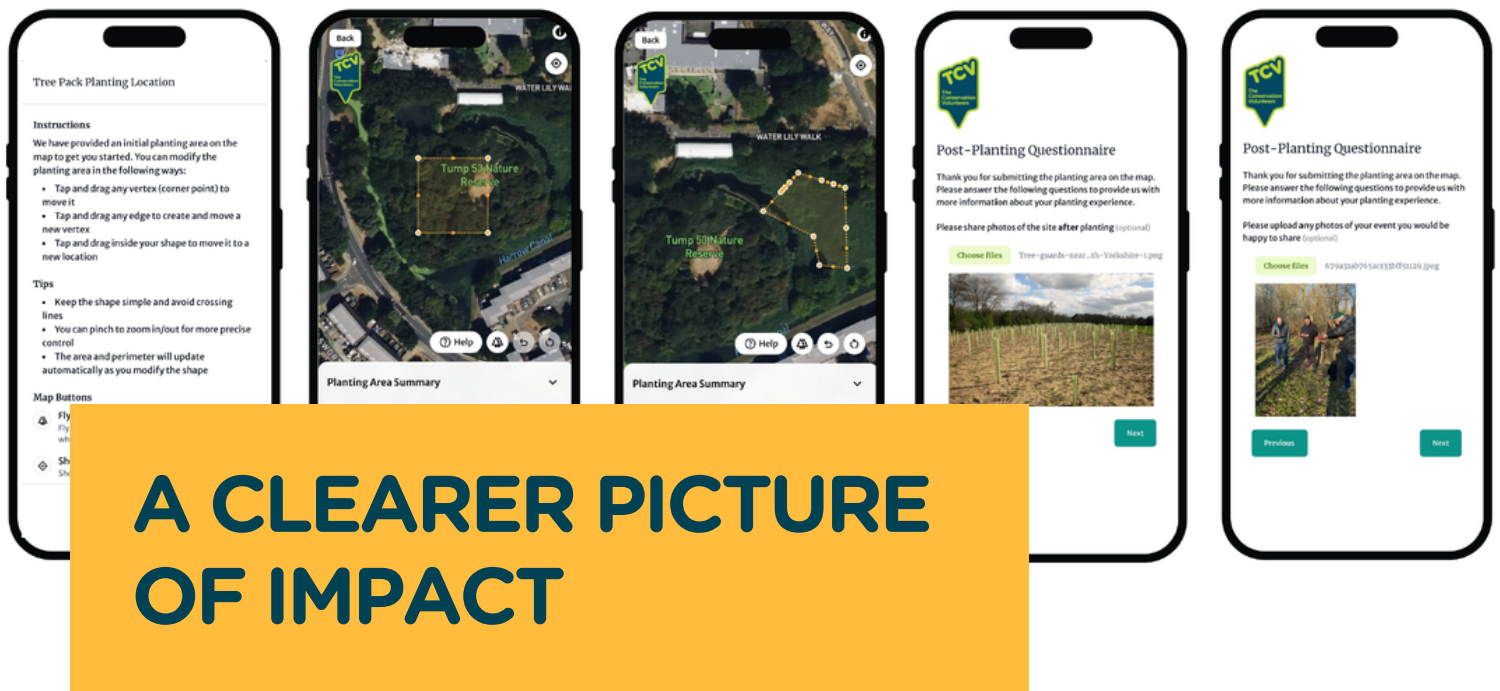
It also helps community groups revisit planting sites, record progress and become part of a growing network of citizen scientists helping shape the future of I Dig Trees.

288

Community groups have submitted data through the app, helping us build a clearer picture of how trees are establishing and growing.

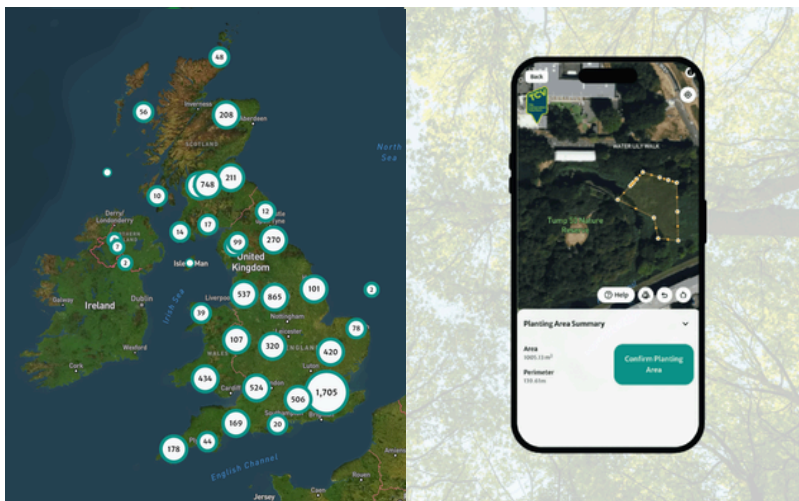
100%

Of orders are now logged on the app, giving partners and funders greater visibility of long-term tree health and impact.



A CLEARER PICTURE OF IMPACT

By integrating data from planting sites throughout the UK, we are enhancing our understanding of the impact I Dig Trees is having on communities nationwide. From creating new wildlife habitats to developing greener community spaces, each update contributes to the narrative surrounding the trees.



As expectations around environmental investment continue to grow, this insight also provides greater transparency and accountability. It helps partners understand where impact is happening, how it is developing in real time and the difference it is making on the ground.

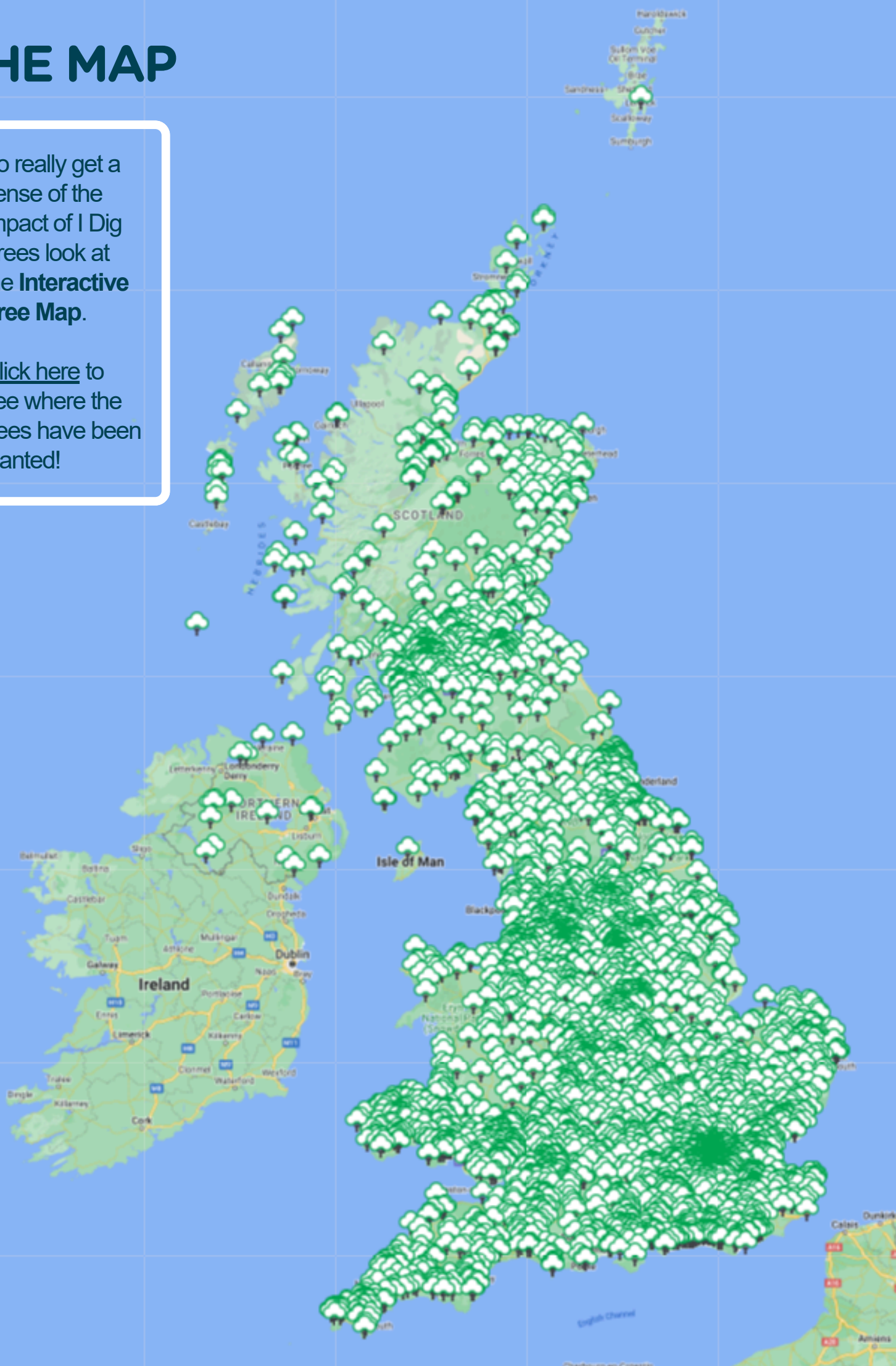
By mapping planting sites and tracking trees over time, we're building a richer understanding of the impact I Dig Trees is having across the UK. This growing picture will help us better demonstrate and maximise benefits for climate, wildlife and communities.



THE MAP

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!



2025-26 REGIONAL TREE PLANTING BREAKDOWN



Our impact continues to grow. In 2025-26, we've engaged 284 community groups, resulting in the planting of 204,500 trees!

From urban neighbourhoods to rural landscapes, communities across the UK are helping protect and restore local environments through tree planting. Every region has contributed to creating greener places, richer habitats and more opportunities for people to connect with nature.

Together, these efforts are creating a remarkable nationwide network of pocket forests and wildlife-friendly spaces. By taking practical action for nature, community groups are delivering lasting benefits for climate, wildlife and communities while helping people and nature thrive together.

Region	Trees Planted
East Anglia	7,450
East Midlands	9,200
London Region	10,300
North East	7,200
North West	20,900
Scotland	61,650
South East	29,800
South West	19,750
Wales	22,900
West Midlands	8,000
Yorkshire	7,350
TOTAL	204,500

Community Groups
Engaged:

284

Additional Pocket
Forests created:

150

A THANK YOU FROM OUR PARTNERS

Across the UK, organisations are working alongside communities to plant trees, restore local green spaces and create lasting change. Here's what they have to say about the people and impact behind I Dig Trees...

"At Willmott Dixon, we believe successful projects should create benefits that extend beyond the buildings we deliver. I Dig Trees helps make that possible by supporting communities to restore nature, create richer habitats and strengthen local environments. We're proud to support the programme and grateful to the volunteers whose commitment is helping deliver a lasting legacy for both people and wildlife."

Jonathan Ayton
Willmott Dixon, Principal Sustainability Manager



"Every tree planted through I Dig Trees is an investment in biodiversity, climate resilience, and the wellbeing of local communities. We are proud to play a part with helping nature to thrive"

EY, Corporate Responsibility



"Our partnership with I Dig Trees enabled us to connect colleague engagement with tangible environmental impact. Through our Your Voice Helps Us Grow campaign, every completed employee engagement survey contributed to tree planting, transforming feedback into positive action. We're proud to support long-term benefits for climate, wildlife and communities, and grateful to the tree planters making it possible."

Suzi Archer
Norgine, Director, Internal Communications & Community Impact



"We are delighted to have supported the I Dig Trees programme this year. We are particularly proud to have chosen a tree-planting initiative that delivers a wide range of benefits. From environmental and biodiversity improvements to bringing communities together in nature, the impact is meaningful, widespread, and long-lasting."

Morgan Price
WGC, Sustainability Manager





COMMUNITY IMPACT STORIES

Our latest survey of community groups found that 100% would recommend I Dig Trees, 100% visit their trees or plan to do so, and 82% share their experiences on social media, helping spread the good news of I Dig Trees and inspiring more people to take action for nature in their local communities. We're incredibly grateful to everyone helping the movement grow!

Each year, we receive hundreds of feedback stories from community groups across the UK. Here are just a few of their inspiring stories of transformation for climate, wildlife and communities.

"Together with families from around the village, the Cherry Fields started planting our kilometre-long footpath hedge last Saturday.

It was hard work digging the heavy clay soil, which stuck to everything, but it stayed dry and everyone seemed to enjoy the day.

The local farm cafe, which will be connected to the footpath system by our new path, donated freshly baked cakes to keep up morale.

We managed to get over 400 metres planted and together with the Witham Valley Access Group, we are running a follow-up planting day tomorrow."





Friends of Low Hall National Nature Reserve , North West

“Firstly, we’d all like to say a big thank you to TCV and I Dig Trees for supporting us at Low Hall and providing us with a much-needed supply of saplings for the reserve. The whole process has been seamless, from the application stage straight through to the delivery of our saplings.

We were lucky enough to receive 950 saplings.

The majority of the saplings were planted along a stretch of bunding designed and created by Wigan Council last year to deter access of off-road bikes onto the reserve. The saplings have been planted along the length of the bunding which will in time act as a more natural and biodiverse barrier, further securing the reserve against the threat of off-road vehicles.”

“We had 6 volunteers helping & planted around 350 including some of the hedge species. We planted these in areas which had been cleared of Rhododendron over the years & also along the site boundary. Many of the tree’s we planted last year are doing well now.

Volunteers really enjoy planting the new trees as they see it as contributing to the future of the woods. Members of the public also thanked us for planting the trees.”

Salford Ranger Team, North West

“The delivery of the trees was very smooth and arrived well-packed”

Bladen Valley, South West



Grange Project, Wales

"We are so grateful to TCV for providing such a fantastic range of saplings to support our community rewilding project. Twenty volunteers braved the January conditions to help replace hedging whips we had lost over this summer's drought and to begin stage 1 of our wood meadow, by planting 150 trees in pioneer islands. The explanation videos have been so useful to us as a community group and we can't wait to monitor the trees over the next year and watch them grow."

"Just wanted to thank all of you at I Dig Trees for (yet another year of) all the amazing trees we've received."

These really help with our mission statement of increasing biodiversity in our locality.

This year we've concentrated on hedgerow maintenance and underplanting with the saplings we received."



Friends of Fairside Farm, Wales

"Many thanks to you all at I Dig Trees for the 950 trees . We had our planting day today and had 30 volunteers plant all 950. The trees are for the edible hedge that we have slowly been planting (400 metres) that will eventually screen some open land for the skylarks and meadow pipits we have nesting. The hedge was also wanted to add some much-needed biodiversity to the old pit top."

I was really stuck with how to get trees for this seasons planting and so ' I dig trees ' really did save the project this season from total stagnation. I'm very grateful."

Friends of Bestwood Country Park Wildlife Group, East Midlands



"We had an amazing day on Sunday- 20 people of all ages took part, I've attached a photo of some of them (on a break)."

The dog roses are adorning our hedge, the oaks have joined some of our great oaks to help with succession. The crab apple and wild cherry are around our orchard to increase pollination. The mountain ashes are in circles on our hillside and the hazels have formed a grove edging woodland. The field maple are in our meadow where there are already a few of differing ages.

Volunteers brought cake and hot drinks and there was also some bramble clearing to possibly put the downy birches to join the young oaks that were being choked.

It was a great day and we only have the hornbeams to go..."



"My photos (app) said five years ago and sent me this

And here is one I took a couple of weeks ago from self-evidently the same spot. They look so good! "

Greenways and Cycleroutes Limited, South West

INDIVIDUAL AND COMMUNITY DONATIONS



£8,096

= total raised by
community groups
and individuals

That's an extra 2,700 trees!



Our wonderful network of community groups and individual donors supported the funding of over 2,700 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-led tree-planting phenomenon. **Together**, we are making a real difference, taking positive action for climate, wildlife, and communities!

We look forward to planting with you
again in the new season!



We are The Conservation Volunteers

Together with our partners, volunteers, and donors, we are planting millions of trees in the UK for climate, wildlife, and communities!



NatWest Group



nationalgrid



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esure
GROUP

www.tcv.org.uk



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